

THE MCWILLIE DIARIES.

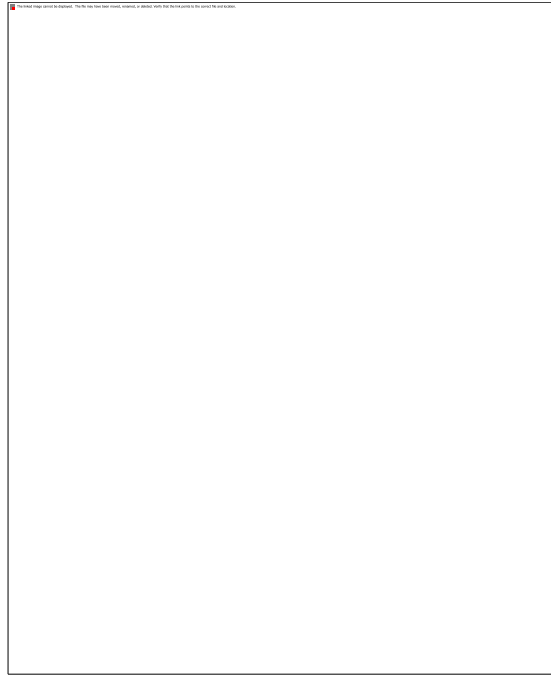
The Diary of a Scottish Tenant Farmer (1826 to 1876).

As compiled and researched by Robert McWillie.

The transcribing of the original handwritten diaries must have been an Herculean task and we residents of Drummuir/Botriphnie and readers around the world owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Robert McWillie and the wider McWillie family for their generosity in allowing us to publish the diaries on our community website. Anyone interested in life in the 19th century or in farming in general will be fascinated by George McWillie's accounts of life at that time. For those of us lucky enough to live in this beautiful place the diaries provide a poignant window into the lives of our forebears as we visualise George's peregrinations around the area. We can go for a stroll and follow his footsteps over every field he farmed and every hill and wood he shot over. Most of the buildings he speaks of were replaced in the great building boom of around 1900 but their replacements stand on the same sites and the countryside around them is little changed.

Thanks are also due to Alex and Priscilla Gordon-Duff, Lairds of Drummuir Estate, who originally brought the existence of the diaries to the attention of Robert McWillie, generously provided other material relating to the diaries and enthusiastically supported the publication of the diaries on this website.

Webmaster



This painting of a Scottish gentleman over-looking his farm with his cattle in the back ground was sent to the author by a descendant of the McWillie's of Drummuir. Within the diary there are two occasions George relates how he and others where having their likeness drawn by a local artist. The author is aware that two copies of similar paintings exist and are both being claimed to be a painting of Alexander McWillie RN=40 who farmed on Coldhome farm. It is the authors view that one of those paintings are in fact that of George McWillie author of the diaries, in any event we concluded it was an appropriate item to appear at the title of this transcription. Robert McWillie.

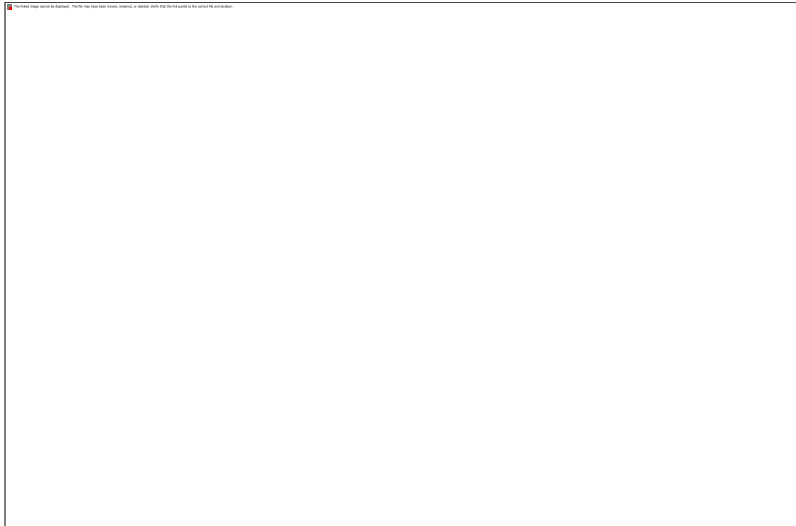
INTRODUCTION. In 1987 while doing family research in Scotland we had occasion to visit Drummuir Castle which is situated approximately five and one half miles south west of Keith Scotland. Drummuir estate was the home to a number of McWillie ancestors for over two hundred years dating back to the late seventeenth century. While in discussion with Mrs. Priscilla Gordon Duff wife of the Laird of Drummuir I was informed of the existence of diaries written during the eighteen hundreds by a George McWillie, a tenant farmer of Drummuir estate. Later while visiting Elgin, Scotland, we were able to examine a copy of those diaries. I was struck by the detail and the invaluable information provided in the diaries as it related to my research of McWillie families as well an observation of other historical events at the time and the providing of an excellent insight into the lives of tenant farmers in the 50 year period from 1826 to 1876. The original diaries consist of seven volumes with hand written entries and although still in Scotland unfortunately are not in the possession of, or available to, the McWillie family. Shortly after but prior to leaving Scotland discussions where held with Alistair McWillie of Stonehaven, Scotland, drawing his attention to the diaries and expressing a desire to

have the diaries reproduced in a form that would make them suitable reading for family members. Shortly after returning to Canada Alistair informed me that he and his family had decided to undertake the task of transcribing the diaries. We owe our sincere gratitude to Alistair McWillie, his wife June, and his mother Barbara Symon for what must have seemed like an endless task in transcribing the diaries. It was from that transcript that we have now placed the diaries on computer and researched their content in detail, and added additional footnotes, photographs and other material to the original material started by Alistair McWillie and his family.

George McWillie was born in 1802 at Cachenhed farm within Drummur estate and baptized at Botriphnie church which served that area. When he was 24 years of age he started to keep notes from which he wrote a brief summary of events starting in the year 1826. Likewise he wrote summaries for the years 1828, 1829, and 1830. During 1831 he adopted a more detailed method by first recording then writing a monthly summary of events, a procedure he diligently followed until May of 1876. On the 9th of May 1876 George's last living child, Jean, or Mrs Watt died at the age of 46 years and 4 months. Although George was to live for another 9 years he seemed to have lost all interest in any further entries to the diary after Jean's death. George and his wife were buried in the Botriphnie church graveyard. While recording the diaries George signed his name as MacWillie up to 1842 then without explanation he changed the spelling to McWillie by dropping the a from Mac and thereafter it appears as McWillie. In all of the transcribing of the diaries particular attention has been made to preserve as much as possible the original phrasing and spelling that George used in the writings of the original diaries. Occasionally a reader will find the sign *****, which indicates that when transcribing the diaries the writing at that point could not be clearly identified.

Footnotes have been added to assist the reader in identifying various people mentioned and also to attempt to clarify other events mentioned in the diaries. In a number of cases within the footnotes an "RN= followed by a number" has been included, those Reference Numbers refer to the RN=number that identify that individual in "VOLUME 2; GENEALOGY OF McWILLIE FAMILIES" published by Robert McWillie in 1999.

Robert McWillie.



DRUMMUIR CASTLE

Drummuir Castle is situated some five and one half miles south-east of Keith, Scotland. The present day castle was built by Archibald Duff in 1848 at a cost of 10,000 English pounds. While under construction George McWillie took a great interest in its progress and reported on it from time to time in his diaries. Later throughout the diaries he has mentioned the castle particularly in regards to events that were held for tenant farmers. The Duffs have a long relationship with Drummuir after first building an earlier home in 1670. On the death of Admiral Archibald Duff in 1858 the estate passed on to a cousin, Lachlan Duff Gordon Duff. From then on the eldest son of each generation has been called Lachlan or Thomas alternately. The present Laird, Lachlan Alexander Gordon-Duff was living in the castle with his wife and four children in 1987 but has since moved to Kirkton House on the estate. It is believed that our McWillie family ancestors first entered Drummuir estate in 1778 and served as tenant farmers for well over two hundred years. There are presently no known tenants on Drummuir estate that carry the McWillie name. The photograph was taken in 1987 by Robert McWillie, at which time maintenance work was being done on the castle, as can be seen by the scaffolding in the entrance way.

Year-1826.

January continued fresh dray weather. February the first sleety showsrs, the sixteenth snow, fresh about the twentieth continued dray rough winds all the spring dray bear land*** torneep time dray and warm, a verry bad crop general, we got some flying showsrs in Agust. No rain the summer most wells went dray. The harvest is general about Glassmarket, a verry short crop, no bear at all almost, the barn yards was never seen so small. No rain till about halladay when the water began to come into the wells friday before Martesmass a dreadful day blowing. On the thursday night a great many persons was lost both by sea and land and thousands of

sheep smored and frozen to death. The straw so scarce that the most of the people cut whins and heather, a great many peoples cattle died for want of fother. Price of corn 27s. pr bol and bear 23**. Thair came on a great fall of snow about a fortnight before Chrisamass continued long.

Year-1827.

A dreadful weat stormy spring and verry late with rain through the summer which brought a verry short crop and a great deall of it in the end of harvest was spoiled with weat weather, thair was no good of it for man or beast, it continued six weeks constantly. Rain the first dufftoon market, the oats sold that year from 16 to 18 shillings, bear from Â£1 to Â£1-2s. The first storm came upon yuleven, continued about 2 days.

Year - 1828.

A verry weat spring the oat land could not be harrowed and the bear none better. Good weather about Whitsunday a fine fire time but came out a splash of rain that they could not be got home. Thair was one of the finest crops ever remembered both of corn and straw, the corn sold to the sea from 16sh. to 19s-6d per boll, bear from 23sh. to 26sh.

Year - 1829.

Storm came on about the 1st of January, the torneep so sore frozen that we thawed them on the killen, second January frost verry hard with storm which continued to the 12th, then fresh rainy with some nights frosts to the 20th. Bear 22s to 24s, oats from 16sh to 17sh. The end of the month fresh and warm. Snow from the first to the 8th. fresh and cold showrs, 13th. frost and storm thought on the 11th and 12th. we war sowing on Ardrack & Towiemore. Bear 20shs to 22s, no oats selling, offering 16sh. for oat meal. The 16th frost and storm, 20th calm heasy weather fine for sewing to the 28th. land verry dray 30th. on to the 4th April, deep storm, sleety showrs the 6th., weety every day on to the 9th. we could not get home the ground was so weet. Upon the 11th. April Rvd. Mr. Angus (1) died about 6 oclock in the morning an was buried upon Friday the 17th April. Upon the 14th. on the day of April market the weather brok a little up that thair was some plowing got monday the 20th. which was verry rainy. Cold and dray to the 27th. which remained to rain on sleet and storm to even. The 28th storm and sleet and desperat cold on to the 30th. May 1st. rain and sleet, 4th. storm on to the 7th., cold and dray 8th. the day of the shoormakers wak. werry rainy but fresh ** and dray on the 13th., a fine potato season. Warm and on to the 20th., warm and a great drught on to the 30th., the 31st warm showrs. The 1st. and second of June weet and warm. At this time corn was selling to the sea from 17s. to one pound. warm and dray to the end of June. no rain to the second of July the day of J. Browns marriage, flying showrs on to the 11th. great need for the torneeps, some rain about the 20th., some showrs on the

end. 1st Agust flying showrs, monday the 3rd. a dreadfull speat that took down all the bridges, flying showrs on to the 9th. and on to the 23rd.

The new minester Mr. Mason preached and married (2) me after sermon it was the first day he was in Botriphnie and still rainy on to the thirtieth, torneep was not howd the second time nor the hay taken in, September begining with showrs and wetty days, wetty days and dray through the whole month. The new minester Mr. Mason was placed on the 24th. September. October 1st. warm and dray *. October weety through the whole month but the sundays and mondays, the most of the crop was taken in on mondays the people was always up on the morning again 1 oclock monday. We took in the last of our crop 20th. high winds with showrs on to the last. November 1st wetty and sleety, verry wetty on to the 15th. Oat meal 18s. Bear meal 12 to 14sh. potatos 16shs. per boll about Fochabers and Elgin. tusday 10th Nov. * Mrs. Angus roup a verry wetty night, the 16th. wetty from the 17th. on to the 20th. hard frost, 22nd. verry wetty, 26th. fresh on to the end and dray freash and warm to the 7th. December. Hard frost between friday & saturday 9th., the 10th dreadful wind. Meall oat 14s to 15s.-6d. hay per stone 9s-6d. Hard frost from the 14th. on to the 17th., frost and storm on to the twentieth. Continued on to the 27th., hard frost and Storm Words in the bible .728.100 and letters .566.480 in whole verses 31:173

January 1830.

January 1st. frost & storm, fresh & cold the 2nd. & 3rd. the 4th fresh & warm on to the 9th., sleety showrs the 10th. high wind hard frost with stormy showrs. The 12th. & 1st. old styl, frost and storm. George Shearer, stripside, and Elspet Shearer, stripside, died within three days of each other. Elspet died the 13th. and was buried the 16th, George died the 16th and was buried the 20th. Jean McWillie (3) was born on sunday the 17th at one in the morning. Still frost and storm on the 24th. continuing on 26th. fresh on to the end.

February the 1st. fresh, 2nd frost and storm on to the 9th. with high winds & great blowing, fresh about 14th., frost 15th. and warm and fresh the 16th. The first yoaking of the plow was got from the 6th December. Thursday 18th. frost and storm on to the 21st. with high winds and blowing. Corn from 3s-9d to *, bear per quarter at Portsoy 25s. The 25th, fresh and warm Fumochfair (4) day fine day, fresh and warm the 28th. with refreshing showrs.

Warm and dray on to the 7th. with slight frost in the night. Some people sowing the 6th. The young peoples examinations began on the 7th. March, fresh showrs about the 10th.. snow about the 14th. I had my new shooes the 1st. March and boots and shooes mended. The 16th, cold and dray on to the 21st. high winds, begining the sowing generally about this time. Purk 3/6 pr. lb. Young pigs 8/6 pr. pair. Warm and dray on to the

28th., a fine oat season. I had my garden all finished at this time and about 60 men quarring stones in the moor of the old toon of the Garline the 30th.

Frosty the 1st. April, from the 2nd. & 3rd. hard frosts and shows of dray storm, too hard for the plow. Hard frost on to the 9th. Anne Stewart died in about 15 minuts illness. Fresh & warm the 24 halph a spet I mean rather to denner time. The new houses of the Manse is going on at this time. Our bear sown on this day the 29.

Drught and high winds on to the 9 the preaching wifes son preached his first sermon this day at Botriphnie, drught on to the 24th, fire all casten at this time rain on to the 27. John took home his * wood * day stormy. Our plowing done *. Warm with flying shows on to the 21st. * 4/6 rather wetty for the crop we got ** on the 24th. rain on to the end.

June flying shows 4 verry wetty flairy shows on to the 6 slight frost all night. George Milne Reyel hardly expected life at this time. Shows of hail of 4 to 5 inchs diametr about Foggylon and Achentoul which took the roofs of houses and a peat stack to a great distance in the air with thunder & lightning it was on the 30th May did a deal of harm a whirlwind, June market a dreadful day of rain, rather wetty for the crop we got don the torneeps on the 24, rain to the end.

July. I was at westfield in Morrowshire upon Monday * Wedensday the 7th. a great spet. I came home 30 miles that day the 8th. dufftoon market a dreadfull rain. Meal 20shs. pr. boll, oats 19s-6d pr. old boll. Meal in Elgin retailed at 24shs. The 9th., 10th. & 11th. verry wetty, the 12th. a spet, the 13th. warm and dray and on to the end.

Agust 1st. warm dray, 2nd. wetty, wetty to the 8th. Our people went to buckie July 30th., came home 7th. Agust. We drove the farm to Banff the 3rd. Agust day of the cattle show at Corncaarn 18s. pr. 8 stones. The 18th. our fast day, serman from the 1st Corinthians & vs. Verry wetty weather for the fire and torneep hoeing. Meal Â£ I Corn ** 24s. George Millne died about the 29th. of Agust. Wetty still on with slight frosts in the night to the end of Agust.

September 1830.

September the 1st. dray. the 3rd. wetty and so on to the 10th. The roup of Ardrack a warm dray day. We bought the mill of ardrack haughie at Â£7-3. 6 firlots sowing, we have not our torneeps howed out the second time yet. Some bear in this place cutt, Jas. Humphary bear & oats at this time our bear is ready. Midtoon went to Aberdeen to the circuit court on Saturday 11th. Summerise fair a fine day, no sale. We cut our bear the friday after the market, fine dray weather with high winds about the 20th. The 24th. verry rainy, the 25th. dray, the 26th. a clean speat, warm and

dray on to the 30th. this day we was cutting beside the lime killne, we and John & Jean Petrie. Oat meal is selling at this time at 22s pr 9 stones.

October 1830

October 1st. dray, warm and dray with draying winds on to the 8th, we had none cut at this time but our hillands and a little bit of the Killhclock. Oat meal 20s & bear 10s-6d. pr. boll, we have £7-3, worth of corn on Ardbrack which is 52 threves, we have 15s worth on the Tennentoon not cut. October the 15th. we was done cutting. From the 13th. on to the 18th. warm and dray with good frosts all night, the most of the corn hot in the stacks. Midtoon returned the 15th., rain and frosty on the twentieth. The 27th. stormy shows continued on to the end. Oat meal 16s. pr.*. The 30th & 31st. warm and dray. November warm and dray on to the 6th, the day that our house was thached a cold day calm and dray to the afternoon then a great rain. The 7th. cold and blustry. Meal 15s Still high wind the 13th., the 14th. sleety shows. J & J at *. Thursday the 18th. high wind, the 24th., the day of the roup of Ryel, cold day. Potato corn selling at 20s. & 21s., common 18s. & 19shs., meal from 16s to 17shs. We have milled 15 bolls oat meal on Saturday the 13th. The 26th. and 27th. rain and sleet, high winds and cold the 25th. the thanksgiving day for the good harvest & rain on to the end of this month.

December 1830.

December begins with slight rains every day on to the 11th. a fine day untill 6 o'clock in the evening a desperate night of wind. rain & sleet the whole night, on the morrow, the 12th., hard frost, high wind and shows of hail. Corn ditto as before. Plowing weall through at this time, 19th. fresh with high winds. We entered the Journal wedensday 15th. Decr. Tusday the 21st. fresh & green a shooting of wescoat and spats, I had west and spats, Wedensday, thursday. Saturday the 25th. a heavy fall of snow to 12 o'clock then calme frosty afternoon. Thair was a shottery of sculs at towie, I had two & John 5 a verry deep snow *. We thrush 25 wisps of straw on the 25th., we was scarce of water. Frost and storm on to the end. Mr. Masson brought home his wiffe on friday the last of December, a dreadfull day of storm and sleet.

Christmass 1831

I paid for powder and lead and shot the sum of 9s-6d. which returned to me;

1st. Westcoat 4s. a pair of spats 2/2	6 s-2d
2nd Two sculls at 2/-	2
3rd. A new Grape 3/6	3 -6
4th Two new harrows at 9s. a new chair 3/-	12
5th. A quarter of lb.of snuff l/-	1

6th. A new tubb at 3/-
7th. One stone purly 4/-

3
4

Â£1- 11s-8d.

January 1831.

Begins on Saturday frost about 8 o'clock at night, the 2nd. fresh, 3rd. & 4th. fresh. Wedensday the 5th. frost, 6th. & 7th. ditto, Saturday the 8th. plows going, the 9th. a rainy day. Alexr. McWillie (5) took Coldhome on Friday the 7th. of January. Fresh on to the 12th., old newyearsday, slight frosts all night but still the plows going the 16th. Corn 21s. pr quarter. The 18th. the rents paid. On Wedensday 19th. we milled 27 and one halpf bolls oat meal. Weighty wetty weather. Meal *** oats 19s-6d. Monday the 24th. a great day of storm and blowing, it was the day of William Stronachs shotting, a great storm and frost on to the end of January. Oat meal 20s pr. boll, potato corn from 25s to 26shs., comon corn 23s to 23/6.

February 1831.

February the 1st. calm and stormy the 2nd. & 3rd. desperat blowing and 4th. most desperat. 5th. & 6th. and dreadfull storm all the roads blocked up, no sermon on the 6th. the 9 of Luck was explained out of the Lettering. All the tenants in arears was called in on Monday the 7th. being 13 days after the general collection. The 8th fresh and warm with slight wind, on thursday the 11th. I got the first yoaking of the plow, fine fresh weather on to the 18th. The 19th. & 20th. sleety shows, I was plowing to the minester the 19th. Corn comon 25s Fosty the 28th.

March 1831.

Begins with frost. Fummackfair a fine day, a good many horses in the market little done. **** about the 5th, the 6th. a fine warme fresh **. Meall 22s. pr. boll, corn pr. qr. potato 26/-. Continued weety on to the 20th., plowing going on but a bad season. The laird of ardentore has sown a good dale about the 17th. H;O Ort 20. Millition Court the 16th. The 20th. on to the 24th. fine oat seed time. 20th. sowing going on at this time with us. Friday & Saturday 25th & 26th. dreadfull wind and sleet, 27th. a fine, fresh, warm and dray day, we was plowing our clean ground at this time. Dray and warm on to the end.

April 1831.

April the 1st. warm and dray on to the 5th. Huntly market a verry wetty day. Our shelt died the 3rd. April, I was at Auchindoon seeking another the 9th. a fine dray day. Wetty the 10th., meal in huntly at this time 17/-. Dray about the 18th., at this time Jean and Alexr. (6) was ill of the

missles, fine dray weather at this time, oat seed the 20th., dray the 23rd. and 24th., Jean Allan died the 21st. Dray the 24th., our bear was sown at this time, wetty to the end.

May 1831.

May 1st. warm and wetty, 2nd, 3rd. & 4th. cold dray, 6th. a verry hard frost and dreadfull storm blowing. Ept. Mgh mard 5th. Ardbrack grass parks the low Fummak haugh Â£16-10s, Mill of hole haugh Â£10-15s, Mickle Lettock Â£37-5s, cornyard and little Lettoch Â£18-15s, Westertoorn park Â£17-15, Orchard Â£28, Delroddie Â£6-15, Bigg tennantoon Â£25-15, Little tennantoon Â£17-10, Tennantoon park Â£24-5, the Tennantoon below road Â£35-5, Mill of Ardbrack Â£38-5, the nether haugh Â£14-15, which amounts to Â£291-10s. Fine dray weather 16th. on to the 28th. we was in the turff moss the order was bet to armes, loachpark was on fire, haggishaw was all burnt and a good deal of planting, thair was a great drught and high wind that day. Our potatos was planted out the 17th., a fine season for cleaning the torneep land. Dray weather and warm on to the end. We bought a 6 year mear at Whithillock the 25th., she foled the 27th.

June 1831

1st of June warm and dray on to the 5th. a slight rain, we have no torneeps sown, some dung drove. We was at Portsoy with Farm meal the 3rd. Sunshine and great drught on to the 12th., warm, dray and sunshine, about 10 o'clock great clouds appeared and a weighty rain, we had the most of the neeps sown. The Militia Court the 9th., a good deal of our fire was home at this time. The 19th. still verry dray, Sunday the 20th. a good weighty rain when we was in church. Meall 22 & 22-6 pr. boll. Rain the 23rd. on to the 27th., dray to the 30th. with high winds. Meal selling at 22 shillings, taties howd and still verry drughty.

July 1831.

1st. drught and still on to the 8th. our fire all home and thached, rain the 9th. and great need. The 8th. John Taylor & Alexr. Morrison was both killed by one shot loddied with wane ball by Jas. Read. John Taylor was killed on the spot. Morrison lived 24 hours. Our sacraments the 10th. a dreadfull warm day, drught, the oats & bear most all shot. some neeps howed at this time. Rain the 13th., drught on to the 16th., this day we was turning the lime of the old church, the 17th. still drught. Our bull shot the 21st., rain the 22nd., drught on to the end.

Agust 1831.

The 1st drught. I went to Aberdeen on the 3rd. with (7) Jean MacWillies marriage, I was in town 4 days, a great drught still. I came home the

8th., some bear and oats cut in Botriphnie. We was driving home the lime of the old church at this time. Our people went to Buckie the 13th., still great drught. A good showr the 14th. about 3 o'clock, did a great good to the crop. Meal selling Â£1 pr 9 stones, 3 year old stots from Â£5 to Â£7 ours Â£5-15, we sold 2 stots. 3 quoyes, & 2 cows. The 18th. a great rain all day, thair was great need for it. Our people came home from Buckie 19th., the 20th a fine day. We began the harvest the 21st. fine weather on to the 27th. with flying showrs., all our ley corn and bear cut at this time. The sutter of Turffhillock married the 26th. Dray weather with high winds on to the end. About 12 ricks in at this time.

September 1831.

1st dray and wind, 2nd. all our corn cut but a piece below the road and the haughs, we have 15 ricks in at this time. the 3rd. a rainy day with high wind. We was done cutting the 10th, no leading from the 4th. to the 10th., verry wetty the whole week, the haughs of Midtoon all to cut, we have 16 ricks and thached the week before summersfair. Elgin and Charlesfair and all the south markets a great prise. Our crop in the 21st. the Church seats parted. The 20th plowing on at this time. A fine season at this time the 21st great drught and wind on to the end.

October 1831.

Saturday the 1st & Sunday the 2nd. a dreadfull wind and rain, the 6th. the 9th. wetty we milled 12 bolls oatmeal on the 10th. The 13th. a thanksgiving day. Meal 18s bear 23 to 24s. The 14th. about 12 o'clock thunder and a great power of rain , the 15th. a warm day, my father at the port for coalls, the 16th. a wetty day. The polls lost (8) thair realm about this time. The reform bill (9) thrown over the table, but is thought will be brought up again by the population. 20th Agnes Shearer not expected liffe. Our potatos taken up the 20th., remarkable warm weather and so on to the 23rd. Warm and dray so on to the end. Thair was a shooting of mutton at towie. I one legg and 11 pence halphpeny, it was on the 29th.

November 1831.

The 1st. knock roup, I bought a press at 29 shillings. Some frost about the 5th & 6th. the tops of hills white. Meal selling at 17s., corn 17 to 20shs. pr. qur. The 7th. and 8th. sleet and rain the first days of winter some showrs on to the 12th. * day I was plowing to the minester at Ley in croftwander, the 13th. a dreadfull wind with rough showrs. Storm the 16th., a great storm from the 18th. to the 23rd. the day that A. MacWillie (10) was married. Fresh about the 24th.

At a shotting at towie I had

9 1/2 lb. &
11d.

3

5

29th. Oct.

At Rob Deys 9 lb. & 7 1/2 lb.
Nov.

4

1 1/2 19th.

At the Know 10 lb & 7 & 4 lb.
Nov.

5

9 1/2 23rd.

13 4

Alexr. Robertson came servant the 24th., the 25th. I took the first
yoaking of ley, bloustry the 26th., the 27th. cold and dray, fine fresh
weather. Mrs. Man brought down about the 29th. corn ****.

December 1831.

Fresh but verry wetty on to the 10th., plowing going on at this time. We
milled 16B.& 3 firlots of meal the 9th. we sold young woodend 10 qurs.
oats at 18s. Geo. Mitchell married about the 24th., the rents paid the
28th, fine fresh weather on to the last Decr.

January 1832.

The hill of bellyhack all burnt on yull even. Begins on Sunday a verry hard
frost, first yull day begins on thursday, verry hard frost before yull. 9 lb.
beef 2s.-7d., John Moggach 2s. 6d., Robert Deys 5s.6d. Sunday the 8th.
fresh, Monday 9th. we began to dray, fresh on that newears day fresh
and some wetty, fresh on to the 14th. we milled 24B& 2 qur. oat meal,
we are plowing yavel. Wm, Stronach shotting for beef, 2 shottings. Still
fine fresh weather on to the 23rd. a fine morning but a great storm or
even that took of all our water but the night of the 28th. a great fresh the
most of the storm of or the 29th. which was a cold fresh day.

February 1832.

Begins fresh & warm on to the 6th. the day that our sow was knifed, the
weight of hir was about 14 stones. We began to thrash seed out the 7th.
still excellent weather, our plowing of ley & yavel about done the 12th.
Excellent weather on the whole with some white frosty mornings, we are
bussey plowing our clean ground about the 20th. Sold 1B. seed oats to
Jas. New** 17s-6d. pr.B. to Portgordon 13 qurs. at 19s. A good deal
sown at this.

March 1832.

Begins rough winds and frosty mornings, our plowing done but a few rigs of clean ground. Fummackerfair a fine day & hard feighting at night. Thair is a great perposals of stopping vagarents & beggars at this time for fear of Cholera Morbius, that dreadfull infection on the human specie or race. The 2nd. sold Woodend 4 Bls oats at 17s-8d. & 2 Bls. at 17s-8d. to Hindslack. Thursday 7th. we began sow, hard. frosty morning the 10th. & 11th. fresh, the 11th. a slight showr the day of the first examine, frosty mornings with high winds on to the 18th. which was wind and sleety showrs. Done sowing but clean ground. March the 21st. I began to plow the haughs, about the 18th. & 20th. sleet and storm. The 22nd. a fast day for the Cholera Morbius, from the 24th. to the end fine weather.

April 1832.

Begins fresh with high winds, dray and warm about the 5th. the day we sowed our haughs and the last of our oat seed, fine weather on to the 9th. Helen Ord (11), died on the 9th. April. Our potatos set the 10th., excellent dray weather on to the 15th. with slight frosts in the night. The 19th. fresh, showrs, John shot a wildgoose the 20th., the 22nd. a fine fresh showr. William (12), proclaimed the second time the 22nd., William married the 26th., great showrs of storm and sleet on to the 28th. a werry wetty day. Bear pr. qur. from 25s. to 26s., oats from 19s. to 20s. I am scarce of money at this time. Frosts & storm to the end.

May 1832

Being lep year. Begins with storm, sleet & frost, the roup of Ardbrackn & Wm Macwillie (13), of mains married the first, stormy weather showrs & frost on to the 5th., we are cleaning our waterside ditch at this time. We drove our long carraige the 2nd. of sand to the mill of holl park dyke. Rain & sleet on to the 13th. Meall selling at 17 shillings, comon corn selling about 19shs. & 19s.-6d., potatos 22shs., cold with showrs on to the 17th. The 18th., 19th., and 20th. drought with easterly winds. The Reform Bill thrown out about this time and Earl Gray resigned the minestery. Excellent growing weather about the 17th., the 18th. we sold John Macwillie 10 quarters oats at Â£1, still growing weather. All our fire delved at this time, Mains a good deal of torneeps sown. Excellant on to the 24th. and fine weather to the end.

June 1832.

Began warm and dray, we sowed a great deal of our torneeps on the Killhillock the 2nd., warm and dray on to the 4th., the Masson ludge building at this time. The 7th. rain on to the 9th. we gave John Macwillie 10 qurs. corn at Â£1, a great growth about this time, still wetty on to the 16th, No working among torneeps, it is verry wetty. An excellant June market, we sold 4 quoys at Â£3- 5, two stots at fife Keith at Â£11-15. William Ord shipped for Newyork the 19th., still verry wetty, a great

growth. We have about 40 dreals of torneeps to sow, they are all dunged but so wetty about the 23rd. we cannot sow them. All our torneeps sown the 24th., our house mudding at this time still wetty on to the end.

July 1832.

Begins with rain and great growth, a deal of our crop laid but none of it shot at the 9th. A good hay crop in general, the masson work of the small ludge done about this time, Still verry wetty, thair is about 40 drills of torneeps to hoe the first time, our hay cut about the 26th. We drove our farm to Banff the 25th. at 16s-6d. pr.9 stone. comon price 17s. Beautifull weather about the 30th.

Agust 1832.

Begins warm and dray, our people went to Buckie the 6th. Meal 16s-6d. to 17s., corn from 19s to 20s, potato 22s., the one halph neeps hoed & other second. Excellant weather on to the 18th. rain, verry growing weather. Our sacrement the 20th. We had home the most of the fire at this time and thached from the 24th. on to the 29th. Wind and rain verry bad weather for the crop, it is swirled, twined and laid most extraordinary. Meal selling at 17s to 17s-6d., comon corn from 19s to 20s pr. quarter.

September 1832.

Begins with wind and rain, continues on at the 4th. James Humphray has some threves of bear cut down. We are seeking wheat seed at this time. I was at the taylors with my brown trousers & weast the third. The weather broke up about the 5th. and continues on to the 11th. cloudy & rough winds our bire built at this time. The Cholera raging round about us dreadful this time. A good deal of bear cut about the 8th. & 9th. Sepr. We began to cut about the 15th., blustry weather about this time. Isabel MacWillie (14) born the 19th. about 2 of the o'clock in the morning the day of the Summersfair. The 21st & 22nd. verry warm, wetty, hazey weather, about the 25th. we had in 6 ricks & 2 thached. Meal selling at 10s-6d. pr. qur., our old corn 19s-6d pr. qur. The 30th. a verry wetty day.

October 1832.

Begins with high winds. We lead in eleven ricks the 3rd. a wetty night, the 5th. we lead in 21 ricks. The farmers qualified themselves for parliament voters the 5th. At Dufftoon Wm. Carr died the 6th., the 7th. high winds with rough shows, we was done cutting the 6th. The 8th, about 6 in the evening a great rain till eleven, the water took down all our haugh with Midtoon and Mains. Wetty on to the 13th., we have our hillands to cut & about 3 loads thats left on our haugh) thair is a good deal to cut in our

parish, We had all our corn in the 18th., it remained fine days on to the end.

November 1832.

Begins rough blustry and meall selling from 14s-6d. to 15s. A thanksgiving day the last day of October, the 4th. some snow, rough weather. A shotting at John Moggachs the 10th. which was an extraordinary day of wind and rough showrs. The 11th. a fine fresh warm day, we sold John Macwillie 15 boils oats and Wm. Burges 12 1/2 bolls; about this time. Cold, rough weather about the 24th. dreadfull wind and sleety showrs.

December 1832.

Begins with high winds, rough showr 2nd. Mr. Cameron preached from the 103 psalm & vs. 8, fine fresh weather about the 7th. Corn selling at 16s. to 16s-6d. John Macwillie proclaimed the 9th. Mr. Masson lectured Rvls. 3 vrs. 14, fine fresh weather on to the 14th. frosty. I was plowing on loachend the 15th. John Macwillie (15) married a stormy day Tusday 18th. The day of electioning a parlimenter for Banffshire as follows, Cornal Gordon, Park, Captain Ferguson. Ferguson was most excessively hissed, Cornal Grants carriage stopped, himself snow-balled through the town. Corn selling at 16s. pr qur. of 42 lb., meall 14s-6d to 15s. sterling, but we have a good storm now about the 19th. The 20th. fresh so on to the 23rd. Hard frost from the 26th. on to the end, we are putting a drain from the back stripe to the donnal bush at this time.

January 1833.

Begins with frost and high winds continuing hard frosty and sunshine on to the 12th. The Citadel of Antwerp bombarded and taken by the French about the last of December. We sold John Bremner 12 qurs. of oats at 16s-3d about the 5th. Meal selling about 14s. & 14s-6d pr 9 stone. Anne Riach proclaimed the 20th. still calm and frosty, hard, hard, hard. Anne Riach (16). Married the 26th., the 27th. still frosty with desperate wind with stormy showrs. Frost with slight storm on to the end.

February 1833.

Begins soft but cold. A shooting the 1st. on the Haughs of Cachanhead for sugar, tea, snuff & Tobaco, 22 prises in the mark 82 yards distance, in the paper of one target thair was 14 balls, in the paper of the other 5, thats good fire boys. Meal from 14s-6d to 15s. and some 13s pr 9 stone. Potato corn 19s., foundling oats 16s-3 to 16s-6d. No plowing from the last of Decr. to old Candelmass, to hard frost still and on from the 7th. on to the 24th. sleety showrs. the 24th. a good storm. Fummackfair 26th. stormy, the halph of our lay to plow and yavel one halph, rough sleety

and rainy weather. Thair was no fighting (17), at the market, it will make a bad crop.

March 1833.

The 1st begins verry wetty, the 2nd. and 3rd. fresh and dray, storm and sleety shows and hard frosty nights on to the 10th., rain and sleet on the 17th. Edintore sown about 18th., still sleet and storm on to the 24th. The examination begun, we are improving watchy at this time, still sleet and rain on to the 28th. Mains sowed but wetty on to the end. Seed oats 17s. to 18s. pr qur.

April 1833.

Comes in with cold winds. We sowed our lay ground the 2nd., the 4th, high winds with rain, the 5th. verry rainy, Still rainy with cold winds on to the 7th. Jas & Bt. Moggachs both sessioned in one day the 4th April, all my garden work done about the 3rd. Jean Forbes died the 9th., the 12th, storm and rain with high winds, sleet and storm on to the 16th. We have all our clean ground to sow at this time. Comon corn is selling at 14 to 15 shillings pr quarter, oat meal from 13s-6d to 14s. I am making a new table the 16th., still wetty on to the 20th. I bought Donald the 19th. at Â£3-4. The church began to paint the 22nd., no serman. The 28th. we no grass seeds sown at this period & about one boll of oats to sow, still rainy, thunder and rain to the 28th., rain and sleet on to the end of the month, the corn begining to breer.

May 1833.

Begins with cold wind & sleety shows. Our potatos planted out the 1st., warm and dry the 3rd.. we sowed the last of our oat seed the 4th, Excellant weather the 5th. & I was at the church of Mortlach, our own was not painted out. Our Jean maire foled the night of the 4th. extraordinary warm on to the 9th. which was a showry mist, a dreadfull grouth the 4th. on to the 9th, the day we cross cut the first of our tourneep ground, warm and from Â£7 to 12 dry on to the 12th., which was some rainy and great grouth. We drove our long carriage about the 3rd and 4th., we was mossing about the 16th., warm and dray. John MacWillies house building. Cattel selling weall this spring, 3 year olds. Still warm and dray, we are busy with our torneep ground now about the 24th. James Sellar fell about the 19th. his friends met the 21st. drught, we have a cow in dishilth lying down on the leway or lay. Some torneeps sown in the parish, rain the 25th., drught on to the end, our fire all set the 30th.

June 1833.

Begins with great drught, appearance of rain the 1st., we began to sow torneeps but the rain turned to drught, sunshine and great drught, we

have the most of our neeps dunged and drelled but cannot sow for the drught, on to the 4th. Rbt. Dey married the 16th., slight showrs the 8th. & 9th. the 10th. a dreadfull spet, the Lairds is halph sarked and the water running in at the entry door spoiling the beads & furnitre most dreadfull. Watery and cold on to the 15th. the day we finished our torneeps all except watches yard. Cattel selling weall this year, cows from Â£4-10 to Â£6, 3 year old stots, 3 year olds from Â£7 to 9 and Â£10 according to quality. Jas. Sellars roup the 13th. wetty, the 17th. a good June market, verry rainy the first part of the day but break up about 11 o'clock, high winds with verry weighty rain, our stack dyke built at this time and potatos howed the 20th., rainy on to the 28th. Mry. Symon (18), brought down the 29th., dray the 30th. to the afternoon then rain.

July 1833.

Begins on Monday with rain, about 11 o'clock thunder with most extraordinary rain for the space of 40 minuts, I never saw such weight of water in so short time. Still rainy on to the 3rd., dray weather the 4th. Our people went to Buckie the 3rd., we began to hoe our torneeps the 6th. on to the 10th., rain the 11th., 12th. the whole day the 13th. and rainy the 14th., still rainy the 16th., dray the 17th., 18th., 19th., and 20th. The 21st some rain, our neeps all hoed except some weet heads, the corn all shot but the fire as wet as whean taken out of the bank. Thair is a verry light hay crop this season, we took home a fraught of turfs the morning of Glass market for the first but verry wet.

Agust 1833.

Begins verry dray, fine, grouthy weather one to about the 9th., the 10th. and 11th. rainy, we are setting up our neeps and taking some loads of fire but they are verry wet. We have no hay this year but some second crop for horse suppers. Meall 14s-6d. Still verry wetty weather, about the 14th. I am building a new neep house about the 16th., it is so wetty we can get no other work done. The corn turning the millert, some bear ready, dray the 18th. for a ferley, stoped driving fire they are so wet, we have home 3 loads of pet & turf. Still rainy and high winds, Jas. Day mrd. the 20th., we are still taking home some loads of fire, we have about 58 loads the 30th. Facing johns studdy the 31st. Meall selling at 14s pr 9 stone, bear cut on Mains the 28th. Betty shoos 30th.

September 1833.

Begins with high winds and showrs of rain and haill, so on to the 4th, then pleasent the 6th. the day that Margaret Bremner was buried. Thair is some cut through the place. the 9th. dray with wind. We wer roofing our torneep house the 9th. and Chas. Millar went home the 7th. Still rainy on to the 10th. I got my new Sunday shoos the 14th. we began to lead corn the 13th., one dray day and one wetty sermons ** a dreadfull spetty day,

we lead our wheat and 2 small ricks of oats the 22nd. Meall selling about 14 shillings, we sold Wm. Duff (19), 4 and one halph quarters oats the 13th, rain the 24th. and shows on to the 27th. then fair to the end.

October 1833.

Begins dary good harvest weather. We was done cutting the 3rd., we raised our potatos the 4th. fine dray weather. I bought a stot at Newmill market at Â£4-11s, we sowed our wheat the day after we are driving fire now not dray. Anne (20), of Mains is recovering the Jaundice, has been ill 4 weeks. My father went to Edinkillie the 14th. good weather. Ptr. Shearer died about the 15th., we took the heather of our mill the 23rd. dray with high winds. Meall 14s., corn pr qr. old 16s-6d. to 17s. The Jas. Sellars house building at this time, sold John Bremner 25 bushels of corn at 16s-6d. Thrashing our old bear at this time, milled 5 1/2 bolls bear meall the 30th. Wm Moggach, Tenread 30th.

November 1833.

The 1st. extraordinary high wind, 2nd. wetty, the 3rd. rough winds & sleety shows on to the 8th. some storm, fresh the 10th. we were taking home birch wood the 9th. we began to plow our ley. the 12th. John bought a few in keith 16th. Stormy shows about the 24th. with high winds, we sold 12 quarters of corn to Portgordon the 26th., the potatos selling thair and Buckie at 1 sh. per, they are a bad crop round the shore side. Old corn from 16-6 to 18 shillings according to the weight. The 28th dreadfull wind and rain at night. I was looking at Arndilly farms the 29th.

December 1833.

Begins with watery weather on to the 4th. then a slight storm, fresh about the 12th. on to 16th. then stormy. A good storm about the 18th., fresh about the 20th.* frosty the 22nd. We sold John Bremner 12 qurs. old corn the 18th. at 17-3. The one day frost the other fresh on to the end.

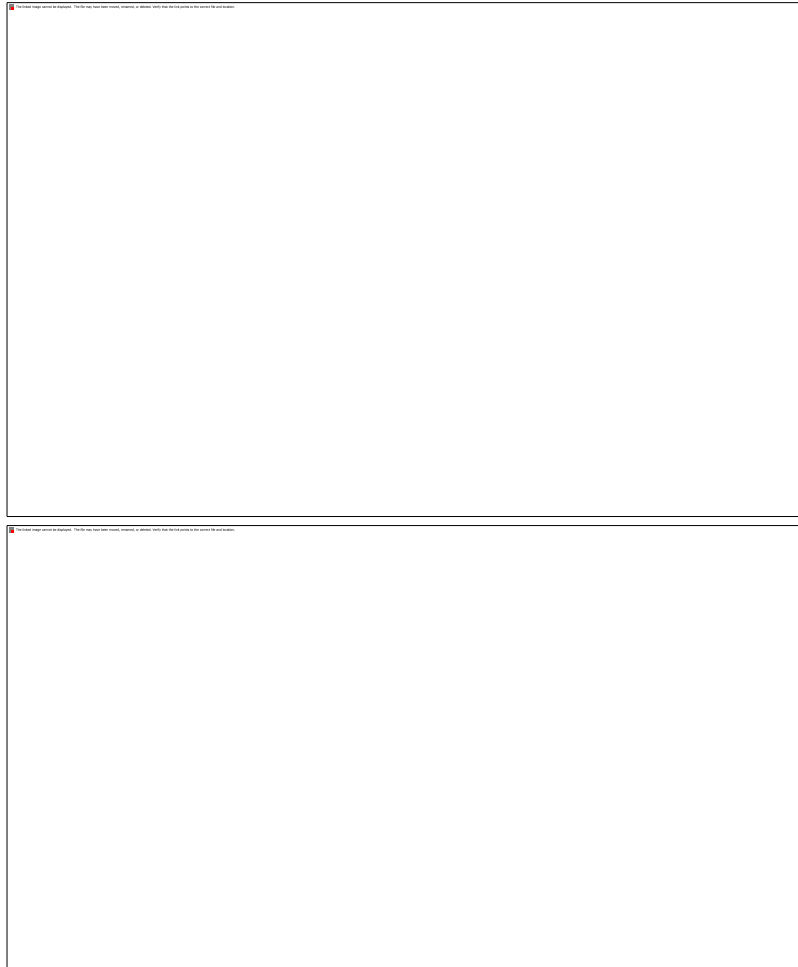
Epitaph on a tombstone in Botriphnie church yard.

*" Here lies Robert McPail (21), (son of the within George McPail senior)
Blacksmith Nova Scotia 36 years, who died Cachanhead 8th, March 1835
aged 78 years.*

*'My sledge and hammer lie declin'd
My bellows too has lost their wind
My fires extinct, my forge decayed
And in the dust my vice is laid
My coal is spent, my iron laid
My nails are drove, my work is done*

*My fire dried corpse here lies at rest
My soul smoke-like soars to be blest'*

By George McWillie"



MAINS OF TOWIEBEG FARM HOME.

It was to the Mains of Towiebeg that the McWillie family commenced their long connection with Drummuir estate. A John McWillie and wife Elspet McIndie were the first tenant farmers and succeeding generations of McWillie families continued to farm the property until the mid 18 hundreds. The terrain is gently rolling land and would have been initially heavily wooded. It also would have been an isolated territory with very difficult and limited access roads,

January 1834.

Begins fresh, the plows going, verry changeble on to the 11th. which is verry rainy. I made my knoch and bellows the week before yule, unconstant weather not two days alike high winds and rain. The 21st. we milled 38 bolls 210 pecks of oat meall, still high winds and rain. Meall selling at 13s. and 9d. pr 9 stone, we paid 12 shillings pr 8 stone for our

farm. Jas. Sheare (22), verry dowie about this time, still rough and rainy about the 26th., the 27th. and 28th, stormy, good weather on to the end, Meall pr 9 stone about 13s-3d, corn 14s to 15s-6d pr quarter.

February 1834.

Begins with frosty nights, high winds and shows, Ann Mitchell sessioned about the 2nd. The goodwiffe of Rosarie died the 8th., excellant weather about **. The 14th. I set 400 Keail, my bushes all prownd, fine fresh days. Thair was a session on friday the 14th. on Ptr. Fbses for jumping over a woman, he said he did not. The 19th. stormy on to the 22nd., the 23rd. fresh with high winds. Sold J. and Andr. Chapman seed corn at 17s., still terrible winds with sleety shows on to the end. The 17th. Charles Miller (23), died.

March 1834.

Begins rough winds and sleety shows, our plowing is through but about one acre of stubble and our clean ground. I was at Keith with John at his garden. Wind, wind, John Newlands died the 11th. and John McWilliam died 19th. We began to sow our oats the 14th., excellant weather, we had our ley and stubble ground sown the 20th., now rain this 14 days, frosty nights. About this time a dreadfull cold raging with inflammation, no one escaping. Helen Duncan, Corrie, died the 16th., Isabella MacWillie (24), ill about this time with brock boill. Fine weather to the 22nd, which was high winds and stormy shows, the 23rd. verry wetty, my onions and carrots sown the 19th. John got his new double barreled gunn the 21st., still frosty with cold winds. Jean Macwillie (25), and Alexander Robertson both dowie about the 30th. The month ends frosty.

April 1834.

Begins with frost and sleety shows on to the 5th., the 6th. a fine day ** witness of matriemony. Cold and frosty nights on to the 14th., the 16th. John Petrie (26), died in Shenwall. Fine weather but slight frost in the night, all our corn sowd the 14th., our potatos planted the 17th. cold, Cottertoons roup the 25th., David Innes thrown out the 30th., cold frosty nights on to the end.

May 1834.

Begins drughty with frosty nights, we milled 4 bolls and 10 pecks of wheat meal and 18 of oat meal, the 2nd. we are inclosing our howess haugh frosty still. Our torneep ground getting the last furro, we wer in the turff moss the 7th., the 10th. sleety shows, fresh growing weather about the 14th. the coach came the 15th. I got my new mear. Fridays shooes 13th., we got our coach the 15th., rain the 17th., we sowd our clover ley with bear it is a good deal too thin and mickle more in the parish. Drught

the 19th., great drught on to the 27th. the day we set our fire. All our torneeps is formed but none dunged because of the drught. We sowed the first of our neeps the 29th., still drught, the drught continuing to the end. Macwillie (27).

June 1834.

Begins with drught the 1st. Sunday the Shean park set on fire, the people went from church and extinguished it . Slight rain the 4th, Donald Ross came home servant to us the 28th. Our torneeps finished the 7th., drught on to the 8th. The 9th. and 10th. we drove 12 loads of turfs, the 11th. a dreadfull rain about 25 minutes, the 13th. in the forenoon, extraordinary hail and rain. I am making a new butter bowie the 14th. a rough wind and some rain, our fast day 19th. Our potatos howed the 21st. grouthy weather. James Allan died 17th. or 18th. June.

July 1834.

Begins warm and drughty. We have 75 loads of fire home the 2nd, we drove our long carriage the 3rd. of peats from the divaks. Betty and me at Carney the 2nd. Oat meall selling from 17s-6d to 20 shillings, I bought Donald Ross trowsrs about the 1st. The minesters grass cut the 1st. Robert MacPail (28), went to Buckie the 5th., fine warm drughty days on to the 7th. the day that the minesters hay was building. The 8th. thunder and rain, began the torneep howing the 4th. and done the 15th. A fresh showr every day but the earth not weetd much. We have about 120 loads of fire home the 16th. Shot Roe deer (29). The corn weall shot at this time, our people went to Buckie the 19th., our hay cut the 21st. and halph. Cold the 25th., the 26th. weighty rain, warm and dray to the end. Our people came home from Buckie the 28th,

Agust 1834.

Begins extraordinary warm and dray, all our neeps out, howed the 2nd., the 3rd. warm. Meale selling st 18shs., most beautifull weather, our hay taken in the 18th., harvest in different places. Cattle selling weall at this time, about 160 loads of turf the 9th., about 200 in all. Dray and warm on to the 18th., rain and hail about the 20th. and on to the 24th., the hail shook to westertoon and round past the Coopers. Thair is a good deal cut bear and oats in this parish, we are pulling our lint the 27th. The 25th. I shot 2 roes at one shot. The 16th I went to Fordyce with Jean Murrays marriage, the 30th, we began to cut our wheat and oats. ther is a good deal cut bear and oats.

September 1834.

Begins dray for two days, the 3rd. wetty. I bought a humble cow about the 1st, for Â£6,14s, wetty the 8th. and a speat the 9th. the day of David

Innes roup, Brougham in Keith the 9th. Watery about the 14th. but we began to cut wheat the 6th., we had it all cut the morning of summerfair. The 17th. we did not lead any untill the 14th., warm and dray the whole week we took it all in the 24th, and the most of it thrashed. Verry quaiet warm and dray, aples dear this year. The smith away about this time a good deal of corn out in the parish. George Macwillie 30th. Sptr. 1834.

October 1834.

Begins wind and drught on to the 9th., the 12th., the day we took up our potatos and Williams (30), house the 11th., the 12th., the 13th. Blustry, meall selling 17shs. The 13th. and 14th. sunking my garden dyke, the 16th. a thanksgiving day, wind with showrs. the 18th. sleet and wind, the 19th. cold wind. Cold storm and rain with high, high winds the 25th. plowd the first of our ley and began to build garden dyke. Still verry wetty with high winds on to the end of the month. Meall 15 & 16 shs. George Macwillie 1834 years.

November 1834.

Begins the 2 first days wetty, the Misses and Mr. Anguses in our Church Masson read 44 minuts, the longest sermon ever to be read to us, the comon time from 19 to 25 minuts, for show the 9th. he read 24 minuts. The whole week wind and rain espically the 7th. and 8th., 9th. blustry. Joseph Edward verry ill at this time, the 12th and 13th. fine days, verry blustry winds with rain the 14th. & 15th. & 16th. my garden dyke almost finished. Sold John Bremner 8 qurs. of old corn at 18s-6d. to drive to Portgordon upon the 19th., good weather on to the 24th. The 22nd. a shotting, 2 prises, 3lb. and 6lb. mutton at 4 l/2d., good on to the 30th. Cpt. Duffs (31), mill building at this time.

December 1834.

Begins warm and grouthy. I set berry bushes and rasps and strawberrys about the 16th. John is working at Auchlankarts Mill about this time. Excellant weather on to the 7th. which was, rainy the 6th. warm and dray, fine, fresh, warm weather and the mavis singing lyke spring. Corn selling from 18 to 20 shillings, warm and dray on to the 15th. I was at the altoon with John at Auchluncharts Mill the 16th. fine day, still fair and dray on to the 20th. a shooting at Robt. Deys the 21st, excellent weather. Fresh and growing weather all except the 27th and 28th, George Macwillie.

January 1835.

Begins warm and fresh, the 5th. frosty, slight frosts on to the 9th. which was stormy the day we bagged for John Roy, frost and slight storm on to the 11th., the day before newyearsday. A good storm came on the 16th.

with hard frost, the 18th. frost and storm, fresh the 22nd. we took home our mill water the 20th. & 21st., corn selling about 18 & 19 shs the 24th. I was at Rynie the 25th. taking home wood from Almore, fine weather with high winds on to the end. Geo. Macwillie.

February 1835.

Begins verry rough winds with sleety showrs. Williams land plowed the 2nd. A rough day the 3rd. the day of a shooting in the burn of towie, dreadfull blowing, fresh the 6th. & 7th., the 8th. wind and storm. James Innes, Linemore, married the 8th. Still rough blowing weather the 19th. a shooting at Jockleys of beef, Robertson, Alexr. and myself brought home 16 shillings worth. A great storm blowing twixt the 19th. and 20th. the last shooting at towie of pails. The 21st. rough sleety showrs and high winds to the end. Good bear from 24s to 26s-6d. pr qur. seed oats sold in fumakfair 22shs., comon from 19s-6d. Â£1-1 to weight 43 lb.

March 1835.

Begins stormy with rough winds on to the 10th., the day that Robert Mcphail died at halph past six o'clock in the morning and was buried the tenth a stormy day. The most of the storm away with the length of the day. The 13th. we was taking out Johns alder wood, the 14th. we took a yoaking of the plow, we have about 3 bolls sowing of avel on the upper highland and the halph of the breas of the waterside. Seed selling from 22s. to 25shs. pr quarter. The 9th. I took Cachanhead, the 16th, I sowed peas and beans in my garden. The 28th. we sowed our avel ground, the 29th. sleety and stormy on to the end.

April 1835.

Begins with storm on the 3rd., the 4th. cold but dray, plowing our clean ground at this time. Some sleet desperat high winds on to the 14th., a good storm the 15th., 16th. & 17th. the day that the young foxes was houked in the burn of towie, we got but 4. The 18th. a very rainy day, the old goodwiffe (32), of towiemore died the 18th. and the masson work of Johns new houses setting the 18th. and comon corn selling about I pound pr qur. We have all our clean ground to sow yet, sleety showrs and rain about the 24th., a good storm the 26th., 27th. & 28th. we was driving dung to Johns croft. The 29th. a blustry day, we have a good many torneeps to drive yet, the 30th. April no grass or clover seeds sown yet the *** is in so bad season. We have some of our potato ground cross plowed, I got 2 new soacks and mould to plow the 30th. which cost 18s-6d., I afford the land seed mysilf. Written this 30th. day of April by Geo. Macwillie in Cachanhead.

May 1835.

Friday the 1st. a dray day, we sowed the last of our oat seed and all our grass and clover seeds Saturday the 2nd. I went to Newmill the 3rd. Sunday verry rainy the whole day. The 4th. & 5th. I was at the roup of Burnside of Tynat. Westerton roused the 5th., we drove our long carriage the 9th., planks from Boat of Bridge. The 11th we wer setting our potatos but could not get the happed for a great rain but fresh the 14th., frosty with stormy shows the 13th. the day Ardbrack roup. Our Helen maire folled the 13th., the 17th. rough wind with shows, grouthy weather about the 24th. and 25th. The goodwife of Midthird verry poorly at this time, the 26th. and 27th. rainy, Jean Petrie (33) brought to bed the 27th., I sold 5 stots to David Innis about the 20th. current. Drealling our neeps the 29th. and 30th., dray days but frosty nights. Alexr. MacDonald came home to me the 30th.

June 1835.

Begins with warm dray weather, the 3rd. we began to dung our torneeps and done about the 13th., the 9th. and tenth dreadfull days of thunder the most of the whole days with thundray shows. I bought my new knock about the 1st. at 55 shillings the machinery of hir. I sold the old Betty meare at June market at Â£1-12-6, drughty weather with high winds, a good grouth both of grass & corn, 3 year old stots selling from Â£6-6 to Â£9, Our fast day the Thursday after June market. A shooting for tubs the 22nd., our horse hilping William (34), to sow his torneeps, the 23rd. the ground white with storm a verry cold day, the 27th. a good frost that spoiled a good many of the potato heads, cold on to the end. Jas. Cruickshank mard. 30th.

July 1835.

Begins cold with hail and frost, the 3rd, I was at Boharm hunting roes a deal of thunder and rain but verry warm. Warm with shows on to the 5th. warm but some hail. I am thrashing out our wheat from the 3rd. to the 4th. I delivered to John Bremner 4 qurs. & 5 bushells wheat at 37 pr qur. upon the 7th. Johns house sleating the 7th & 8th., howing the torneeps the 20th. Johns (35), house finished out the 22nd. I am furnishing my room at this time, we have no fire drove yet. No grouth but the corn shootting not 8 inches long, the new grass verry light, this is not good year for bees swarming, thair is none swarmed in this place except 2, the 23rd. the fast day of the general asembly. Our ley cut the 24th & 25th. and colled the day after Glass market, or the day before. Begining to drive fire about this time. the 1st, halph of the torneeps howed at this time, verry drughty weather and great need for rain. John left Cachanhead the 25th, our hay taken in, the 6th. our fire home, the 8th. our torneeps howing the second time, about the 10th. a great drught with cold and dray and verry high winds. My clock case taken home the 8th. Meall from 17/6 to 18 shillings, good corn 23 to 24 shillings. I have a

stots hough broken at this time. Agnes Shearers marriage the 11th., the potatos looking verry ill at this time.

August 1835.

Begins drughty and continues over all the months of July and Agust. The 22nd. our torneeps howed the 2nd. time and working weall, our people came from Buckie the 20th., our haugh grass colled the 21st. Cattle very dull sell, meal Â£1 pr 9st. Dutch, Oats from 23 to 24 shillings. I have a stot with a broken leg at this time. Helen Macwillie (36) and John Watt married about the 30th. George MacWillie.

September 1835.

Begins terrible warm and drughty, we drove our farm to Delnyshack about the 1st I sold John MacWillie 5qurs. and 3 bushells old corn at 24shs. pr qur. and 10 bolls at 9 stone at Â£1. William Cummine came home to his harvest the 7th., we began to cut the 8th. Excellant weather on to the 10th. then rain, , a great rain on to the 13th., my house painting at the 12th., rainy, rainy, My house mud thached about the 5th. cost 9s-6d. to Hugh Robertson. We have done cutting the crop the 26th., thair is less corn yards this year than usual, we are the first done cutting in this place. We have 15 ricks in and thached about the 31st. Thair is a dead calm on to the 22nd. and the dreadfull wind that shook a great deal of corn and weat weather on to the end.

October 1835.

Begins rough winds and rain. The 1st. I was at Keith with 9 bolls of meal, a rough day with rain. The corn we cut the 8th. Sptr. is not taken in the 4th. October altho it was the first we cut. The Kirktoon haughs was sold about 13 guineas the acre. Upon the 9th. we took in a good deal of our clean ground corn and the end of the backstripe shift, all but the rackings. We rose the 10th. about 3 o'clock in the morning and lead 2 ricks and filled the barn before 6 oclock, then a verry rough rainy day and all the night wind and rain and the 11th. desperate wind and rain, no one has it all in yet in this parish. We have about one acre of our clean ground and the Broak. Really backward weather indeed. Thair was stormy shows about the 1st. and the hills white, we took in all our corn the 13th. and our potatos the 16th. Good weather about the 18th. rough shows with wind at the 22nd. We began to plow our haughs at the 22nd. William Cumming left his harvest the 17th, George MacWilliams corn all cut the 24th, the day our calf broak it queet the bone without the skine about one inch, we had to rip up the skine before it was got in. The 26th. a dreadfull wind and rain, the waters nigh a big as Agust 29. The Deveron dreadfull about Banff both sea and land. A park shooting the 31st. I had 2shs, and 10 pence.

November 1835.

Begins verry rough weather, John Bremners (37) roup the 2nd., I bought a 2 year old bull at Â£4-5shs., wind and rainy weather on to the 7th. a shooting of mutton at Jn. Moggachs. I had 2shs. worth and shot in paper and got nothing. The 8th. a fine day rough rainy on to the 15th. my new gun. Stocking at this time, milled about 11 bolls oat meal the 27th. Octr. Gee. Mitchell and Tibby Wilson proclaimed the 28th., ditto Thomas Duncan and Maddy Shearer. Fine weather about this time, we are plowing our haughs now, good weather with fresh showrs.

December 1835.

Begins fresh weather plowing going fast. The 3rd. I cut a calfs legg above the ancle. the 5th. a shootting at millahol park, I had 3 prises with my new gun. A hard frost with a slight storm on the 6th., fine weather with some frost on to the 10th. the day James Peterican (38) and Anne Macwillie. was married and Thomas Duncan and Maddy Shearer and likways Alexr. Gordon and Jean MacWillie (39), proclaimed the 13th. Excellant weather, John Bremner, Woodend, still verry, verry ill, this is two fresh and one frosty from the 14th. to the 18th. verry watery, the 20th. hard frost but quaiet. Jean Macwillie married the 24th., fine weather on to the end.

January 1836.

The 1st begins terrible cold high wind and frost, fresh and frost alternatly on to the**. Corn pr qur. 15shs-6d. to 16 shillings. John Bremner, Woodend, died the 3rd., fine weather on to the 10th. A good storm about Newyearsday and slight frost, coron about 15s. to 16s-6 pence pr qur. The 24th. frost and storm on to the 29th., corn from 18 to 20 shillings.

February 1836.

Begins with storm high winds and frost. The 1st. I let blood of John Macwillie (40). Mains, ill in inflamation, stormy on to the 4th. the night of John Macwillies carting a unweall stot. At this time, the 8th., still stormy with slight frosts, frost and fresh time about from the 10th. to the 19th., some storm. Meall selling 15shs., corn pr qur. from 18 to 20shs. according to weight. We are driving some fire wood and casting some ditches the 18th. and 19th., frosty days on to the 24th. a great storm the night of Cotertoons frolic. The 26th. a quaiet day but a great storm, we had no water till the 27th. We throush with the flails on the 26th. and 27th. A shooting of sculs at mill of hole, I had three of them. Tibby got hir new shooes the 27th. and the 28th. the storm still advancing. We have no torneeps but a few to the cows thats giving milk, a great storm to the end. Thomas Donald (41), died about the end of this month.

March 1836.

Begins a great storm. A warm rounp the 4th., we got home some loads of torneeps, the heat of the sun putting away the storm. George Shearer child born 20th. the 6th. I was making a runch the 6th., frost and storm and sleety shows on to the 13th. The most of our awvel and halph of our ley to plow, the 20th. about three acres of ley on the hillands to plow. The 19th. the first fresh day and the land begining to dry, the 19th. Alexr. put gudge through his hand. My father went to Edinkellie the 16th, and came home the 21st., dray with high winds. I sowed peas and onions the 23rd., many sowed the 22nd., the 26th. sleet and storm, the 27th. frost and sleet. William Watt went away the 19th. unweall. Wm Macwillie (42), had a child 27th. called William. Verry backward weather with sleety shows and frost. Onely some people sown the 26th., the 28th. we bagged for John Roy. Scouggie flew the country about the 20th. Our plowing going on in the clean ground, the 30th. frosty and sleety shows. William Lawrance came home the 29th.

April 1836.

We began the sowing the 1st. but it came out a bad day, it got nothing but a single scrape. A good storm the 2nd., rough winds and shows on to the 10th.. about the 11th. we sowed our lewy. My father went to Edinkellie the 13th. Wm. Watt (43) died the 13th. was buried the 16th. a drie morning but came out a verry wetty day. The one halph of our haughs sown the 16th., the examination began the 17th., some rye grass seeds sown the 22nd. the day all our neeps was taken home, thair was thunder, storm and rain the 22nd. and thunder the 24th. and rough shows of rain. All my corn sown the 27th., backward stormy weather on to the end.

May 1836.

I sowed my rye grass seeds and set the potatos the 3rd., clear dray weather the 5th. with frosty nights, a good deal of corn to sow in the parish the 9th. The 8th. day Adam George and William Shearer both married in the session. John Riach died about the 27th. or 28th. April and Helen Macwillie came to Drumgrain about the 18th. or 19th. April. All our fire dug the 18th or 19th., the rounp of Ardbrack the 21st. John Brown put of from being Church beadle about the 14th. Mrs Donald came to out towne the 21st. Excellant weather with drught for 3 weeks without showr. Alexr. Duncan came home to me the 28th.

June 1836.

Begins with great drought, we set out turffs and sowed the first of out torneeps the 2nd., wind and drought great need for rain. All the shifts of torneeps sowed the 8th., the backstripe one we have left as much dung

as dung two acres of the uppermost highlands but still a great drought and high winds it is verry like it the night weather it come or not. I gave a man 5 shillings to spread the dung of my neep shift and I made a new carraige cart in the fornoon, A good rain the 11th. and great need, we are about done sowing torneeps on the upper hillands. The day June market still warm and droughty. I sold William Stewart 2 quoys the Monday before the market at Â£8-10, in the market 5 stots at Â£6-10, a young cult at Â£15. Ay drughty but a good showr the 18th. and some the 22nd., about 40 loads of fire (44), home now & hoen the potatos and hunting the fox and got one the 22nd. Some slight showrs the 24th., sold Alexr. Macwillie 2 quarters bear and straw and dilivered the second of July.

July 1836.

Begins droughty with some showrs about the 5th. and all the corn shotting and the hay crop verry poor. All the fire home in the end of June, James shearer died 7th, and was buried the 9th. I am selling corn at 22s and 8d., I have 6 stacks in the yard the 9th., the torneeps all howed the 21st, Meall 16-6d. corn 21 to 21-6. I went to innverness the 23rd. and came home the 24th., our people went to Buckie the 24th., a gay rainy week, it has been rain on to the end, mickle, mickle need.

Agust 1836.

Begins rainy, our hay cut the 4th. & 5th., some rain the 5th., gloomy weather. I sent 44 bolls of meall to Inverness the 11th. the day of the roup of stripside, at it I bought a stot at Â£3. Fine warm weather, thursday the 18th. I was at church of Mortlach hearing a court concerning a new minister (45). Mains ley taken in the 20th., I am thrashing out old corn, I have two ricks in the stak yard at this time and 2 of thrashed corn.

September 1836.

Begins with rain, mostly rain on to the 12th. the day I was putting in new mettel in my mill and built a new house about the wheel. Verry rainy weather, thair is some riggs of bear cut at summersfair but verry green in general. Midtoon cut some oats the 15th., among the first in the parish. I have taken in the last of my old ricks, I think thair wil be seed in the new crop, verry heasy weather the 17th., James Humphrays farm setting at the 15th. John George came home to his harvest to me the 18th. a rainy day, the 19th. rain sleet and storme, we cut some corn in desperation in the afternoon, verry green for seed. I thrush 5 quarters of old corn the 18th., I gave Alexr. Moggach 2 and halph qur. I had sold a week before and whean I am writting this it is drifting snow and all the ground white and 19 threves cut the 20th., it is verry bad appearance for the begining of harvest, Midthird cutting and the snow white. We cut our yavel shift 27th & 28th. but both wetty days. the 30th. sleet and rain the day the

Kirktoon haughs was sold. The night of the 30th. a great frost. I paid the scouring of Isla and ditches the 30th. the sum of Â£51, str.

October 1836.

Begins with rain, sleety shows and frost on to the 8th. the day the Kirktoon corn was prised and it was the 8th. that Joseph Edward died and was buried the 11th., thair was 80 men at his burial. The 12th. we lead 6 ricks, the day of Newmill market, thair was but some few ricks in the parish till that day and the next day was a speat of rain and wind the whole day. This is about 3 o'clock and the rain is dreadfull, we have the most of our hillands and all our haughs to cut, the 13th. good weather with high winds on to the 20th. the day we cut our corn. We took it all in the 25th. and to Linmore to cut to Alexr. Gordon. We took up one pit of potatos the 26th., a good storm the 27th., 28th., & 29th., a great dell of green corn but this will ripe it. Thair is a large quantity of stooks among the storne yet to cut. John George left his harvest the 27th.

November 1836.

Begins frosty with storne. I was with Wm. MacWillie cutting on the greens the 3rd. but we came home and left the one halph of it that the snow was lying upon. We took up the last of our potatos the 4th., a frosty day. The 5th., 6th., & 7th. all stormy, thair is some to cut in the parish yet and a good deal to take in.

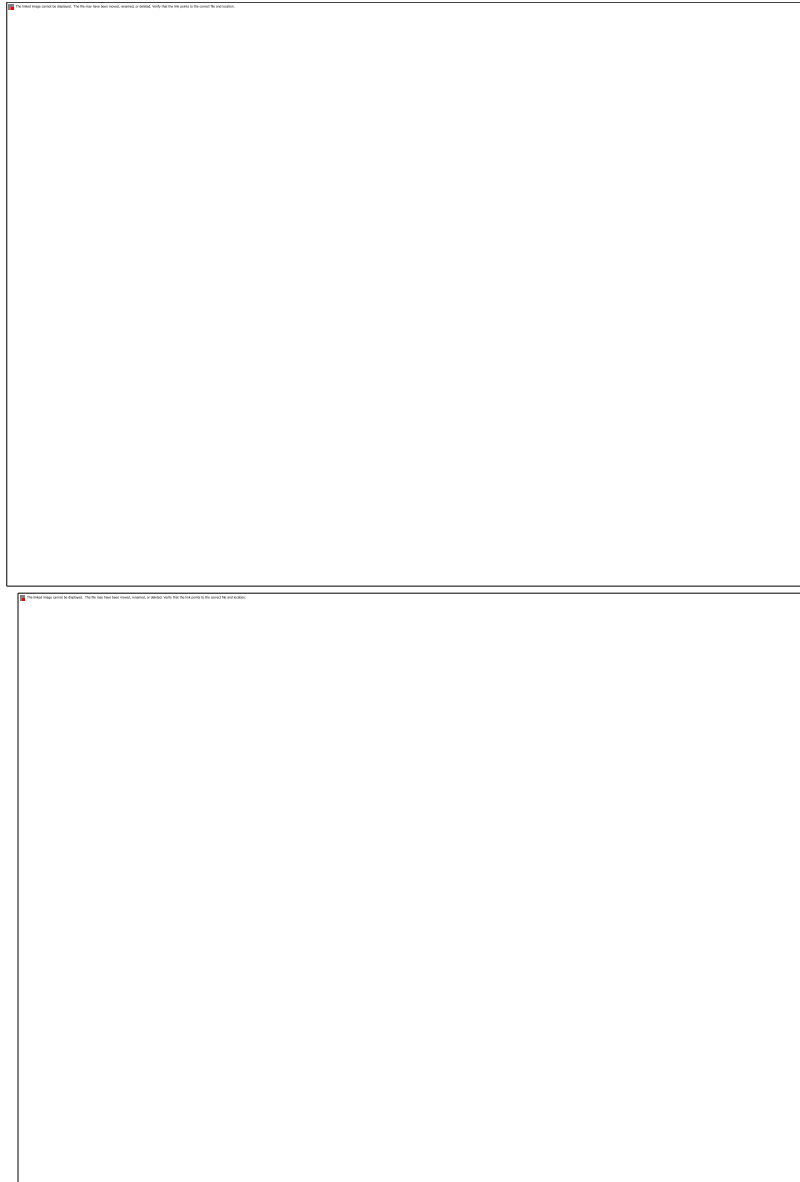
Mrs Angus was buried the 4th. Alexr. Shearer came to make some cloths for me the 7th, Potatos about 16 pr boll and meal 16s pr boll. Backward weather on to the 13th., corn selling, new I mean, from 19 to 21 shs., old from 25 to 26 shill., meal pr 9 stone Â£1, I have about 10 bolls thrashed yet and still 1 rick of old straw. I am feeding a crippl quoy and I have put up other 2 quoys the 21st. to feed. I feed Wm. Robertson for man and George Sellar for cow billie in Dufftoon market, thair is a court at the Kirktoon house about George Millne selling the coupper too much wood without liberty, I doubt he will to take his leggs for the same out of the parish, no mercy, no mercy. Alexr. Moggach has some corn to carry to the yard yet the 21st. Watery about the 22nd., Martesmes day, Jne Mitchel, Alxr. Duncan & Wm. Peterkin left me the 22nd., Wm. had about 12 days to make up of his time to make up. Thair came on a great storm the 23rd. with a even down fall, our harvest thanksgiving the 24th., verry stormy the 25th. Meal selling pr 10 stone at 16/6 to 17s., butter pr old lb. 13 pence. I hard the 25th. that our Laird was dead but not certainty for it, George Millne our ground officer put from mill holl the 25th. and one came the name of Lobban, he should be very quait among us if he be his own friend, he stops in Ardbrack. William Robertson (46) and George Sellar, came home servants to me the 27th. verry stormy weather, a few good days about the end.

December 1836.

Begins fresh days, the plowing going on fast on to the 8th., the 9th. a hard frost with wind and storm. The Coopers sons went to Findorn the ** out of the parish hive go hive.

Journal, 7th. December 1836 (47)

The national debt the weight therof in gold amounts to 4,088,475 lbs. or 110,047 tons 9 cwt. 3 qurs. & 13 lbs. To transport the debt across the seas in gold it would require 12,580 one horse carts, each cart being loaded with halph ton of gold. Supposing such a thing possible as that we could procure from the Mixican mines silver in sufficent quantity to pay of the debt. It would require to bring it to England a fleet of 476 ships of 250 tons each, the weight in silver 266,666,666 lbs. or 110,047 tons 12 cwt. 1 qur. 14lbs. From the same Journal An act was passed in the reign of James the I which makes it felony to raise the divel or yet to feed him whean be is raised. Thair was a dreadfull harrican in the metroplas upon Tuesday the 15th., current storm 18th. and on to the end, Thair is a dreadfull cold raging, the most of the parish ill the 30th., I am blooding 2,3 & 4 every day. Corn 21 to 22s. Meall pr stone 18s.**



BOTRIPHNE PARISH CHURCH.

Botriphnie church is situated about three miles from Dufftown on the B9194 road on the way to Keith, Scotland. The parish comprises some 9459 acres. The parish is divided by the river Isla, which finds its source in a loch of one mile length located south-west of the church. The land comprises gently sloping hills from scrub and heather at around 1000 feet on the hill of Towie and Scaut Hill to fertile farm land found along the length of the river. Drummuir village is situated in the middle of the parish and is around 500 feet above sea level. The largest land owner within the parish was the Laird of Drummuir who lived in Drummuir castle. Saint Fummack was the saint of the parish and was celebrated each year by holding a fair. The interior of Botriphnie church is constructed of beautifully finished wood. The churchyard contains many McWillie ancestors' grave plots with family epitaphs which were found very useful in tracing our family history. George McWillie author of the

McWillie diaries and his wife and two daughters are buried in the graveyard.

January 1837.

Begins with showrs of sleet, the 1st. of Youl is a fine quaiet day, fresh the 3rd., stormy, frost and slight storme on to the 12th, Newyearsday which was rainy all the afternoon. Still the infectious cold raging, my father and mother ill in it since the 1st. or 2nd. Wm. Robertson went home the 11th. and Alexr. came home the 12th, in his place. Frost and storme the 14th. & 18th. fresh, the 19th., 20th. & 21st. hard, hard frost, I was at the lint mill with lint the 21st. I milled 19 bolls of oat meall the 16th. and paid the farm the 17th. My mother still verry ill with the inflainzie the 21st., some wetty on to the end of the month. I sold a fat quoy at this time at Â£4. George Macwillie.

February 1837.

Begins with quaiet, fresh weather. We are plowing our yavel at this time on the hillands, fine wetty on to the 8th. the day of the court on Robt. Dey & John Burges. I milled 32 bolls of oat meall the 4th. The 10th. high draying winds, the weather excellent, at present meall selling at Â£1 pr Emp. boll, corn for seed from 26 to 28, to the sea 23 to 26 shillings. George Mitchell forgery brok out about the 1st. of January and Westerton set to George Garden about the 11th. The 18th. & 19th. dreadfull winds, storme the 20th. and a good storme the 25th. I sold Alexr. Moggach 6 qur. corn the 20th, at 26shs. pr qur. Isabel Innes committed suicide the 25th. and was buried the 27th. Margaret Mackimme died, Breahead, the 27th. I paid my long carraige (48) to Elgin the 28th. the day of Fummakfair.

March 1837.

Begins wetty. I was at the Wisemans roup the 1st., plowing going fast, our haughs plowing at this time 4th. and plowed out the 8th. Stormy the 10th., 11th. & 9th. John Ord's legg broken the night of the 9th. the day that Alexr. Chalmers farm was set & mearchant carried him home on his bak and set him down on his own door. Hard frosts with storme mixed through it from the 11th. to the 19th. Mrs. Donald confirming for hir mony and movables about the 18th.. no plowing going on this season, cold, cold. Ann & Jas Petrician (49) had a son about the first of this month. Upon the 21st Donald Macmillan and me was at Mortlach seeking witnesses against one Melles for stricking his son unmercifully, George Moggach burnt all his house upon the 23rd. Mrs. Masson brought to bead of a daughter, Mary. the 24th. Our hierd came home the 25th. the name of Cruickshank, the ewie lammed the 24th., still frost and storme. We have 4 ricks in the yard and many a one is done long ago, I have a good

deal of hay and torneeps the 25th, but straw terrible scarce in general. I sold William Burges 2 bolls of meall at Â£1, pr boll the 20th.

Middrd. B R K the Ludge window the 23rd. The 27th. stormy, the neeps so hard the cattel canot eat them. The 28th. a roup of books at Ms. Taylors a stormy night, the next day thair came betwixt the hours of 9 and 10 oclock a storme about 1 foot in depth. Linmore set by Alexr. Gordon to the MacDonald of Clunybegg. We have not got one yoaking of the plow since the 4th., a dreadfull frost the 29th. at this time and has been the most of the month. Futher for cattel verry scarce, none below Â£2, qur., straw all down and none to seed but midtown of Towiebegg. Geo. Macwillie.

April 1837.

Begins with frost and storme. the frost so hard the last 10 days that no beast can eat neeps. Was bleeding Wm. Innes the 2nd., we took in our bear the 3rd. for seed and all the oat seed thrashed and dressed. The 2nd thair was a collection gathered in the Church for a famine in the west hillands and islands amounting to Â£5-7s-4d., still hard frost and storme. Always terrible frost and close storme on to the 9th., we got yoaking of the plow that day, colled the 10th. upon the field that I intend for clean ground, we have all our clean ground to plow the 11th. and about 14 acres all together, we have 3 ricks in the yard the 11th. but frost and storme. Thair is a dreadfull scarcety of straw and many a mans cattel in compleet starvation, I have sold no victal of the crop but 6 qurs, of oats and about 2 1/2 bolls of meall, I shall sell no more till I see what kind of summer thair be as thair is none sown yet. We have got a yoaking of the plow in our clean ground 11th. Isabel Innes roup the 12th., a little fresh the 14th. Cotterton sowed some oats the first in our place, the 15th. sleety and stormy. The storme is none broken on the Scouge and Glackmuck. I was at Drumgrain the 15th. concerning Helen McWillies confirmation, verry bad day but faired up in the afternoon. We began to sow the 21st. but not a good season, we sowed our lower haugh the 25th., verry watery, I had a stot unweall at this time and 15 & 1/2 bolls oats sown and about 9 bolls sowing to plow. A bad season 26th., 27th. & 28th., likeways the 29th. the day I sowed my haughs. All our torneep shift to sow and a good dead of it to plow, a grouth begining the last 5 days, I sowed my onions & carrots about the 25th. of April.

May 1837.

The 1st. day begins rainy, a great rain. I took home my clover seed the 1st., our corn all sown the 3rd. and the bear the 5th., no grass sown the 5th., some to sow the 9th., the potatos dinged but not set and stormy days. This is the day of Robt. Days roup, verry backward weather and cold north winds, no grouth, sleety showrs the 20th. & 21st. Have one rick yet but scarcely can keep it meat for cattle is so scarce, I am selling

meall to Alexr. Moggach at 20 & 6d. The roup of Ardrack the 22nd., I sowed tears this day, cold, cold. Alexr. Gordons roup the 25th. a cold drught and so on to the end. Thair is no grouth yet and all the straw and hay in the place done. Thair is no suppering for the horses nor cattle, many a one cannot lay down thair torneeps for want of meat. I have one small rick yet in the yard and some hay. I am selling meal to the session at Â£1-1, pr **, cattle will not sell at any price for want of fother and terrible poor in condition. Put out the first of the neep dung the 31st., rainy. George Macwillie.

June 1837.

Begins dray, a cold drught on to the 9th. we have about 2 acres of torneeps to sow yet and a scarcety of grass. Meal selling at Â£1-2 to 1-4 shillings, grouthy weather begins the 10th. June market terrible bad, I sold my 3 year olds at Â£5-5s., all our torneeps done the 17th. a rainy day but the 16th. a dreadfull drught the day the rents paid. I got discount of 3 Guineas. It turned warm and grouthy about the 18th., the 22nd. Betty and mysilfe went to Aberdeen along with Alexr. Gordon (50) & Robt. Deys people, they sailed the 28th, & we came home the 28th. Mrs Donalds money came to Keith the 28th. & I got it the 30th. We are beginning to drive some fire about this time, rather drughty weather, the potatos about the 30th. hoed. Geo. McWillie

July 1837.

Begins warm with a little rain. I was getting wood for a new stable and shead the 2nd. Some rain the 5th., John of Mains howing torneeps the 5th., a great drught on to the 12th., grass verry scarce, great need for rain, corn & grass going wrong. We hoed the first of our torneeps the 12th. and all ready for it. The drught on to the 14th. which was a dreadfull day of thunder and weighty rain and great hail in many places which did great harm. Wm. Moggach died the 15th. in about 16 hours illness. Verry rainy on to the 20th. which was dray, the day we hoed our torneeps, verry, verry, warm. Taking down our kill the 26th., I paid George Anderson Â£1 of his fee the 26th. The corn shooting fast out, still rainy. Our people went to Buckie the 22nd. and came home 29th. A great canvassing by Pitfour and General Duffs son at this time. George McWillie

Agust 1837.

Begins with great rains on to the 4th., massons came to build new shed and stable the day before Glass market, my bear weall mixed the 18th. nothing in the oats as yet but still shooting, no sell for cattle, meal at Â£1 to Â£1-1s., I have about 20 bolls corn at this time the 20th. high wind and rain. Miss Riach left Bothriphnie the 19th. I have an awfull crop of berries and good pears and fair apples. The hay not in yet, my new stable

and shead finished in the masson work 23rd. The arch fill the next day, wetty on to the end.

September 1837.

Begins verry rainy, my new housses roofed and divoted the 4th. Some corn begining to turn the 5th., a denner to Drummure the 7th. a wetty day, we was in the Scabb at this time, Meall Â£1.1 sent Â£2 to Aberdeen to weddow Mallice on the 11th. I cut my bear the 12th. the oats only begining to turn the 13th. the day of summerfair, a verry wetty day. I sold my bull but a verry bad market I had only Â£4-6, small beasts not selling at all. Rainy about the 16th. and on to the 20th. the wind was verry rough, the 21st. I took in my bear the 23rd. Captain Duff gave a denner to all his tennantry. Midtoon cut some oats the 22nd., we have none ready yet, I am working at my new stable and shead the 23rd., we are keeping our nout in the hill all day this 3 weeks for want of grass, mostly dray on to the 30th. the day we began to cut corn. My harvest man came home the 30th. Alexr. Sharp ran away.

October 1837.

Begins dray with strong winds. We had in 7 stacks oats the 7th, without getting a showr in the short space of one week, many not begun to cut any at all the 9th, Alexr. Sharp (smart) left his service the 7th., no rain at the 11th. the day of newmills market, I engaged James Packman the 11th. for a fortnight and 3 days for 18shs. and bought 3 stots for Â£9-1. Thair came a slight showr the 16th. which stopped us from cutting but done next day, we had in 22 ricks the 19th., a good deal of corn to cut yet with high, high winds. General Duff (51) gave a dinner to his voaters the 17th. Meall from 16shs to 19 shillings. I had all the crop in the yard the 20th. in the short space of 3 weeks but one day, my potatos up the 23rd. Some showrs and hail and frost to the end of the month.

November 1837.

Begins with rough winds and frosty nights. We milled 12 bols of meall the 3rd., Betty badly at this time. I have 3 acres plowed the 4th., I am selling meall at 16 shillings. Many people bussy at thair potatos now. we thached our neep shead the 4th. The first of the quaiet days. Doctor Menzies at Betty the 5th., hir verry ill and ditto the 8th., she is a little better the 9th. We was harrowing the ground that is for our torneeps the 9th., fine weather on to Martismass. Betty & Isabel still verry ill, Betty wane up the first time 25th. Alexr. MacDonald came home svt. the 24th. at even, Jas Nory ditto. Showrs of storm the 27th. and the 28th., about 3 inches. Corn from 16sh. to 1 pound, meall 15s-14d & 16s., we have none but our torneep shift on the hillands. I have 6 prises of mutton, 3 at one target, 1 at one, 2 at another. Most excellent weather, Betty & Tibby still ill and good weather on to the end.

December 1837.

Begins most beautiful weathre. Jean lingring at this time & Helen Stronach both, but not beading, Betty out the 6th., corn 18shs., the plowing match the 7th. at the Cottertoon. Excellent weather and plowing going on as in the month of May. Corn selling from 18s to 19 and 20 owing to weight. Jean Gordon & Helen Stronach not out of the bead the 25th., we are driving corn to the mill the 25th. Helen Stronach up about the 28th., famous weather on the Youll. Jas Nory went home the 7th. and Helen Stronach the 14th. of January 1838.

January 1838.

Begins plesant weather, plowing almost done, corn selling at 18 to 19 shs. A verry hard frost sets in the 8th., the ground grey with storme. The 14th. & 15th, dreadfull frost., the 13th. a fox hunting, 1 killed. Some storme on to Sunday the 21st. a desperate blowing, the minister stot in the lettering. I killed a mart the 22nd. hard frost and storme. Storme to the 24th., still stormy and great frost on to end.

February 1838.

February begins frost and great storm, all roads mostly stoped. No torneeps geting but some for new calved cows and thawing them in the well. Still a great storm and penetrating frost on to the 14th. & no apperance of fresh. Some loads of torneeps the 22nd. holled with the spads and pick, the night of the 23rd. a blowing began and not stopped the 27th. the day of fummackerfair. Thair was no preaching on Sunday, we had to boar a holl about 20 yards through the storm at the end of our smiddy, it was livel with hay sow and the top of the garden. Helen Stronach came home the 20th., about 200 men from Mortlach at the toll road and all blown up the next day the 27th., they canot get thair minester from Huntly to bury him.

March 1838.

The 5th. and 6th, the parish is casting the toll road, fresh the 8th., our plow going the 10th. but great snow in many places. The 15th. real fresh, I may say the first fresh day since the 8th. of January. Meall 16s., corn Â£1 to Â£1-lshs. We thached our mill the 19th. and plowed in the afternoon, the 20th. a good storme still on to the 26th. the day the smith brought a rick hear to thrash. I have sold none of my last years crop as yet but 8 qurs. to my father. I have but 7 ricks in the yard and the ley but a great deal of torneeps. Jean (52) and Isabel went to school the 19th. Corn selling from 21 to 22shs. pr quarter, corn and fodder from 35 to 37 shs. pr qur., dear enough for the poor man. Frost and stormy shows on to the end.

April 1838.

Begins stormy showrs and verry cold, all our plowing done the 6th. but the land that the torneeps is in. We began to sow the 11th., I belive about 8 bolls, thair came out a rough rainy night the two Misses MacKindy came here the night the first time. I sowed my onions this day at 3 Oclock. We sowed other five bolls the 14th, on clover ley below Watchies, we have 4 ricks of oats and a small one of bear and a good deal of hay. The 15th. Sunday high, high wind with dreadfull showrs of haill and sleet the whole day. John George proclaimed the 7th. and 15th., I have about two and one halph acres of torneeps still in the ground, a good many of rotten. April market sleety and blowing the whole day and about 40 head of cattel in it, storm and blowing the whole two days after it. I sold John a cow the 19th. at Â£4-7-6d., sowed the last of our lay the 24th. a watery day, done sowing except 1 boll of oats and 1 of bear the 29th. April. George McWillie.

May 1838.

The 1st begins with sleet and storme the whole day. I have but 3 ricks in the yard and a good pickel hay, it has been a verry bad spring as ever I saw. I have about 1 acre of torneeps the 1st,, the good weather began the 2nd. Our oats all sown the 5th.,. I bought 8 bushells of ryegrass at 5s-6d. pr bushell, our potatos set the 10th., beautifull weather. I have sent away 7s-6d. the 12th, to Magdaline Donald to Aberdeen. Our torneeps done the 12th., the 13th. rain and sleet the whole day, Helen McWillie (53) Mains, and Duncan McDonald proclaimed the 13th. Joseph Edwards roup the 15th., snowy showrs and verry cold, dray with cold easterly winds on to the 19th. the day Jean Gordon (54) went away to Aberdeen to shop to America. Watery about the 22nd and 23rd., cold drught on to the 26th., the 25th. I ingaged William Humphray for halph a years servant at Â£4-12-6, no grass no growth. Meall selling at 18 shillings, cold and dray on to the 28th., plowing our torneep ground this time the second time. I have John Ross for orow man for Â£2, and a hird Peter Robertson for Â£1-1 shs. four days past the term with ditto the 5th. day after ditto. Verry drughty on to the end but no growth in corn or grass, cattel verry dull at this time the 30th. May 1838.

June 1838.

Begins extraordinary cold and drught, the 1st, I bought 1 ewe and 2 lambs at Â£1-18. On Sunday the 3rd thunder in many places, the 4th. a beautifull morning and about 12 the thunder began in the south east and passed over this place to the north and in passing went in through John Taylors chimney, destroyed his fire place, broke some glasses, broke his window in peaces, drove of a deal of the slates, cut and hurt about 8 persons and killed a bull dog, A great rain and hail but verry fresh and warm, cold after the thunder. We began to sow neeps the week before

the market it was spoiled compleetly with a few merchants and Taylors publishing it in the papers the wrong day. I may say thair was no grouth until the 14th. of this month, a great rain the 19th. the most of the day. Our neeps all sown the 25th., grouthy weather but verry wetty on to the 30th. I was at the Mance of Mortlach at a roup the 29th., we took in our hindmost rick the ,30th., the potatos not for howing yet the 30th.

July 1838.

Begins warm and dray. We are cleaning our waterside ditch the second. Milled 11 1/2 bols meall this time and plowing our haugh for fellow. Warm and grouthy to the 15th. and then verry cold and wetty on to the 28th. the day John Roy was buried, still weety but warm to the end, None of our fire drove and but halph of our torneeps howed, the corn begining to shoot, I doubt it will be verry let. George Macwillie.

Agust 1838.

Begins weety and cold with little grouth on to the 11th., thair is no fire drove as yet. We have one halph of our neeps howed the second time the 11th. Helen Riach died the 12th. in Drumgrain, we are cutting our lay the 13th. but rain and rain the 14th., the mill of Ardbrack ready the 13th. A great rain with cold wind whean I am writing this the 14th. Our hay colled the 18th., the 19th. rainy and so on to the 22nd., thair is no word of driving fire wet, the corn still shooting, Corn Â£1-8s to Â£1-10, meal from 21 to 22 shs.

September 1838.

The first dray to afternoon, I took in my hay the 1st., the 2nd. hail with wind. I was at Buckie for coals the 3rd., the 4th. we thached our hay, weety, weety. We took home some fire the 8th. but verry weet. The bear turning, the oats scarce begun and still shooting. Thair has been from the 4th. to the 8th. constant rain, I began some drains casting 8th. below the road, we have nothing else to do. We took home the first of our fire the 3rd. to keep the house but as weet now as when they ware taken out of the hill. 10th. & 11th. dray, weety the 11th., Midtoon mill repairing now. Meall selling at Â£1-4 to Â£1-5, corn Â£1-10 to Â£1-12. I got 1 shilling from Admiral Duff the 11th. for lifting Dunbar home with one roe from our own town to the Kirkton house. James Humphrey cut some corn the 15th., some bear cut through the place the 15th.; the market verry had but the morning of it hard frost and rain at even. I sold Alexr. Moggach 13 qurs. and 1 bushell of corn at Â£1-8-6 pr qur. Driving fire but weet, our bear cut the 28th., fine filling weather, some of the oats as green as in June. I do not the harvest done sooner nor Martismass.

October 1838.

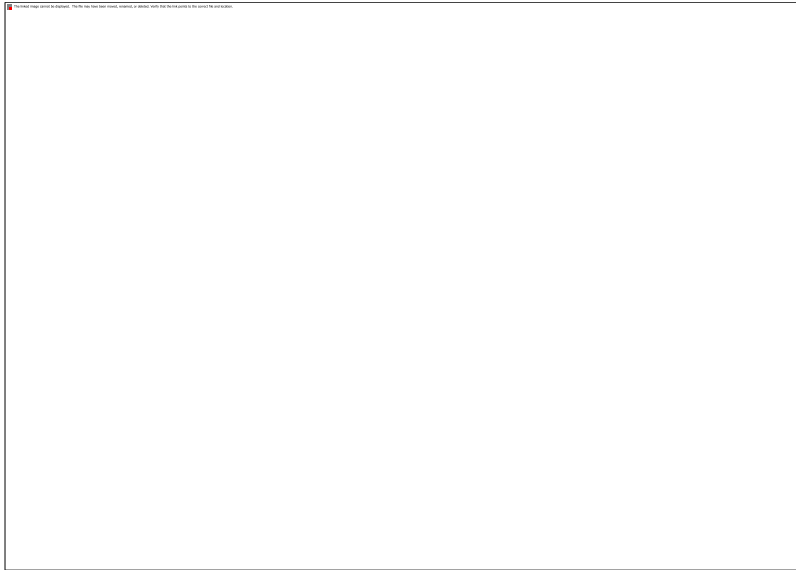
Begins warm and frosty nights the third Wednesday night a hard frost and ice on the waters. Thursday we cut our howes haugh and Wm. Robertson came home to his harvest the 5th., we will not get constant work yet 9th. We took in 3 ricks of oats the 10th. the day of Newmills market, the day of a court. The 11th. a dreadfull wind did not leve a standing stook and at even the wind and hail was extraordinary. The 12th, wind and hail and sleet, we set up all our fallen stooks the 12th., the 13th. a hard frost and closs storme. We drove our farm meall the 12th. to Mill of Towie and paid for driving it Garmouth 2/6/ we milled 2 bolls and 3 firloths of bear meall at this time. Cutting our clean ground the 16th., lead some the 17th. in the morning but rainy and sleety the rest of the day. We have in 6 ricks and 2 howacks on the land, Mains has none yet. Middel lead all the Banks the 17th. and it raining the whole day, it is terrible weather this in harvest. We had done cutting the 24th. and took it all in the 27th. and cut the rest of the day with Peter Forbes. Fine weather on to the end. George Mcwillie.

November 1838.

The first we took in our potatos, the 2nd & 3rd. thached our houses. Alexr. Moggach cut the 3rd, in the mill of Ardrack park, the last to cut in the parish. Dray and frosty, I have sold John Macwillie 3 bolls of meall the 3rd. and 6 1/2 the 6th. Betty and me went to Rothimay the 10th., I came home 11th. & Betty the 12th., famous weather, we are busy plowing at this time, the 18th, frosty. I engaged Wm. Robertson and Grant Robertson Â£5-5s. and grant Â£2-11s., still hard frost and quaiet weather the 28th. with the 29th, wind and rain. The marcury below storm the 29th., wind the 30th. with rain. verry rough weather both on sea and land. George Macwillie.

December 1838.

Begins good winter weather, plowing going fast. I was at a court about June market the 12th., gained by George Kelman, excellent weather at this time 16th. We wrote Jean Gordon (55) the 8th. to Canada. First milling about the 1st., we had 11 1/2 bolls and paid the mill 2 shilling, I had 2 1/2-3 and paid the mill the 20th. The most of our ley plowed the 26th., hard frost, at this time corn selling from 24 to 27 shs, owing to quality, meall from Â£1-3 to Â£1-4, some bad meal, I have bought 100 quarters of old corn from Portsoy for seed at this time. Frost and some storme to the end.



INVERAVON PARISH CHURCH.

Inverawon parish church is situated some ten miles south-west of Keith, Scotland on the edge of what is referred to as the highlands of Scotland. The surrounding area consists of beautiful wooded glens and hills. It was in this parish that a William McWillie was born around the 1620s. He married a Ketren Gordone at Inveravon parish on the 6th of June in 1643 and it is from this family that the present day McWillie families have successfully traced their ancestry back for some four hundred years. They were buried in the church graveyard and the following inscription is claimed to have been on the flat tombstone, George has made reference to this inscription in October of 1869 in his diaries; "Heir lyes ane honest man called William McWillie who lived in the Corries who departed the 10th June 1685 and his spouse Ketren Gordon".

January 1839.

Begins with frost and some snow with high winds, fresh the 3rd. The plowing match at James Humphrays the 4th., a shooting of looking glasses the 1st. day of Yowl Sunday the second Monday the last a dreadfull day of wind and sleet. The 8th & 9th. blowing, the 10th, some soft with calmness. Betty Cruickshank went home the 10th. The scarlet feavour taking a good many in Botriphnie, about the 20th, Alexr. had it at this time, Dr. Menzies hear the 22nd., still storm the **.

February 1839.

Begins verry stormy, the plow stopped at this time. I milled 20 bolls & 2 p. the 7th., paid our farm the 8th., got my Sunday shooes at this time, plows begining to go the 8th. The ewe lamed two lambs the 8th., corn selling at Â£1-5 to Â£1-8, seed corn from Â£2-4 to Â£2-2. Stormy about the 20th. and rough weather on to the end.

March 1839.

Begins fine weather, I was at Portsoy the 1st. measuring seed corn, came home the 2nd. Plowing the 4th., the 5th. frosty with showers of storme, stormy the 10th., blowing the 11th. I have but 7 ricks and the hay at this time the 11th. Showrs of storm and rough weather on to the 26th, the day I took home the last load of my Portsoy oats from Keith, done plowing at this time but halph of the clean ground about I acre of torneeps, 4 oat ricks, half bear, we took in the first of our hay the 25th. The goodwife (56) of Mains verry ill at this time. Terrible cold frosty weather with dreadfull high winds, thair is some sown in Keith the 25th., some at Davidstown the 29th., Saturday the 31st. extraordinary wind and frost, George Macwillie.

April 1839.

Begins with high winds and frost, verry frosty indeed. A roup the 6th. & 7th., the 9th. I began sowing. Sowed our awvel and ley the 12th., frosty mornings, we could never yoak the harrow till about 10 oclock. I have 3 ricks of oats and one halph bear and the most of our hay. I was sowing to Mr. Masson the 10th. & 12th., quaiet and frosty, done sowing the 17th. all but about a boll for we have torneeps, our potatos set the 19th. I may say we have had no rain since newyear came in, we had some the 19th. and 20th. I have but 3 ricks in the yard and halph of bear and a good corn ley. Oat meall £1-2-6 and famous weather, all our rolling done the 29th.

May 1839.

Begins warm the 3rd. and forth fresh and rainy and a good grouth. Our torneeps all eaten the 6th., our torneep ground all crosscutted and harrowed the 4th. My father in the turiff hill the 2nd. & 3rd., cold and sleety about the 8th., milled 43 bolls old meall, cold and stormy the 12th., 13th., & 14th. and on to the 20th. The 24th & 25th. fresher and warmer, I took the last of my ricks the 27th., I have some hay. May the 28th. George Millne came home servant to me for this halph year at £5-11 shills. Warm and drughty, I have some torneeps drilled and the ground all ready. The 29th. James McDonald came home halph years servant at £2-5, we sowed the first of the torneeps the 30th., drughty with no grouth on to the end. The 31st, the Jean meare got Blackhillock. G.MacWillie.

June 1839.

Begins cold drught with frosty mornings. Geo. Gauld, Celloch, in favor at this time, we have about 2 acres of neeps to sow, the 3rd. drught on to the 10th. then some rain. our torneeps sowed the 11th. a grouthy day. Ann Calder drowned the 10th. at the bridge below Oldlenach in 7 inches

of water and 18 wide. Drought on to the 19th, the day of June market, a great rain and a good market. The 23rd. the day of our sacrament a great rain the whole day, We have home about 27 loads of our old fire and 21 of my fathers new. The price of meall from 22 to 23 shillings pr boll. Rainy mostly to the end of the month but verry grouthy weather.

July 1939.

Begins verry warm, I milled 31 bolls of oat meall the 3rd., building a yard dyke at this time and setting up our potatos the 6th., drughty with high winds. Meall selling at this time from Â£1-2-6 to Â£1 -3., corn from Â£1-6sh to Â£1-10sh., potatos 1sh per peck. Rainy growing weather on at intervals to the 17th., all our torneeps hoed out the 17th., the 18th. wind with rain. My father, mother and Jean went to buckie the 20th., all my fathers fire home and thached. We have some home about 26 loads of old fire in June and 3 of new this date the 29th., still rainy and warm.

Agust 1839.

Begins the 1st. with Glass market and a good one too. All our torneeps hoed the second time the 3rd., warm and dray. Our grass cut the 5th., rainy the 6th., 7th. & 8th. driving some loads of turffs at this time but not dray. Meall selling from Â£1-2 to Â£1-3 hearabout, the corn halph shot, at the market meal selling at 1 pound-2 to Â£1-3. We have one halph of our hay thrashed the 24th. warm weather about this time, I put away 10 qurs. of oats and 11 of meall the 20th. to Rothies to Archibald Leslie, the oats Â£1-9-6, the meall Â£1-1-8d. Filling weather at the 25th., the minesters pony got a broken leg the 27th. The corn only begining to mirle some the 30th.

September 1839.

Begins a warm cloudy day, the marcury below much rain, the 2nd. rainy the 3rd. Betty went to Rothiemey. The corn mixing fast at this time, meall selling at Â£1-1-6 to Â£1-2sh. I sold Alexr. Moggach 6 qurs. of corn Â£1-8-6 pr qur. Verry high wind the 9th., a great frost the night of the 13th., the corn was verry weat, the 14th. rainy & Sunday the 15th. rainy the whole day and high wind. It was dreadfull from 6 to eleven oclock, the waters rose to a great height, sanded up and took away corn and bear and many bridges in different places. Fine weather the 25th. with thunder in the afternoon at a distance. Weddow Edwards roup the 19th., we began to cut corn the 25th., fine harvest weather to the end.

October 1839.

Begins with fine weather on to the 8th. which was rainy, we have it all cut but the clean ground and 6 ricks in the yard. Meall from 18 to 20 shillings per boll. Still good harvest weather on to the 12th, the day I was with

John at the Enzie and Cullonhouse, we was done cutting the 14th, and 17 ricks in the yard. We have the hilland shift out still at the 16th. and verry rough weather. Took up our potatos 19th. and took in all the corn the 21st., we have 23 ricks, thair is a good deal of corn to cut in the parish the 23rd. Meall Â£1 pr boll, rainy the 23rd. Building a bee house the 28th., hard frosty mornings at this time, the 29th. some rain. John Ross, 30shs. left his harvest the 26th., we wanted 2 days of 5 weeks to our harvest, some to cut on Midthird, 28th. watry weather on to the end.

November 1839.

Begins with watry weather thair is a great deal of corn to take in this place at this time. The 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. rain on with wind. Betty went to Rothemay the third, I have a sore shoulder at this time. Thair is but one rick on Delmore at the 4th. and a weeks cutting, thair is not much in on the south side of Boharm yet. Fresh quaiet weather on to the 16th., we have 4 acres of ley plowed, I engaged George Millne at Â£5-8, James McDonald at Â£2-6 per halph year 1839 bonny weather. Monday the 25th. we milled 16 bolls of meall, thair came on a good storme. Corn selling at 18 to 20 shillings, meall 15s. to 16s-6d. A shooting the 27th., I had 2 prises 22nd., the other 18d. The 30th. wind and rain, the storme all away, rainy, rainy.

December 1839.

Begins rainy and continues on to the 12th. the day I was at Dufftoon at a court about a Â£1 note. Sunday the 15th. the minester (57) of Botriphnie, Keith, Rothemay, Glass. Mortlach, Rhynie and Huntly suspended from preaching and all other things belonging to the Church for the space of five months. Still rainy on to the 18th., corn Â£1 to Â£1-2 according to the weight, meall from 16/6 to 17shs. per boll. Thair is minesters coming to preach in the parishes of the seven suspended parishes but none preached in this one as yet, thair is nothing, to be hard go where you will but what is to be done with the minesters and every one has a different opinion what is to befall them but as yet thair is but fucknows what is to be done concerning them.

January 1840 Years.

By George Macwillie, Cachanhead, Botriphnie.

Thair has been a hard frost with a whitning of snow on to the 8th. of the month. Thair is nothing of importance at this time but all about the seven minesters. Tuesday the 13th. the Barn of Woodend was proclaimed the parish Church by one MacNaughton and Miller, both south country minesters. Barn all seted the 18th., the Parish Church was verry thin, nothing but contention at this time. Some stormy the 21st., meall selling from 17s-6d to 18shs., a verry hard frost on to the end.

February 1840.

Begins frosty with some sleety shows on to the 5th. the day we had a fret bagging for William Innes. The 6th. our plowing done but our clean ground and some of it too. Thair was an Interdict served on all the minesters intruding on parishes on the 24th. but they are still preaching. Hard bear frost been this 10 days past, no plowing at this time. Meall selling at 17/6 to 18shs., corn from Â£1-1 to Â£1-4 according to quality. Alexr. & Jas Cruickshank, presentors & Don McMillan, Church Officer, Woodend.

March 1840.

Begins verry drughy and frosty, we have had no rain since Yule, thair is no plowing till about the 7th. Breahead sowed some the 7th., we have our ley broken the 6th., because the plow would not go I am dressing 30 bushells of ryegrass seeds the 9th. and plowing our clean ground. The ewie lamed the 8th. whean we was at Church. Alexd. Edward sowed the 11th., excellent dray weather, fresh snow about the 16th., sowing general about the 18th. We sowed 5 bolls the 20th., the 21st, high frosty winds with hail. Nothing going on but still about the minesters. A slight storme the 26th., Magdiline Shearer died the 5th. William making ready for going to America 27th., I have 9 good ricks in the yard besides my hay. Betty (58) and Jannet Taylor, in Keith providing for America the 28th., rainy weather at this time, thrashing out ryegrass seeds at this time.

April 1840.

Begins with shows of sleet on to the 3rd. the day of Williams roup dray but cold, I bought halph a dozen of China palling at it. Alexr. and me went to Aberdeen the 5th. and came home the 9th. William (59), shipped the 9th. All our corn sown the 14th. and our grass seeds the 15th., we have 7 ricks in the yard besides the barn full and hay besides and torneeps. I have sold 5 quoys at this time for Â£5-5 per head, they go away the 27th. I have 7 ricks at this time, all our torneep land cross plowed now. My father in the turffs moss the 25th & 27th., all our turffs cast the 30th., fine warm growing weather on to the end.

May 1840.

Begins verry warm and dray on to the 4th. a misty day and some rain in the afternoon, the 5th. and 6th. cold and stormy. Alexr. Mitchell fell from a rick and broke his jaw and cut his head terribly. Meall selling from 18s to 19shs., corn from Â£1-4 to Â£1-6 for 42 lbs. pr bushell. I have 6 ricks in the yard besides hay, John McWillie, Mains, still ill with his hinch. I milled 7 1/2 bolls meall at this time. Rough stormy weather at this time. The 13th. at the preaching at Woodend, James Wilson rose and told the people that all them that had not subscribed for parson Miller for hilp to

buy a clock to retire from the barn, thats preaching and paying both at me, time forced prayers has no devotion, whean the blind leads the blind both falls into the ditch and goes to the regions where none returns with tidings, oh for the brass, ohco for the silver. A great spet on the 18th. and 19th. south sleet and haill. Thair was a lass Hay ** going home from the Church of Woodend upon Sunday the 10th. good fruits in Obediahs barn. John Cruickshank was drunk and throwing in it the 13th. Verry wetty weather this time the 25th. the Strathbogie case to be tried before the General Assembly the 26th. I sold Peter Gordeon, Cabrach, 2 stots the 26th. at Â£14, corn from Â£1-6 to Â£1-7, meall from Â£1 to 9shs. Engaged Wm. Robertson at Â£5-15., James McDonald Â£2-15 and 2s-6d referral. Watery weather the 28th., a letter from Jean Gordon the 31st., little this 3 weeks of any grouth. I have 5 ricks in the yard beside hay, that will do. Geo. Macwillie.

June 1840.

Begins Monday, we sowed the first of our torneeps the 1st., the 2nd. a rough rainy day. the 4th. getting on with the torneeps, the 8th. I was at a roup with John, we have 2 acres of neeps to sow the 9th. a good rain the 9th. in the fornoon. The minester came from the Assembly the 9th., our Church door locked and solded the 7th. and no preaching in the 7 suspended parishes, the 14th. Dr. Brice preached in our Church, Our torneeps sown out the 16th., fresh but high winds, our potatos for hoeing this time. Thrashing out two ricks of oats at this time, one to John McWillie. The other to Alexr. Moggach at Â£1-8-6 pr qur. High winds with rough showrs, verry little grouth at this time. Mr. Masson preached the 21st., a prayer for Queens preservation being near shot by one Oxford, firing first one pistol and the another but missed with both. The 29th. Mrs. Masson a still born child. Wetty on to the end.

July 1840.

Begins rainy on to the 6th., great rain with thunder. We had a letter from William the 6th. James (60) and Ann Peterkin, hear the 7th., the 8th. verry rainy, the potato crop failed in many places, some people sowing the torneeps again, they are looking verry poorly with so much rain. Meall from Â£1 to Â£1-1 pr boll. Still hashing among minesters strifes and anemosities in all the 7 parishes. The minester examing at Bellyhack the 6th. and 7th. Still verry weety, the bear shotting and some furrows of the oats. The high fliers all interdicted about the 18th. and 19th. The halph of our torneeps howed 18th., thairs many in Botriphnic will need no howing. I have 2 ricks of thrashed straw and three ricks of oats to thrash yet. John Ord and John Mcwillie, Forkins, told me the 7 would be put out of thair Churches in one or two weeks. I still say no, no. Midthird said no more interdicts or they should all eat thair own hats but or two days the interdicts and suspentions both came. The 23rd. and 24th. dray and some hay cutting in the parish. Thair was an examination at Towiemore but

none attended but one boy from Mill of Towie. Warm and dray on to the end. We took home the first of our fire the morning of Glass market.

Agust 1840.

Begins warm and dray, we have one halph of our grass colled the 6th. and one halph of our torneeps howed the second time and about the halph of our fire drove, real dray. Still a great preaching at all barn kirks, they are coming in shipfulls like cattle for the London market. O bless me but they proclaim great things as has been shown by Stewart of Erskine so often publishing himsilfe a lier in the most of the newspapers of Scotland. Thunder and rain the 9th. & rain 10th. Dr. Forbes preached in the Church the 9th. We have home about 60 loads of fire the 10th, all our fire home at the 15th., the 16th. Mr. Geo. Gordon preached at the Church, the sacrament of Woodend the 16th. in the burn below John Dyces, the minester at Edinburgh, at this time meall selling from Â£1-1 to Â£1-2, turning scarce hear about, Meall up at the 20th. to Â£1-3 to Â£1-4 and 42 lbs, corn about Â£1-12-6 to Â£1-14. Our hay in the 20th., a good Dufftoon market, two year olds from Â£7 to Â£9, other cattle in proportion. The 21st. Mr. Masson was presented with a new gown by Admiral Duff and paritioners, thair was no none intrusionists. The 22nd. we took in our hay which was stooked. An ingagement this day about Woodend preaching, the divel is always busied. I am thrashing out an old rick the 26th., fine weather, some corn begining to turn yalow, the bear weall turned, capital weather on to the end,

September 1840.

Begins drughty with wind. I was at Jas. Petricans roup at Edingith the 2nd, a showr as we came home. A good deal of bear cut in Grange and Keith parishes and many of the oats near ready some cut Mongrow the 2nd. Rough winds about the 12th. the day our bear was cut, some rain the 13th. & 14th. Sunday the 13th. our sacrament, 86 communications, Mr. Peter preached, the minester of Lomnay, We began to our corn the 20th. about constant work the humble quoy, the 20th. I sold the mary mear at Charlesfair at Â£7 and 41/2 qurs. corn at Â£1-8-6. Our awvel and ley about cut but wind and rain the 29th. in the afternoon.

October 1840.

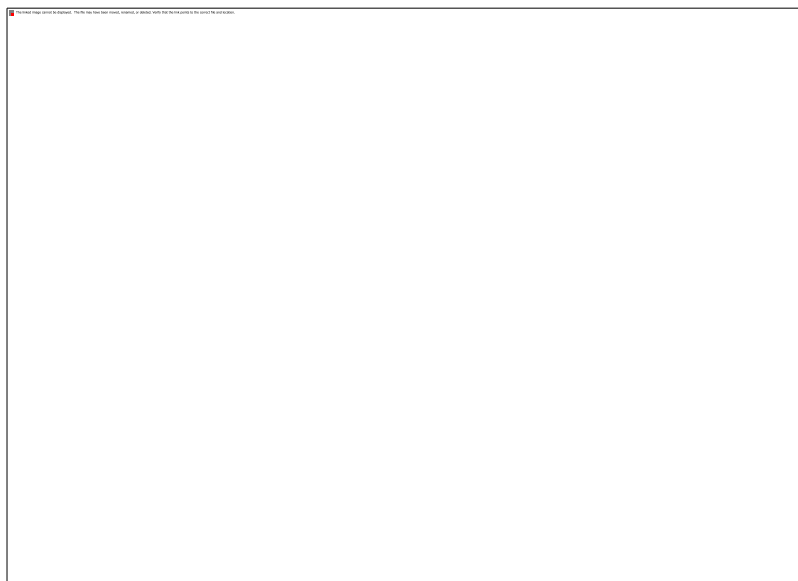
Begins with good harvest weather, we have a good deal in the 5th. A good deal of green corn in this place the 14th. Done cutting the 15th., all our crop in the 19th, but about one acre. Terrible high wind the 19th., we have 22 ricks in and none thrashed. Our bear meall about Â£1 pr boll, we have 24 ricks and potatos up the 25th. Wetty weather on to the end of the month. The Miller left Woodend the 30th, many watery eyes. G. McW.

November 1840.

Begins verry wetty weather, a good deal of corn to take in. I have milled 8 bolls and 3 firlots the 4th., we have about one halph of our ley plowed the 7th. The 7 minesters was served with labels the 5th. George Moggach received Â£1 the 4th. thair is still Â£4 dui. Rain and sleety on to the 16th., some storme the 18th., 19th. and 20th. all of the 21st. Still some corn out at this time belonging to Nons Intrusion party whom had preaching in the head the beast leading days, they had all prayer meetings from 12 till 3 but that did not take in nor cut thair corn. But now they know that. I ingaged Wm. Robertson at Â£5-12 and John McDonald at Â£2, Baby Stronach, our woman. Good weather on to the end, John Donald came home the 31st.

December 1840.

Begins with good weather. Meall selling from 14 to 16shs. according to quality. John Donald painting my portrait with Bettys, Jeans and Isabels. Plowing on Linmore the 8th., snow the 14th. John of Mains some better, Mrs. Donald verry ill at this time. Qualet and frosty on to the 14th., the day of the plowing match on Westerton. Jas. Humphray 1st. Hard frost, an Order from the court Session to place Mr. Edwards the 11th, and to go on in the course of 15 days, the Nons does not belive thay will tray to do it and great beats laid on both sides about it. Frosty on to the end, milled 9 bolls at 8.



CACHENHEAD FARM DRUMMUIR ESTATE.

Cachenhead farm on Drummuir estate was the farm of William McWillie and his wife Isabel Shearer and their five children. They first occupied the farm in the early eighteen hundreds. It was the birthplace of their son George McWillie who became the author of the McWillie diaries. George grew up on this farm assisting his parents with the farm duties while attending the local Botriphnie parish school. Over the years a number of farms on Drummuir estate have been amalgamated and as a result a number of the buildings are no longer in use and have fallen into disrepair. At the time of this Photo taken in 2001 the farm home was still occupied, however a number of the buildings were no longer being used. The young girl in the photograph was the daughter of the tenants.

January 1841.

Begins frosty storme the 3rd. and hard blowing the 4th. A great storme the 5th. and greater the 6th. and more the 7th., quaiet the 8th. We was

at the hill water the 8th., meall selling about 16shs., oats Â£1 to Â£1-1. I was seeing Mrs. Donald the 14th., still more storme, it is about 20 to 22 inches on all leavel grounds the 15th. Thair was 6 elders to be made at the Barn Wednesday 14th. but did not take place, Middelstane swore the 14th. he would shoot the 7 ministers as soon as shoot a heare. Still verry stormy, I was at Drumgrain Thursday the 31st. ** gave Mrs. Riach ten pounds for Mrs. Donald. Stormy to the end. Mr. John Edwards placed minister of Marnoch the 21st. great storm. fresh about 28th. and 29th. Drove 2 loads of corn to the mill the 30th. Mrs. Donald (61), died the 23rd. and stormy on to the end.

February 1841.

Begins with a little fresh but a verry hard frost on to the 12th. We milled 26 bolls of meall and 20 before. Our barn cattle still wise in thair own concite. I was bagging for James Sellar the 10th., the plows going the first time since the 14th. December. The storme has smashed my garden bushes and trees most terrible. Meall from 15 to 16shs., corn from Â£1 to Â£1-1 according to weight. Donald McMillan and William Stronach has been taken up an offering in the Barn for four Sundays back with laddles on Mr. Mcnaughton traying for the High Church, Edinburgh. The Edinburgh council, acting on his own maxim that nothing should be done in hurry but catch fleas, have postponed the election for 5 weeks. That even them, they may not be in the *** of wasp catching. I was shooting at Donald Catanachs. fine fresh weather, the plowing going on fast, we have about one third of our avel to plow at this time the 22nd., I have 14 ricks yet beside hay. Miss Riach and Jannet Strathdee, every one says ther neighbour was not the woman they expected, they were two Christians about a month ago, it is come to my story now nothing but anti-patronage with the he and she nons, them that does not know thair right from left and canot tell how many Nons it needs to make six.

March 1841.

I milled 23 and 1 halph and paid the mill about the 4th. Fine dray weather at this time the 9th., we have about 1 acre of our avel to plow. Thair was elders proposed at Woodend the 3rd., the following men, James Ross, James Adam, James Wilson, Alexr. Edward, James Cruickshank and my father. Fine dray weather and grouthy. we began sowing the 11th., mostly general about 15th. and 16th. we have our ley and halph of our avel. I have 7 ricks in the yard and 5 on the land, 12 in whole. High winds the 13th., our seed corn done at this time and plowing clean ground. James George died the 17th. A great obiect, Mr. Candish complained on to the Court of Session about the 9th. for breaking the Interdict served on him, he preached in Huntly and Keith and Marnock, Amen Candlish. The 19th and 20th. high winds but grouthy weather, the 21st. fresh showrs. The Commision of the Assembly sat the 17th. and has done nothing. They were to hold a commision at Huntly the 21st. April but that as weall as

other brags has all come to nought. Nothing now with he and she Nons but stop untill the month of May, 0 for the month of May, but as Wallace said to the English Squear thair brags no worth a F-A-R-T. Thair competition prayer matches is begining to fall of, the Tenrood one is compleetly done, Miss Dyce of Paulscroft is thought to be formost at Old Burges Ludge.

Its modest speech and modest ways,
The great she nons they do despise
Till once they get upon the Codes
And then Fochabers they go in loads
And the old Nons takes it all for Joake
For Mr. Dewar will loads absolve
So they say we will not do it again we do resolve
But O James Simpson they have abhord
Since they gave him the Gravet with the black bord

Most grouthy weather at this season ever I seed. Done sowing all our clean ground the 24th. I built out the 3rd. rick of straw the 26th. I have 10 ricks of oats besides bear and hay and 2 acres of torneeps at this time, Meall from 15 to 16shs., oats 42 lbs from £1 to £1-1, no seed selling hear about, potatos 16 per boll.

April 1841.

Begins dray weather with frosty mornings. Our sowing done but where the torneeps is, our first sown good briard, all rolled the 5th. We have had no rain since sowing began that stopped one yoaking. The planers working here the 6th. All our torneeps up the 16th. I sold 3 stots to Peter Gordon the 15th. at £26-0, a dear dull market, some rough weather about this time. I sent Mr. Thomas Donalds Testament to Mr. Grant, Elgin the 17th., the day our potatos was planted. We are bussy at our torneep ground the 26th., dray weather but rough, rough winds, I got some fire wood about this time. The Barnats thrown down a dyke and some *** willing to me at this time I an looking to the Job. I bought a new press at Tenrood roup at £1-1s. chep. Midthird left Botriphnie 27th. and lawned at Aberdeen.

May 1841.

Begins dray but little grouth. Alexr. Touch roup about the 1st. I have 8 ricks of oats and one of thrashed straw besides hay. Betty had a ewe hanged the 6th. Obed will be lonely now when Middies ever true has left him and likways McScoth, the Barn minester is away the 17th. with sermons, doctorship, bag and baggage and left the poor she nons with watery eyes and halph confessed and only halph drilled. Drugthy weather with flaying showrs, all our fire cut the 17th. Meall selling from 14 to 16shs., Oats per 42 lbs. £1 and 19/6d., verry drugthy weather, strong

winds with scorching sun. we set the fire the 24th, and began the dunging of the neeps the 25th,, I will not sew as yet, the drught is too severe. Thair is a great stilness at this time in the country untill they hear what the Assembly does in the Strathbogie Case. I paid the rent of Mrs. Donalds house the 26th. We are getting on with the sowing of torneeps the 29th. An interdict granted to the 7 the 28th., the nons, she and he, came all from the barn with a stranger to the gate of the Churchyard and read the deposition but durst not set one nose in the Churchyard, An excellent kept sabath afternoon by them who proclaims to be anointed for Woodend.

June 1841.

Begins verry drughty, I may say we have had no rain this 2 months, verry great need for some. We had about one acre of torneeps to sow the 3rd., the hill of Machattie burnt the 2nd. I received Â£15 from Rickimlen the 2nd., verry high winds just now. William McWillie (62) died the 3rd., rain on the 7th. 8th. and 9th. but verry light. Corrie and many of our countray people sailed from Portgordon the 2nd. for America. Our torneeps done but one yoaking of dung, the potatos almost for howing at the 9th. The population was taken the 7th., I was one of the enumerators for Westerton district, I had 64 meals and 72 fameals, in whole 136. The whole population in Botriphnie 714, in 1811 thair was 721. Rain now at the 24th., I had two potatos from Mr, Masson the size of crows eggs. Westerton howing neeps the 28th., a great convasing for Lord Readhaven and James Duff. We have home about 50 loads of fire the 30th., I gave Alexr. Moggach 5 qurs, of oats at 22shs. pr qur. at the 16th. I am thrashing out a rick of ley oats and drawing the straw, I have 5 ricks yet and two of thrashed straw. The bear shooting fast at the 30th., the oats in the furrow breas begining, I am afraid of a verry short crop this year. Geo. MacWillie.

July 1841.

Begins wetty, warm and grouthy, we have home the most of the fire. A meeting of electors with the Admiral at the Kirktoon house the 1st., Lord Readhaven hear the 7th. Sold Alexr. Moggach 4 qurs. and 6 bushells of oats at Â£1-2-6 per qur. the 7th. The 14th. and 15th. the days of the election, Readhaven lost by a majority of 43. A rainy day the 14th., the most of our torneeps hoed the 20th., some watery about this time. The 28th., the day of Glass market, a verry rough cold day and rainy after, on to the end. I sold Richemlen 2 stots the 24th, at Â£14 delivered at Glass market.

Agust 1841.

Begins dray and some warme, the second day that David Innes was married by the far famed Mr. Miller of Obeds Barn. The 5th. the day of

fasting at the Barn, thair Mr Burns or probationer is deaf on an ear and blind on an ey, whean the blind leads the blind they fall into the ditch together. Rain the 4th. & 5th, and 6th., thair is many has not the one halph of thair neeps hoed at this time. still rain, At the Barn sacrament they had Baker Lipie, Mr. Troup, editor of the Banner and John Adam of Kabady Elders and Miller of Dundee a quo sacra minester officiating. Capital stuff for the Nons. Saturday the 21st. rain with distant thunder, rain and thunder at night. Mrs. Masson of a son the 22nd., rainy the 23rd. You Nons look at Moores Hieroglyphe for 41 you will see a priest bearing a sword of Justice but using false means to overbalance it with a feather, begone ignorance you and I never agree. The Assembly commision sat the 11th., did nothing but was the censure the minesters that had comunion with the seven they postponed to the 25th., nothing than but inlighten the Nons and hold prayer meetings every first Monday of each month. The observer of the 27th. bears a letter from Mr Peterkin to Dr. Mcpharline proving him a lier and dishonest, Oh most extraordinary. Some oats and bear about ready the 30th.

September 1841.

Begins one dray day and two wetty. Mr. Masson bear cut the 6th., our awvel about ready. Our fast day the 9th., few of the Nons keeping it. Dray and suny the 9th., we began to our corn the 13th., we all get constant work. Robert Niven came home the 13th., all our ley and yavel cut the 18th. and 6 ricks in the 22nd., we have about two days work cutting. Wind and rain the 24th. Will you take a little tea and fish, I bilieve you dinna care about Guid onney. I returned no answer to the former question from Mrs. McWillie-Silance is best, at any rate sometimes. Geo. McWillie. We took in 3 ricks the 20th and 3 the 21st, rainy on to the end. A great speat came on the 29th, and lasted from 5 in the morning till 10 a.m., we was done cutting the 30th.

October 1841.

Begins with rain and continues on to the 9th. Midtoon has in 17, Cottertoons 7, Midtoon 8, Mains one rick, it is begining to grow verry sore in the stooks. Sunday the 10th. high wind, the halph still to cut in this place. The 11th. William Moggach and his man George Strathdee came along with the people coming from the Church with a bow from the bull when he met the Nons going to the Barn, he said he was not at the Church, no preaching at the Barn to halph past two o'clock and thats the way they kept the fornoon, it was the 10th. We have in 9 ricks and 4 howacks, rain every day and night, a great deal of it growing, some loosing out, some making goats and some leading, we trayed the leading the afternoon of the 15th., we got but two loads in whean we was stoped with the rain, We have got two young pigs the 15th., the 16th, we thached our Mill, a great rain in the afternoon. Wm. Stronach, Braehead, Blackmore and Midthird leading in corn whean our cattle could not stand

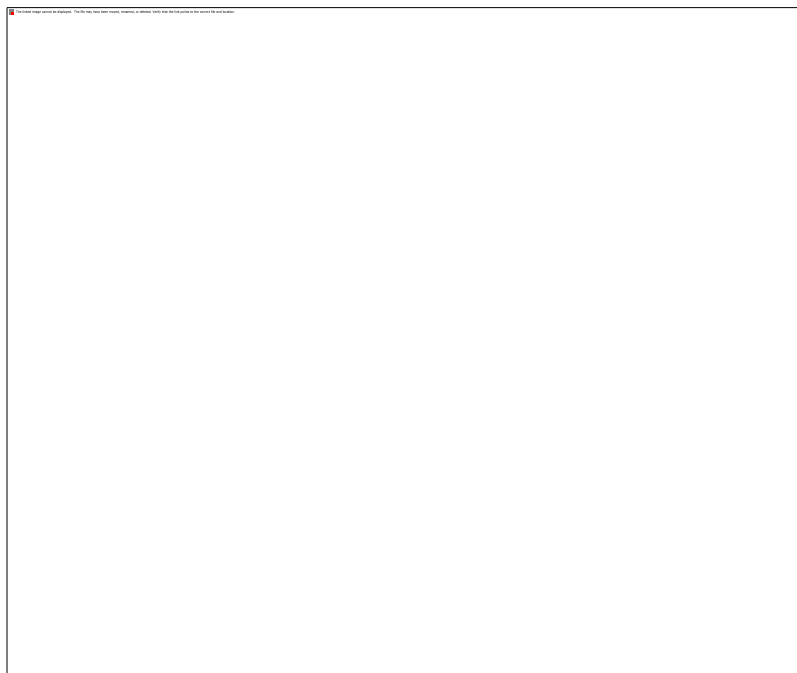
on the ley for rain, for all thair good preaching they have no faith in the giver of all good. Verry high winds on the 16th., we took in all our corn the 16th., the 17th., 18th. and 19th. stormy rain and stormy showrs with wind on to the 25th. Rain and sleet the last 24 hours, our ricks all thached but 6 howacks, none of our potatos up the 26th. I think the one halph of the corn is still out in this place, a good deal to cut on the Cottertoon and Ardbrack, extraordinary weather and so much corn in the fields. Our harvest lasted near 6 weeks, a good deal of corn out at the end of the month.

November 1841.

Begins with high winds one day and showrs the other. Plowing going on fast, frost and snow the 13th, and on to the 16th, the day of Dufftoon market. I engaged William Robertson at Â£5-15 and Peter Robertson at Â£2-5. Woodends roup to morrow the 17th., he trayed to let it the 12th., no one sought it but George Shearer, he lays the blame on Mr. Masson and me for keeping back the people. Still stormy to the 28th., we got a yoaking of the plow the 29th, the 30th, rainy.

December 1841.

Begins with sleety showrs and rain betimes. Corn selling from 18/ to 19shs according to weight, meall 15shs. and 14/6d. Verry weety and stormy showrs the 12th. on to the 15th. the thanksgiving day and the day of Alexr. Gardens roup. Interdicts paid by the Nons at this time Â£121. Sleety showrs with some snow the 20th., hard frost and verry slippery roads the 26th., the end fresh. J. Hameltons letter 14th. Decr. marked private.



MacWillie family Hair Tree courtesy of Leslie and Toni MacWillie of San Fernando CA. USA.

The flowers within the Hair Tree are made from the hair of various Montreal family descendants with the eldest being that of Ellen Milne MacWillie, the wife of William MacWillie RN= 231 referred to in notes on page 45.

January 1842.

Begins first, second, 3rd and 4th. plowing going, on Yull verry hard frost. I have milled 44 bolls oat meall at this time, old newyears even a little soft but quaiet and misty. The 12th. and 13th. high, high winds and percing cold, I have 16 prises in 5 days. An private Order to Mr. Masson to go on with Dugids presentation as shoorn as laid before the Prisbetry in the usual form and give notice to Mr, J. Grant privous to the day of Ordination and the Crown Officers will protect them. A great blowing the 22nd. the whole day and fresh about the end.

February 1842.

The first day or two thair was some plowing. We was at Woodend with our horse plowing. A verry hard frost from the 3rd. to the 11th., we got plowing the 11th., we have but 9 ricks at this time and one in the barn, I have milled in whole at this time 67 1/2 bolls, sold corn to Rothes 7 1/2 qurs., my father 6 qurs., I am threshing old corn just now. Meall 14s-6d to 15s., purk 4s-9d. pr stone ours away to Huntly the 8th. We had a letter this day the 18th. of February from Canada anouncing the death of my brother William (63), who died the 8th. January 1842.

March 1842.

Begins good weather for plowing and on to the 15th. we sowed the halph of our ley. The 16th. I was at Banff on the jury court, I seed all Duff house. Thair was a most dreadfull wind on the night of the 11th., I never hard anything like unto it, thair has few escaped eather thair houses unthached or ricks thrown over. James Innes and Jean Strathdee both died the 20th., a terrible day of wind and sleet. The 71st Rgt. came to Huntly the first of the month to stop till Mr. Dugid be placed in Glass to keep the Nons, He and She in corection. Corn from 17s-6d to 19s., the 22nd, stormy I have but 6 ricks and all my hay at this time, our ley and avel sown the 19th., storm and sleet and no labouring on to the end of the month.

April 1842.

Begins dray and excellent on to the 5th., our torneeps done but 4 loads, our plowing done but 3 riggs. We thached our byres and shop the 6th., no

preaching at the barn in the fornoon, the people gaed home like a string of wild goose, they have collected Â£22-11 to pay expenses at Law. Cunningham has published himself a liar and paid for it too. We was done the sowing the 15th. I have but three ricks in the yard and one at mashloch in the barn, the corn weall briard, I mean the first sown. Mr. Singers denner party the 16th., our potatos set the 20th. drught. Sacrament at Woodend the 24th, thair was 6 probationers and Minesters, the Nons say it is a solem time just now. They have preaching every night for a week, thair summer sacrament was a dreadfull rainy day as it came through the tent, Miller prayed that the rain subside, I wish they would pray for rain just now, we have had about three weeks of drught. A woman sh-i-t hirsilfin the Non Kirk at Keith the 17th. Torneep land plowed and harrowed the 30th. Oh drught, drught.

May 1842.

Begins with great drught, we are driving some old fire the 2nd., Betty at Drumgrain the 2nd. I transmitted 3 strg. to Magadeline Donald the 30th. April. A slight showr of hail, our fire all cut the 14th., we are bussy forming drells for torneeps. I have but 2 ricks just now, our cattle on the grass this eight days. Great, verry great drught, Forkings some neeps sown the 14th., we sow the 21st. John Donald came hear the 19th. from Glasgow, William Taylor came home the 28th. at Â£5-5, Ptr. Robertson Â£2-8. We are halph done with the neeps, our potatos allmost for howing the 30th., our fire set the 27th, at night drught the 30th.

June 1842.

Begins with great drught, we was done sowing torneeps the 6th., our potatos howed the 7th., driving my fathers fire the 9th., at our own the 12th. We had thunder the 12th, but no rain, some rain the 14th. and 16th. John Donald left this place for Glasgow 14th. At home the 20th. from Church with a sore ey, our mashlech bear weall shot at this time, the 18th. drughty. John Taylor, merchant, died Wednesday the 22nd. betwixt four and five in the afternoon and was born the 25th, at Grange. Rain the 22nd, and 25th, a weighty rain, the 26th, we have about one halph of our torneeps hoed, we began the 20th. Men ditching in the moss of Oldlenach and Stripside, rain at times on to the end.

July 1842.

Begins with some rain, the 4th. verry wetty. No preaching the 3rd. until the afternoon, dray weather on to the ***, all our neeps hoed now our ley cut the 17th. the bear mostly full at this time. Meall selling from 16shs to 16s-6d., corn 1 pound to Â£1-4-6 according to weight, this is the day of glass market, rough winds with showrs. Our neeps mostly hoed the second time the 27th., a new merchant ** ludge the 25th,, some rain on to the 30th. I have a terrible crop of berries this season - 1842 - year.

August 1842.

Begins warm and verry dray, our bear weall turned and some of our oats. The merchants shop and house set at this time to an Aberdeen merchant, the 9th, a good rain and great thunder 11th. Corn now 18shs. per 40 lb., meall 15shs., Dufftoon market verry dull and nothing doing. Extraordinary warm, cloudy weather, bear cut the 17th. on different places, a third of the oats almost ready. I thrashed my old rick and milled it at this time. The house of Peers affirmed the desision of the Court of Session at this time, with additional costs. We began to cut the 28th., Hugh Robertson came home the 24th. for harvest at Â£2, Verry dray and warm harvest general, we had in 9 ricks the 30th. and about two days cutting.

September 1842.

Begins warm dray weather, John Taylors roup the 1st. I bought Hectors Chick Purse at 1sh. and a round mahogany table at Â£1-11sh. Rainy the 5th. we thached 6 ricks that day, we was done cutting the 8th. and all in the 10th. but our clean ground and haughs. The 10th. a verry rainy day, Hugh went home 8 days and came back 29th. We took all in the 1st. October, thair was ten days of rain at the end of the month. Some of the corn begining to grow.

October 1842.

Begins good weather, we took up our potatos the 3rd. We have all our clover shift brake furred about this time. meall selling from 13sh. to 14s-6d., corn 15shs. to 16shs. pr qur. the 40 lb. We have all our torneep shift plowed and our hay which was in the awvel, the 17th. rain and sleet, the 18th., the 19th. and 20th. storm and wind. Alexr. Duncan, Mains Bellyhack, died the 13th. aged 75. Thunder the night of the 26th., a deall of thunder the 27th. and a good storm. John Cruickshanks roup the 27th. Sergeant Macullochs Ball the 28th, a fine dray day the 29th. Jean (64) and Isabel, went to school the 31st.

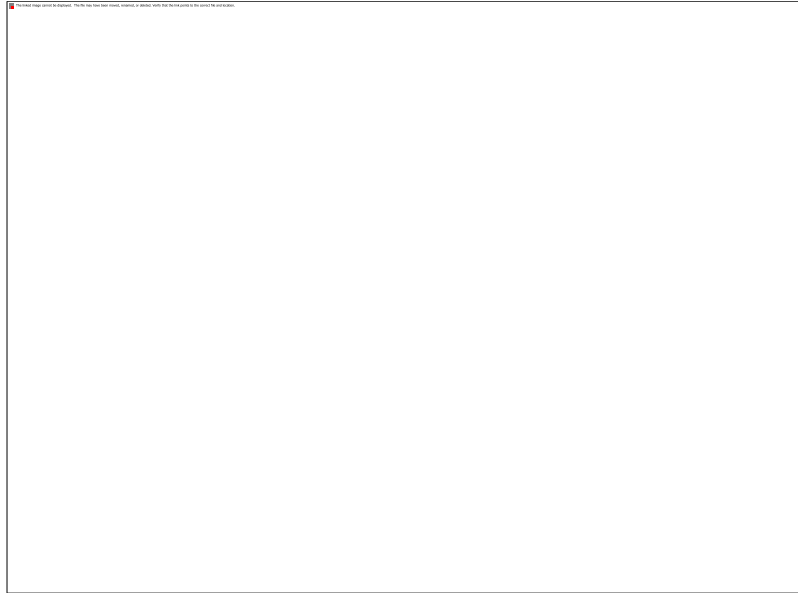
November 1842.

Begins weety and cold, we have milled 2 1/2 bolls mashloch and 13 1/2 oat meall. Rain and storm at intervalls on to the 24th. Alexr. Massie got his legg broak at Craigellachie the 26th., verry rainy at this time. Mr. M* and his wiffe hear the 30th., Janet Taylor came the 15th.

December 1842.

Begins warm and dray, delivered 8 qurs. corn at 16s. pr qur. to William Duff, the second fine, fresh warm weather now the 5th., all our ley plowed the 5th., fine weather on to the end. George McWillie. Most capital warm. grouthy weather on to the 14th, the day the parish

people carried home Alexr. Massie from Craigellachie to the Kirkton house. Hervest weather to the 21st. Singer making ready the house of mill of holl for a smiddy, some frost the 22nd. with a showr of hail, still good weather to the end.



Photograph courtesy of Margaret Duff, Victoria, Canada.

MORTLACH PARISH SCHOOL.

A daughter Jean McWillie RN=262 of William McWillie and Janet Taylor RN=21 had a son by a John Robertson which they named George Robertson referred to in notes on page 47. The Robertson family lived in the nearby Parish of Mortlach and for years George had been a carekeeper of Mortlach school. George married an Elizabeth Caller and had a family of eight children. A number of those children later immigrated to Canada and many of their descendants presently live in Canada. In the photograph Left to right are Robertson family members Elsie, Bessie, George, Mother Elizabeth, Father George, and Meta.

January 1843.

Begins now frost and some storm, I had a rick from Cottertoon at this time at the fairs of the year I have four quarters and a halph of corn. Frost and storne to the 11th., a great blowing the 13th. and 14th., the preaching at the Manse the 15th, the storne verry deep. The lare Factors ** Lumsden the 12th, the 16th, 17th, and 18th, fresh, the plows going 20th. The news frae Lunnen came yestreen - Will soon gar many ferlie - The Goverments answer to the Convocation. Verry rough winds on to the end.

February 1843.

Begins with extraordinary high winds. Plowing going on, I am done long ago but the clean ground, storm the ** and meall selling at 11shs, and 11s-6d. per boll, corn 14s to 15shs. The 29th February a Mr Bonar gave the 18th. psalm the 16 & 17 vs. but he got none of the people to sing but those who was again one of the presenters ***** was the first singer of said psalm *. Storme the most of the month, Jas. Dunbar and me at Buchrombs the 11th., verry stormy and strong frost the 13th. & 14th. Corn and straw through from Â£1-5 to Â£1-9 as much on straw as the corn. Still hard frost and deep storm the 20th., I have but 6 ricks of oats, two ricks of hay and a small one of bear but plenty of torneeps. Margaret Moggach a bride just now at Eastertoon. I have been at ten shottings (65) and has 26 prises, deep storm to the end.

March 1843.

Begins with storm on to the 11th. then a little fresh. We have had no plowing since the 1st. of January. The 7 minesters deposition made void and null the 9th., the Assembly pays all expenses. Storm on to the 18th., we sowed the 28th, tho hard frost in the morning, the 30th, quite fresh.

April 1843.

Begins fresh and warm. All our ley and awvel sown at the 2nd. The Barn Nons subscribed the sum of Â£15 to pay thair minester but the truth is it is to pay the Assemblys expences. Frost and snow the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th, verry cold, I have but 3 ricks set of hay. Storm and blowing the day of Dufftoon market, the whole day of the 12th. Fresh the 14th., corn selling at 16shs, per 42 lb. oat meall from 10/6d to 11/6d. Sold Rakimline 6 stots at Â£4-15 per head. the 24th. All our crop laid down the 29th., I have two corn stacks and many torneeps headed and unheaded, grouthy with frost in the night.

May 1843.

Begins verry warm, hard frost in the night. Our potatos set the 4th. James Millne says the hand of the Almighty has been on the Duke of Richmond because he is against the Nons, he forgot to mention that himself has a son, daughter and grandson all lying at the point of death. The Nons fast day through Scotland the 4th. and sacrament at the Barn of Woodend the 7th. Verry grouthy now, Jas.P-et-rk and Jne. Ord broak a scull of eggs the 15th. The 16th. Mr. Masson away to Assembly, Carr the Woodend trumpeter left his dupes the 15th. No preaching the 21st, I was at the English Chappal. Verry cold weather at this time. We have about one halph of our torneeps drills formed the 22nd. A number of the Nons left the Church at this time, no preaching the last two sabaths at the Barn, few attended the Church the 28th. because of dissapointed ambition. Sleety shows 28th., we went to the hill to cast fire the 29th., it came on a good snow about the eleven Oclock. Cold and dray the 30th,

we sowed the first of our torneeps the 31st. I am ill with a sore shoulder just now.

June 1843.

Begins cold and dray, the second verry rainy the whole day and still on to the 6th. We drove some dung the 7th., the ground verry weety, we have but 20 drills of torneeps sown the 8th. I have Wm. Taylor servant man at ** & and Rodrick McKenzie for billie at Â£27-6. We have done nothing at the neeps this eight days and this the 13th. Done sowing torneeps the 17th., warm and drughty, the potatos just appearing above ground, thairs a great many torneeps to sow in Botriphnie the 22nd. Meall selling at from 14/- to 14s-6d., corn from 17/6 to 18 and 19shs. per 42 lb. The Nons has got a fairweather preacher the 18th. Rather weety now, no appearance of corn or bear shotting, our potatos hoed the 29th and 30th.

July 1843.

Begins grouthy and watery. Corn getting up in price, oats fully Â£1 pr 42 lb. I have about 25 quarters and a small rick to thrash. Cattle peetiful low prices. At the 7th. verry warm grouthy weather. A big fox hunting at the loch and two killed the 9th. We drove the first of our fire the 8th., my fathers all home, I seed some heads of corn shotting the 10th. on our haugh let, verry drughty. Hoed the first of our torneeps the 15th, the 18th. Tuesday, verry weety, I sold Jas Stewart a young mear at Â£8-15 and a pony to the minester of Woodend at Â£6 and John Green 2 quoys at Â£6-15. Wetty 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st, the bear and oats begining to shoot now. Monday night, the 24th., some ice on the peels at the back of our mill. The 27th. our people went to Buckie, the fast day. Our torneeps hoed about this time and our fire home the 29th., some rain for the last six days.

August 1843.

Begins watery, the second the day of Glass market, Gauld and me went to the Cabrach that night and came home the next day. Still verry rainy, the corn about halph shoot at this time, the one halph of the torneeps in this place not hoed yet the 5th. This is the 7th., a fine dray day, engaging the neeps the second time. We cut our ley the 8th. and 9th, to the 19th. extraordinary warm and drught. I bought a 2 year old horse from Duncan McDonald at Â£6-15 the 13th. Our hay taken in the 23rd., I went to Cullen with John McWillie (66), the 25th, offering for a farm. I sold Archibald Leslie 10 bolls of meal and 10 quarters oats at Dufftoon market, the oats.Â£1-1 pr qur., the meall 14-6d. pr boll. Fine filling weather now the 29th, some bear cut the 30th.

September 1843.

Begins with high winds and drught. Put away two pigs the 2nd, 3/6 pr stone. Jas. Humphray some 17 stooks oats cut the 4th., terrible warme and quaiet about this time. Achlunkharts denner and ball by his tennants the 8th. I am thrashing out an old rick at this time. General harvest the 11th., we began the 14th., the halph cut the 17th. and 7 ricks in. Extraordinary warm with some wind and no rain the last 3 weeks. Belie Gray came the 22nd, to value the lands of Botriphnie. Our clean ground to cut the 23rd, and 4 borders came to saw wood to the Admirl the 22nd. Rain with wind 27th, John Bremner died the 27th, suppertendent of police and let farmer Woodend. Rain 30th, done cutting and ten ricks yarded.

October 1843.

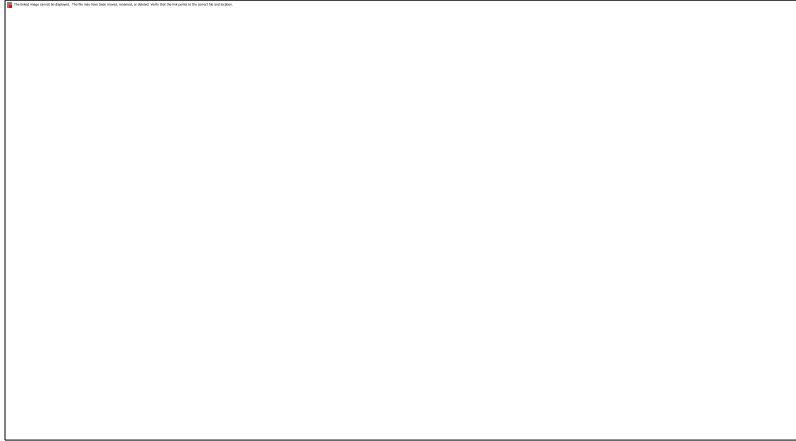
Begins weety but warm. Admiral Duff and Mr. Cameron paid me a viset the 5th. verry weety, lead 6 ricks the 7th., sleet and rain the 9th. and storme the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, and verry cold. We had about one and a halph acres of clean ground corn to take in yet, all cut but some on Turffhillock in this parish a great deal out yet. Storm 15th, strong frost the 16th, we comenced plowing the 16th, some watery, sleety and snowy weather, clear and frosty on to the end. The farm let the 30th. and 1.

November 1843.

I took Midthird the 4th, watery weather for the 14 days. A wood roup the 12th., our haughs all plowed the 18th. Corn selling from 15shs. to 16 and 17 pr qur. I sold Archibald Leslie 10 qurs. oats of 41 and halph lbs. at 16shs, pr qur. the 21st, fresh one day and frost the other, after the 26th. watery on to the end.

December 1843.

Begins good weather for plowing, the most of our ley plowed, all our haughs and some awvel the 9th. We had a plowing match the 11th. at Mains of Davidston, Mr. Taylor the second prises, my man. Jean Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack, a verry strict nonintrusionist, was married in hir bead by the Woodend minester, the first he did in this place and she brought to bead in the morning and got a protty little quine. Dray weather the 13th. and verry warm, verry high winds about the 16th., Alexr. Millne, nonintrrusion elder, married the 19th. Corn selling at 16shs. pr 42 bushell, meall from 11 to 12 shs. Mr. Morrison, merchant, got a young daughter the night of the 20th. Duncan McDonald (67), verry ill at this time. Most excellant grouthy weather since Martismass, this is the 26th. Rodrick McKenzie is my orow man at Â£2, still high winds and verry fresh, thair has been no showr of eather storm or rain since the month began and this is the 30th. Betty at Dufftoon seeing Duncan McDonald the 30th. Our rents paid the 28th.



COTTERTON FARM, DRUMMUIR ESTATE.

The above farm home Cotterton was farmed by McWillie family members for a number of years,

January 1844.

Begins the first 3 days frost and the ground white. Fresh and warm the 5th and 6th. and on to the 13th., frosty and the ground white. Preaching at the Barn on Newyearsday, few verry attending, the Nons is rushing on preaching, too much of one thing is good for a other. Fresh and warm and plowing going as in the month of May, I have 13 ricks and a deal of hay.

February 1844.

Begins with sleet and rain on to the 5th., then a light snow. Corn from 17shs, to Â£1 according to quality. Our Nons sore down in thair wide mouths because no stance can be got but one at the Shenwall or Bodinfinnach and that does not please. Stormy the 12th. and continues on to the 24th. which blowed the whole day and all the 25th. and 26th. The roads all blocked up, the toll road all cut the 29th.

March 1844.

Begins with verry deep storm and so on to the 6th, I have 11 ricks and deal of hay at this time, still verry stormy. Fair price of corn Â£1-2-5 with straw, without 17shs. pr qur. Some soft 18th. and verry weety the 19th., still a deal of snow and cold, quite fresh but cold, we yoaked the Rory horse for the first time the 27th. and sowed 5 bolls the 28th. Getting quite fresh, all our avel sowed and harrowed the 30th. Sowed one halph of our ley and lower haugh the first Monday of April, verry dray. No preaching at the Barn in the fornoon for the four Sundays the Nons ** nor come to Church but stay at home. George McWillie.

April 1844.

Begins drughty with some frosty nights. I have all the corn sown the 10th. but I acre in torneeps, high winds with drught, I have nine ricks and a great deal of hay yet in the yard. Watchie Laurance buried the 10th. Plowing the land for our potatos and lint the 15th., done sowing the 20th. Drughty weather, no rain since we began to sow the corn. a good grouth in grass and corn. Mr. Cameron told me at Martismes that he owed his svt., Ann McWilliam Â£9-9 and she had no write and in case of him dying I would know the debt at that time, Amen. I sowed grass seed in the upper Glack of Midthird on Friday the 20th., a verry rough day with some showrs of rain. I had 30 bushells of ryegrass and 30 lbs of white and 20 of read clover. Great drught, the hill of Haggishaw burnt and a good deal of wood the 30th., our potatos planted the 27th.

May 1844.

Begins verry hot and great drught, some rain the 10th. but then drught on to the 15th. Our torneep ground ready for drilling and all the fire cut the 14th. Verry drughty to 18th. then cold with showr of haill and frost. We sowed the first of our torneeps the 18th., verry great, verry great drught, I bought the Pegg mear at Maryhills roup at Â£18-5 and a new cart at Â£7 and at Buchrombs a plow and torneep sower and 2 pair thets. Some sowing neeps the 31st., the white and read clovers blown at this time but the cold drught is weathering the grass, the potatos in the ground the 30th.

June 1844.

Begins verry drughty and grass not growing. I have 6 old stacks of oats and 500 stones of hay, home some fire the 7th., we had some rain the 5th. and 6th., we had none since we began the oat seed. All my fathers fire drove the 11th., we drove some fire to the old toll the 12th., a good rain the morning of the 13th., the most of our fire drove. Potatos hoed the 13th., corn giving from 19s to Â£1 per 42 lb. per bushel. I firgot to say our torneeps was all sown the 4th, I seed old Middies twice this day the 13th. but he would not speak to me. I have William Taylor formen at ** and Alexr. Robertson for orrow man at Â£2-5s. and Jannet McDonald for woman at Â£2-8. Some showr of rain now at 17th and 18th. Taylor Anderson andhis wife, two great Nons, had a child baptised with the priest of Keith and left the parish the 19th. for America. Corn is now Â£1 and upwards for 42 lbs, some bear showing the beard or avens at the 20th. Upon the 23rd. Jean fell from dyke of the Turff stack and cut hir hinch, a great cut and blooded most terrible. The weather still drughty, the oats shooting about the end of the month. Jannets rising before.

July 1844.

Begins drughty and no grouth, hoed the first of our torneeps the 8th., some rain that day and some flying showrs on to the 14th. which was

rainy and a great need. I sold 9 qurs. of corn the 11th. at Â£1 pr 42 lb. Watery and grouthy now on the 22nd., John McWillie had a hive of bees swarm the 22nd. at six oclock in the morning. Our grass cut the 25th. and howing our neeps the second time, verry, verry warm grouthy weather since the 21st. to the 27th. The Admiral came to the Kirktoon House the 25th. Our Sacrament the 28th.

Agust 1844.

Begins verry watry, Wm. Taylor and Jean went to Buckie the 6th., verry, verry rainy on to the 10th. Thair is seventeen pair of She Nons had children since preaching began at Woodend and two at the Church. Thair is 60 heads of families gos to Church and 52 heads goes to Obeds Barn, fairweall to you you poor Jenny and likeways Obedon the Gittite. Verry rainy weather for the last 3 weeks, we canot get in our hay, giving our cows straw in the house for rain, the 20th., 21st., 22nd. and the 23rd. terrible. Verry rainy on to the 28th. then verry warm on to the end of the month. O Jannet, O Jannet McDonald.

September 1844.

Begins verry terrible warm, we cut the one halph of our bear the 3rd. the oats almost ready in general, terrible warm sunshine on the 5th. We cut our bear the 10th. and began the oats the 12th., William Robertson came home the 12th. to Martesmass at Â£2-15. Verry wetty the 25th. and 16th., the 21st., 22nd and 23rd. verry hard frosts and ice on the water. We have all our corn cut but some on the hillands and the clean ground, none lead yet. The 21st. I was at Craigellachie for a load of backs, Helen Sellar to Elgin Hospitle the 23rd. We was done cutting the 1st October.

October 1844.

Begins cutting our corn and verry rough weather at this time.

The Eleventh October 1844. (68)

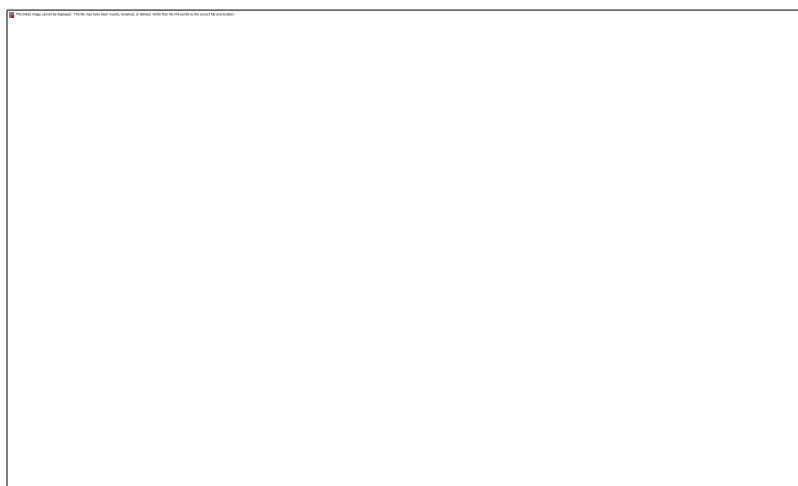
I George McWillie took posession of Midthird the 11th. Octobr. 1844 and flitted all my movibles the 14th. excepting corn and straw. The 15th., 16th. and 17th. a compete deluge of wind and rain. Thair are 21 doors in whole on Midthird, they require ten new and eleven repaired. The whole of the houses but the bires is a complete sea of water both above and below. I have 28 head of black cattle and 4 work horses an orrow one and ride plow or harrow. My wiffe has hens without number and 2 daughters. The 15th. a good deal of corn to cut in this parish. Oat meal, 12shs. to 12-6d per boll. The 25th., 28th. and 29th. drove 134 loads of corn and straw. The wrights making a whole race of new doors to my houses. High winds with rain on to the end of the month. Old Middel still heare thrashing out corn, upon the 26th. I got the potatos, torneeps and ** dung and fire and garden vauled over at the same of Â£48-12shs. and fallow.

November 1844.

Begins the 1st two days dray and then watrey on to the 7th., and 8th dray the massons took the back out of our barn but then rain, a great rain on to the 10th. The Nonintrusion Church at Howdoup was estemated for putting up the 2nd. Verry rainy on to the 20th., corn selling at Â£1 pr 42 lb., meall 14 ton 14-4, the 21st. now dray, all our shift for torneeps plowed the 24th. and about 4 acres of our ley, fresh and dray to the end.

December 1844.

Begins most beautifull weather. Main corn yard all valued the 2nd., best Â£1-5-6, second Â£1-1-6 pr qur. Our threshing mill fully repaired and trayed the 2nd., old Middel still hear and thrashing corn and carring it of. Young Burges carried to Banff the 29th. of Novr., being blamed for stealing Cottertoons gold watch. He swore the first night he was in the joil his feet was damt cold. Wm. Stronach and Towiemores oldest daughter was sessioned in the Church about this time, both Nons. This is Willies 3 Chap Woodends daughter split at the 2nd. to Burges the day be went to joil. both Nons. Our parish Nons bussy driving materials for the Building of a new Church, John Ords wiffe left them at this time and all Towiemores family. Jean Smith got two shillings from the session and gave one of them to hilp howdoup, so far for nonintrusion. Old Midthirds roup the 12th., I bought a cart at Â£5-1 and rick of oats at Â£1-6 pr quarter. Verry hard frost this ten days past, we are thawing our torneeps in the horse coble, a good storme the 13th. and on to the 16th. Corn still casting Mitchels cornyard on to the end of the month. Preaching in the new Non Church, some old stools and the pulpit of the Barn of Woodend. The storme almost away the last two days of the month but the frost none out of the ground.



MIDTHIRD FARM HOME.

It was to this farm that George McWillie spent the better part of his life on. It is the home in which his three children were born. It is reported that it was to become one of the largest farms on Drummuir and those reports indicate that George managed it very well. It was a mixed farm operation with cattle and grain some of which he sold to the whiskey traders. Today the home is a bed and breakfast operated by the tenants.

January 1845.

Begins verry quaiet and hard frost. I am getting the last of old Middel corn carted this day the 2nd. Sunday the 5th. fresh and warm, no plowing to the 14th. Building my yard dyke at this time, corn from 18shs, to Â£1 to Â£1-1 according to weight. The new Non Church all swayed and posted. Verry cold and frosty about the 19th., some plowing the 25th., the 26th. terrible wind, sleet and storm. Towiemores daughter fallen the 16th. and storm at the end.

Nonintrusions Fallen: Since 1840 to 1845 January. 1st. William Burges & svt. woman; 2nd. Barbara Garden & Alexr. Stables; 3rd. Jannet Watt & John Bremner; 4th. Margaret Moggach & James McDonald; 5th. Isabel Hay & William Stronach; 6th. Jean Edward & John Strathdee; 7th. Ann Innes & William Milne; 8th. Miss Millne & John Innes; 9th. Jean Duncan & George Manroe; 10th. Jean Duncan & John Innes; 9th. Jean Cruickshank & stranger; 12th. David Innes & Jean McGriger; 13th. John Peddie & Janet Millne Madrak; 14th. William Shearer & Ann Moggach; 15th. Isabel Edward & stranger, he denies; 16th. William Stronoch & Jean Kidd; 17th. Ditto William Stronach & Ann Humphray; 18th. Joseph Moggach & Janet McDonald; 19th. Young Wm. Burges & Ann McConachic, Geo Duncan & Maggy Shearer, Elspet Robertson & Mary of Cotterton, a lass Findlay in the scougg.

February 1845.

Begins with frost. A shooting of snuff & tobacco the 3rd., thair was 57 one shilling prises. We have ten ricks at this time, a good snow and hard blowing the 6th. We have no torneeps this year, the size of my thumb, we give none but the cows. Some snow the 14th., a verry hard frost on to the 16th., some plowing the 17th. The plowing match the 20th. on our Banks of Burnend, thair was 9 prises, our two men had William Taylor the 4th. and William Robertson the 7th. I was at Keith the 21st. and commissioned 1 & 1/2 tons guano at Â£8 stg., the 22nd sleet and rain, some plowing the 24th. and 25th. then frosty on to the end.

March 1845.

Begins with frost verry hard. We plowed some the 7th. and 8th., we was at Portsoy the 11th. which was high wind and storme and frost, we took home one and halph tons guano at Â£12. Still frost and storme 14th., our plowing mostly done but the clean ground. Fresh the 20th., dunging

fallow the 27th., at Elgin the 28th. with 24 cwt of guano for long carriage, a dreadful day of wind and rain. Westerton sowed some ley the 27th., we was at Elgin with long carriage of 24 cwt of guano with two horses, a terrible day of wind and sleet, the twenty eight William Taylor went with the horses.

April 1845.

Begins warm and dray. We began sowing corn the 1st. and sowed the banks of Burnend with fourteen qur. and 5 bushels of oats, piper haugh with 3 bushels, the kitchen croft upon the 7th. along with Haggshaw 16 qurs. of oats and one of peas. No rain since the month began, one shower of large hail the 6th, Alexr. McIver came home here the 7th., all my onions and carrots sown the 3rd. We had seven cows calved in January, very dray weather on to the 20th., this day the 21st. we was done sowing and all our grass seed was sown the 22nd. Our potatoes planted the 30th., very dray with high winds.

May 1845.

Begins great drought on to the 3rd. which was high winds with rain and hail. I put up pition in the kitchen the 2nd and 3rd. very rainy with wind on to the 8th. I was at the Kirktoon house the 8th. and signed a paper that I would refer weather my garden will be payable at Cachanhead to Mr. Brown, Elgin and Mr. Thorburn, Keith. I have sown in whole of crop 45 qurs. I am not shower of the Claggans I think it is 14 qurs. I have for Svt. men William Taylor, James Thomson £5-17-6, Alexr. Sellar, orrow man 3 pounds-3 shs. We sowed neeps the 30th.

June 1845.

Begins with drought and cold winds with no growth. I forgot to mark that our little Meggy mear got the horse the 13th. May and we have about one acre of neeps to sow the 13th. of June. We had rain the most of the 8th, and quite warm indeed we have had long cold drought, very warm and growthy now on to the 14th, We cut some fire the 6th. hoed one halph of our potatoes the 17th. A very good June market long prices. John McWillie (69), Midtoon, had a son baptised the 16th. called George McWillie. Very rainy weather for the 3 last weeks.

July 1845.

Begins warm with rain and great growth. Corn from £1-1 to £1-3 owing to weight, meall 15-6 to 16shs. John Watt (70), died the 5th. We began to hoe the neeps the 8th., we have 6 acres will hoe, the rain has kept us back. Good 3 year old stots from £8 to £9 and £10, rain and hail now and then from the 10th. to the 14th. with slight frosts. Thair was a meeting concerning the poor rates the 9th. £40 was to serve, £15 from

the Admiral, £15 from the Church and 10 pounds from the Nons, but John Strathdee, John Dawn and John Dyke as a deputation of Nons kept back the whole proceedings as they would not give the £10 and if the assesment be laid on the parish will have them to thank, Amen. From the 9th. to the 20th. closs mists with slight showrs at night and from the 24th. to the 30th. warm and dray. the third of our torneeps hoed the 30th., our oats but begining to shoot at the 30th. the day of the Glass market. If the weather be not warm and dray the crop will be late. I have 13 acres of oats to Wm. Robertson to cut at 5shs. pr acre. Robertson and Baby Stronach mard, about the 1st.

August 1845.

The first 5 days dray. Howing our neeps the second time and all done but one acre, from the 6th. verry weighty rain, Hugh Robertson mud thaching our fire house at this time. I was at Focbabers market the 20th. and bought 5s-6d. worth of moss fire. 21st. and 22nd. verry rainy, Margaret Taylor married the 11th., the corn not near shot at the 22nd. I have thrashed an old rick now, I will keep the corn for fear of seed. I do not suppose thair is one load of fire drove in this parish the 22nd. John McWillie (71), was hear the 18th. and stayed the 19th. - 20th. and went home the 21st., all great rains. I bought six stots at Dufftoon market at £8-2-6 pr head the 21st. Thair has been terrible rain the 6 weeks past, the 28th. and 29th dray and warm.

September 1845.

Begins dray and warm, some bear begining to ripen, Woodend cut some of it about the 3rd. Oats begining to turn a little about the 9th. The tenth thair was 4 men planing of a rail road, I stoped them and gave one of them the breed of himself among the corn because he would not speak or turn back whean I called to him. I made him return the same way he came with a white face. A verry hard white frost the morning of the 11th., our horse to the hill for fire to my father the 11th. for the first time. The first of our fire drove the day before Summersfair, it was a verry stiff market. I bought 3 two year old stots, small at £13-18, the next day some wind with rain the whole day laying corn compleet. We began cut corn the 29th., verry green on the kitchon croft, James Gray harvest man the 29th.

October 1845.

Begins the first two days dray to storme then rain the 3rd and 4th. verry rainy with some haill. We have 2 days work done on the Banks, a good dale of it frosted and all the Claggans. Thair is only about the halph of the parish began to harvest at this time the 4th. It will be verry let, letr, let. About a 11 acres of our ley cut the 7th. and one halph of our avel, a great frost the morning of the 6th., the 8th. verry rainy, the 9th. wetty in the

morning of Newmills mkt. the 10th. wind and rain to eleven O'clock the 11th, and cutting our peas in the afternoon. I bought four two year old stots at Newmills mkt. at £7-10 per head, a dear market. The 19th. extraordinary high wind and the 21st, ditto with rain and hail which shook a deal of corn. 14 ricks in the 21st., we was done cutting the 27th., all in the 31st. We have 44 ricks and a howack besides 200 shaves of thach and a number of clew rips. Cotterton the most of his clean ground park to take in the 31st. Geo. McWillie.

November 1845.

Begins with draying winds, fine for the corn stacks. We began to plow the 7th., our harvest man of the 8th. Meall £1, corn £1-2 for 38lb. per bushel. Feed Alexr. Watt the 19th. at £6 stg., Wm. Taylor at £6-6, James Dey at £3-8 Capital dray weather on to the 22nd., it was sleet and rain. The night of the 14th. one halph of Newtons square was burned with 4 cows, 4 sheep and a number of hen, the whole being insured. Fine weather for plowing, the first of the poor rates paid the 16th. Good weather on to the end.

December 1845.

Begins with slight frosts, we could plow none till about the 6th., 7th., and 10th. we have all plowed but for the clean ground, about six acres of ley and one of avel. We are improving the goose peel just now, William Taylor not weall at this time the 10th. The 11th. terrible day of wind and a deal of rain, we did nothing the whole day but fastened the houses. Corn about the same as last month. I have sold about 34 qurs of oats at this time. Some storme and hard frost 17th, and 18th., some snow at the 28th. and 29th., but some plows going.

January 1846,

Begins with some snow. The 3rd. plows going, our bull killed the 3rd., he was 22 months old and weighed 34 stones. Beautiful weather the 6th. and 7th., we have about one 3rd. of our hay shift to plow the 7th., done 23rd. From the 5th. to the 24th. beautiful fresh growing weather. George Forbes, Cotterton died the 16th. aged 84 years, it was the 16th. and buried the 19th., high winds and cold with rain & the 22nd. some small rain all day. Betty at Drumgrain the 21st., our plowing done the 29th, but the clean ground and beautifull weather, the neeps growing and shotting. Our horses plowing to Alexr. Watt the 31st.

February 1846.

Begins fresh weather, the torneeps is growing as in the month of May and a good deep snow the 5th., 6th., 7th. and 8th. fresh the 9th. and 10th. snow quite gone. Robertson flitting from the glack to the Scull holl of

Cottertoon 17th., we began to plow our clean ground the 17th. and cutting a new run for the barn the 14th and 16th. and a drain up Haggishaw to take down surfes water that ran in an open ditch. We have about 40 loads of headed torneeps the 20th. and 7 acres of them to pull but all shooting 18 inches high and the yellow seed in the top of many and the grass growing as in the last of May. The sowing in many parishes the 20th. and 18th., we began to drive out dung the 27th., most beautifull weather, the berry bushes and trees getting green with flurish, we have I may say we have had no frost or snow but the ground white a day or two, I am afraid thair will come something for all this.

March 1846.

Begins Sunday the first most beautifull on to the 4th. which was one of the awfulest days of wind I ever remember to here, it lasted from nine Oclock to 3 oclock in the afternoon. We did nothing the whole time of it but and ben, out and in with rops of (72) himp and straw and a deal of clay we kept all our houses right and tight. The fifth was verry quaiet and we began sowing and sowed 5 and 1/2 qurs. and the 6th. about other 6 on the banks, we have as mickle corn as sow them out but we have no more untill thrashed. I have 19 ricks and about 7 acres of torneeps and 40 loads of headed ones, the 7th. thair was a showr of sleet in the afternoon. I have sold about 9 reeds of torneeps at 8d per reed, beautifull weather on to the 16th. which was a terrible day of wind and did a deal of damage, at night dreadfull with wind and sleet and ended in snow and drift, it was the day of Balls and Denners in honour of James Duff marraige, member of the county. The snow continued with hard frost on to the 22nd., some sowing on the 24th, I sold Archibald Leslie two ricks of oats the 23rd. to be delivered whean the corn is sown and time to thrash it out after at the price of Â£1-10s. strg. All our ley shift sown the 23rd., rather rainy the 24th., sleet showrs with rain on to the end of the month. Geo. McWillie.

April 1846.

Begins storme and rain and sleet, all the torneep heads is now rotten with bad weather and all the flurish on trees and berry bushes is competly weathered. Stormy the 6th., Huntly market the 7th., a fine day but a stiff dull market, the 8th. rainy to ten oclock. The 8th. I sold Robert Stewart a cow at Â£6-15 and the 13th. All our corn sown the 16th. but the ground where our torneeps .is, about two acres. The roup of Stripside the 10th., cold weather, I bought home our guano the 20th., it meat us at Grange, cost Â£8 per ton. Our torneeps all out of the ground the 23rd., verry little growth now the 24th. Oats from Â£1-7s-d. to Â£1-10 and Â£1-12. according to weight, potatos in this parish from 12s to 14shs. Verry cold with snow and sleet from the 24th. to the 27th., Verry little labour in land done since the 16th. March, wetty weather. Our corn all sown out about the last day of the month. It has been verry bad weather since ever it

began and I hope whean this month is done the bad weather will go along.

May 1846.

Begins on Friday a dray day and the 3rd. a dry day. We sowed out the last of our grass seeds all but five rigs which is coming through the ground, it must be rolled in the 4th. I then went to Rothes about sacks and silver, a verry rough day and rain at night. I was cutting palling wood the 5th., the meall is from Â£1-4-6 to Â£1-5, I am selling potatos at 12shs pr boll. I have about eight ricks in the yard yet and Gunn and Robertson cutting drains 30 inches deep and bottom 12 inches wide. Verry drughty from the 5th. to the 16th., little grouth. I engaged Wm. Robertson to cut eight thousand turfs to fuel the 16th. Jean ill with hir head the 15th. and 16th., our torneep shift all cross cut and harrowed the 16th. and about the 21st. a great deal of thunder, not much rain hear, cold and dray on to the 29th. the day we sowed the first of our torneeps. The bigg Megg mear was sorted the 29th. Willam Taylor, foreman, at **pounds and John Craig, second man at Â£6-5 and 2s-6d. ** James Watt cow billie or orrow man at Â£3-15 and 11 1/2 and McIver cattle hird. A deal of thunder the 29th. and we sowed the first of our torneeps the 30th. with guano up upon the shift above the town or what we call Haggishaw and Kitchen croft, verry dray weather now but warm. George McWillie.

June 1846.

This month begins verry warm and good grouth with drught on to the 3rd. Upon the 3rd,, 4th. and 5th. the thunder scarcely ever stopped except on the night upon the 5th. thair was one clap of thunder lasted 30 minutes about 2 of o'clock, not much rain but terrible warme and still warme yet at the 8th. We have about 12 acres of neeps sown the 8th. We have had Alexr. Sellar for the 3 past days hillping us, John Millne called to the session this evening by Sellar, he d-mt him he would soon clear himself of that business. Upon the 18th, a terrible day of thunder, the lightning struck some of Tullocks houses and shivered some pailling, the rain fell in heal water in many places and destroyed ricks and corn terrible. Westertoons corn and neeps sore spoiled, some of our potatos howed the 19th., about one acre of neeps to sow the 19th. but we are stopped with rain and thunder. We have had three weeks of the warmest weather ever I sead at one time. Most of our bear weall shot and some furbreas of the oats the 24th. We began to hoe our torneeps the 29th. Thair is about 30 persons (73) out of this parish to America the 24th, mostly all Innesis from Linmore, upper and lower and Robert Adam and wiffe and son and family, Robert is 77 years of age, a son of his advised them all out.

July 1846.

The 29th. and 30th. June very weighty rain, July the first dray. We began howing but very weet land but the neeps very large, all but the last sown, the bear filling and many of the oats fully shot, still warm and grouthy. Oats about Â£1-6 to Â£1-4 , meall 19s-6d to Â£1, a good deal of hay cut the 4th., the 5th. rainy. Our neeps a good many more than halph hoed, verry weety the 12th. Our hay all colled the 20th., high winds with some flying showrs the 23rd. harvest is begun I see by the papers in different places. Repairing the minesters brea at this time, verry warm and dray on to the end of the month.

Agust, 1846.

Began extraordinary warm and the torneeps growing like rashes, our neeps all hoed the first time the 3rd. being the let ones and all most through the second but some let ones. The bear weall turned this time and some of the oats to the first of the month. Began to drive fire the 5th., our hay was built the 1st., the sow was 40 feet long by 10 wide. A great deal of thunder night of the 7th, and from six o'clock the morning of the 8th. to 2 o'clock, all to the south west. I put old William Burges into the shoulder the seventh. My father and mother went to Buckie the 12th. and came home the 19th. Verry rainy about the 17th. and 18th., general harvest the 19th., our harvest woman came home the 19th., at dinnertime. Thair is most obnoxious desease (74) among the potats in every county in Scotland, the heads is all affected with black spots like soot drops and the potatos all roating in the ground. Some people is pulling the heads, some cutting and some plowing the earth after cutting the heads, thair is most dreadfull scronnach about them. We began cutting both bear and oats the 20th., Alexr. Sellar came home the 21st., extraordinary warm, sunny and quaiet weather on to the 30th. All our banks and the most of scouggs land which is in ley cut and mostly all laying. Some rain the 31st., we took in an old rick and thrush the most of it the 31st.

September 1846.

Begins with cutting a foundation for a new house to Admiral Duff in the bigg Lettach park of Ardbrack. Voters for Banff county 833, a rise of 25 voters. But by the by it is dreadfull warm and sunny, no wind the whole harvest, we had in 27 ricks the 11th. and cut out all our corn the 11th. We had 13 days cutting all together, thair was two cutting besides mysilfe. I have sold James McWilliam, Maislie, a ricks old corn at Â£1-2 per 40 lb. and 7 bolls weall 18s. the day of summeris fair a good market. John at Aberdeen at the Circuit Court, I forgot, our harvest woman got a tooth taken out by Dr. Taylor the 12th. and went of the 16th., said she was not weall, she was a nasty clort and foull fingered too. All our corn taken in the 18th., 42 ricks and one howack. Linmore setting this day the twenty first. Corn selling from Â£1-2 to Â£1-3 pr 42 lb., meall 17s-6d to 18. I bought 3 stots from Admiral Duff the 18th. at Â£6-5 pr head, I

bought 2 stots, 2 year old , from Wm. Horn, Cabrach, at £13-12-6, the 1st. October fine weather.

October 1846.

Begins capital weather. The most part of our land for torneeps plowed the 9th. and cutting drain at this end of Dinnieorn the 8th. and 9th., corn selling at £1-6 per 42 lb and meall about £1. Our little brown maire ill with swelling on the side of hir head the 6th., 7th., 8th. and 9th. The foundation of Admiral Duffs new house laid the 8th., he does not allow the masson to take water through his parks or yet allow him to drive it out of the water at Ardbrack, he has it all to drive from the burn of Westerton, thran Divel. Verry watery now from the 9th. to the 14th. with some showrs of haill and Isabel Rinnes verry gray the 13th. Merchant Bonniman has some corn to take in yet for real sweat tea, all the rest of the parrish in three weeks ago. I bought 4 stots of two year old at Newmills market at £8-11. The last fortnight verry watery but the last 4 days. I sold Maislie 16 and one halph qurs. of oats at £1-6-6 per 40 1/2 lbs.

November 1846.

Begins with beautifull weather. Jean Mitchell (75), Goodwiffe of Midtoon of Towiebegg, died the 6th. aged 82 years. James Dunbar has got a second son the 6th. and torneeps has got a new flush of heads since the harvest was ended. We have had white frost with closs mists through the night and quite quaiet from the 8th. to the 15th. The most of our avel plowed and 5 acres of ley the 14th., we are now draining Dinnicorn below the dam. I belive this has been a famous year for bees and honny and selling from 2s-3d to 2s/6d per pound. Corn selling about £1-5 to £1-6 per 40 lb. at Keith mrkt. 20 qurs. of oats to Maislie the 25th., the 28th. a good snow and verry deep the 29th. and 30th. I got 6 plow landsides from Banff the 25th., carraige and all 11s/6d.

December 1846.

Begins with verry deep snow and allways growing deeper on to the 3rd. which had thunder and lightning about ten o'clock in the forenoon. The 4th. I shot a deer owre the burn of the Scougs, a weighty snow. It was the day of a court at Morrisons. In parting the hill of Bellyhack betwixt the Erol of Fife and Admiral Duff, all the old people of the parish was summoned to attend, about eight examined and then postponed to some future period. Soft and fresh the 9th. but the 10th., 11th. and 12th. hard frost with blowing, we took in one halph of a straw rick the 12th. because our mill water was blown out. A verry deep snow, we are getting our plows repaired now with Smith Sellar. Jean and William to school the 8th., Isabel at it 8 days before. Thunder and lightning the 12th. at 5 o'clock at night, a great snow with blowing and hard frost, still deep snow but

qualet 22nd. Corn still a good price according to weight, from £1-6 to £1-8. Snow on to the end.

January 1847.

The 1st. a quiet day with close mist, fresh but flying sleety showers 2nd., 3rd. and 4th., a good fresh the 5th and 6th. Corn now selling at £1-10 pr 40lb. Verry hard frost bear and cold on to the 14th., our Bob horse not weall at this time, hard, hard frost and verry hard on to the 26th. which is some soft. Corn rose the second week of this month from 1 pound-8 to £1-12 for 42lb pr bushell, the third week to £2 to £2-2 pr 42lb., meall selling from £1-10 to £1-11 and some mobbings and burning of efegies about the ports and small towns. We have been driving out some dung this days. I have twenty ricks in the yard the 26th. besides a good sow of hay, some snow the 30th. and 31st.

February 1847.

Begins with about four inches of snow and cold frosty air. A good snow on the 12th. some fresh the 13th., thaw and frost alternately. The 14th. I had a child born (76), this minute at 20 minutes past 5 o'clock, I have not seen it but Mrs. Garden, Westerton, tells me it is a daughter, Still hard frost, some plows going in the lower end of the parish the 19th. We have yoaked the plow the 22nd., still some old frost. A meeting of parishers the 16th. about getting Government money for Drains and Dycks and collecting meall for poor householders. Corn selling from £1-12 to one pound fourteen per forty pounds weight. Verry frosty on to the end of the month, we have got one yoaking of the plow since the 14th. Novr.

March 1847.

Begins quiet weather with a good deal of old frost in the ground. A plowing match at Westerton the 28th. February, plows could not go for frost, it was the 23rd. or 24th. of February. All our ley plowed out the 6th. March, the plowing match has taken place this day again the 8th., sleet and rain most of forenoon. Our Betty was baptised 9th., thair came a great deep snow that afternoon, about 6 inches deep. The 10th. frost and the 11th., 12th., and 13th. rain and sleet. I belive the potatos, good ones is selling about 4/6d. per bushell We sowed about 9 quar. of oats the 19th. Took home 15 cwt. guano the 20th. at £8-10 per ton The old Goodwiffe of Bommickelloch died about the 22nd., good weather on to the 27th. I sold two dun stots the 27th. at £20 to Paul Grant and bought a bull from Mr. White at £13-17. Sunday the 28th. rough showers of snow and very cold, The torneeps in but just begining to grow yet, I have about 7 acres yet. I have eleven ricks of oats and one of bear the 29th. and 500 stone of hay, it is verry cold and a deep snow on the ground and the cattle eating a deal of fodder. The Mrs. of Mr Morrison, merchant, had a young son the night of the 30th. I had some of the headeach that night

owing to some neighbours being in the night before. Still stormy on to the end.

April 1847.

Begins with deep snow, some thunder the 2nd., rough shows hail the 6th. the day of Huntly market. A fine day the 7th and 8th. cold the 9th. high winds with sleet and rain. The first flat of Admiral Duffs (77) new house built an halph joisted the 9th. Our land verry weet at this time, we cannot plow and thair has been three weeks of a brack, we sowed some ley the 16th, and rain the 17th. and sowed the first of our clean ground the 20th. but verry damp land. I sold Paul Grant 2 dun stots, delivered the 23rd. at Â£20 and Peter Gordon 8 stots at Â£10-2-6 pr head and a farrow cow Â£6-10 to be delivered the 26th. which was a verry rough day with wind and rain. I have six ricks and about three acres of torneeps the 27th., our grass just begining to grow the 30th.

May 1847.

Begins with sleety shows and terrible raps of haill. Our bear sown the 5th. and our grass seeds the 6th., cold rough winds the 7th., our crop rolled out the 8th., the 11th. dray. Weighty rain and hail from the 12th. to the 16th. with thunder, a good growth now. Corn selling at 2 pounds for 42lb., meall 1 pound-8s., our potatos set the 12th., only ten short dreels. Verry cold the 17th and 18th., we was at Portgordon for guano the 18th. Now verry cold with high, high winds with rain, haill and sleet from 9th. to 23rd., drought and high winds from 23rd. to the 28th. Our torneep land all to plow the third time after the 26th., verry little growth the last ten days. Corn selling at Â£2 to Â£2-2 pr 42 lb. pr bushell, meall selling at Â£1-9 to Â£1-10. Upon the 29th. the thunder began about 7 o'clock in the morning and continued loud and long with moderate rain and warme. I engaged William Millne for the halph year at Â£6-17-6 and Jas. Watt at Â£4-10 and William Taylor at Â£6. John McWillie (78), my brother, flitted from Linmore the 7th. May. I got a fracture in the arm by being thrown of a carriers cart by his being upset. We sowed the first of our torneeps the 3rd., verry warm on to the end.

June 1847.

Hout, I have been making mistakes in the end of May for we sowed the first of our torneeps the 2nd. of June. I am selling meall at Â£1-8 pr boll just now. The merchants daughter, Helen died the 3rd. in scarlet feavour and George Garden son to Westerton the 9th. in scarlet ditto. Wetty weather the last few days, no neeps sowing for weet land, a good growth now. The Rvd. Mr. Massons daughter, Anna, died the 14th., 3 in the morning, of scarlet feavour. Verry watery weather, William Blackie came home hear at 5s-6d. pr week with vituls, the 12th. Turned two ricks today the 11th. Every people cattle and horses verry dear, mens wages for

labours from 12s to 15s, massons from 18s to 23 and 24s., good cows from Â£12 to Â£14, 3 year old stots from Â£9 to Â£12, one year olds Â£5 to Â£6, good draught horses from Â£30 to Â£40. Still verry rainy, we have only one halph of our torneeps sown the 18th. The 21st. a beautifull draying day, sowed a deal of torneeps that we had dunged and happed the 21st. Isabella Garden, Westerton, died the night of the 18th. Capital weather now, all our neeps sowed the 30th.

July 1847.

Begins verry warm and sunshine, a good growth, some bits of bear the heads about out and I see some of the oat furbraes begining to shoot. I was at Kellock and Drumgrain the 6th. the day we began to hoe torneeps, a deal of thunder about five o'clock on the morning of the 7th. Went to the hill for the first of my fathers fire the 7th., Hugh Robertson thaching our mill the 12th., terrible warm and dray. Began cutting our grass the 17th., we had a quoy died, quarter ill, the 22nd., about one halph of our neeps hoed the 22nd., some of them not looking weall, a rainy day the 22nd. One end of the Admirals (79), roofing, the forth flatt going on the other end. Colled some hay the 26th., the 27th. Glass sheep market, raining from one o'clock, I was at Kellock that day. All our hay colled the 30th. Corn is now Â£1-8, meall Â£1-2-6, warm and a showr each day commonly.

Agust 1847.

Begins the first dray and then showrs on to the 5th. but always hoeing neeps altho some weety. I think I did not mention formerly our factor Mr. Peter coming to Ardbrack. At June market a great deal of crop is ludged, our bear changing the colour or fell yellow. Mr. Lamb the contractor masson for the new house to the Laird has 770 bolls of lime almost built in the 5th. and pays 4d pr boll souring. Our hay built the 14th., the sow is 50 feet long by eleven broad. I went to Deskford the 17th. with George Gauld, saw some potatos wrong this time. The Lairds house at the level all but the turrets and tower the 25th. Linmore let to one Stewart the 21st., the 22nd. a terrible day of wind and rain, our fire all home from Machatties the 25th., some rainy. Our neeps all hoed the second time the 25th. Betty Stewart died the 21st. Some bear cut about the 26th., all the oats about equal ripeness, our sacrament was the 29th., capital filling weather.

September 1847.

Begins the 1st, warme with wind, the 2nd, a desperate day of wind and rain. The 3rd. and 4th. weety and wind, the roup of Linmore the 6th. Our harvest woman the 7th. and we cut our bear, began our oats the 9th. and 2 ricks in, 13th. watery on to the 16th., a bad Keith market, I bought 4 stots at 8 pr head, we have in eight ricks the 20th., rainy the 22nd. and

about one shift to cut the 22nd. Upon Tuesday the 21st. George Garden Westerton, and me valued the farm of Ardrack and haughs of Linmore the sum per acre, the average 1-15, Kirkton House and garden 25, the Loch per acre 5shs., the Kirkton House polices 1-15 pr acre., the Manse house and garden 12, the Gleebe lands 1-15, Ardgathnie pasture 6shs., Schoolhouse and garden 10, this is for poor rates. We was done cutting the 29th., I had John Millne, Bodinfinnach, with five syths the 28th., we yarded a good deal the 30th. and then rain the next 6 days.

October 1847.

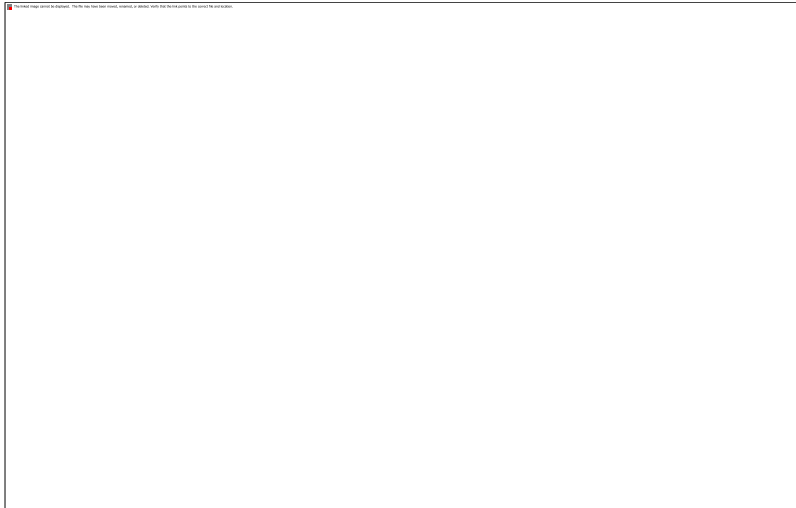
Begins with rain on to the 6th. We have about ten acres of clean ground corn out yet. The 8th, a terrible day of wind and rain the whole day, our corn all in the 15th. Duffton market the 14th., a bad market; coming home I was struck by a mear of John Gaulds and got one thigh broused and the other brused and cut severly; I am still verry cripple the 19th. We started the plow about the 14th., the day before we got in the corn. We have 42 ricks, done plowing for torneeps land the 28th. Plowing yavel now and casting some drains in the glack. I got a vile knock on the left breast from one of our quoyes binding hir the 27th., dray on to the end.

November 1847.

Begins fine dray weather. Giving our cattle straw even and morning this ten days past, beautifull weather, the most of our yavel plowed the 10th., the 17th. some snow, good weather on to the 29th., hard frosts the 28th., 29th. and 30th., we have some of our ley plowed at this time, but unco hard.

December 1847.

Begins capital weather for plowing on the 6th, which came on snow in he morning. William Taylor away to the Boat of Bridge for some wood. Corn selling from 17s-6d to 18s. per 40 lb., meall about 15-6 to 16shs. The potatos all rotten in the pits, ours all gone but about 3 bushells. Capital weather on to the 14th. the day of the plowing match on Ardrack, 23 plows started. Our Taylor the first prise, 22 sat denner. The Ball in the school, great winds all on to the 17th. which was extraordinary from six in the morning to eleven at night. I was almost gone at keeping the ricks and houses. The 18th. very quaiet and rainy the whole day, we have all the Claggans to plow the 18th. The 25th. 10 acres of ley to plow, the frost set in that day, very hard to the 28th. I sold 10 qurs. at 1-1 per 42lb. McConachies shop door closed the 24th. at the Ludge and merchant Morrisons halph shut about the same day. Terrible high wind with frost on to the end.



COLDHOME FARM.

Coldhome farm was the farm home of Alexander McWillie RN=40 and his wife Mary Taylor and their six children. Alexander had been born on his fathers farm, Midton in Oct. of 1805. He died in October of 1882 and is buried in Botriphnie parish churchyard. A number of Alexander's children immigrated to the United States of America, among them was a daughter Mary who married, Lachlan MacLean, while an Alexander married a Margaret McGlashan and immigrated to Canada, they had a son John who became a doctor and practised in China for a number of years. John married Lotto Luella MacMoran and they are the parents of Colonel Donald MacWillie of Albuquerque, NM. USA.

January 1848.

Begins with hard frosts wind and sleety showsrs. John of Midtoon and me went to Hungryhills the 5th. and came home the 7th., hard with sleet. We have 27 ricks at the 10th., thair is a influinzie passing none in no country at this time, we have all had it. Sold Jas. McWilliam 20 qurs of oats and John Grant 30 quarters the 14th. of this month. Plows going the 16th. but hard frost the 17th., 18th. and 19th., we drove a long carraige with two horses, earthen pipes to the Admirals house from Huntly the 18th. The frost still terrible hard, if we had not headed neeps our cattle could not eat them out of the land. This is the 27th. still hard as ever, I have been ill of a bad cold this six days. A slight snow the 30th., upon Monday the 31st a few good brothers of us at Cantlys Clunnymore in the evening.

February 1848.

Begins with some snow and hard frost, some fresh the 3rd and 4th. and snow the 5th. the day of paying the Candlmass Rents. Fresh the 9th and 10th., hard frost 12th., frost on with some snow 15th., the 16th. fresh. I went to Langlanburn (80), the 21st. and home the 22nd. Our plows going

the 23rd. and Mr. McConachies roup the 23rd. at the Ludge, it snowed the whole day the 25th., fresh and rainy on to the end.

March 1848.

Our ley all plowed the 1st., rather rainy on to the 6th. Sold two stots to the Laird of Edintore the 6th. Â£22 strg., we began to plow our clean ground the 8th. I sold a humble cow to Rob Stewart of the Scoug of twenty one years of age, she averaged from ten to twelve pints on day, which would average 6 pints per day along the year, which would be thirty nine thousand three hundred and twelve pints, which would be one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven Ancors and fifteen pints. I think that would brag the county of Banff. We have some showrs of snow the 12th and 13th., still rainy on to the 29th., Bomiekelloch sold ten stots to Cantlie the 29th. We have eleven ricks of oats and one of bear the 31st. the day we began to sow ley on the Claggans and a sow of hay 50 feet long not broken upon the 31st.

April 1848.

Begins with good sowing weather. Our Peg mear foled the 26th March, a mear foll. We have 28 qurs. sown the 5th., cold winds the 4th. and 5th., all our corn sown the 13th. but where the neeps is thair is about four acres of them. I have about 10 and one halph ricks the 14th., snow showrs with hard frosts every morning and cold winds from the 17th. to the 23rd., watery the 24th., put away twelve stots at 11 pounds pr head. A dray day the 25th., a cold weety day, the grass just begining to grow. Cold, cold, all our neeps out of the ground the 26th., we have many headed and unheaded, the 28th. wind , rain, haill and sleet,

May 1848.

Begins warm and grouthy on to the 18th. Our cows out on the grass the first time the 17th. All our torneep land plowed and harrowed the second time and halph done plowing the third time the 18th. Betty and me at Deskford the 15th., windy. I have 6 and one halph ricks besides hay and headed neeps, got a 11 dozzen of palling wood at this time. Capital weather, rather drughty on to the 29th., we have the one halph of our torneeps shift formed the 29th. Our cattle out to grass the 21st. of this month and good weather on to the end.

June 1848.

Begins fine growing weather with warm showrs. Meall about 13s. to 13s-6d., oats is 19s pr 42lb. and cattle selling at verry high prices. Robert Stewart, Scoug, broakhis legg dancing gulliam gallum in Mr. Chambers house at Sauchenward the 2nd. D-K James Simpson, White cow, died about the 1st. The 13th. verry rainy, bought two highland ponies at Â£10-

15 per pair, done sowing neeps the 20th. Putting up pailling the 23rd. round the Barnfauld. The 23rd. I saw some awens out on the bear. John McWillie (81), Langlanburn. still dowie. Capital weather at this time though some drughy, grass growing weall but hay crop will not be weighty, some neeps hoeing at this time the 30th.

July 1848.

Begins with fine warm weather, hoeing torneeps fast and cattle coming down fast in price, Oxen of Â£10 and Â£12 down about two pounds a head, the grass will be all lost and a pickle shillings more. I bought two stots a gray an brown at Dufftoon market at 16 pounds-5. The day Keith market I went to Deskford to see John McWillie, he was verry poorly, Betty and my father was down the 23rd. in company in Bomiekelloch gig. Our hay cutting the 21st. and 22nd., all our neeps hoed nerly the first time the 25th. and good weather on to the end.

Agust 1848.

Begins warm, our father, mother and Jean went to Buckie the 2nd. Distant thunder the 5th., 6th. and 7th. with weighty downfalls of rain, the bear turning fast the 5th., all our neeps hoed the second time but some let ones the 9th., verry watry about this time and 60 loads of fire home. Elspet McLeod died the 5th., we had a stot brok his haunch the 4th. and we just killed him and eat him. A hard frost the 14th. that spoiled a deal of potatos and a deal of bear in the Cabrach thats of no use. Frosty dews each night with rough cold winds, the corn turning now selling at Â£1 -4 per 42lb., meall 17s-6d. John McWillie verry poorly at this time and Jean Sinclair (82) Drumgrain, the 30th. G. McWillie

September 1848.

Begins cold the 1st. a terrible showr of haill the ground white. Our new cow bire roofed now and our bear cut the 2nd. Saturdays night, the 2nd., two of the wrights at the Admirals house went to see the minesters woman and was catched by the parson and his wiffe. one of them jumped about 30 feet, the other was taken and police sent for about 12 o'clock at night. The woman put out and one of the men was fined Â£1 and 5 shillings for expenses. We began to cut oats the 9th., we have in 4 ricks the 19th. and nearly all cut. My uncle John McWillie was born in Midtoon of Towiebeg, was farmer of Mains of Towiebeg about fifty years, went to Deskford the farm of Langlanburn, was thair four years and died the 16th. of September 1848 aged 77. We have 20 ricks in the 23rd. a wee spot of clean ground to cut the 30th. but the 28th. and 29th. some watery.

October 1848.

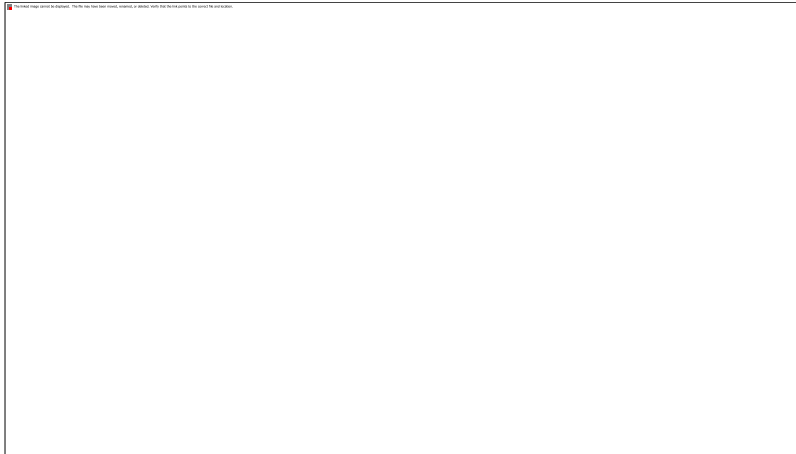
The 6th. was an awful day of wind and shook a deal of corn, ours was done cutting the second and all in the 9th. The 10th. rain which has continued on to the 17th. which was hail and sleety showers and cold, started the plow the 17th. Storm the 18th., a good deal to cut in the parish and about 4 inches of snow and our people at Linmore cutting and would not see lying corn. Tuesday the 24th. an awful day of rain, rain on to the 27th. and mudthaching our new bire, storme at the 30th and 31st. Rob Sellers leg taken of the 30th.

November 1848.

Begins with snow, a deep snow on to the 4th. and fresh the 5th., thached out our bire the 5th. A great deal of corn out in this and every other place around about, some has none in at all, thair is but little corn, it is all out, it will be a cold that many a one will be long in recovering. We have about 12 ricks not thached yet. giving our cattle straw and torneeps the same as at Youleven, still a deal of oats out at the 14th. The 17th and 18th. dray, dray at night and in the parish it was all put together, but bad. We have had just six weeks of rain and sleet the 21st., our ricks still unthached. About one halph of our ley plowed the 25th., still blustry weather on to the end.

December 1848.

Begins Capital weather, the plowing match on Drumgrain the first, 19 plows, dinned in McConachies at 3 shillings each with drink. John Brown died in Tennanton and has left no bag piper in this parish, but I have retained his picture to after generations. Robert Sellar died the 6th. after his leg was heal skined with a pain in his bowels. Fine plowing weather on to the 15th., corn selling from 14 to 16shs. and the meall from 10 to 12shs. The two wrights mentioned in September has paid the minesters woman another visit, Jean McDonald told the parson that she saw them out of hours and behold he has summoned them to Banff before the Sheriff upon the 19th. Thair was a great wind with rain on the afternoon of the 25th., it was terrible to ten o'clock and then to eleven it blew a hurrican wind, south, it unroofed our sleeping house, tirred our kitchen and my fathers house, blowed the front out of the barn and the back out of the coat, destroyed our hay sow, spoiled all the thach of the ricks, the mud thach of the bigg house and byrs. Some people had from five to 20 ricks blown over, all the Kirktoon geentrees rooted out and thousands of trees in the woods. Slatted houses tirred, chimnys blown down all in Botriphnie, the 19th. terrible wind and the quaiet on to the end with hard frost The 19th. Geo. Gaulds lipp cut by Dr. Taylor.



The remains of the first church built in Deskford parish and a number of McWillie ancestors are buried in the church yard.

January 1849.

Begins with hard bear frosts and quaiet. Oats selling at 14-6d per 40lb., meall average 13s. I have sold verry little of this crop the prices is so low, I have about 50 qurs. in the loft. Betwixt the night of the tenth and eleventh a great downfall of snow. I hear potatos is upwards of Â£1 per boll, I have but twenty ricks the 12th. but a deal of hay and torneeps, hard frost with sleety showrs on to the 18th., getting on with plowing our avel, our ley done the 18th. George Rutherford, Dufftoon had a shot fired in at his office window about the 18th. and two the 26th., it was small shot and all ludged in the oposoite plaster, some cursed rascal. The night of the 29th. and the 30th. verry high winds with hard frost and some snow.

February 1849.

Begins with high winds and frosts, the 5th. fresh and so on to the 14th. Trees, torneeps and grass growing beautiful,, oats 14shs. to 14s-6d per 40 lb., meall 1l-6d to 12s-6d. I was hunting deer the 10th., I shot at two at once and wounded both, I took home a pice of one of thair shank boons I splintred with the ball, I am going to make snuff pens out of it. Hard frost the 23rd., snow the 24th., corn selling at from 13s-6d to 14s. per 40 lb. per bushell, meall from 11s. to 12s-6d., storm on to the end.

March 1849.

Begins with snow, I was a little bizzed the first along, being the day after Fummakfair, with some of neighbours. Plowing clean ground 5th. and 6th. a rough day the day of Huntly market, at night a most extraordinary wind which has unroofed houses and overthrown corn stacks. It was as high in many places as the night of the 15th. December, aful, aful. The 9th. storme with sharp blowing. Oats from 14s. to 15s. per 40 lb., meall 12s-

6d. Admiral Duff advanced a stop, Admiral of Blew. We began to sow on the Claggans the 19th. and sold the gray bull at 13 pounds and a 3 year old stot at 9 pounds the 20th. Alexr. Mciver blasted the 16th., capital dray weather and sewing general. Alexr. Mciver died here the 31st. at fifteen minuts one oclock morning aged 67, he was about Midthird about 47 years herding cattle, I have had him four years keeping mine. He was the most shortsome and pleased creature I ever had. Thair was rain the 28th. to the end. Thomas Strachan, Whirlhead, died the 31st. of small pocks.

April 1849.

Begins with high winds and weighty rain on to the 4th. I have 9 ricks and one halph of bear, a deal of hay and selling torneeps, I have still the most of my oat crop to dispose of. The common prices; oats for seed 16s. to 17s., meall from 10 to 12shs. Thair was a ditcher fellow ravished, or tryd to do it, a little girl of 14 years with one legg in the wood oposite the manse. She was the daughter of one Read, a contractor from Fochabers and was staying at the end of Lockpark. The minester and greve of Ardrack relieved hir and sent for the police and sent him to Banff. We have had rough winds with sleet and rain for the 14 days, I sold Maislie 20 quarters of oats at 15shs, per qur. to make room in my loft to keep and turn the reast. Sleet the 15th., the 19th. the day of the Keith market a complete blowing the whole day. Peter Gordon, Cabbachs, was stopped hear the roads is requiring cutting. I sold Reekie 15 stots, 10 at 9 pounds-7-6 and 5 at 7 pounds-7 the 19th., storme the whole day. We took home our guano from Rothes, I ton at 10 pound-10, peruvien, dreadful weather.

May 1849.

This month come in with cold easterly drught. Our neep land cross plowed and harrowed the 13th. and I paid my rent the 5th. because I would pay no road money until rent time, verry rainy weather the 16th. and on to the 21st. with cold and little grouth. Oats from 15s. to 16shs. per 42 lb., meal, 12s-6d., I have 5 ricks yet with hay a plenty. Mickle Meg the 22nd. little Meg and some neeps sown the 24th. in this place. The fees high the 25th., I have Taylor and William Buie at 8 pounds-5, Jas Bremner at 4 pound. Verry drughty weather on to the end.

June 1849.

Begins with drought and no grouth, the grass that is eaten over is not growing. The 13th., the day of June market, James Peterkin (83) fell down dead eating his denner in a house in Keith and died in three minuts and was buried on Friday the 15th. in the Churchyard of Deskford. The 16th. a good deal of rain which will be worth more nor all Botriphnie is worth, cold with rain on to the 23rd. Our neeps al! sown the 25th., oats

17 and 16 per 42lb., sold Maislie 20 qurs. oats at 17shs. pr. 42lb., rain and cold on to the end.

July 1849.

Begins with raw weather. Howed our potatos the 1st. and 2nd., ower thin. Repairing the but end of the house the 5th, and 6th., the 7th. I saw some barley shotting of George Rosses, ours hardly covering the clod yet. Casting some fire the 7th., we was graveling the close the 5th. and 6th. Oats now 17shs. per qur of 42lb. We began to hoe torneeps the 12th., all ready, weety the 25th. and 26th. The ley oats and avel shotting and only begining in the furrows. Corn now £1 per 42 lb., no fire drove this time and our potatos a verry thin crop, bad, bad. All the neeps hoed the 30th.

Agust 1849.

Begins watery and cold and so on to the 3rd. .John (84) and Isabell McWillie here at Glass market, hind from Gamrie. Weety on to the 11th., canot get neeps hoed the second time and no fire drove the 20th. Our bear turning at this time and the clean ground still shooting. John McWillie, my brother from Gamrie the 15th and 16th. I sold George Rutherford a doup of hay the 15th. at 16 pound-10, our hay cut the 13th. and 14th. The 1st. the oats was 1 pound the 16th. they were 19shs. per 42lb. Cattle low at this time and Collies like to sit the Britchen the 6th. or 7th. he was by the factor sequesterated.

September 1849.

Begins verry warm with dewey mornings, some frost the night of the 6th. and 7th., the 12th. and 13th. terrible rain the whole 12th., most of the 13th., the 14th. and 15th. capital. General cutting the 14th., I sold 15 qurs. and 2b., oats at 18 pr qur. the 14th. meall 13shs., we began to cut some bear the 15th. and oats the 16th. Our avel and one halph of our ley cut the 24th., all ways weety or a rank dew every morning, none lead in this place as yet the 25th., we are halph done cutting the 28th. and took in four ricks the 29th. but was brock with rain at 2 Oclock. George Garden, Westertoon and Alexander Humphray was both made elders the 30th., rain with some hail the potatos all going wrong. Geo. McWillie Midthird.

October 1849.

Begins cold, the second a good storm, thair was as hard frost that a cart could not mark the groand. We had 13 ricks the night of the 5th., the frosts was the 3rd., 4th., 5th. and 6th., sleety and rain on to the 13th., we have about one and one halph acres to cut of lying corn the 13th., all

taken in the 20th. High winds and fine fresh weather, our potatoes up the 27th., all the kidneys diseased, our harvest people off the 29th.

November 1849.

Begins with fine weather, plowing going fast on to the 6th. about 3 inches of storm, all of the 8th. and capital weather 13th. and oats 13s and 13-6d. per 40 lb. A thanksgiving the 8th. and a fast day the 15th. for abatement of the Cholera. The 23rd. an awful rain the whole day and then on to the 28th. a great frost. I bought 2 stots from Paul Grant the 27th at £25-10 and one from John Gauld at £5-5, oats 13shs. per 40 lb. meal 11s-6d pr boll, frost on to the end.

December 1849.

The first fresh and so on to the 4th, the day of the annual plowing match in the Mill of Holl park, 23 plows shows of snow that day and the next but then fresh and rain. Cottertown pointed by Dr. Taylor the 11th. and a petition signed by the parishioners for a reduction of rent the 11th. The oats only 12s-6d per 40 lb. A new merchant came to the Ludge, the name of Anderson the 13th. We have now rough winds with rain and sleety shows on to the end of the month, the 28th. terrible blowing.



Henry Perterkin RN=26 born September 19th, 1878 at Caithness, Scotland. Joined the North West Police in Scotland, travelled to Canada serving in a number of areas in Canada His last assignment was in Agassiz, BC. The photo shows his wife, two daughters and sister in law Ann McWillie in spotted dress. Ann McWillie married a James Peterkin and their marriage is recorded In Dec, 1835 of these diaries.

January 1850.

Begins with snow, John Strathdee, Blackmure, was cut of the stone, thair was 5 the size of marbles the 1st. We milled 37 and one halph bolls of meall at this time, selling about 10shs-6d to 11s., beef a good price, so is the eggs, 8d. and the butter 8d. The minester of Cabrach died about the begining of the month and Alexander Robertson, old smith, died the 12th. On Monday and the 14th. a weighty snow, thair was three days this week we could not water our cattle for blowing betwixt the 18th. and 19th. the front of our byrs was blown up as high as the walls. We have used the flails in place of the mill. the water being blown out. I drew a tooth to Dr. Taylor the 14th., he would pay nothing but do the same for me but I declined in the meantime.

George McWillie (85), was up from Gamrie the week of Youle, the toll road cut the 18th. but quite blown up the 19th. The 21st. the snow all off but the deep wreaths, we got two days plowing this week then hard frost on to the end.

February 1850.

Begins fresh with high winds, we have 20 ricks the 2nd., frost with stormy shows on to the 9th. George Gauld and me went to Deskford the 8th. and came home the 11th. frost and snow, fresh the 15th and 16th. plows going. We killed our mart the 18th. and Willies ewie died the 19th., Betty Moggach (86), died the 9th. and Jas Humphrays wiffe died middle of January. Gay rough weather and prices of grain 13s-6d per 40 lb., bear about 18s per 52 lb. and potatos 1 pound, ours is nearly all rotten. Some oats sown in the parish of Keith and Glass in the end of this month.

March 1850.

Begins with good weather and some grouth in the neep heads, a wood roup the 2nd., gay cheap wood. Thair is different people sown some here the 8th., we have not begun, we are begun to plow our torneep ground the 7th. I have just 14 ricks and a whole sow of hay the 11th. We began sowing the 11th. and had all our ley and awvel sown and harrowed the 19th. without a brack, rainy the 20th., we have now 14 ricks. Torneeps growing fast now, snow the 23rd., the 24th. hard blowing. Took home two tons guano, Peruvian, the 26th. at Â£10-5 per ton, still frost and snow on to the 27th., the snow mostly of the 30th. which was one of the desperate days of wind to be remembered. The wind about plate south, it took the thach of our shead past Linmore, the likest thing to a flock of skeate of any thing ever you saw, it likways hashed all our mud thach most desperate. I have just 12 ricks now and a deal of hay.

April 1850.

**** and the 7th. of Nonintrusion. The 1st and second high winds and verry cold and quaieter the 3rd. Done sowing the 13th. but where the torneeps is, weety weather. I have sold twelve stots at this time, I have about Â£2-2-6 per head, I have still four fine humble ones I will grass some time. Verry weety weather from the 14th. to the 23rd., I have still 9 ricks the 23rd. Oats selling from 12shs. to 13shs. and meall from 10s-6d to 11shs., our crop all laid down Monday the 29th., we have some grass seeds to sow, we must roll it in because the oats is too far sprung, the 30th. sleety showrs.

May 1850.

Begins verry weet and stormy, frost sleet and snow for the first eight days. Our potatos set the 4th., sleet and snow the 6th., we have 7 ricks, a good hay sow and about 70 loads of neeps yet. The 8th. and 9th. as hard frost as at Youl, no grouth, extreme cold, all our torneeps land cross plowed 10th. Peter Murray came here the 2 days. A great rain the 25th. but then excellent weather, verry warm and grouthy. My men; Wm. Taylor and Geo. Simpson and James Bremner and our Willie and Willy Scott for cow billy. We sowed the first of our neeps the 28th., our Glack, 7 acres all done the 31st. The provest of Linmore broak this month and so did the minester Mr. Masson.

June 1850.

Begins verry, verry warm, the most part of the ley corn in all the parishes round the place verry thin with the Torry but I think the frost and snow did a good deal. Many has sown bear and some plowed it down and sown bear. We sowed the first of the torneeps the 29th. May, we have 7 acres in the Glack besides the Claggans 15 acres. I paid Â£1 to the tollman for spreading dung on the Claggans. Capital weather and grouthy but drughty from the 19th. to the 29th. sunshine with high winds. We was done sowing neeps the 18th. The bear is putting forth the awens the 28th. on our Dinniercom. Driving my fathers fire the 29th., I have five old ricks and about 50 qurs. oats in the barn.

July 1850.

This month begins with some shown. We began to hoe torneeps the 5th. in the uppermost end of the Glack, thair is some of the oats begining to shoot about the 7th. The minester has signed his trusdeed a month ago, thair is not many Sundays but he stops reading in the midst of the serman and Williaim his son getting in to the school for schoolmaster, Mr. Cameron has resigned and gets the house and the garden and salery with Â£150 from the Ducks Trustees. I think the most of the parish has something against him for Dommonie. Our Tibby got badly about the 24th. of June, she is now some better. I sold Mr. Cantlie,, Keithmore, 20 qurs. oats at 17s. per 40 lb. the 4th. and Geo. Garden eight humble stots

the 2nd. at £8-10 pr head the 8th., rather weety we stopped hoeing neeps, rather weety. Betty and Taylors rather rash, they are both off together in a gig to Deskford the 6th. The great Sir Robert Peel, Free Trader, died the 2nd. July. The oats and white rose that weak from 3s to 5s. per toaster that week. The last 3 weeks of July terrible warm with drught.

Agust 1850.

Begins with verry, verry warm weather, the oats fully shot the first and the bear growing quite yellow, our neeps all hoed the first time the 26th. July, nearly done the second time the 6th. Agust. Our hay all colled the 3rd., some showrs of rain, doing much good. Oats 18s. to £1 pr 42 lb. I was taking by wood the 5th. for a new kitchen, the crop of Linmore let to harvest the 5th. at 7s-6d per scotch acre to cut lead and thach. The massons come to build our kitchen the 15th., verry weety weather on to 20th. which was watery with hail showrs with us but the upthorough hills and Tibbyrinnnes white the whole day. Our Jean (87), had a daughter the 20th. about ten o'clock at night. The oats in this place is nearly a ready to cut. The 22nd. in the afternoon weighty rain and great rain with verry high thunder. Our kitchen near at the livel, a good many people began cutting the 30th. and 31st.

September 1850.

Begins with capital weather, our harvest people came home the 2nd, & cut our bear. Our kitchen slated out the 6th. and we all went in to dwell in it that afternoon, we was in to it before the slates was all on. Our avel all cut and in the 13th, we have 13 ricks, the most of our ley cut & the third of our clean ground the 18th. the day of Summersfair. Verry, verry warm and dray the past 14 days, oats 15s-6d. to 16s. per 40 lb., done cutting the 26th. & 31 ricks in. A meeting of the minesters creditors the 27th., the debt is £2,200 & £30. Rough winds with heavy rain the morning of the 28th. Our crop all in the 4th. of October.

October 1850.

Begins high winds. Our corn all in the 4th and our harvest people away the 8th, verry weety and all our people quite drunk. We began to plow the 9th, verry weety weather now, not a dray day. Our winter cattle, 16 in number, baund up about the 15th, getting neeps two times a day. All our land for clean crop plowed and 4 acres avell and began our ley the last day of the month.

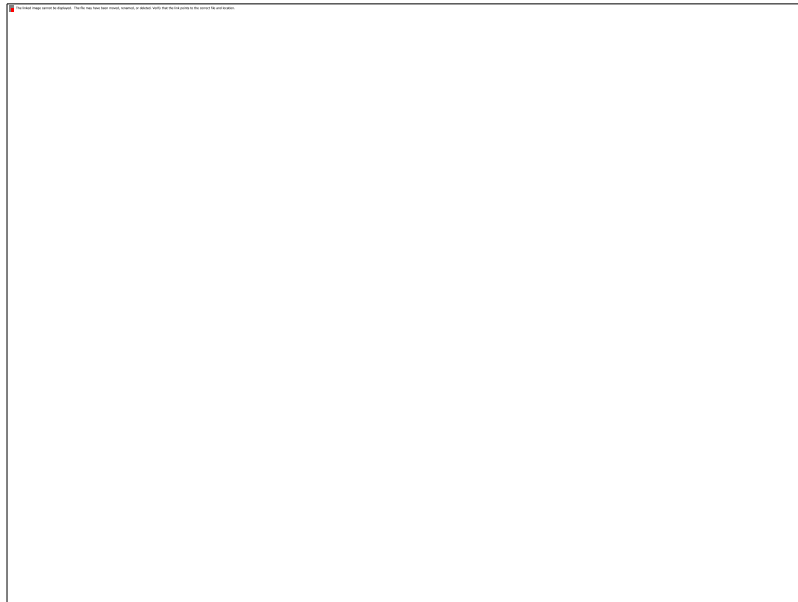
November 1850.

Begins cold and weety, John Burges of Cachenhead died the 2nd. and our new school was taken up about three weeks ago & has four scholars, Wm,

Masson, our minesters son, is school master. Our plowing match the 7th, 23 plows on Mill of Towie, 18 men took denner. Next day verry rough and cold, Jean Mitchell (88), burnt hir foot, the 23rd. good weather.

December 1850.

Begins with the land white with snow but fresh the 3rd, good plowing weather on to the 17th, our ley all plowed the 9th. and one halph of our avel done the 14th. The Admirals house took fire from the stove the 12th, it was discovered in good time and the fire quinched. Oats 15shs. per 40 lbs, for the past three weeks & potatos Â£2-5 per ton. James George, Drummuir, told Peter the factor kiss his a-rs for a B-gh-r coming to pay his rent the 20th. Some got discount of five per ct. and some got none. Beautifull fresh warm weather now the 21st, onto the 24th. Our horses going to Portgordon the 25th. with potatos to Westertoon. I have been ill with a sore back this month past & little better, Agnes Shearer (89), my aunt, died the 27th, and buried the 31st, some thunder at the 30th.



January 1851.

Begins fine fresh weather but we have had that through the winter, rather watery sometimes. James Riach, Drumgrain, died the 5th. I lived on the end of his house at Cachenhed for 25 years. George Garden, Westertoon, and me went to Gamrie the 13th. and came home the 15th rough cold weather. The 16th. terrible high wind and Sunday the 19th. terrible wind and the 20th. too, rather watery on to the 26th. I have 18 ricks now and 16 fattening stots 8 humble and 8 horned and the bull. Oats 15shs. per 40lb. and meall 12shs. per bol.

February 1851.

Begins with hard frost, and some showrs of hail. I sold my bull at Â£ 9-9 to James Hey the first. Our plowing all done the 27th. of January but the clean ground. Capital weather on to the 18th. on which the Admiral sowed on Ardbrack. All our clean land plowed into the neeps the 19th. I bought a fat quoy for mart from Jas. Riach, Drumgrain, at Â£ 5. Good weather on to the end.

March 1851

Begins with fine spring weather some sleety showrs the 5th. and 6th. Our plowing done but where the torneeps is the 5th. Sold four stots the 8th. fat Â£10-15 and bought 2 at Â£30-15 the 12th. Some frosty nights. We began sowing the 14th., we had all our awvel sown and harvested the 18th., frosty mornings with cold intermixed, The shaudels (90) for the population came out about the 3rd. The 18th after two o'clock wind rain and sleet. The 19th. cold with sleety showrs, the white snow lying about one inch deep, verry rainy weather and cold on to the 26th. John Gauld sold ten stots the 25th. Â£ 8-15 per head,

April 1851.

I sold my winter stots Â£ 10-5 per head and two of them at Â£32-10. rather cold with slight frosts, 8 ricks the 17th, about 6 in the Glack to sow of clean land. Oats from 16s. to 16s.-6d., meall 12s.-6d to 13shs. Some sowing the 19th. and then rain and snow on to the 28th. which was a great snow but rain the 29th. and on to the 30th. The land weter nor it was all the winter,

May 1851.

Begins with rain and sleet and cold. Taking our fire wood the 1st, and taking it home the 2nd. Our Domani given up the school the first. Oats 17shs, and meall 14shs. I have but six ricks at this time, a gay sow of hey and a good deal of headed neeps. Our Isabella ill for the past three weeks. Jean McWillie, William Taylor, mickle Betty and little Bettie all ill at this time the 14th. The minester has not been able to preach the last Sabbath of March and the first Sabbath of April and but halph and halph since the month of February 1850. Still cold with snow and sleet and hail the 4th. The population of Botriphnie taken the 31st. of March 1851. Geo McWillie, Midthird District, 28 houses and people 140. Drummuir District houses 36 and people 183. Westerton District, houses 28 and people 159. Bodinfinach District, houses 27 and people 143. Bellyhack, houses 15 and people 88. and total 713 males and famels. The two last Sabbaths of April and the two first of May we had nothing but a chapter and singing. The second of May we went all home owing to the minester dishealth. Dray weather the 6th. on to the 12th. cold with showrs on to the twentieth, our cattle out to grass the 20th. the halph of our torneep land formed and some dung out the 27th. Jas Bremner fee Â£5-15, Alex.

Dawsons fee £6-17-6. We was just one hour in Church and 25 minutes of a discourse the 8th. of June.

June 1851.

Rather rainy about the 1st, and cold winds, the lowmost winering of the Barfauld sown in neeps the 6th. Our Torneep dung all out the 10th, we have about three acres of dung to spread but rain haill and sleet from tenth to the seventeenth high winds cold and no growth, dray the morning of June market rain next day the 20th. we sowed all our torneeps. Mr. Cook was riding in Dufftoon the 20th. still cold with rain and white haill. George McWillie of Hungryhills was here the 20th. and 21st. we are cutting some fire in the Glack at this time. Oats at this time £1-3 per 42 lbs, Robert Stewart left Belnyscoug at the term and went to the Glack a croft on the Duck and his father came to Scoug. The 27th., 28th., 29th. and 30th. terrible warme.

July 1851.

Begins verry warm. Our turfs set the first thair was a man killed with a horse and cart at Craigellachie the name of McWilliam. The beard just appearing on our bear the 3rd. Storm and haill the 8th., we hoed some neeps the 8th. The oats from £1-3 to £1-4 per 42 lbs. The furnbreas shotting but still little growth. I was summoned on Jury the 16th. to Banff on the 24th. One Carr from Tarmore took the lowmost haugh of Linmore in grass from the Admiral, he has had 3 cattle died in it. Thair was two Ferriers took up two of them after they were five weeks buried to inspect them to see what was the cause of death. I seed them taken up, dissected and thair haggesses carried of in a cart to be analised. Still cold rain with haill showrs. Taylor Robertson son taken to Banff for beatting one Hugh Day or Dey. The 21st. terrible cold but quite warme the 22nd, and 23rd. I was at Banff on a Jury Court the 24th. Alexander Taylor, Rosarie, died the 30th. and Elisbeth Strathdee the 29th. at Blackmure. Still verry weet weather on to the end of the month,

Agust 1851.

The first a dray day and we began to cut our hey, the neeps not hoed out the first time, Glass market good. A new schoolmaster the first of this month the name of Grigor, the minester and Lord Fife put him in against the Admiral and the parish, but he gars him pay £2 for the timber school. Our hey all colled the 7th, verry warm and dray since the first of the month. The Oats not nearly shoot yet - Oats £1-3 to £1-4 per 42 lbs. herrings 6d, per 20, large sizes. Oats giving from £1-3-6 to £1-4 per 42lb. Bear just begining to change color here the 28th. Cutting begun in some districts, our hey taken in the 29th. Capital weather just now, just begining to drive home fire, repairing dyke and road at back of bire, good weather and traying the potatos,

September 1851.

Begins with good filling weather and so on to the 10th. We had a white frost for the past few mornings, some bear almost ready about the middle of the parish Oats a little back in price this few days and potato disease in many places. Alexander Robertson has got three months in Jail for giving one Hugh Day a bit of a thrashing We began cutting the 16th. and harvest people came home the 18th, and 19th., not general cutting in this parish. Mr. Jn. and George Gauld and me at Birkenburn the 18th. guay gray frosts in the mornings, bought 7 quays at £8 per head the 17th. Terrible warm for the past 6 days, all our avel and 3 acres of clean ground cut the 24th., 25th. and 26th. wind rain hail and cold, thrashing out an old rick,

October 1851.

Rough with shows, we lead the first of our crop the 3rd. just 4 ricks but then a great rain and rough winds with the hills white with snow. On to the 7th. when I wrote this a great rain and cold. The 10th. lead 4 ricks the first taken in on Monday the 13th. Rose at twelve o'clock lead all day, on Tuesday at twelve and all day and all night, on the 15th. could do no leading for wind. Cut out a small laying patch at prestons and took in all the rest on the 16th. and 17th. nearly 50 ricks besides a howack of peas. Dufftoon market the next day. Our harvest people away the 27th. Yoaked the plow the 27th., the 29th. high wind hail and rain. The minister has two shifts of oats out yet. Mr. Grigor our new schoolmaster did not pass his examination by the presbtery and away about the 11th. Our cattle on neeps and straw.

November 1851.

Begins quiet and fresh with rain each day to the 8th., at 12th. stubble rather wet for plowing. Began our ley the 12th. and to cut a run for the burn betwixt Midthird and Blackmure. Mr. James Cirmichal, Bomiekelloch, died the 12th, and buried at Glass the 15th rain and sleet and the 16th. hail sleet and wind the whole day. Betty Strachan died about the 7th. in Tennantoon. The term day wind and sleet, feed Jas Bremner at £5-5, George Simpson £6-6. The 24th. quiet and frosty. Our plowing match was to take place the 17th., a stormy day, ten plows attended and after feering was put home from Drummuir we took our dinner because it was made ready. The minister has still about two acres corn to take in.

December 1851.

Begins with some snow but good fresh about the 6th. the day the minister corn was taken in, its of little use. We have all our lay plowed the 17th., beautiful weather and so on to the 20th. Jean McDonald died at Mains of Towiebeg the 12th. Our rents paid the 18th. Saturday the

27th. I stopped the road contractor from driving stones out of the quarry on the banks of Burnend for the toll road untill damages would be paid for past six years and the present for 1852. We have most beautifull weather to the end of the month which is a little frosty.



George's wife Betty had a brother who farmed Langtanburn farm at Deskford. They had a son John McWillie who married Anne Sutherland whose parents farmed Craibstone farm and are the authors grandparents.

January 1852.

Begins with quaiet clear weather and hard frost, driving out dung for torneeps out on Haggieshaw. On Thursday the first plowing match on Drummuir, 20 plows, my Taylor the sixth and Geo. Simpson the 9th. The 7th. a beautifull day and not a cloud in the air but some cracks of thunder about 12 o'clock and or thre the ground white with snow. The 8th. some snow but the plows going, the 9th. a great wind and dreadfull drifting, our bire doors not opened to eleven o'clock, our mill stopped to the 15th. Mostly of the land that is level no snow but the hallows and about houses is aful. The road cutting the 13th., 14th. and 15th. Some fresh plows going the 22nd. My brother John here the 22nd., high winds and Saturday the 24th, terrible high, some thunder the afternoon of the 24th. Our new schoolmaster entered the 13th. the name of Mr. Robb. We have had James of Newmill for the past 14 days storm bound. Mrs. Stuart Linmore died the 30th.

February 1852.

Begins with terrible high winds and cold, still plowing getting on and the oats selling at 17shs. per 40lb. Cattle dear and especially fat from 6s-6d to 7sh. per dutch stone. I have 25 good ricks. The 3rd. at seven shooting

matches, I have twenty prises. Mr. Masson back from London. The new bakehouse began work the 12th. Good weather about this time, all our plowing done but the clean ground. The Goodwife of Linmore died the last day of January and Mr. William Taylor Esqr., Surgeon, Dufftoon, my doctor and most intimate acquaintance died the 15th, February. He was greatly respected when alive and greatly lamented at death. Paid our long carriage of browsed oats and hay to Elgin the 24th. James Dunbar verry ill of inflammation the 22nd., he is gamekeeper to Duff, Drummuir. I took Wm, Masson, minister son, at Ardbrack on Sunday morning at one o'clock drunk with his fathers two horses and took him to the factor, Mr. Hammond, he is a great blackgaurd as in this parish. The Admiral has sent Mr. Morrison a letter to keep a more regular house and shut shop at nine o'clock for the forgoing riot. The 28th. and 29th. high winds with snow.

March 1852.

Begins with snow. I was seeing George Gauld the first. Stormy the 2nd., the snow all away the 8th. dray cloudy weather on to the 15th. the day we sowed the first of the oat seed, all our ley sown and harrowed the 18th. William Masson broak two school windows the 8th., was summoned to Banff the 16th. and was fined £5, it was paid by John McWillie, Hungryhills, or he would have got 28 days in joil, on the 17th. he got himself drunk again and broak his fathers gig. The 19th. and 20th. hard frosty mornings with high winds. Oats 19 per 40 lbs. and meall 13shs. I sold our fat quoys and one stot to Mr. Barrie, Stonehaven, the 5th. all our oats sown but clean land the 23rd. and a tooth taken out of my own head the 24th. The 8th. or fifth Sunday of lent Mr. Masson read about one halph of his paper John the 17th. Chp. 4vs., he read 17 minutes, we was in church just 62 minutes. Hard frost and some snow.

April 1852.

Begins capital weather, done sowing the 3rd. all but an acre of torneeps William Masson left the parish the 2nd. and high time. I have about 15 ricks and 45 foot of hay sow. Seed oats £1 to £1-2 clover seed 7d to 7 1/2d., ryegrass 2shs-6d. to 3sh. John Millne, Ryel, died the 8th., he was driver of the coach twixt Keith and Banff, took ill at Banff and died of three days illness aged 23. This is beautifull dray weather with some frosty mornings, our first sown in briard, great drught and as warme as the month of June and great growth in grass and corn for the past three weeks, George Gauld verry, verry poorly the 13th. Mr. George Gauld, Bommiekelloch, died the 27th. April, 1852 and was buried the 30th. at Glass. He was my only companion and intimate acquaintance for many years and most intelligent man in the parish. Mr. Masson had a row with the schoolmaster Dr. Robb 27th. and got the police the 29th, out of illwill and was in the wrong himself Dr. R the 29th and 30th. shit himself the 28th. quite common. I leave church I leave church. James Mitchell,

Parkmore (him and father had it 114 years) roup the 5th. May. I bought his gig and harness. We had one shower of rain the 29th. the whole month none besides.

May 1852.

Begins verry drughty and verry warme, our cattle out to grass the 3rd, and Jas. Mitchell, Parkmore roup the 5th. High winds the 8th and 9th. a fox hunting the 8th. I was not at church the 9th. owing to the minesters nasty manners, he has taken a blew or blackness in the chin and throat owing to drink. Sweddish torneeps sown on Ardrack the 5th. Monday the 10th. got of our fire ground, some rain in the morning, the afternoon most terrible wind. Sold Maislie 26 qurs oats at 17sh.-6d. per 40lb and Mr. Geo Kynoch 10 qurs. the same. The wind afull just now, a slight shower the 12th., high winds with flying showers the 13th. Sowed some sweddish neeps the 11th., cut some fire the 12th. cold. The parson drank four glass of brandy the 13th. with Anderson in Morrison Inn. Great drought on to the 26th., hard frost the 24th, and 25th., we have ten acres of neeps sown the 26th. and mud thaching our barn now. Scarcety of grass and water and great crying for rain. Jannet Willson, Mains of Bellyhack, died the 23rd. A very weighty rain with hail between the 18th and 19th. The 19th. was very cold with showers mixed with hail, all our dung out but about 30 loads. The 20th. I bought four small stots from John Ord at £5-15d per head, we had two soaks broke over at the neck and one almost gone, all with burning in the laying. I am very angry.

June 1852.

Begins some cold with wind, the potatoes through the ground the 1st. all our torneeps sown out the 8th. above the town. I was at the Church of Mortlach the 6th. Cattle dear, verry dear at this time. Oats 17sh-6d. pr 40lb. The 10th., 11th., and 12th. rainy with high winds. Morrison the merchant proposed coming down the 11th., the minister went to borrow a £1 from Mr. Hammond, he gave him 11shs. not in hopes of payment - George McWillie. Weighty thunder showers for the past ten days. Granny of Langlanburn (91), came here the 21st. and went home the **?. Our Isabella beadfast for the past 16 days. Great growth for the past three weeks, bear shotting the 23rd, and howing neeps the 25th. rather weighty rain with thunder. M. George McWillie.

July 1852.

Begins verry warme and great growth, oats shooting verry fast. I forgot Jas. Duff M.P. was here with other four canvassers the 25th. June. The house and kitchen of the Manse is repairing at this time. Oats selling from 17s. to 17-6d. per 40lb. A meeting of Mr. Morrisons creditors the end of June. Mr. Masson preached 21 minutes and took refreshment of guid kens fat twice, I doubt whisky. Extraordinary warme the 15th. and 16th. the

days of polling for Mr. McDowall Grant, Arndilly, and James Duff, Duff has gained 22 majority as far as I know. Mr. Thomson, Keith minister and Mr. Jamison, Grange, after promising Arndilly not to poll at all did so for Duff. Mr. Masson promised to both and told elders and many more he would not poll at all, afterwards he geid we Duff, this is the minester of Botriphnie. Our neeps all hoed the first time 17th. My brother (92) had a young son called Benjamin, died in Gamrie the Tuesday the 13th., this is the 4th. son dead. Verry warme, terrible the 17th. and some thunder with dreadfull rains, only clouds here and thair, The bear in general weall turned some patches, the neeps is covering the driells, verry light hay crop, still terrible warme. I have had a sore breast or side for past ten days.

Agust 1852.

Begins terrible warme and great grouth. The Admiral had a ewie had a lamb in the end of winter and lamed another the first of Agust. Mr. Hammond, Factor, lying ill at Mance of Boharm the 10th. John McWillie (93) Langlanburn, here the 7th. Verry Verry warme with thunder and weighty thunder shows for the past 3 weeks. Oats 15s-6d per 40 lbs., cattle verry dear. Our fast day the 11th., no word of the Sacrement but toakens would be distributed on Saturday and on Sunday no word, but the Church doors would be opened tomorrow at the usual time. He had not two drinks the time of the service with a verry wild appearance, the Prescentor was neither of the days. Saturday the 14th. I was at the Mance of Boharm seeing our factor, rather rainy now but quite warme. Our Sacrement the 15th., the minister got on weall with the text-9 Phil 2nd chap. 5 verse with but two drinks, he fenced the first table with the presenter holding the bible for him and served the first table, then gave out the 103 psalm then went out, came in again. When the second table was full went out again, came in bade the presenter get on with the singing went out, came in and went out again then one elder and then another till they all went out, I went out too. I took a smock with many others, at last Mr. Tompson came out at qur. past two o-.clock, John Ord told him be was verry wealcome as thair could be nothing done more without him. Mr. Masson sat the second table with the appearance of great fatigue and then went home. in twenty five minutes returned with a verry dejected appearance, sat down and had the appearance of resting on nettles. Many expected nothing else of him than what happened. The elders, four in number, are John Ord, George Garden, James George and Alexander Humphray, remaining dumb dogs. We had general harvest the 20th., rather watery from the 20th. to the 25th. Our Glack above the road and one halph of the Banks cut the 25th., always quite warme and all our oats ready, warme and dray on to the end. The Factor died the 29th.

September 1852.

Begins verry warme and dray, we lead the first of our crop the second, 11 ricks in the 4th. done cutting the 6th. Our factor carried home dead the 30th. Agust and was buried the 3rd. Sptr., a verry respected fellow all the parish asked to the funeral. Our new factor, John Grant, came to Botriphnie the day before the other was interred, he was 28 years of age, poor Hammond. 30 ricks the 9th, terrible warme to the 11th. then cold with rain and haill on to the 14th. about one halph of our clean ground oats to take in yet. Isabell rather ill for the past eight days. The battle of Philipshaugh the 14th. 1645 just 207 years ago. The Admiral offered the Nonintnisionists a stance for a Church at the Greens at this time. The neeps all white in the shaws and shooting. Our harvest work all done and our people away the 23rd., the plow yoaked the 23rd. Geo. McWillie. A great deluge of rain the 31st.

October 1852.

The first day a deluge of wind and rain to the afternoon. Our cattle bound up the 5th. The Fiddichside gathering the 6th, at the new castle of Balvenie. Cattle high prices; three year olds polld good from Â£10 to Â£12, and two year olds from Â£7 to Â£9. Oats 15-6 for 40lb. I sold the first of new oats the 1st. 20 qurs. 42 lbs., the 7th. and 8th. merchant Morrisons roup. Cold, haill, sleet and rain with wind, it began the 6th. and 7th. and the 14th. and 15th. good weather on to the 26th. We was building a new boilhouse the 24th, and 25th. then a deal of rain, wind and some sleet. I bought three quoys at Keith at Â£21-7-6, verry small. Jean McWillie (94), died the 15th. of September 1852 aged 39, she was born 1813 February 21st. and died upper Canada near Ancaster, I was born 25th, Febry. 1802, Isabell still verry poorly the 30th. On the 31st. Betty (95) and William Taylor went to Deskford to see her mother. The potatos a poor crop and a great many of them rotten. Alex. Stewart had a young son born to him about the 20th, of Jas Humphreys oldest daughter, Stewart of Linmore I mean. George McWillie 31 Octr.

November 1852.

The first begins with verry high wind, our horse at tarnash with 20 qurs. oats and taking home a load of coals and another of sleats. The oats 15 per 40lb. and from Â£5 to Â£6 per ton of potatos. The first at three o'clock begining to rain along with high wind. I have put away 52 qurs. of oats at this time. Cold with rain and some sleet the 18th. and snow about 20th. Wm. Taylor, foreman, Jas, Bremner second. Wm. Mciver, first cattleman and Alex. Bremner second ditto. Jean Gordon first lass. The 26th. terrible wind and rain, 27th. fresh and quiet and frosty. Isabella verry ill with her throat for the past 14 days. One cow calved the 26th. November 1852.

December 1852.

Begins with verry mucky weather the land terrible weety. The merchants plowing the 7th. watery on to the 15th. a deall of thunder about 4th. and 5th. Oats selling from 15s-9d to 16shs. rents the 16th. Isabella terrible with cough and spitting up from the 17th. to the 20th., the doctor all night the night of the 20th. Terrible rainy with some snow the night of the 16th, ditto 19th. but then rain, rain. The 25th. and 26th. cold with snow, I have but 4 ricks and one sow of old straw. The 16th. a lad Millne from Bodinfinnach was informed on by John Gray, Blackpots, for poaching on Drummuir and was fined five shillings and £4 expenses. Them that has this book after my death can read this to John Grays descendants to let them know they are come of a paid informer and is in connection with no Church. Begining to plow avel the 27th. some weet, the 31st. Friday or Newyearseven dray but high wind.

January 1853.

Begins dray but high wind, the 2nd. and our New Years sermon and I have no dout but thair has many hard it that will not see the end of it, the text: Jeremiah the 8th. and 20th and 21st. vrs. The 5th. or first day of old yule high wind, the 6th. frosty till 3 o'clock then sleet all the afternoon. The 7th. a terrible day of wind and sleet to 2 P.M. Isabella always verry poorly. I have about 19 ricks and about two of old straw, frost and slippy roads the 14th. The 13th. one Christie hung at Aberdeen. About four inches of snow the 16th. Oats 16s-6d pr 40 lbs, and beef 7s to 7s-6d pr stone Dutch. The British navy 1st. January 1853 is 545 ships, men 140,000, 2000 boys, 15000 marines. Cold 17th. and 18th. fresh and plows going the 20th. some frost and the ground gray the 23rd. and I was leading at Mr. Andersons the 19th., real windy that night. The 29th. began to drive dung, driving mettle from Shean Park the 1st. of February, long carriage.

February 1853.

Begins neither frost nor fresh, between the two. I put away a cow 14 days ago and the bull and five fat quoyes the 1st. and 2nd. Have but 16 ricks with hay 7th. Plowing going on from the 1st. to the 5th. About the year 40 and 43-44 and 46 the he and she nons here and other parishes, awful religious. Jas. Wilson, Mireward, Bellyhack, was put from the Nonintrusion Church for holding the annual ball in his barn. Weall this year a raffle of whiskey at John Dices, Deacon and do. at Greens in Burges barn and one of whiskey, snuff and tobacco in Braeheads barn, that good a man that he was never in the Church of Botriphnie but at the Inn always 6 to 8 times per day, no Robertson. The guid Nons is a pishing buy the Bowie now. Oats 16s. and 6 pr 40 lbs. at Portgordon, snow came on the 8th. and snowing every day on to the 16th. Flags, hail and frost and deep snow, our mill always going with the south running wall stripe, the Glack water blown out from the 10th. to the 16th. We routed out a bigg Ash tree the 15th. that stood at the back of the bires. I suppose it stood thair since the

Flood. Great snow the 23rd. compleet blowing, Mr Georges man with 2 casks of Barm for Distillery stopped from Dufftoon. The snow 18 inches deep in general the 25th., I was at Dufftoon the 27th. for Mr. Cocker to see the little pegg mare not weall. Isabella still verry poorly. All the roads closs this 14 days past,

March 1853.

Begins with great deep snow, we have but 12 ricks and one halph in the barn the 1st. Our mart cut down the first, took home some neeps the 4th, with a bigg 4 feet square box as a sledge with a rope. The 8th. freshy, the 9th. afull fresh. John Ord and me at Bomiekelloch, a terrible road coming home, both some top laden. John Ord sunk one of his legs in the snow and could not take it out, I put my staff below the bight of his leg and broke it without taking out the foot, as funny a job I ever had. Some fresh the 10th. and 11th. Got home some guano (96) one ton one qur. the 14th., the 15th, frost and blowing the 16th., the 17th. Fife Keith market I sold 2 quoys at Â£19. Deep snow the frost quite hard, driving out dung to the Banks the 18th. Mr. Cirmichal, Main of Davidstoons, eldest son died the 19th. Margaret Newlands, wife of Alexr. Masson, Souter at Linmore Toll, died the 19th. A weighty snow the 19th., I have just 9 ricks the 19th., fresh the 27th. and plows going the 30th. Our horses all ill but one at this time of influenzie.

April 1853.

Begins the 1st. high winds fresh and cold, we yoaked the plow with the oxen the 2nd., the first yoaking for the past seven weeks and 4 days on the fiddler haugh 7 ricks the 2nd. Some sown the 7th. in the parish, turned out a bad day with wind and rain. The 8th. wind sleet and rain. I sold Bomiekelloch 8 stots the 6th. at Â£82. Oats straw Â£1-9 to Â£1-12 pr qur., Oats per qur. 16s-d. pr. 40lb. and seed Â£1. The sowing general the 16th. we only the 18th. we sowed 16-1/2 qurs. in the Scoug shift quite dray but weet, wet before April market capital. Sold John Gauld 8 stots at Â£82 and to Wm. Bain old cow Â£6-10. We had 42 qurs. sown 23rd. quite dray, cold the 24th. with showrs of snow, about four acres of torneeps in the land yet. Grouth begining only in torneeps and grass looking a little green, Isabell always verry poorly. The Nonintrusion Church contracted the at Wm. Stronachs sawmill the 17th. in the verry dame at the top of the mill, stance cut the 26th. rough showrs of snow 26th. George Gauld died Bomiekelloch 27th. April 1852. Geo. McWillie

May 1853.

Begins with drught, the grouth begining. All our torneeps home the 3rd., all the oats sown the 4th., the grass seeds the 5th. The 7th. and 8th. hail, flags and sleet. John Addison, Davidstoon, married the 7th. William Taylor to Deskford for Bettys mother. The 8th. about 3 and 1/2 ricks and 3

weeks torneeps the 8th, set the potatos the 12th. drughty and verry cold. I took the Mill of Ardbrack in second years grass for Â£28. The 14th. no grass still cold drught, our cows and calves out to grass the 22nd., sowed the sweddish neeps the 26th, and sold an old cow at Â£8-10 and a year old at calving at Â£8. Still droughty, all the Banks ready for neeps and one halph drilled. Rain the 28th. William Taylor, first man, Jas Bremner, 2nd. Â£6-10. I had a pure bull calved the 29th., my pony foaled a mare foal the 30th. Sowed the first of the neeps the 30th., verry drughty but good grouth. Jas, Cruickshanks wiffe, Betty Stronach, died the 29th.

June 1853.

Begins verry drughty with frost at night, I wead all my onions and carrots the 1st, Isabella out the length of the garden and grannies the 1st. She was not out of the house since the middle of October, 7 and 1/2 months. Our men casting turfs the 4th., still verry drughty. I got a new one pound the 4th. made the twenty-six of May the North of Scotland Bank, I had it on the 4th. of June, Cattle terrible dear, good calves 4 to Â£5, good two year olds Â£9 to Â£10 and oats 17s-6d. pr 40 lbs. The minester did not preach the 5th. it was Mr. Thomson, Keith and Mr. Cruickshank, Mortlach. The 12th. Mr. Masson wants to set the Glebe. At this time still very drughty, all the banks of Burnend sown in neeps the 11th. Making four dozen pailing at this time. Isabella still verry poorly. Still great drought, a small rain at 7 oclock all night the 19th. quite warme. John Moggach at Mains died 13th. I was at Huntly market the 22nd., hard drught. Mostly all torneeps, both common and sweddish cut of about Huntly. My brother John here the 22nd. and 24th. The rain came weighty out on the evening of the 23rd., it has been worth full Â£3,000 to Botriphnie alone. Isabella verry poorly the 24th. Dr. Menzies here all night. Our neeps beautifull, driving my fathers fire the 23rd. The 24th. and 25th. weighty shows, oats Â£1 per 40lb., howing neeps the 30th. Some of the bear heads and oats shooting the 30th. terribly short.

July 1853.

Begins verry drughty, great need for rain. The Nonintrusion Kirk the 1st, all split and rent, no building for the past 7 days, I doubt built on sand, I doubt its giving the people more trouble nor the preaching. Amen, The Nonintrusion Church condemned to be taken out at the foundation. The foundation deepened thirty inches and planking 3 inch thick laid in the bottom and was all built but one gavel top, the people like to eat thair thoumbs. Cattle back Â£1 per head at the 14th., oats Â£1-1 pr. 42lb. Our neeps on shift all hoed the 12th., good weighty weather rains now the 14th., grand grouthy weather on to the 23rd., all the oats and barley all shot. The old schoolmaster, Mr. Cameron, Peter died the twenty third of the month at six o'clock in the morning after being Fifty four years schoolmaster of Botriphnie. Extraordinary good fellow for eather giving or taking a dram, buried Mortlach, Robert Burns died the same time. I got a

sting with a scape bee this day the 23rd. on the arm and all swelled and read as scarlet in the space of five minutes, extraordinary sick, near died. July the 27th. we colled our hay on the barfald, a light crop. Showry the 29th. our torneep shift almost hoed out the 29th. Harry Millne (97), died at Elgin the 26th., a cusin of my fathers, and buried the 30th. at Botriphnie. Put up the Admirals flag the 30th., the parson preached out of Job about 16 minutes the 31st.

Agust 1853.

Begins with some showrs the first and dray on to the 8th. Oats selling at Â£1-1 pr. 40 lbs. No grouth in the pasture grass, too dray, our hay built the 4th. Isabella still verry poorly, the 8th. canvassing for a schoolmaster. Hes an ill mannered lout, John Garrow, our orrow man, he glours in at the window as he goes past to his meat. William Taylor went to Buckie the 14th., cloudy, verry warme and dray. The 23rd. and 24th. great drught, some bear cut in Achendoun the 16th. and a dale of rain the 26th. and great need, the grass for cattle verry scarce. A great push for a schoolmaster about the 14th., Mr. Robb, the hilpenner schoolmaster, Alexander Curmichal, Celloch, and one Wear from Carnie all candidates for it. Masson the minester supporting the latter but pretends nothing but his great support to Mr. Curmichal, Bad, Bad. The 27th. and 28th. rainy and warme, repairing roads and the close bire stalls and bindings. Isabella still verry poorly, rain on to the end.

September 1853.

Begins cold with rain. Mr. Cameron roup the 3rd. rain and some rainy on to the 9th., our harvest people came home the night of the 9th. and cut bear and green thach all day then began the oats Monday the 12th. and the 13th. rainy. Our big white bull bound in three weeks ago we was obliged the 10th. to bind him by the ring of the nose with iron chain, but that settles the lad. Capital warme weather, we had two shifts cut and twenty stacks taken in the 23rd, and all cut the 29th. Rather watery with wind the past 6 days. John Cruickshank, a noted potcher, formerly in Glenheath, thrown out of a gig and killed the 24th., collecting game.

October 1853.

Begins very warme. We had in 23 ricks the 1st., on the 4th. lead four ricks of clean ground oats but verry bad condition not win. the 5th. great rain and wind, we bound in stots for feeding. The 6th, verry weighty rain and wind on to the 9th. The oats mostly all in in Botriphnie, we have full four acres of clean ground out at the foot of Haggishaw. A son of Wm. Innesses died at Sauchenward about the 1st. and a Ketty George cusin about the same time, I forgat our potatos the end of September. Isabella always veiry poorly the 9th. Our crop all in the 19th., verry watery, our harvest people away the 20th. The most of our torneeps shift plowed

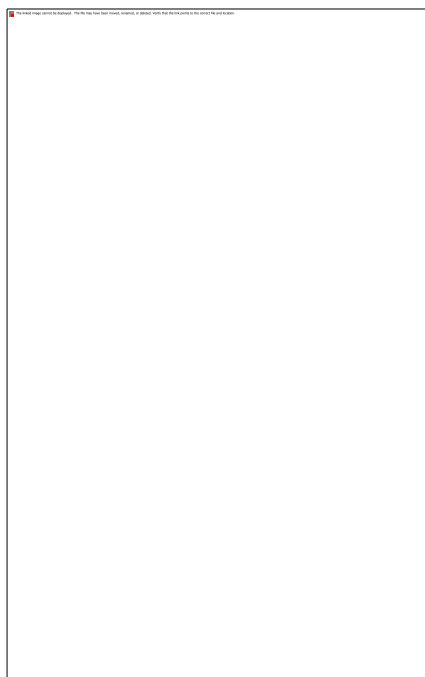
21st. Oats from £1-2 to £1-5 pr. qur. Capital weather with high winds, plowing avel the 28th.

November 1853.

Begins with capital days, rather rough winds, plowing going on as if spring. I was elected member of the Board the second. Mr. Carmichael took up the parish school the 24th. October One thousand eight hundred and fifty three. Began plowing ley the 20th., capital weather. We had James Dunbar, our let gamekeeper here the 23rd. Oats £1-3 per 40lb. Capital weather during harvest, only about three nights frosts to this time. Capital weather on to the 28th. the day of the plowing match on the Claggens of Midthird, 23 plows, Wm. Moggach, Newbrough, first prise.

December 1853.

Begins capital weather. Jean Sinclair or Mrs. Riach, Drumgrain, died the 2nd. All our ley and avel plowed at this time. good fresh weather on to the 18th. then rather watery on to the 25th. Snow the 26th., 27th. and then blowing on to the end. Old Mrs. Forbes, Cottertoon, died about the 15th. aged 95. Isabella always verry poorly, failed traveling to and from her bead the 27th. Oats £1-3-6 pr 40lb., Beef from 56 to 62 shillings per cwt. I have only 19 ricks and 1300 stones of hay, one fat quoy away at £12-10, 34 imperial stones, girth 5 feet 8 inches and 4 feet 5 inches, the bull is ready and 1 quoy and 2 stots.



ELLEN (HELEN) MILNE

Helen Milne married William McWillie RN=231 at Bottriphnie parish in May 1833. Unfortunately William died in June of 1841 leaving five children. There are a number of related Milne families in Bottriphnie parish. Later Ellen remarried and the family immigrated to Montreal Canada. Descendants of that family can now be found at various locations in Canada and the United States,

January 1854.

My daughter Isabella (98), died at eight o'clock A.M. the first day of the month and first day of the new year. She took her death in the following manner. In the summer 1850 the 27th. June with a pain in the back of her head, she got soon better but failed in the beginning of harvest, at the gathering, and never gathered again. It was on the field betwixt the garden and tollroad. She had a cough and pain in left side, then gathered a great spit up which continued to her death. She was beadfast from Sptr. 1852 the 23rd. June 1853 she went out to the garden, helped me weed some carrots and in to my fathers the 1st. of June 1853. I took her three times out in the gig the length of the lodge at Woodend with little Bettie that week, she was never out after. Great cough and spit on to within four days of her death. She rose every night at neat eight o'clock and sat at the fire in my arm chair from twenty minutes to half an hour and the night before she died the clock stopped and it was nine before she was aware. She rose and sat three quarters of an hour, went to her bed as usual, I went to mine too, the cough stopped as she lay down, she had ill getting up the glut in her breast. Jean put me up at two as her mother saw her getting weaker, Jean went to her bed with little Bettie and her mother was to awake Jean if she got worse. Isabella told her take up Bettie, she would like to see her, she gave her two apples and told Jean to give herself an orange she had in the press, she held it up in her hand, said it was a right bonny one, she smiled but could say no more. I think she wanted to give some of us it but could say no more. She looked at us all, one by one, closed her eyes in sleep and slept the sleep of death at eight o'clock in the morning and was buried the fourth.

Great snow and extraordinary frost. The snow came on the first of the month, the 8th. desperate with wind and sleety blowing all day. Our mill always going but little water and plenty of headed neeps, pulling some the 16th. a foot of hard snow above them. Corn selling here at £1-5 pr. 40lb. The Boharm minister, Mr. Forbes, died preaching the 8th. in the schoolhouse owing to the deep snow. The 19th. a sudden fresh, terrible high wind brook the top of our barn. The 20th and 21st. all quite fresh, plows going the 20th., still high winds and victuals very dear. The oats £1-6 pr. qur. and beef from 9s-6d to 10 shillings. I here the sudden fresh has done a deal of ill with icebergs and big waters. 22nd. high, high winds and terribly high on the 30th. Betty and me at Bomiekelloch terrible rough night.

February 1854.

Begins fine weather but high winds with frost. James Ross, Miller, his daughter, Margaret died at Elgin the 4th. Snow the 7th. and 8th. wind and frost and the 12th. frost and blowing. I sold a fat white bull the 12th. at £23, most devilish illnatured, to one Wisely, Aberdeen, fresh the 13th. and cold, the bull was 74 stones imperial. Only 12 ricks the 13th, but a deall of hay and begun to eat it. The Saturday 18th. terrible wind with snow showrs for 24 hours and Saturday the 25th. desperate wind. The 26th. and 27th. capital days, all our clean ground plowed in to our torneeps on the Banks. Capital dray weather on to the end of the month, hot always on to the end of the month.

March 1854.

Begins extraordinary dray-dray the 6th. terrible winds took the thach of many houses, our cart shead among the rest. Terrible winds every day and no rain for the past three weeks. We began sowing the 10th. The Free Church at Howdoup roused the 11th., I got a young bull, the 11th. all our ley and avel sown and harrowed the 18th., 9 ricks now with a sow of hay. Our ley and all our avel sown and ten acres of clean-ground sown the 24th. aful dray and still high winds. Some rain the 25th., the torneeps growing fast, all our glack neeps above the road to take home yet. The frouit trees and bushes all green, all our clean land shift sown 27th., grass seeds in and all rolled the 31st. The hill above Glackmuck burned about 5 acres of the wood. it was verry high wind, 1400 trees lost. About 20 ships of the British fleet of to Russia (99), and ten thousand land forses. Still verry dray, all sown but for the neeps in the Glack.

April 1854.

Begins with excessive drught. The oats most beautifull briard, all the grass and trees quite green, no rain since the 26th. February. I sent away 6 stots the 10th., fat at £16-5 per head. Only 6 ricks in the yard the 11th. Plowing our potato land the 10th. Betty and Jean at the minesters for thair tea 11th. Potatos planted the 18th. James Sellar, Blacksmith, Tennantoon, died the 24th. a race of Blacksmiths this for 400 years in Botriphnie, which will be seen on looking at thair gravestone in the Churchyard, aged about 56 years, left two young sons carrying on the trade. Still great drught on to the 26th., the oldest of fourscore and four does not mind on the like. Great many springs dried and threshing mills stopped for want of water. Wm Duncans oldest son, a boy, died the 27th. at or in the Mains of Bellyhack. A good deal of rain the morning of the 27th. and some showrs but verry slight at the end,

May 1854.

Begins rather cold with haill showrs. Hugh Robertson mending mudthach on the barn the 2nd. I bought a rick straw from Braehead the 4th., cold with showrs of haill and sleet and rain on to the 8th. which was rather weety. Only 4 ricks some hay and some headed torneeps. We hear the British fleet has bombarded the city of Odessa in Russia, the word came the 6th., and sunk and destroyed 12 of thair fleet and took 13 Merchantmen ships. Westertoon sowing neeps the 15th., one halph of our shift formed the 19th., sowed some the 20th. Feed Mr. Taylor, Jas. Bremner at Â£7-2-6, Alexr. Bremner Â£6-2-6 and Christie at Â£4 and Alexr. Mann Â£-5. Oats Â£1-12 per 42lb. Real dray weather 20th. Taylor McIntosh house burned and part of Wm. Innesses and Alexr. Chalmers upon the morning of Sunday the 21st. We sowed the third of our torneeps the 26th., our cattle to grass the 24th., rather cold and not much growth. A great rain the 28th. and 29th. and closs fog with drizzle rain the 30th.

June 1854.

Begins with rain. We did not lose one yoaking of the plow or harrow since we began sowing the 10th. March and long before. Cattle dear, beef from 9s-6d. to ten shillings per imperial stone, grass growing weall now. Thinking long every week for newspapers just now to here how the British and French are getting on with the Russia ware. Oats Â£1-12 per 40lb. and meall from Â£1-5 to Â£1-6. Little Betty not weall and left school about the 26th, of May. All torneeps sown out the 14th. and day of June market. We had to go for Dr. Menzies the night of the 13th. at 9 o'clock complaining on hir breast and verry sick, some better next morning, the doctor remained all night. The night of the 14th. went for him again at 9 oclock at night and he remained all night and not thinking hir dangerous and nixt night at 10 oclock went for him, he stayed all night but no appearance of betterness and poor little Bettie (100), died at four o'clock afternoon 16th. Hir mother and me missed hir at the brackfast table nixt morning; little Bettie had a bad colour for a few months past, complaining some on hir breast, hir left one, and whiles on hir head. We thought nothing of it, we sent hir to Dufftoon to the Doctor about the 7th., she got some Calamel, but no better, he said it was hir stomach. On Tuesday the 13th. she was worse, the doctor mintained it was hir stomach and would soon be better, but pure little Bettie died at four o'clock the afternoon of the 16th. About an hour or so she died she tied the front of hir night gown and tied hir mutch and repaired some flannel about hir head as right and as regular as any one could have done, I asked hir if she was going from home, I asked whean she would be back, she told me she was not coming back. Poor Bettie had one halph of the shorter Catichisern and the most of the mother catechisem on hir memory besides psalms and paraphrases all before she could read. She had none of them said over but she could repeat them again, She died at age of seven and five months and four days. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, A blessed be his name, he takes out what he gave. Hir sister Isabella five months

and four days before little Bettie departed this life. It has continued rather rainy from the 19th, to the 22nd. but terrible warme and terrible grouth. I see a great dale of the crop ludged not begining to shot. Our bear some heads just coming out, grass growing beautifull. Began plowing neeps the 28th. John Stewart, Paulscroft, died the 24th. The Nonintrusionists collecting Â£16 to pay debt on the Church the 30th.

July 1854.

Begins rather watery, quite warme and growing weather, some oats in our Glack begining to shoot. A meating of the Parochal Board the 3rd. Oats Â£1-10-6 per 40lb., rather rainy for the middle of July. Our torneeps hoed for the first time 18th., cutting hay the 24th. I caught James Dawn, Glackmuck, stealing my bull to a cow at eleven o'clock on Sunday night the 16th. George Christie, White Cow, cut his right hand through the bons on the back with the Admirals saw-mill. I assisted Dr. Turner in cutting it of by the joint of the shacklebone. Most beautifull weather on to the end of the month. George McWillie.

Agust 1854.

Begins verry warme, weighty thunder and rain in many places. Glass market stiff but great prices, good two year old stots and quoys from Â£12 to Â£14, Oats Â£1-7 per 40lb. The old woman of Langlanburn (101) came here the 26th, June, Jean at Buckie that week. Capital weather but some weighty showrs about the 8th. Alexr. (102), of Hungryhills here the 7th. on to the 11th. Our torneeps all finished the 12th., Lammasday. My father rather poorly for this while past, always working in his shop. All our fire about drove and thached. The 29th. beautifull weather, verry warme, a deal of barley almost ready for cutting and oats turning fast. The British and French has taken the Isle of Alund or fort of Bomersound from the Russians at this time. George Cruickshank died the 27th. aged 87 years.

September 1854.

Begins most beautifull weather. We cut our barley and pulled our lint the 6th. and our harvest people came home the 8th. and cut oats the 9th. day September. Margaret Gordon, Glack, died 7th. Margaret Ross died, of Mill of Towie, the 4th. February, both old servants. My own Isabella died the first of January and my poor little Bettie the 16th. of June, all within the short space of eight months. I got a 12 & 3/4 gallons of spirits (103) the 5th., verry dear just now. My father verry poorly for the past few months and always getting a degree worse for scarcety of breath and a great pain in the head. All our crop ready for cutting down. The 13th. day of summerives fair, I sold two stots to one Mr. Maitland, Parish of Inch, at Â£44, two year olds comon price Â£12 to Â£14 pr. head, and a capital day for harvest. 18 ricks in the 20th. rather watery on to the 23rd. about

one halph of our clean ground to cut the 23rd. Oats selling at Â£1-8 per 40lb. Rather watery with high winds on to the end.

October 1854.

Begins the first dray with high winds, all our crops in the 2nd., our ricks thached and potatos up the 5th. Our harvest people away the 14th. being Saturday. On the night of Friday the 13th. one Westertoons servants from Backhill of Kininvie. Joseph Watt, about 16 years old, went to bead at one o'clock and was found quite dead and stiff or morning. We tied up 16 of our cattle the 17th. verry weety day. Oats now Â£1-2 per 40lb. Rather watery and sleety showrs from the 20th. to the 25th. My father rather poorly, the 25th. we was twice at Dufftoon at the doctor for him this 25th., sore breast and hard cough. Good weather, rather high winds the 28th. Capital plowing on to the end.

November 1854.

Begins rather cold. Friday the 2nd. sold 16 qurs. of oats at Â£1-4-4 pr. 40lb, and 15 qurs. at Â£1-5. The 3rd. quaiet with mist and rain. The Allies began the bombardment of Sebastapool both by sea and land. Began plowing ley the 8th. high winds with rain the 9th. and rather rainy on to the 22nd. which was sleet and rain and storm the 25th. Mens fees from Â£7-5 to Â£8 for real good hands, woman 30-35 and 40 shillings. The battle of Inkerman the fifth and about 10000 Russians killed and wounded, they made a sally out of Sebastopool but was in again. I was out with Westerton the 2nd. of December getting up a subscription for the wives and families of the killing in Russia. The plowing match was at Ardbrack in the little Tennantoon Park, 24 plows and denner 3s-6d.

December 1854.

Begins the day after the plowing match a six inch snow, fresh and all of the 3rd. Sleety showrs and high winds on to the 9th. which was verry high with snow. The 10th. some snow and keen frost, Isabella McWilliam died 1st., Glen of Newmill, long Mrs. George of Oldlenoch, aged 95 years. For solgers and widows and bairns in Botriphnie Â£60-4-4. I interned the Banff Journal the 9th of November 1854. John, my brother, came here the 20th. to see my father, still verry poorly, cold sleety showrs with frost and some snow, One day frosty and another fresh, went home the 23rd. and most terrible high wind. All our ley plowed the 22nd. but some endrigs. My father still verry poorly. Still high winds with sleet and rain. The 30th. terrible wind the whole day with sleety showrs. The wind making the hair stand on my head. Geo.McWillie.



Photo. John McWillie, author's grandfather who was born at Langlanburn farm, Deskford, Scotland in 1846.



John McWillie along with his wife Margaret Mitchell and children moved to Langlanburn farm in 1844. Their daughter Betty was married to George McWillie author of these diaries. There are many recordings throughout the diaries of various visits between these two families. Langlanburn farm is situated a short distance south and west of the village of Deskford which can be found on the road B9618 between Cullen and Keith, Scotland. Prior to moving to Deskford John had farmed on the Mains of Towiebeg, in Drummuir estate. There are reports that claim the area was initially a heavy forested area but that the timber was harvested during

the last two world wars. The country consists of gently rolling hills with the above photograph showing the terrain looking east from the farm home. The farm continued to be farmed by descendants of the McWillie family until around 1900.

January 1855.

It is just one year since Isabella died this day. It is terrible high winds for the past twenty four hours but fine fresh weather. Grass and torneeps begining to grow quite green. Oats £1-4-6 at Portgordon. My father always rather poorly. My gig repaired the 5th. The 8th, quite fresh but verry high wind. Our New Years sermon, Job 10. all on sickness, death and famine. Capital fresh fine weather, Mr. Cirmichal, schoolmaster went to Aberdeen to hold his Yule, he sent some letters dated Dundee the 1st. that he was coming back to Botriphnie and one to John Ord, session clerk, the 12th. to proclaim him and Jean Gordon, daughter of George Gordon, Westerton. Some sleety shows the 16th.

Helen McWillie (104) my aunt. born 4 March 1764

Alexr. McWillie. my uncle born Septr. 26th. 1770

John McWillie. my uncle, born 15th. Octr. 1772

William McWillie, my father, born 15th. Agust 1776

Margaret Mitchell,. John McWillies wiffe born 13th March 1767 (Bettys mother aged 88)

The ground some white with snow and hard frost the 24th. and 25th. My father still verry poorly. About four inches of snow the 28th. and 29th. I have just 30 ricks and large one of old straw. Mr. Alexr. Cirmichal, the schoolmaster, was married thursday the 25th. at Westerton. Oats from £1-3 to £1.3-6 per 40lb.

February 1855.

Begins with snow and hard frost. John, my brother, came here to see my father the first day of February 1855. My father verry, verry poorly, we had to sit with him for the first time on the last night January. Closs mist the third and getting quite soft with cold. My father always quite poorly, still sitting with him. John my brother, still here the 11th. and about six inches of snow, hard frost and quite quaiet. I see by the public prints our army still dying with Colra, descintrie and cold, all for the want of cloaths, meat and hard work in the trenches, loosing about 100 weekly with bad usage. I think thair is fully 13 inches of snow overall and hard frost. Wm. Taylor at Keith for coals, a deal more snow the 29th. with some blowing. My father still verry poorly. Taking home some torneeps with the snow plow through the past week. Deep snow and hard frost on to the end.

March 1855.

Begins fresh. Some heather appearing on Bellyhack hill. My father always verry poorly. Turned verry quaiet the 2nd. day of March, cattle rather back for the past month and oats Â£1-2-6 to Â£1-3 pr. qur. of 40lb. Snow cutting on the tollroad the 2nd, and a great Fummackfair; about 100 head of cattle and 2 tents with whisky and a capital sale. The market stood on the haugh at Burnend. John, my brother went home the 5th. my father now verry weak. The 8th some plows going, the 6th. we squared of our clean land, the 8th. a deal of snow still lying on low land; hard frost at night. The 11th and 12th. hard blowing, the 15th. high wind with snow showsrs. On Friday the second, Nicholas Palovitch, the king of all the Russians died. Great word that it will bring peace, but I should rather think not untill they take Sebastapool and make them pay for the ware. Thursday the 15th. day of Fife Keith market., terrible high wind with rain, sleet and cold frost, cold.

My father, William McWillie (105), RN=19, died the sixteenth of March at twenty minutes past four o'clock afternoon and was buried on Monday afternoon the 19th. We had to sit with him 6 weeks, the truble all in his breath and head, he was all swelled up before he died. He was born Agust the 15th. 1776 he was aged 78 and 6 months. He was born in Midtoon of Towiebegg, took halph of Cachenhead in the year 1798, lived thair and wrought his trade and farm to 1835, had all the farm from 1825 gave it over to me 1835 then removed with me to Midthird 1844 and continued at his trade and making most kinds of Wright and Smith work, knives, razzors, most kinds of iron and steel tools. Souldering most kinds of metal, making and silverising all kinds of looking glasses, did a deal cutlery, gardening and working among beef. Him, Alexr, and John, I think was three as stoot, weall built men as the parish produced, all wore the highland kilt till old men. Father the first death on the new register of deaths. Mr. Cirmichal, schoolmaster, first on the register of married. The plow stoped the 25th. January, we have plowed two yoakings 13th. of this month, great deal of old snow on our land. Great frost all night, showsrs of snow every day on to the 25th. the land verry weet. I have 18 ricks the 24th., two ricks and one of old straw and 8 feet of an hay stack and men quite idle, but feeding the cattle.

DEATH CERTIFICATE

REF: 1855-148/1

Parish of Botriphnie in the County of Banff

Entry No 1

<i>Name:</i>	<i>William McWillie</i>
<i>Sex:</i>	<i>Male</i>
<i>Occupation:</i>	<i>Turner of wood</i>
<i>Age:</i>	<i>78 years</i>
<i>Birthplace:</i>	<i>Botriphnie from his birth</i>
<i>Parents:</i>	<i>John McWillie, Farmer (Deceased)</i> <i>Ann McWillie, Maiden Name Ord</i> <i>(Deceased)</i>
<i>Family:</i>	<i>1. John 55 - Married to Isobel</i>
<i>Shearer</i>	<i>2. George 53</i>
	<i>3. William - Deceased at 35 in</i>
<i>1842</i>	
	<i>4. Jane - Deceased at 39 in</i>
<i>1852</i>	
	<i>5. Alexander - 38</i>
<i>Died:</i>	<i>Sixteenth March 1855 at 4 hrs 20</i> <i>mins p.m. at Midthird Botriphnie</i>
<i>Cause of Death:</i>	<i>1. Heart Disease</i> <i>2. Congestion of Lungs, 2 years</i> <i>As certified by George</i> <i>Menzies, Surgeon, who saw the deceased March 12th</i> <i>1855</i>
<i>Burial Place:</i>	<i>Taken to the Churchyard at</i> <i>Botriphnie, as certified by Alexander Gavon, Sexton</i>
<i>Informant:</i>	<i>George McWillie (Son) 1855 March</i> <i>20th at Botriphnie</i>
<i>Registrar:</i>	<i>John Ord (Registrar)</i>

Scottish death certificate dated, March 1855 for George's father, William McWillie and are invaluable documents for family research purposes.

April 1855.

Begins frosty and cold. I was at Huntly market the 4th., Aberlour the 5th., both rather back in price. Oats Â£1-2-6 to Â£1-3 pr. 40lb. We sowed the

halph of our avel the 6th., the 8th cold rain and snow. My mother verry poorly the 8th. and on to the 12th. which is rainy the whole day, then good sowing weather on to the end. Our crop was all laid down the 30th. a capital season, gay frosty through most nights of the month. Our torneeps all up the 30th. Oats now Â£1-3 pr. 40 lb., I have 12 ricks, 2 of old straw and 40 feet of a swine of hay.

May 1855.

Begins drught and cold the 3rd., high wind, haill showrs the whole day, excessive cold. Jean McWillie RN= 67 and John Watt proclaimed the 1st. at Huntly. The 8th. sleet and rain with high wind, the 9th. about four inches of snow, the 11th. the oats rose to Â£1-5. Cold with haill, sleet and rain and no grouth on to the 16th. Alexr., George and Isabella McWillie came here the 16th. Cattle back in price, no grouth or little mark of grass this year. My daughter, Jean McWillie (106), and John Watt. farmer, Turfhillock, was married the 17th. and or cattle out to grass the 24th. High winds the 26th. and 27th. quite drughty. Oats selling at Â£1-6 pr. 40lb.

June 1855.

Begins the first thunder at a distance, the 2nd. quite warme with showrs. John Dyce, Paulscroft, died by a hurt from a cow the 28th. of May. the foresaid cow got worried with a neep some weeks before. His daughter, Moriah, declared if the cow died they would be ruined and she would leave the town. So the cow has killed hir father and she will have a chance of not being long thair now. Capital weather, quite warme with some weighty rain. We have about three acres of torneeps to lay down. Little Betty died the 10th. of June 1854. at four o'clock P.M. All our torneeps sown the 23rd., quite warme with rain the 24th. and 25th. I heard just now the British and French had lost a great number of men at Sebastapool the 18th., by telegraph. Grass growing capital just now, our potatos hoed the 30th., extraordinary warme and grouthy, thunder and thunder showrs the 30th. John Guns daughter married to one Adam Bonniman the 30th.

July 1855, and 12th year of Nonintrusion.

July begins quite warme and great grouth, our torneeps just about ready for the hoe. I intend to start tomorrow for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Greenock and start I did by Huntly, Abdn., Montrose, Stonehaven, Perth, Stirling, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Dumbarton Castle and town of Dumbarton and 32 milles down to the end of Loachlomond and returned home on Monday the 9th. The Barley begun to shoot Huntly as I went of the 3rd. I saw some patches begining to shoot at different places as I came home, just as early in Botriphnie as any of the places. Our torneeps halph hoed whean I came home. The oats Â£1-6 pr. 40lb. I went to Banff

the 28th, to jury court, came home the 30th. Dreadfull warme weather, great rain the 29th. the whole day. Mr. Dixons smilting works requires 144 tons of coal the 24 hours, he has rails for taking them from the pit to his factory, he has 50 coalpits of his own. Thair is one chimney on a chemical factory the height of 400 feet, 25 men dined on the top it whean new built. The cemetery of Glasgow is 44 acres, some of the finest moniments I ever beheld. I was aboard of the persia stemer, the largest in the world, she was launched the day before I got to Glasgow, 372 feet long., 30 feet deep. Glasgow green is 100 acres along the east side of the river all posted for a bleach field, nothing on it but Nelsons moniment. It is here that the saut market of Glasgow is held. I saw nothing but shows of all descriptions, sheep and sises, especially large swings full of whowers night and day and all kinds of people, men, woman and chidren, theves and robbers. I should not wonder thar is just three hundred and seventy five thousand inhabitants besides other people attending the fair. I was not one night in town but thair was f*** in some corner of it. The river Clyde streght down the middle of the town, thair is five bridges; two suspentions and three arched. Home bound stopped at Larbert Station about 15 minutes, eighty trucks lying thair at the time. Around Bannockburn a beautifull place, leavel lands full of Gentlemens Seats, past Stirling at 10 O'clock A.M. The Carsagowries on both sides of the road. Bridge of Allan station passed Dumblane at 20 minutes past ten A.M. passed a small spot of shot barly here, beautifull leavel lands here as far as I can see. Gradual slopping and grand tree rows, at Pearth at eleven o'clock, at Coupar Angus 15 minutes past 11 A.M. Mizzlie next and so on.

Glasgow July 1855. George McWillie.

Went aboard the Emprour stemer halph past nine, Broomelow, first past a great ship building yard all under cover, then passed Whiteinch, then passed a driging machine with 36 of hir boats in tow, next stemer putting of passengers at Renfrew, Beautifull parks and hedges all the way. Passed a large stemer and a lady came aboard ours, then passed hundreds of men harrowing out mud taken from the river. Passed the Sabaroon, verry large stemer lying too. The river getting about 400 yards broad. Stopped at Drumglass some minutes, large rocky mountains on the east all green and wooded, passed a large rock jutting into the river with a moniment to Henry Bell first inventor of steme on the Clyde. The river now one mile broad, rocky mountains about Drumkirk, here passed down the west side of Dumbarton Castle, passed a large number of sailing vessals and large stemers all the way down to Port Glasgow. Passed the Irishman stemer here loaded with eggs and kail from Pot Glasgow, two miles down to Greenock the hills green and a dale of stunted bushes, the river about three milles broad, hilly both sides.

I went through all Greenock, a long town, along the river side a great deal of shipbuilding here and large shuggar manufactory, I left here per rails

for Paisly, beautifull gardens for a number of milles, beautifull. then about 2 miles of rock and tunnels then one miile of moss all open ditches. The land to west hedgerows and wood on to Paisly, thair at one o'clock, one hundred yards of tunnel here throw rock, beautifull all the way to Glasgow. Next day sailed down the Clyde past Renfrew, the Carth water comes from it. One miile below Renfrew passed a large Liverpool vessal, within four feet, in tow of a stemer. Took two ladies aboard here of a boat. One of the driggers working here, passed the ship Rival of 800 tons in tow of a stemer. Landed at the town of Bowlling, a number of ships lying here, at ten o'clock went on the rails here. Started in five minutes running north, to the east dreadfull hills and wood round the bases and rocks towring above the tops of the trees. Stopped five minutes at Dumbarton station, the houses all built of bricks and tilled, good gardens. Passed down the east side of Dumbarton rock and castle, stoped at Renton station and village, Argyleshire, fine potatos here and apple trees. Renten lies in a hollow and Alexandria is two milles from Renten after passing Dumbarton bridge. The people is extraordinary long headed I believe owing that you are out of Renfrewshire into Argyleshire. Now at Balloch, capital neeps here, all the cows are small flecked Argyleshire and all round Glasgow. Balloch Castle here and Tillychuan Castle belongs to one Camble. Left the rails here at Balloch and went aboard the Prince Albert stemer at the south end of Loachlomond, thair was three hundred aboard. Entered the loach at nine o'clock A.M., trees, houses and wood to the waters edge, passed the largest island in the loach, 2 milles by three. Sailed to Rowandennan Hottl closs on the waters edge, the ship was moored to the root of a large tree. Here you will get a pony and guide up to the top of Benlomand. All the mountains with stunted oaks on the east, one or two small houses and yards on the waters edge among the stunted oaks. Extraordinary warme but some snow lying on the Inverglass mountain. Landed at 12 o'clock at Ardlui Hottl, we was landed by planks thrown down of the ships side. Thair was no one stopping in the hotle we had to go 1 mille and 3/4 to refresh, dreadfull heat. An oak tree here 4 feet of shank 18 boughs, the smallest 17 inches through, another just the same only 17 boughs. The oaks, all the way for 25 and 3/4 milles on the east side only 3 to four feet of shank and small round top like a small rick. A capital road on the west side all the way, thair is 24 islands all wooded and some of them full of deer, one of them with the ruins of an old castle all wood around, it was planted by Robert the Bruce. Passed Robe Roys cave and him standing before it in full highland dress. Thair was one brass gun aboard of three inches of bore. I saw the place where the battle of Longside was fought and Queen Mary sate in the castle of Dumbarton and saw himself defeted. Coming up from Bouling to Glasgow, 10 milles, we met 64 ships in one hour and 15 minutes just rubing on one another as they passed. This is not the halph.

Agust 1855.

Begins rather watery, our hay cut but not colled, all our torneeps hoed the second time 6th. still rainy. Sweabourgh destroyed by the British and French fleets the 14th. Some barley cut in some places about the 7th. Wm. Taylor at Buckie the 17th. Some loads of fire home the 14th., warme and dray the 23rd. I was harling and repairing the stabling of the byre and putting up the iron cow on the top of the gavel. The 24th. high wind and rain the whole day, it is really backward weather. The crop laid and twisted terrible the 24th. This is a new pencil I have got. All our fire drove and mothers the 5th. of Septr. The Admirals barley cut the 25th. Agust, Westerton began cutting the 28th., constant work, we began 8 days after. Alexr. Robertson left the 28th.

September 1855.

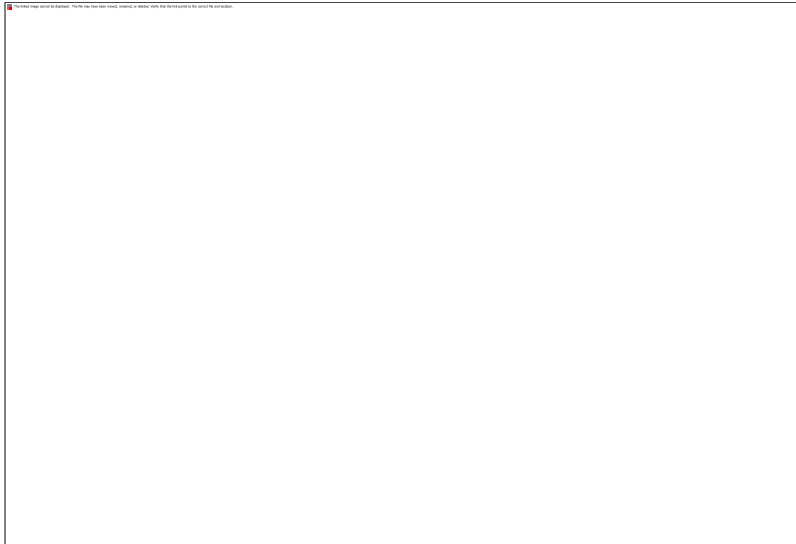
Begins verry warme. We began to cut the 6th. full force, cut some yavel and some clean ground. The weather rather cold with shows the 24th. all our land for torneeps plowed and in to the avel the 24th. Our cattle all on straw the 24th., cattle dear. Oats £1-10 pr. 40lb. and barley £1-18 pr. 54lb. Began to plow lay the 5th November.

November 1855.

Capital weather on to the 26th., leading torneeps, about 56 loads. One halph of our ley plowed the 26th. rather watery now the 26th., watery on to the end. Oats £1-9 pr. 40lb. and potatos going fast wrong in the pits. A man Cumming killed at Sandyhillock, a cart wheel passing over his head the 29th. John Watt, Turfhillock, poorly from the 6th. to the 14th., then his wiffe (107) , poorly from the 22nd to the end of the month, Betty thair nursing from the 22nd. to the end.

December 1855.

Begins verry rainy on to the 5th. which was very cold and stormy, the Boharm plowing match, I would not go to it. Betty still at Turfhillock the 5th. Isabella McWillie (108), poorly for the past 8 days, Tickcholoroe. William Taylor and me at a plowing match at Rosarie roup, wind at night, terrible wind with terrible hard frost which all lasted from Tuesday the 18th. to Saturday the 22nd. On the 19th. it turned over a large rick and set other four sorly to one hip, a good many ricks and houses turned. Monday the 24th. verry high wind and still hard frost. Oats £1-6 per 40lb. at Portgordon. Mrs Lumsden, Bracco, killed with a cart being overturned, the minesters wiffe and two other ladies in said cart and none hurt about the 10th. or 11th. The rail road from Huntly to Keith began to make about the first day of the month.



A Visit to Edinburgh, Scotland.

The compiling of a family history such as has been done with our McWillie family requires the cooperation and interest of many people. In the authors mind that, cooperation, assistance and contacts with the various family members have been one of, if not the most satisfying part of doing the family research. Two such people have been Harry and Agnes Stephen of Scotland RN=342. Harry had also been interested in family research and came across my name while doing research, made contact, and has been a great contributor ever since. Readers will note that a number of the photographs throughout this work are the result of Harry's skill with a camera. To the left of Agnes, Peter Dawes who is married to Sandra McWillie RN= 162 of Canada, They had visited Harry and Agnes while on a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. Peter and Sandra are also followers of our family research.

January 1856.

Begins quaiet, Verry misty and drizzling rain on to the 7th. Oats selling at Â£1-4-6 pr. 40lb. First shooting, three prises and took a pin out of the senter at a paill shot, third three prises. Some snow the 7th. and on to the 12th. but quaiet. The snow mostly all away the 18th. Sleet and rain the 19th., roads quite slippy. The Times Vienna correspondent telegraphs at ten P.M. on Wednesday the 16th. Russia has unconditionally accepted the propositions of the Allies, it is authentic, I scarcely think it, it may. Oats per qur of 40lb. 23 to 24shs. in Keith on Friday the 18th. Jas. Stewart of Linmore and Ann Garden, Westerton, bride and bridegroom the 13th. and married the 24th. Some plows going the 26th., frost and cold the 27th., a deep snow came on the 28th. hard blowing in the afternoon. Souter Johnstoon in the Ludge brocken some weeks ago and roumers of pace made with Russia, I dont expect it will be yet. I should go to a party at Ardbrack this night but its blowing too keen just now. Snow on to the end.

February 1856.

Begins with drizzling rain and sleet and slippery roads, snow all away the 7th, and plows going. I have 21 ricks and two of old straw the 9th. Oats now £1-9 pr. 40lb. and cattle back in price pounds a head. Done plowing all but riggers. All our avel plowed the 27th., capital weather on to the end. Fummacherfair beautiful weather, about two hundred cattle, a good many dealers 8 to 10. I sold 8 quoyes and one bull. It is the first selling market we have had. 3 tents for refreshments and capital drink. Jean Stables of Glenheath or, Mrs. Cruickshank, died about the 18th of February aged 90 years. The man of Woodend sowed some the week of fummackerfair it was a great cattle market for the first time. About 200 head, I sold 2 quoyes at £16 and six at less, averaging £3-5 each and a bull £22 to Mr. Mennie, Huntly, a many sold. Our plowing done but for our neeps. is, pailling wood 4 dozen, good on to the end.

March 1856.

Begins showry with sleet and some snow at the 9th, cold and the land white. The 10th quarrying some stones for a house in the yard, 13th. hard frost, the 15th. and 14th. high winds with hard frost. Our mill water frozed in the lead from the dame, all in grow, we was oblidged to set hir it was all like sowans, wind south east. The 17th and 18th quaiet and warme, we began sowing the 19th. on the far side of Haggishaw and quaiet on to the 25th,, all our ley and avel sown and harrowed the 25th. All my onions and carrots sown the 22nd. and set flowrs the 25th. I got from William Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack. All our oats sown but where the torneeps is. Peter away the 29th., put away, 18 weeks 51shs. and 3d ***2s.8 1/2. pr. week.

April 1856.

Begins quite dray. I have begun to build a small house in the garden the first. Roling our oats and harrowing our land for torneeps 4th. & 5th. high winds and hard drught, no rain since we began to sow. But the the 12th. a weighty rain for 28 hours then warme and dray. The 18th. all our grass seeds sown. One hundred loads of headed neeps yet sold 20 loads, 72 ricks, besides 2 ricks of old straw and 2 small ones of drawn straw and 36 foot of hay. William McIntosh, Glack of Midthird, died the 12th., he served in the 50th. regiment 15 years, he fought in Spain, Portugal, The Battle of Victoria, Corunna, Virniera, Salamanco, Talavari, The Siege of Copenhagen and Badajoiz and 4 time wounded. The 25th. extraordinary warme, from the 26th. to the 29th. sleet and rain with cold, the 29th. sleety and rain the whole day. The Banff Journal has the articles of pace the 29th. The Gamekeeper had pision laid on the Fummackfair haugh for crows and other vermint and pisioned our dog. That day three weeks I was out shoting rabbets with him and I shot a fine terrier bitch of his he

got for breeding, I mistuck hir for a rabbit in a whinbush --- That played him tit for tat, dealmecare, hah hah.

May 1856.

Dray and cold the first 8 days and then from the 12th. to the 14th. warme and grouthy. 80 shoot pailing mach the first week. All our torneep land cross plowed the 13th. and weall harrowed. Cold and weety from the 17th. to the 24th. George McWillie (109), Midtoon of Towiebegg, died the 19th. of sore throat in three days illness, aged eleven and six months. Servants wages high, Men first Â£9 to Â£10 and second Â£7 to Â£6 and weman Â£4 to Â£5.

June 1856.

Begins warme and dray but the end of May was cold and watery. We sowed the first of the torneeps the 30th. of May. The 4th, rain and hail desperet, some thunder all after one o'clock. I bought 2 black humble stots 2 year old the 2nd. at Â£20, cattle verry dear. My house in the garden roofed the 3rd. Oats Â£1-4 pr. 40lb. Rather showry from the 10th. to the 13th. all our neep shift sown the 13th.. quite warme. I bought 6 stots from Linmore at Â£8-12-6 pr. head, grass quite scarce with many. Alexr. (110), making two barley mills to send to Aberdeen, one of them away the 10th. June market good for fat and stiff for small. The 19th and 20th. verry rainy, great many of the torneeps first sown cut of with flie or cold, many sown the second time. Cold and frosty on to the end of the month. Many people poorly of for grass. George McWillie.

July 1856.

Begins rather warmer, our potatos hoed 1st. and 2nd. John Millne Donald and Mrs. M. Donald and three of a family came here from Glasgow the 2nd. for a few days, one rainy and the other dray. Donald Catanach, Linemore Bellyhack, taken a woman minus of one leg, vagarent and whore and published themselves man and wiffe in the Banfshire newspaper. John M. D. drawing Bettys likeness and my own the 15th. and 16th. Upon 15th. a terrible weighty showr of rain passed through Botriphnie and down by Rothemay some barley showing the aven 8th. rain most every day since the month came in. Oats now selling from Â£1-10 to Â£1-11 pr. 40lb., bushell barley Â£2. The 16th, weighty rain and high wind from the north. Began to hoe some torneeps the 15th. I have six old stacks of oats yet in the yard the 16th. besides 2 of thrashed and 3 small ones of drawn straw. John McDonald went home to Glasgow the 21st. verry warme. The oats shooting fast about 2 days howing of torneeps the 26th, craws eating the potatos,

August 1856.

Begins verry warme. Dined at Mr. Carmichals the 2nd., a thream thram that night. Cutting hay the 3rd. and howing torneeps the second time the 3rd., dreadfull warme and quaiet and sunshine on to the 6th. which was a deal of thunder but no rain. An Irish man drowned in the Lin of Keith about the 26th. of June. Thrush some hay seed the 15th. drove home our Glack fire the 18th. and driving from Bodenfinach the 17th., bear begining to turn, the oats filling fast. Betty and me at Rothemay the 14th. quite warme. Building a dyke at the top of closs, putting in a trough for watering the horses and cattle.

September 1856.

Begins rather cloudy and cold, Cottertoon cut some bear, the first in the parish, the 2nd,, Jas. Humphray some oats the 8th., Westertoon the 15th., I would think it rather green. Hugh Robertson mud-thaching the 11th. Our harvest people came home the 22nd,, we are puting in water pipes for the close the 22nd. We cut one halph acre in the lower Glack the 22nd. in the afternoon. Thair was one Mr. North that preached in the pulpit of the Free Church in the forenoon and lectured in the Old Church in the afternoon from Lettering, he is a Church of England laird, he says he is just now reformed from drink, whooredom and all other sins that can be committed. The 23rd. and 24th. and 25th. weighty rain all the three days and nights, the crop terribly twisted and laid and we have nothing to do but twin reapes. We cut oats the 27th. from 10 o'clock to even. Sunday the 28th. a full day of wind and rain, betwixt Sunday and Monday the waters all down terrible, our cattle all bound up the 29th, for the wind and rain. Arndilly lectured in the Free Church the 28th. from Hebrews the 2nd. and 29th. vers. Terrible with rain on to the end of the month. Those who cut soon thair oats and barley are growing extraordinary, especially in the Enzie and Morrayshires, none in Botriphnie but Cottertoons barley, no grass for cattle, oats so weet cannot be given them,

October 1856.

Begins with weighty rain. Cut on the 1st. and on Friday the 3rd. The 4th. and 5th. terrible rainy. John Watt not weal! the 6th. We cut Jannet Sutherlands up in the Glack the 6th., we have not a third cut by a good deal. The night of the 6th. verry hard frost, I could mix no lime to 9 o'clock, so hard. The weather cleared up with frost, the 9th. beautifull sunshine and quaiet on to this time the 13th. The railway opened to Keith on Friday the 10th. Thair was about 300 sat denner at 7-6 pr. head, the Botriphnie railway planing at this time. Started at 6 o'clock the 14th, and took in 8 stacks, rain the 25th., cutting the 16th., started leading the 17th. 5 A. M., many lead the whole night of the night of the 16th. Came on rain the 17th. at 7 o'clock P.M., the stooks quite weet the 18th. day of Dufftoon market. Our crop all taken in the 28th., was cut the 22nd. We have 43 and a small one of oats and one of barley, a big old rick and 2

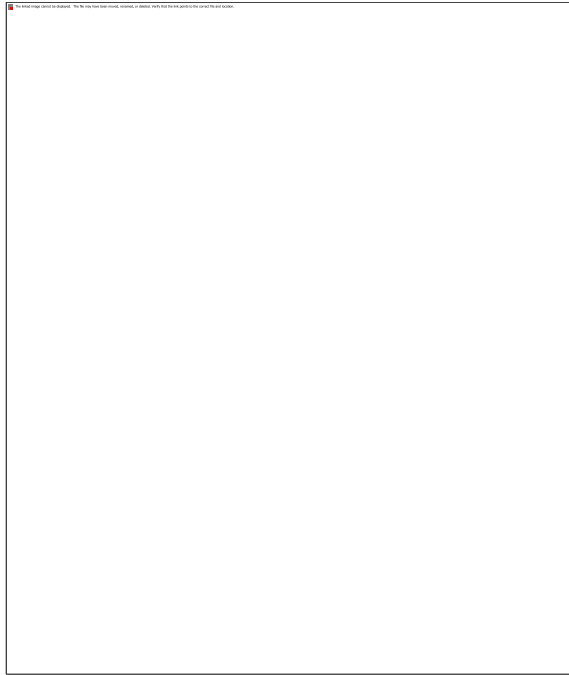
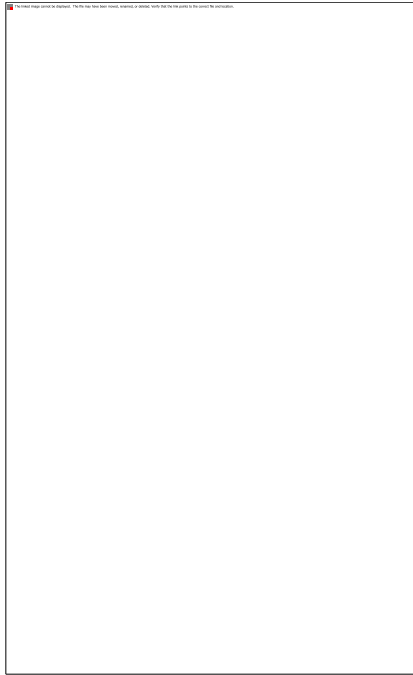
ricks of thrashed straw. It has been verry weety harvest and a deal spoiled of the first cut all grown. We have not one spoiled sheaff. I bought a brown horse from Thomas Duff the 27th. of 8 year old at Â£30. As far as I can see the crop is all in here in Botriphnie the 28th. Harvest people of the 30th., 5 weeks and 3 days.

November 1856.

Begins with some cooling winds for the first two or three days. Started the plow the 31st. October. New oats now Â£1 to Â£1-1 pr. 40lb. Me Isabella and John Ord went to Hungryhills the 6th. and came home the 8th. wind and rain, per coach to Huntly from ditto per rails to Keith and coach to Botriphnie. The 9th. cold the 10th. 2 inches snow and cold. Oats per qur. Â£1-4 and Â£1-19-6d according to quality, oats weighing from 38lb pr, bushell to 41 lb., old corn from 29shs. to Â£1-10 pr. 40 lb. Our cattle tied up the 8th, and all getting a few torneeps. Helen McWillie (111), or Mrs Watt, a first cusin, in to the lunatic the 8th., not in yet the 3rd. Decr. verry watery weather on to the 26th. which was very hard frost, snow the 27th., deep snow the 29th and 30th.

December 1856.

Begins quite hard frost and then snow. Plow working on the roads, owing to the bad weather no stock of neeps for cattle. Oats 18shs. to 19shs. Meall 15s-6d to 16shs. I have sold no oats as yet the third Decr. Sold 20 quarters oats the 10th., the first I have sold, at Â£1 pr. 40lb., it was 41 lb. Now cold and a great deal of rain the 7th., 8th. and 9th. frost the 10th. Oats up to Â£1-1 pr. 40lb. the 12th. at Keith. Snow the 21st. always on to the 27th, which is blowing, quite fresh the 29th. and 30th. Geo. McWillie.



DESKFORD CHURCH MEMORIAL MARKER.

John McWillie and Jane Moggach and three of their children appear on this memorial marker which can be found in the Old Deskford Church graveyard in Scotland. These old grave markers have been invaluable tools while researching history. The John McWillie appearing in this marker was a brother of Betty McWillie, the wife of George McWillie author of the McWillie diaries.

January 1857.

Begins hard frost, the first day of old Christmass hard frost, the ground white with snow. A shooting match at Tennanton, George Ord and me 36 feet from the target, George Millne fired a shot throw a palling, the ball struck a palling head, put it of direction of the mark, it went in to George Ords left legg at the brawn, rebounded back of the bone, went about three yards of after rebounding back throw stocking and trousers. The boy taken home in a gig to Blackhall is now doing weall, it was George Millne, crofter Broomhill, that fired. Plows going the 10th and 11th., no shooting the 12th., old new-yearsday not the like the past 38 years - Geo. McWillie. Plowing some lay in the Glack the 20th. and 21st, Friday the 23rd. terrible wind sleet. John Watt of Turffhillocks bull split the night of the 23rd., all that night and the night of the 24th. terrible cold wind and sleet, dray snow the 26th. Alexander Millne, Nether Hilileys, died the 25th. and Robert Dunean, Broadrashes, died the 19th. An old woman of the name of Ferrier died at the Porter Ludge, Woodend the 23rd., and Alexander Garrow, the bellman, bonnet broad and blewe was 14 years old, the first of the month. Oats 21shs. to 21-6 pr 40lb. I am making a box barrow the 26th. Jas. Edward, Gowdenknows, died the 21st. Robie

Donald, piper at Newley, Auchendown, died about the 12th. and a Simpson at Whitecow cried a dead bairn the 15th. Verry hard frost to the 31st. Slight snow, Oats selling at Â£1-1 per 40lb. I have only twenty two ricks with one of old straw the 3rd. of February.

February 1857.

Begins hard frost the night of the first begun with terrible high winds and hard frost for 24 hours which blowed all the snow of the land in to hollows. I was at Elgin the 5th. with .John McWillie (112) getting his sister. Helen, in to the infirmary, not right in body or mind. A capital market in Keith the 6th., one of the new monthly markets, cattle dismal dear. I sold old oats for seed at Â£1-10 pr. qur. and 16 for meall at Â£1-1 pr. 40 lb. At Keith for 30 cwts. guna capital warme day the 13th., plowing going fine dray weather on to the 25th., that day I was out with James Bonniman hunting hears. I shot three and a splendid old fox in the hill of Bellyhack up in the middle of the hill above stripside. he lay in the spot with one shot. I sold a sow of hay of 970 stones of hay the 23rd. to Mr. Dean, railway contractor, as she stood for Â£50 strg. Most beautifull weather and torneeps begining to grow, capital weather on to the end of the month. Our plowing done but the clean land.

March 1857.

Begins quite warme and dray, plowing our clean land the 2nd. Put away five fat quoys the 6th. to Wm. Birne for Newcastle pr. rail. Mr. William Duff Bruce at Fife, Keith fell from a loft 9 foot high down the stair taking hay to my pony and killed him on the spot, I was first in to see him. He was upwards of 30 years body servant to Lord Fife, he was aged 84 and 9 months and 13 days. he had a farm of Bracco in Grange for a farm. He paid no rent and Lord Fife had him to uphold besides, he killed the 6th. He said if he lived an hour longer nor his Lordship he would be satisfied. Lord Fife died the 9th. at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes P.M. His Lordship upheld him and wiffe and they are both dead. Quite clear weather with hard frost now. Different people sowed in the parish the 3rd. Kelloch and Towiemore, none more done the 11th. All our clean land plowed closs to the torneeps the 12th., filling up the old limekillne at the quarry and filling up a hole that sunk in the land about 100 yds. in this side of Plumpy 40 foot long and 15 wide. Margaret Mitchell (113), wiffe of my uncle John McWillie of Mains of Towiebegg and my wiffes mother, was born the 13th. March 1769 aged this 13th. March of this month 88 years. The 14th. high wind with sleet and rain with sleet and rain, terribly cold. Lord Fifes funeral the 19th. Wine used at lunchon, three hogsheads or eighteen ancors. The night before and the day of the funeral sleet and rain and high wind and cold. The 20th. terrible high wind, school examined the 20th. We began sowing the 17th. 9 qurs. on the Banks lay land. The Admirals wood roup the 21st. wind and cold. The 23rd. rain and sleet, the 24th. deep snow, our mill water requiring to be cut, the 25th. and 26th.

fresh and sleety. Westertoon some sheep destroyed by dogs or dog. John Ord and me at Kelloch the 30th., the road was that bad our clothes had to be washed.

April 1857.

Begins with the terrible weat and raining each day and night a small drizzling rain and quite cold. I bought an easy chair Â£3-3 at this time. Not plowing the land, so watery. Our barley thrashed the 2nd. and still rain the 3rd., roads and land terrible weat. Geo, Simpson away with the missels the 28th. March. Some people sowed the 9th., a good dale of rain the 10th., the neeps and grass growing weall. Ten Scots away to Canada the 8th. from the end of the loach. None sown since the 17th. of March to this time the 15th. of April, the people saying all is wrong and will be too late, but I say it is in good time although the first sown is coming throw the ground. James Sellar, Blacksmith, died the 16th., hard frost the 4th. and high wind and shows of snow through the day. We sowed all our clean land the day the 5th. but one acre of neeps. We have 11 ricks and one of thrashed straw the 5th, cold, cold south wind. George McWillie Midthird.

May 1857.

Begins dray but cold. The first sown oats looking beautiful breard. Straw scarce in many places but not in Botriphnie, what is selling here is 15shs. pr. qur., straw and oats from Â£1-1 to Â£1-1-6 pr. 40lb. Our potatos set the 5th., most of our torneep land cross plowed the 6th., the wind east by north cold. George Moggach, papur Paulscroft, died the 16th. He left Â£3-11-6, his home was burned at Stripside, mentioned in a former book about 18 years ago. Fine dry weather now the 14th., I took the park at Ardrack called the Mickle Estertoon the 16th. at Â£22. Druht and high wind the 20th, began forming torneep dreels, the 21st. quite dray rather druhty. Our cattle out to grass the 15th. Mens and Wemans wages terrible high, fees; men Â£10 to Â£13, Woman Â£3 to Â£6, hirds Â£3 to Â£4 , Orrow men Â£7 to Â£8. Splendid dray for laying down torneeps, weighty rain 7th. and 9th. verry grouthy and verry warme the 13th. I am wrong with this month.

June 1857.

Clear skys and verry warme from the 13th. to the 15th., all our torneeps done sowing the 15th. A comet expected some of these days which is to burn up the Earth. Most extraordinary hot and clear, sunny on to the 20th. Cutting peats the 18th. 19th. and 20th. Thomas Murray left his service the night of the 11th. with a bruse or hurt of his privies. I had court with a svt. Bell Mackie for two days she had to make up of hir time, she ran of without asking hir wages and summoned me for them. She had to pay for the days and Â£1-0-6 of expences, I had 6s-6d. to pay. The

24th. some rain that night and much need with most extraordinary heat for the past three weeks. Our potatoes hoed the 24th., our rent day the 25th. Jean Mitchell (114), or Mrs Petrie died at Shenwall the 13th. aged 87 years. Mary Symon (115) or Mrs. Jn. McWillie, died at Midtoon Botriphnie 21st. aged 47. Moderate rain all day the 29th., great need, we sowed the first of the neeps that afternoon. Geo. McWillie.

July 1857.

Begins extraordinary warme, the barley and oats shooting fast, grass and turneps are growing by the inch per day. Thunder and some rain the 4th. and the 5th. weighty rain all day but quiet and quite warme, it is the day of the Nonintrusion sacrament at woodend. I have been plagued with gout in my left knee for the past three days, George McWillie the first Sunday of July 1857.

Upon Tuesday the 7th. I was at Keith on a precognition before the Fishal of Banff on a cause between Mrs. Watt (116) or Helen McWillie, and her son and son in law and daughter for some misunderstanding betwixt them, weighty rain and wind the whole day and next day, warme and dray the next three days. I have sold 19 qurs. of oats now at £1-7 pr. 40lb. I have but 5 stacks now to thrash. Capital growing weather to the 17th., hoving neeps the second time the 16th. and sold John Ord the Bob horse of 23 years 11th., capital warme weather. The oats and barley all well shot the 14th. Mr. Grant, the Factor, Jas Bonniman, the gamekeeper and myself went to see the forest of Glenfiddoch and Blackwater the 24th. We all dined and drank at the root of a birch tree on the best mutton, ham and highland whisky and came home in one hour. We saw hundreds of red highland deer. Our hay cut at the end.

August 1857.

Begins quite warme and dray, much need of rain, a great many neeps sowed at June market not hoed the first time the 7th. Bettie and me at Auchern, Carnie the 5th., a deal of barley cut near Keith, some here near ready and oats well mixed. Our hay all of the land the 5th. in to tramp colls. Mr. Grant, Bonniman and Mr. Carmichael different shooting matches at this time. Neeps done hoeing 11th. William Garden (117), Towie, went to Buckie and died in 26 hours illness the 9th., he was only ferrier in Botriphnie and capital sportsman with ball practise, left large family all grown up but son and daughter some blind. The 10th and 14th, weighty rain and high thunder and most extraordinary warme and so on to the 18th. with closs foug*** Bought from Mr. Anderson, Mcht** a work ox at £18-0-6 about the 1st. A most dreadful massacre (118), of the most of our Indian officers, wives and children, and all Europeans by the 4th Indian regiment, most all killed. Oats £1-3 to £1-4 pr. 40lb. Cattle back in price on a £20 stot fully £3 to £4. 3 larch trees for sleepers to our mill the 25th. Doctor Angus and Mrs. Angus here the 23rd. We began our barley the 27th, Bettie's mother here 20th., potatoes going fast

wrong in every county, high winds verry, verry warme. We began to oats cutting 29th.

September 1857.

Begins great drught and excessive hot but rain the evening of the first and rain the 2nd. Bettys (119) mother here the 20th Agust, Jean McWillie (120) a son the 22nd. hir second, my daughter. We cut some fire the 1st. to Saturday the 5th., rainy all week and verry weighty thunder showrs on to the 13th, no cutting, built a new mill wheel house the past few days. A little boy at Hillend killed by a horse on the teather about the 9th. Thair was a terrible showr of rain the night of the eighth, our burn as large as ever I saw hir, Isla and different waters carrying a stack of grain, rather watery the 9th. and 11th. High winds and flying showrs the 16th. We had 20 ricks in the 22nd., high winds on to the 26th. All our cutting done the 26th, at 1 o'clock P.M. high wind a dale rushed out in cutting being verry tender with the haill winds. Our grass all in the 29th. Dray high winds quite warme to the end.

October 1857.

Begins beautifull, grass growing same as June the grass on clean land stubbles would cut Our harvest people of the 3rd. We have now taken up potatos as the one halph is wrong, all the torneeps white gumed, plowing the 10th. capital dray and warme. William Taylor poorly the 3rd. and still so the 22nd., better the 23rd. I was at James Hays roup the 15th. a few of us stopped at the Kelloch, John Ord and myselfe had some drams. He thought he bought a horse collar and sent Geo. his son to me the next day, he thought I brought it home in my gig. I told his son thair was none sold at the roup, old Blackhall was not reconcilled and sent his son back the next day, Ochon, Ochon for John had dreamed it. Still fine warme and dray on to the 22nd. the day of Fife Keith market cold and rain. I went to blood Mrs. Robertson, Braehead, the 23rd., the great whale so fat I could see nor feel no vain and so left, altho I had specticles. Wm. Taylor poorly the 24th. but begining to mend. Capital warme and growing weather; the grass and torneeps growing as in summer on to the end. Began plowing our avel 31st.

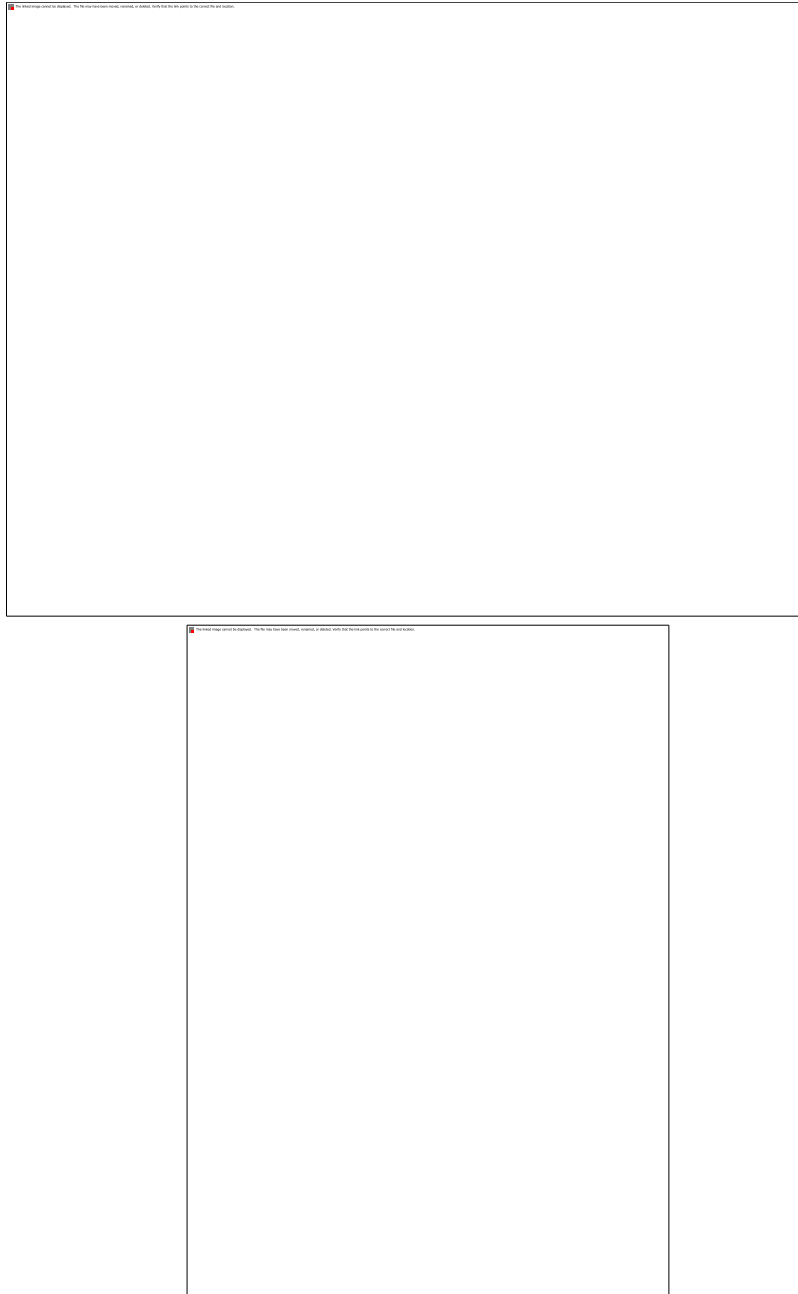
November 1857.

Begins most beautifull, cattle grazing as in summer. Some rain the night of the 3rd. I engaged one John Stuart to hold the plow from the 17th. Octr. to the term at Â£2. Still capital weather, I bought 2 quoyes at Tullichs roup at Â£15 each, I was elected on Board the fourth year. Oats selling at Â£1 per 40lb., still beautifull weather on to the 20th. the feeing market stall at Huntly 13s. Oats at Keith 17s. for 40lb. A stagnation amongst the Banks and Notes. all our avel plowed the 21st. Delhi in the Endies bombarded for 8 days and was taken by assult the 21st.

September. The 23rd. of this month terrible with wind and rain the whole day. At Portknockic the boat Vigilant lost with 9 men and the 15th. boat Tempence of ditto 9 men and at Buckie one boat with 8 men within 100 yards of the shoer and another boat of ditto ashore at Nairn lost 7 men, one Portgordon boat with 8 men, 42 in whole left 27 weddows and 79 orphans. Some snow the 24th. but then good on to the end.

December 1857.

Begins beautifull fresh and warme, the 3rd. terrible wind which throw down ricks tirred houses but fine up to the 5th. Began plowing lay about the First. The plowing match the 8th. at Westerton, 3 plows, most beautifull weather, torneeps and grass growing as at Glass market but generally high winds. Thair was a mutual society formed in the old timber school, Rvr. Mr. Masson gave a lecture on science or knowledge, 70 men and weman attended the night of the 15th. verry high wind, the men cleaning out the water course that day and Isabella MacWillie away to see the railway works at Boat of Bridge that 15th. Oats 18s. to 18s-6d. per 40lb. Got insharance for houses, cattle, crop and utensils the 9th. Decr. Still good weather but high winds on to the 21st. Plowing our clean land and as dray as at Glass market the 30th. Grass and gowans, Goslips and daises as beautifull as in summer and so is the second flush of heads on the neeps after the white gum.



Photograph courtesy Harry Stephen.

OLD BOHARM CHURCHYARD.

The Boharm graveyard is situated some two or three miles east of the present day church and in an area known locally as Maggiecknocker. The old church prior to the growth of the surrounding trees and shrubs which are sitting on a hilltop would held a commanding view of the countryside. There are many McWillie members and relatives buried in the churchyard. The above is John Watt & wife Helen McWillie RN=39.

January 1858.

Begins most beautifull, as summer. Cattle back in prices from Â£3 to Â£4 pr. head or the swine prices as at Whitsunday. Oats 18s-6d. Bettie and William Taylor to Langlanburn the 4th., terrible high winds and cold all day. Alexr. Mann left the 4th. to go to Keith for some cloths, I gave him 8 shillings to pay them, he was our cattle man. The 5th. rough and hard frost, the 6th. quaiet and frost, the 7th, terrible high wind with frost, it has stopped the grouth of neep heads, I may say thair was no frost before. Some rain the 8th., the night of the 8th. desperate high wind and ended in rain. Betties mother Margaret Mitchell (121) , died the 10th. at Langlanburn, Deskford, aged 88 and 9 months. James Bremner, hir goodbrother was married to Isabell Mitchell, died the same day at Lentmill, Braehead Keith aged about 82 years. Died at Cottertoon, Elspet Forbes aged 12. Fine growing weather, grass as green as in the month of May but terrible high winds. A lecture at the old school by Dr. George on the health and culture of the young the 18th. A showr of snow the 21st., fresh the 22nd., the 23rd. fresh and beautifull. I have 21 ricks with small one of bear and two of old straw the 23rd. and oats Â£1 pr. 40lb. A roup at the Skoug the 16th., slight showr of snow the 21st., some frosty nights the 27th. and 28th. at Keith the 29th. and bought 12 new sacks at Â£1-3 pr. dozzen. The 29th. blustery but fresh, the 30th. some frost, the 31st. Sunday. hard frost.

February 1858.

The first and second terrible frost and blowing but the snow blown all of the land. The 3rd. fresh but high wind, Keith market good sell among fat stock, prices back, cattle would have given as much mony at Whitsunday as now after feeding. I sold five quoys at Â£60 fat and killed our mart the 4th. Terrible high winds every day which is disagreeable but fine weather. Taking out 4 dozzen pailling wood at this time. Admiral Duff (122), Drummuir, died at Elgin on the 9th of this month and was buried at Botriphnie on the 15th, in front of the isle betwixt it and the Church 4 feet from the wall of the isle thair is a spruce tree on the lip of the grave closs on his right hand. The grave is 7 foot deep built with bricks, there is three flags of pavement above the coffin. The coffin was covered with earth before the flags was put in. All the Botriphnie tennantry, Drummuir and Hopeman in Morrayshire, all the neighbouring Eritors and minesters and Elgin Gentry was dined at the castle at 7s-6d. pr. head by Robert Gordon, Innkeeper, Keith. All his feed svts. is left one years wages of legacy. The Factor, Mr. John Grant Â£200 of legacy, Jean Donald or Dawn, Glack, died the 10th. The Admiral died at the age of 84 and is succeeded by Major Gordon of Park, I do not know yet how the money and furniture is left.

March 1858.

1st March begins quaiet and verry hard frost. We are driving out dung to above town, and I am making a nice garden door. There was a grand soree at the old school and some essies wrote by a few young men read,

and a number of capital songs sung by the leadies and young gentlemen. On the 2nd night of the month, William McWillie (123), has the mumps with an bad cold. This bad cold or influenza very prevailing here. Maggy Duff left her service 10 days ago near at the ovrlyng. She is as thick about the buttocks as our Bob horse. Oats from 19shs. to Â£1 pr 40lb. I have but 15 ricks. The 4th. hard frost and the ground white with snow the 2nd. The 5th. the day of Keith market, high wind and frost, good two year olds Â£10 to Â£12 fat, and 3 year olds from Â£12 to Â£15 but good beasts. The 6th high winds and blowing snow. Oats and straw from Â£1-15s to Â£2. Alexr. Duff, servt. Westerton was seeing our woman on the night of the 14th. I caught him lying below the dresser lying on his face 12 P.M. I gave him a pailfull of water all about the neck and then kicked him out of doors, and on Sunday the 7th, at 5 past noon, I caught a Navie Irishman. It was Sunday, but in the low room. I told him to walk out or I would show him something. He told me to do it. I took a sword from the other room and drove him around the town. He had a companion waiting at the door, but they had both to take legg baill. The Parish school was examined on the 8th by Messrs. Masson, Annan and Cruickshank. An extraordinary frost now and many haill shows, but all blown to scathies and hollows. Turnips never frozen untill this time. Frost and snow on to the 12th, and it was quite fresh. Robert Stewarts wiffe Hellen Rutherford died the 12th about 15 minuts past four P.M. , has left a large young family, aged 50 years, Thair was a large eclipse on the Sunday the day of the 15th. that she was buried, but not so large as expected. It is shown (124) this in heavens east west. It was fresh and warm untill it was sometime begun 1 P.M. when it was at its full. It became very cold for the space of an hour and then warmer. Our horses at Keith with old seed oats to Mr. George Haughs, Â£1-4, Sowing is begun at Mill of Davidson 22nd and Bomiekelloch 23rd. Very dray rain, the 24th I was at Lahnbride with Robert Taylor of Rosarie about his farm, the 25th. we began sowing, the 26th below the Clossley 8 1/2 qurs, cold frosty air, torneeps done with many, and oats and fodder Â£2-2 to Â£2-5s. Weighy rain the 31st.

April 1858.

Begins weighty snow. Jean Stewart, wiffe to William Stronach, Greens, buried the 1st aged 70. Cutting our mill water, the 2nd a deal of the Tollroad will require cutting, mill water not taken in to the 3rd which rained flags of snow the whole day from the east. Bettys old ewie lambed the 1st, 2 black and one speckled lamb. Sowing in some places. The 10th, hard frost, hard frost all night and sunshine all day. Began setting some pailling the 10th for a park on the Claggans. Terrible hard frost the 11th and 12th and shows of snow. A dale of snow on the land still there. Major Gordon Duff came on his first visit to Drummur House the 6th, clad in good hudding gray clothes, our new Eritor. Oats with fodder Â£2-2 to Â£2-5s, without Â£1-ls pr 40lb, for seed Â£1-4s. I have but 9 ricks and one

of old straw and 30 foot of length of hay. Our neeps almost done. Sir Colin Campbell took Lucknow the 14th March. Scotland for ever, Hurrah. Cattle back in price. I sold 4 stots in April market to Mr. Towns at Â£11 pr head. We have sown none since the month of March to the 15th, all sown the 17th but our clean land. Messrs. George Burges sowing pailing at this time. Oats 21 shs. pr qur of 40lb and straw the same. John Ord poorly at this time. All our crop down grass seeds and all the 23rd, and all rolled the 28th. All our torneeps done. The 27th extra warm. Isabella McWillie (125) left me the 23rd, was with me for two years and one halph. I understand her sister Jean is to be now married. I sold my bull the 17th for Â£17. The breard has come up the quickest I have seen. Just a real summer heat. We have one grass park on the claggans and another on the Dinncorn shift. We put out our young frog and filly and our calves and cows to grass the 28th, but it is for want on the torneeps. Great heat and drught, on to the 29th, the mercury down from fair to rain the 29th. The 30th weighty rain, good pieces of torneep land to sow in Botriphnie. I have 7 ricks and 36 foot of haystack, but no neeps.

May 1858.

Begins with cold winds and weighty rain for the 1st and 2nd days. Will do a dale of good. I went to Jean McWillie's (126), marriage to Gamrie the 6th. and came home the 7th by coach from Banff to Turiff, and per railway from Turriff to Inverramsey to Keith, from Keith in my own gig. Grass and farm looking better at Botriphnie than any of the places I passed. They were just begining to sow torneeps in Gamrie. Oats now Â£1-4s-6d. Rank dewes with some rain the 13th the day of Rosaries roup, Robert Taylors. I bought a white mare, 10 years old at Â£27-15shs, a saddle, flail and britchen at Â£1-2s discount 9d pr Â£1-1s, Displenish sale at Ardrack and grass parks the 14th. I have the Mill of Ardrack Haugh for Â£20-15shs. Rain the 14th and 15th and 17th with some thunder, rather cold the 18th on to the 20th with rain. Our cattle all out to grass the 15th. Some people dunging for sweedish neeps) but 20th in Botriphnie, dunged some of Kitchen Croft the 26th for sweedish neeps, but came out rain throw the day they could not be sown. Still rain and cold 28th) the 30th and 31st quite warm.

June 1858.

Begins verry warm and great growth, some weighty shows the 2nd and 3rd, but not stopping neep work. About 8 acres sown the 4th. I have left 6 old ricks and 20 foot of hey sow. The apple and berrie flourish splendid, the apples extraordinary. Verry drughty the 5th and 6th. The 7th and 8th, wind and sunshine given frost at night, growth fair. John Ord and me at the session Church. The 6th Harry Forbes, Peter Forbes son died at Cotterton, aged 23. All the sweedish torneeps sown before term, sowing again, being eaten of with a small clock, like a flea, she jumps as quick, but not so far, ours looking weall. I had a call from the Minister the 8th.

Told him over a glass I was bad with a hard cough and cold. He advised me some pills. I do not mind the name and put my wiffe to another bead and I would soon be better. He should know, he slept two years separete from Mrs. Masson, and he is stronger a good dale. I shall tell him the next call, I took the different plan. I lay nerar hir, got sweat and was much better. We have had great mists for the past three nights damping the land and doing much good. This is the 12th. Done sowing neeps the 14th. Cutting fire the 15th, 16th and 17th and 18th, hoeing potatos the 17th. Still severe drught sun and wind, the 18th drught to 3 o'clock then 16 minutes of weighty rain. Westerton harrowing down neeps and sowing again 3 acres. Many has sown the 2nd time, mostly sweedish. Grass plenty, many people cropping the oats for falling. A new gamekeeper at the term, he took sloggans sheep 14 and made him pay 12 shs in the hill of Bellyhack. He should not be on such a hurry for fear of accidents. Still people sowing neeps the 2nd and 3rd time. High winds the 24th on to the 27th. Our cattle from Ardbrack the 24th. Donald Catnach had a daughter died the 20th, she was follish, and on the Board at Linmore of Bellyhack. Some rough flying showrs the 27th. Geo. Simpson pair of horses lying down Geo. Christies torneeps. Driving my mothers fire the 28th. The 29th, some flying showrs high wind.

July 1858.

Begins high winds, some cold. The 4th, weighty rain the whole day the day of the Nonintrusion Sacrament. Rainy the whole week, some each day. The day of Dufftown market 8th rain the whole day. Thinned some neeps 9th and 10th regular howing the 12th was stopped, again the 14th with rain. Oats shotting about this time fast. At Rothes the 15th with 18 qrs of oats Â£1-4s pr 40 to 42 lb, rather damp and rainy day. The 16th and 17th rain weighty, dray and warme the 19th 20th and rain the 21st, John Watt and my wiffe at the Boat of Bridge seeing the stupendous works putting on the bridge. The 19th, rather more than halph of our torneeps hoed, the 20th capital dray warme weather and all our torneeps hoed the first time the 27th. Glass market the 28th, dull and prices back Â£2 to 2-10s upon Â£18 cattle. Thair was some drunken skirmishes with some of our Botriphnie bucks. The torneep seed crop I think is mostly wrong with decese or verment, a small white worm. Our goose berries and black berries and rasp berries all ripe the week of Glass Market. Now rather rainy but quite warme.

August 1858.

Begins quite warme with thunder and weighty showrs. Our torneeps halph hoed the second time, the 6th. John McWillie here from Gamrie the 5th, on to the 8th, terrible hot with frost at night. Torneeps growing capital, but no growth on eaten grass. This ninth of Agust 1858 Major Gordon Duff (127) the new Eritor, his lady, son and daughter arrived in Drummuir house, the first time since the Admirals death and took

possession of the castle at 3 oclock P.M. was met below the mance by all the male population and some few of the flyting sex. The males marched in rank four deep with three stand of cowlers flying, preceded by a brass band of musick. An address was delivered by John Ord, farmer, Blackhall, on arrival at the castle the band playing, "Thair is no luck about the house when our guidmans awa". The multitude being refreshed with chees, bread and porter, all marched in rank to the old well, at Greens of Woodend and partook of that famous water mixed with famous acquaitie from the Milton Distillery with a number of pounds of the famous Mr. A. Andersons lossenges and swaties. Some highland reels was trippede by young and old, to tune of Tullochgorom. The young then arrived at the Royal Anderson Shop where the games of jumping, barrow rowing etc. etc. was carried on with Botriphnie glee untill the sun had sunk his head behind Machattie. Mr. Alxr. Cannichael and mysilf was to give my wiffe 2s-6d apiece and go to the top of Bellriness that day of the 9th, and up they went, her and William Taylor. The Tennantry paid Â£2-10s to a brass band from Keith to music at the castle, 12 of us paid the band, quit dirty of the rest. My wiffe got one bress of muirfool and one hear from the Major on the 16th. I think it an honour of our new laird. My wiffe got a bottle of wine from Mr. Carmichael and 2s-6d from mysilf for her going to the top of Bellrinnes on the 9th. Mr. Anderson, merchant, gave hir a bottle of wine, but not good for Mr. Carmichael, he had to give hir another of good wine, and so lost his first one. The weather changed the 25th, cold with high wind, on to the 27th. Some barley cut on Cotterton the 26th, capital weather on to the end.

September 1858.

Upon the 31st of Agust the great cattel show at Aberdeen began. Thair was upwards of twenty of us from Botriphnie paid 4s, a head for going and returning. The stock of cattle was great, and so was the agricultural instruments, the most of us came home the 2nd and 3rd of this month, Beads was verry scarce, paying 2s-6d to Â£1-1 s per night. I stoped with Helen Ord, or Mrs. Captain Longmuir, No 2 Bannermill st., which cost nothing, so did her father John Ord. Cutting almost done near Abdn, a number began in Botriphnie the 1st and 2nd. We had some barley the 2nd and all our oats the same ripness, warme and dray to the 6th. Our harvest people the 7th and cutting oats, we have taken in two ricks of oats and one of barley. The 11th very windy this afternoon, verry, verry rough on the night of the 10th, shook middling ripe oats. Sptr. market I sold a work ox and two year old hefart horse at Â£14, We lead two of ley the morning of the 17th and stoped for wind, and in the afternoon other four, but could not lead them for wind, thunder and rain on the night, quite warme, cutting thach the next morning, and not another showr I may say the whole harvest. We had done cutting the 25th and all taken in the 29th. We have forty eight ricks of oats, one of barley, and one of peas, one old rick of oats and two large ones of old straw, and the hey

sow. Rather cold with showers, but the wind dried it as it fell the 30th. Thair has been a comet (128), in sight for the past three weeks, it always appears in the west at night and is near the east in the morning. The tail of him is always due north. I could not say what is the length of his majestic tail. thair is still a few bits to cut in the parish, I have just taken in about 4 bushells of my best apples, verry large this day the 30th, the rest is making rapes and thaching ricks. Geo. McWillie, 5 P.M.

October 1858.

Begins very high winds, our potatos up the 6th, frosty and cold the day of Newmills market. Many of our Botriphnie people and myself at a roup at Ardluie, Cabrach, came out one of the terriblest days of sleet, snow and wind I ever saw. Our harvest people away the 7th, a cold blustery day. Our harvest only 4 weeks and one day, Cottertoon has about 4 acres to cut the 7th, I see none more here. Now getting on with the plowing, capital weather, on to the 25th, that morning about 6 inches of snow which lasted four or five days. We began to improve about one halph of an acre at the back of the dame betwixt the road and the head of Dinnieorn. Capital weather on to the end of the month.

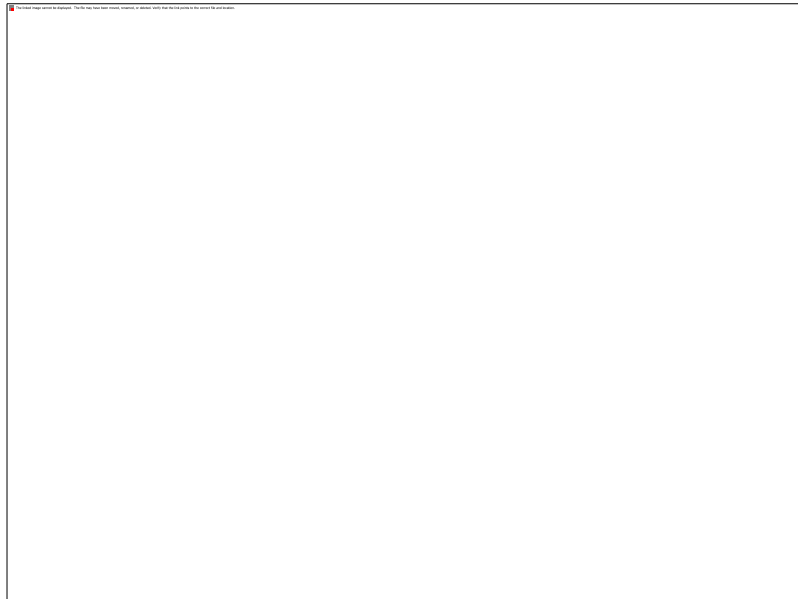
November 1858.

Begins fine weather. We began to plow our avel, the 1st. I am making a gravel walk in my garden the first and second. John McWillie and me was elected on the board the 3rd. The major is closing the loach with a sluice at this time, and Mr. Anderson, merchant, digging a pump well. One halph of our yavel plowed the 6th and began our ley the 8th, rather cold and watery. The wood of Lochpark was all sold by roup the 12th in large loats from Â£44 to Â£200. Gave in whole Â£1155 stg. and about Â£150 for larachs in the Tennantoon stripe. Leading tornips the 13th, frosty and cold the 15th. Three of our cows calved at the 15th. Anne Riach or weddow Edward died the 16th aged 86, and John Duncan, farmer, Corrie, 17th, the day of the feeing market Keith hard frost, but on afternoon two inches of snow, the next morning about four inches, hard frost. Wages was back and oats was 18s per quarter. I went to Mains of Mulben the 20th, a good snow and hardest frost I remember so soon in the year, along with John Watt, Turfhillock and bought a bull, black humble 15 months old at Â£13-15s. Fresh the 25th with high wind, good green weather to the end. Sold the first of the crop the 30th at 18s pr 40 lb to 42 1/2 lb.

December 1858.

Begins good weather, rather watery. Good fat cattle selling from 55 to 60 shillings, lean stock little doing, rather cold. Our plowing match at Cottertoon the 16th, 22 plows, denner 4s. My brother Johns daughter Isabella (129), married the 16th to Alxr. Grant. The 18th high winds with rain. Betty's four ewes and ram ill in the scab, was smitten by a ewe of

Taylor Robertsons at the ram. About the 23rd high winds and rough shows. Mrs Dey Forkins, very poorly now. The oats is stationry, about 18s to 18s-6d for 40lb. The weather eight days, has one day fresh and rain, the next frost, but in whole good open weather. Our chaps is taking in a rick just now, we are requiring two each week or two quarters or better per day. Signed this 31st December or 15th of Nonintrusion years, Midthird, George McWillie. P.S. I have made a new box barrow and iron spad, the past four days. We have a terrible closs of gutters at this time. Bell Simpson, Whitecow, married 25th Dec.



George McWillie Diaries

The diaries consist of seven volumes of note pad size approximately six by nine inches, hand written in George's own style of writing. The above photocopy gives a reader some idea of the work involved to bring them to the stage of this work. We do think that George would be very glad to know that there are people within the McWillie family and others who find value and happiness with his work.

January 1859.

Begins with excellant weather, slight frosts but in general fresh with high winds. A shooting at Tennantoon, I had four prises. Mrs. Dey, wiffe to Alexr. Dey, wright, Forkins died the 8th, a greatly respected woman, and Paul Grant, cattle dealler, Nether Cluny, Mortlach the 9th. I did not go to his funeral, too far for the season, being at Tombae, Glenlivit. All the parish at Mrs. Deys funeral. Hard frost the 13th and 14th. Our two horses driving gravel to the road betwixt the mance and burnend, desperate high winds, mostly each day, We have about 5 acres of clean land plowed the 17th. our work is trenching a piece of ground at the back of the dame. Many young and old people every parish round ill with sore throats. The

cure is to burn with caustic or blister with mustard. The oats now Â£1 pr 40lb. I have 50 qurs in the barn loft. At the 22nd, still high winds and slight white frosts. I invited all the scholars at school up to get peas. Most of them shyed, but a few I filled all thair pockets and bonnets with peas and apples, a rare grabe for the lowns. The 25th, high wind and some snow at night. It was the centanry of the poet Robert Burns, it was heald in mostly every town and parish in Scotland, besides in England and foreign countries, where thair was Scotsmen residing. The 26th and on to the 29th, snow but soft, the 29th was fresh with wind and rain.

February 1859.

Begins cold with frost and rough showrs of sleet and rain. Driving some gravel for the roads about town. Sold 4 halph fed stots at Keith the 4th at Â£59, a good market. William Stewart at Broomhill Croft died about the 1st, and a son of George Millne at Scullholl the 1st. Our mart slain the 3rd, a good Shetland quoy Â£4. I had 20 stones Imperial and 3 stones of tallow. The beaff is at 7shs pr stone. The 6th quite quaiet with small snow about 2 inches, all of the 9th. Plowing to A. Dey the 11th and to Smith Cruickshank 12th. The 13th and 14th like summer, we quarred som cover stones for drains to John Watt the 14th and straighting off some clean ground. Still a number of sore throats in this place. Oats 19s-6d. I sold the last 60 qurs at Â£1 pr 40lb, it weighed 42 1/2 lb. Tuesday the 15th quaiet and fresh, but rain the whole day, the 17th cold with sleety showrs. I am ill with cold 17th and 18th I was not fit to atend a party at Westertoon. I was sorry they wanted my ill jaw. About 4 inches of snow the 18th, the men yoaked Miss Gunn into the snow plow the 18th, quite quaiet, Another son of John Millnes called Peter died the 19th, and a daughter of said Geo. Millne the 2nd of March of sore throats. Thair has few young people escaped in this place and all round the other parishes. Most splendid weather, our plowing done to the side of the torneeps. I have about 7 acres yet and 20 stacks of oats and one of barley and all my hey. Oats Â£1 pr 40 lb and cattle fully 10shs a stone at Fummackfair. On the 26th I was out hunting with Mr. Grant factor Mr. Grant doctor and Mr. Gordon lawyer. We killede many hears, rabbits and woodcocks. Blowed the lawyers white hat of silk to pices and a knife that cost him 5 shs I blowed it all to pices in the air. We all went in to Helen Stewarts or Mrs. Garrows Newburgh and told her Dr. Grant was a dancing master and Mr. Gordon singing master. She called in other four young ladies and such a house as we had, them that sees this 100 years after this will not raise funnier and then after denner some tobacco smocking and a little toddy driven doune with strong ale. Geo. McWillie Midthird.

March 1859. new ink, 1sh. pr. bottle

Begins beautiful fresh with rough winds, grass and torneeps growing fast and some early berrie bushes the bleads coming out. The factor sent me the white hat that was shot in the wood of Tenroad the 26th March, to

place in my musiem among other curiositys. A three week old pig could jump throw the ribs of it. Oats sown in different places. The minister of Cairnie has some sown. Thair is a new sawmill puting in at the end of lochpark, one at Forkins and one of them at Woodend besides an old one at Tenroad. The upper halph of Tenroad wood planted this winter, and the southside of Lockpark,.All the birk and brush cut in the burn of Westerton and planting oak, John Gauld, Bomiekellach sowed oats and peas the 11th. High high winds and verry cold on to the 15th, then snow about 4 inches at 10 A.M, Oats and fodder Â£1-8s to Â£1-9s pr 40lb and plenty too, 43 lbs oats is Â£1-1 1s, seed oats Â£1 at this time. We paid our carriage for the roads by driving mettel from the shien park to the road betwixt Burnend and Mance Bridge with 2 horses and other 2 for driving clay from the opposite side of our own dame above the road. I suppose thair is above 100 loads taken and 200 loads for daming the loach park above the sluice. Blustery weather from the 16th to the 18th, rough winds every day with flying sleaty showrs, quite cold. I have the most of all my berry bushes duned and trenched. The bleads is getting weall out at this time. The 19th a roup of wood, dreadful dear. My mothers cow took read water the 20th and died the 24th, the 25th weety the whole day. I went to Lockpark and took a sail in the new boat about seven foot of water opposite Ryel, the new sawmill finished the 24th, the 24th and 25th raining both days, the 26th land very weet but the weather harder with wind. I sent Â£3-2s. I collected for Paul Grants weddow and family of Nether Clunny to Mr. Petrie, North of Scotland Bank, Dufftown with Mr. Taylor. The 27th thair was two inches of snow all of with the length of the day. The 30th hard frost in the morning and white with snow. I went over to the Loach and sailed up near the top with the two Cummings, thair came out a desperate rough day of wind and dray snow. I landed on the Ryel side and made home with speed for the cold. At Westerpark thair was 18 stacks of oats burned the 26th. It was inshoured 10 days before

April 1859.

The first began dismal high wind and rough showrs of sleet, Innes Gardiner had a boy died the 1st of 6 or 7 years of age. The second hard frost and the morning of the 1st. The morning of the 3rd terrible wind, sleet and rain, glomy through the day and light rain in middle of afternoon. The new square of Ardrack contracting for the 2nd. I would think the first sown oats would be thru with so much bad weather. I began sowing Friday the 8th and sowed 8 quarters and 7 quarters the 9th. Sunday the 10th thair came on weighty rain at 3 o'clock P.M. to 9 o'clock, then snow the 11th, rough snow lying all day. Young pigs 8 shs. to 10shs. pr head. Grass growing quite fast though quite cold. Sergent Macullach, Newrainy died the 7th and Wm. Maconachie, Toll of Linmore the 7th. The 12th, snow about 2 inches, but all of throw the day, but on the hills, the 13th the same and the 14th hard frost and the roads slippery.

It was a court day at Dufftoon, the board had a case with a Ann Rae, or McDonald; that old Donald Catnach uses as his wiffe. She broak her timber leg going in to the courthouse. She was then carried in to court by two men. She gained the plea, she took care of a paper for 1 shilling a week, she denied having paid. The registrar had no receipts and the shirreff would not take proof. The ground white each morning and hard frost. The 18th a cart could not have marked plowed land, the wind high and dreadfull gale, the 19th quaiet and frost, some flags falling through the day. Frost and light snow in the morning of the 20th and the 21st two inches of snow in the morning sleety shows to 2 o'clock and frost at night. I have 15 ricks and one of barly the 21 ft. the hay not brock upon, all our torneeps pulled the 20th and headed on the land. I have six weeks neeps yet headed. The weather is still backward and no sowing, it is beginning to get late, we have but 15 qurs sown, that was done the 8th and 9th of the month. We have sown other 8 qurs the 26th, a terrible day of wind. Wm. Burges, aged 80, died at the croft at the end of the Burn of Oldlenach the 25th. We sowed out all our crop the 30th, a quaiet day but cold. Arthur Willson here from Turriff 30th to 2nd of May.

May 1859.

Begins with frost, quaiet and cold the first and second. I sold Mr. Barrie a cow and deformed stot at this time. I have had the cow this nine years, she was never milked, always suckled. No woman could go near hir for sticking, I had hir from Hexham in England along with a bull both together. James Millne, farmer, Buttriebrae died 5th. We planted our potatos the 5th and 7th, I sowed hulcus saccharatus, or North China sugar cane. The 7th, high winds, quite drughty, all our rolling done the 7th without a showr. I took the Fumockfair stand and the haugh up to Millofholl 6 acres the 9th at Â£26, Towiemorc and Westerton put me up. Helen McWillie (130), or Mrs. McDonald, my wiffes sister died, the night of May the 8th at upper Woodsid,) Rothimay and buried thair the 11th. Betty and me at the funeral, quite warme but drughty. Great drught with sunshine and south high wind, the corn cuming up fast with the heat. The 17th, 18th and 19th and 20th, cloes mist but quite warme. Good fees the 20th, men best hands Â£10 to Â£11 and boys for orrow horses Â£6-10s and Â£5-10s, woman Â£4 to Â£4-10s, real hands you must take them as you see them in market. I had a mare died the 21st, no use of her since February. A slight rain the 25th the day of Dufftoon feeing, the 26th and 27th terrible hot and dray, about 8 acres farmed for tornips the 26th and weeding my onions the 27th. A roup by the shirreff at Woodend, one Robertson only kept it two years. A stem threshing mill at Ardbrack, threshing out old ricks the 30th and 31st.

June 1859.

Begins still great drught, closs mist the 2nd with small rain, We was carting the first of turfes the 2nd and sowed the first of the torneeps the

3rd, a good deale sown in the parish about the 25th of May, we thought it too dray. We have all the banks formed, the first William MacDonald came home the 2nd for his health from Rothemay. Sowed the first of the torneeps the 3rd, terrible heat and drught, some misty mornings 6th and 7th. The ryegrass all shot, still heat, heat and drught, drught. The new square at Ardrack begun to build the 6th and the old house or castle dung down at this time, it is not known whean built or whom built, it was used the past 24 years for a threshing mill. Some rough showrs with wind the 13th, Betty has sold a black ram just now at Â£1-15shs, and ram lamb at 15 shillings to Mr. Jas, Myrin, Dufftown. I hoed 40 dreels of potatos the past two days. Rents paid the 16th, and Alxr. McWillie (131), Coldhome, Keith put Peter Forbes, Cotterton, to Banff jail the 15th for dett. He should keep him thair and no missing of him at Cotterton, All our torneep shift laid down the 16th, still terrible drught. Mr, John Ord, Blackhall entered a lease on the farm Woodend, the 26th. The grass and some oats getting yellow with the severe drught, the 18th, about one hours small rain on Sunday afternoon the 19th. The new schoolhouse begun to build the 15th, by Wm, Strath, masson, Auchendoun, the stones taken out of our quarry. Still aful drught with tearing winds and drifting stewe. Mostly all those that sowed sweddis neeps is sowing again, I have sowed none. Wm. McDonald went home the 25th, I went along with him to Myan to visit James Bonniman, afull wind. I saw some oats on Maslie shooting fast not six inches long. We drove home 51 loads of backs for fire wood, the 24th and 25th for Â£1-10s. A weighty rain the 26th which will do much good, quite warme with high winds the 27th, the boys pulling thistles the 27th.

July 1859.

Begins aful drught and warme with high winds, a weighty showr the 6th, a dale of good. Driving my mothers fire the 5th to the 9th, took home some of our own the 9th. I am facing the dam embankment with stones at this time. Me and Betty at Auchern farm the 9th. The oats and barley weall shot the 9th, howing the first of the neeps the 8th. On Sunday the 10th, hot and sultry, the afternoon thunder and weighty rain and crushing hoat. The 11th warme with showrs, Taylor Robertson making a new coat, vest and trusers. From the 12th to the 19th most dreadful warme and slight winds. Mrs. Gordon Duff visiting here the 18th and thrashing and colling hey the 19th. Some rain the 20th, a dale of oats blasted black, drught on with some slight showrs. The pasture grass dray and brown. Our torneeps hoed out the 31st and taking in some hey in the afternoon to thrash. Painting our midroom the 31st.

August 1859.

Begins aful hot and dray, oats and barley turned Morray general harvest. Alexander Dey, Forkins and me went to Belniden, Strathdon the 9th and to Hir Majestys Castle the 10th, she was not at home, I hope she will not

be disappointed in not seeing us. We were in not seeing hir at the castle of New 11th and the church. We came home the 12th up Noghtyside and through the Cabrach, some fields of oats and barley cut in Auchendown. Thair was a cattle show at Dufftoon the 17th, John McWillie went home to Gamrie the 17th. Betty at Rothemay 18th. Our holy day the 17th, 30 men and woman went to Bellriness but sat the britchen all but 4 that went to the top. One Geo. Cumming got sick, they had to go to the bottom of the hill for water for him. Other ditto went to Moornesss per rail. Weighty rain the night of the 18th, will do great good, thair has not been in whole so much altogether. Since Whitsunday, peoples cattle sterving for meat and water. Morray and round the coast side the crop all ready and cutting. Many people is hoeing thair neeps the first time this month. from the 20th to the 25th, dreadfull hot. Clear air and quite quait, many springs is quite dray. We are threshing on two year old rick, water verry scarce. Celloch began cutting the 22nd, Westertoon the 24th. Major Gordon Duff verry poorly at this time. Alexander McWillie (132), RN=36 my uncle, very poorly, an old man of about 89 years of age. Our harvest hands came home the 29th and began to cut the 30th, the ley shift of Dinneorn, the 31st rain at twelve, and at 5 for 20 minutes a deluge.

September 1859.

Begins hot and dray, hard frost the morning of the 5th, frost quite white, the oats stiff. On Sunday the 4th, the Majors housekeeper or cook went to go to Keith, and get sermon, but behold she brought forth a fine English girlye, at Mill of Achinachy, she is a English aged woman. On the 3rd Geo. Allan, Free School, Keith, Alxr. McWillie, Mr. Gordon, lawer and mysilfe had a sailling mach on the loach. I repaired mothers henhouse the 3rd and 5th, the bull having out the gavel. The 6th high wind and blustry. Wastie had in 6 ricks the 2nd. I see the frost of the 5th has blackened the most of the potato heads. We took in the first six ricks on the 7th, quaiet and warme, the 8th quaiet with rain at 8 A. M. Old Midtoon some better. Betty down the 7th, he had a new westcoat, it was too high in the neck and too wide up at the breast. He made hir hilpe him of with it, and take of the neck, and take in the breast. Just now she did the joab in the minute. The 9th I sold a gray four year old pony to Major Gordon Duff at Â£32, I bought hir in 2 year old for Â£13 and three shillings of discount. The 9th was terrible rough wind and a great showr at 5 P.M. I put away Maggy Laing the 12th for stealling, first apples, secondly sop, and thirdly on the night of the 3rd milk and cream to herself, and other two woman, Jessie Wilson and Isabel Anderson, both from Bogmoor, Enzie, hirseile from Bogbain, and forthly cream and butter to herselfe, and the forsaide two. I saw the act done, went ben and catched them with the bits in thair mouths, at ten oclock at night, on the 11th, and in the morning of the 11th, it was Sunday, I catched hir giving them crowds and cream, and lastly, a parcel of eggs below hir chaff bead, all duck eggs. But the best fun was, she stole a letter of love from Jessie Wilson and read it to my

wiffe. She denied the theft to Wilson, but the reading of it condemned him, she then took guilt on him, but said she found it on the stair, and left it on the top of the meal girdle. When Willson asked back the letter, she told him she was a damned impudent bitch. When she went out to go away, I cried at him to come back, she had forgot his eggs in the bread, she told me to keep them for myself, but my leddy had them in his bundle, also a print of butter. I don't know if she had bread or not, it like as she would not stop his breakfast. It came out the 24th that our heron stole a pair of new worsted stockings of the forsook Jessie Willson. I went to Aberdeen the 19th to see the British Association, I paid 2/5, pictures or paintings was splendid, and old relicts and old warlike instruments terrible. On the 20th two of the four new cannon from Portsmouth was taken to the new battery by 4 horses with the help of the Artillerymen. Their weight was 96 cwt and 10 lb. Our harvest hands of the 27th one month, in 20 ricks from last year, we have 33 small and 12 old ones.

October 1859.

Begins terribly, began to plow the 1st turneps, getting white in many places and not knotting planning the railroad, the Keith and Dufftown about the first fortnight. Still great drought and terrible hot, the same as at midsummer, there was a weighty rain the 11th and some the 12th. We are building a dyke on the roadside at the back of the house and trenching alongside. We began to plow ley in the upper Glack with one furrow down hill the 12th. Our cattle, part of them, put in on the straw the 12th. Mr. Alexr. Cirmichail, schoolmaster, has been very poorly this past six weeks, I doubt consumption. I think the cornyards is fully one third below the average, the oats at Keith £1 pr 40 lb. I am only thrashing but the first of it yet. I think there has been as much rain betwixt the 16th and 18th as has been since May. I hope it will do good to the neeps, the 18th and 19th dray. There is some corn to take in on Woodend and Braehead. Rain, wind, sleet and hail, the 20th, wind blew north very cold. Made up the goodwife account to Mrs. Gordon Duff for butter and eggs £5-4s. There was four inches of snow the 21st. The 22nd cleared the road with the snow plow down to the merchants. Out shooting heares and rabbits the 25th. The 26th, rain and high wind all day, cold, cold and fustern, The 27th the Major sent the factor, gamekeeper and myself to hunt deer in the wood of Almore, a dreadful day of rain and sleet the whole day, got none. On the 26th the Australian stamper ship the Royal Charter was totally lost near Menaie Straits, 449 persons drowned and 500-000 thousand pounds of gold, 39 persons saved. The 28th a fine quiet day, but on Saturday the 29th fearful wind and rain the whole day. The burns and water swollen nearly like the dreadful flood of 1829. There is many people drowned by sea and land, ships and boats wrecked. The snow mostly all of the 31st.

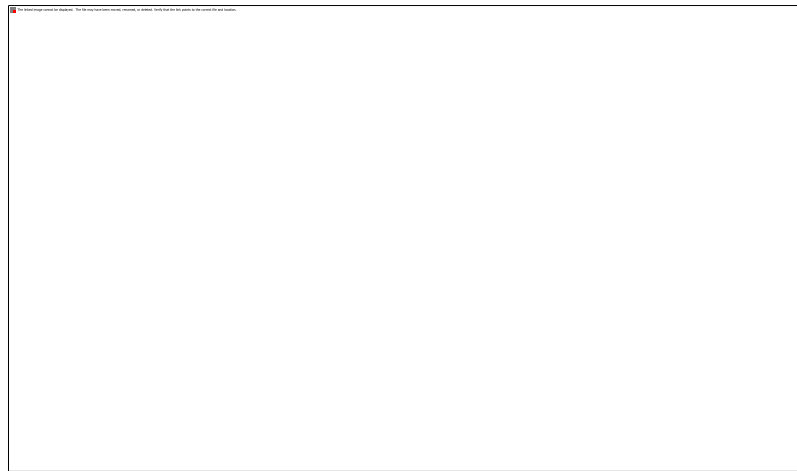
November 1859.

Begins frosty and quiet. On the 2nd I was out with the Major, and Major Jas Duff of Hatton Castle and Mr. John Grant, factor in Loach Park. Their was 3 roes shot besides hares. I had nothing but some hares, the next day, the 3rd, we went to the wood of Rosarie. I had the honour of shooting one their with three horns, full grown and all knaggs. It was complimented to Major Duff Hatton. I shot another in the wood of Auldmore and some hares. I was complimented with one roe, we had four by snares. On the 4th, I bought a mare pony at £16.15s. My other one is above 20 years, and some stiff. This day the 4th, I sold 11 qrs. of old oats and 9 quars of new at £1 per 40 lb, I was elected to the board (133) again the 2nd. Sleety showers and 4th and 5th, the 8th, rain and sleet, the 9th, Thanksgiving, the ground white and very cold. The 13th and 14th quiet and warm. We began to plow Dinnicorn ley shift the afternoon of the 11th. Mr. Cirmichal, schoolmaster still very poorly. Capital plowing dray weather. The halph of our ley plowed the 22nd. Began our avel the 23rd, quiet and warm. On the 25th, wind with sleet showers. I have made a clean town of servants at this term. Oats £1. to £1.1s per 40 lbs. Mr. Cirmichal, schoolmaster died, for the past 6 years a most excellent lad, and very intimate acquaintance. Has left a young weddow, one son and two young daughters. He was aged 27. Their is a new school getting the third coat of plaster this 29th day of Novr. Mr. Cirmichal was buried at Glass the 30th, some snow, very cold with sleety shown. Their was two candidats for the school the night of the funeral. One Stewart from Davidston, he was making intercession for the school long before Mr. Cirmichal died. it would be a pity if he succeed. The Major is begun to plant up in the glack. The dyke is finished round the knowe, called Tomnacrunnion, and the knowe of the south of it on the duck is called Auchneschool, then the Leadys Bead and Hawkies Holl. Some snow on the ground the 30th.

December 1859.

Begins some storme. I was hunting in Lochpark the 3rd. I shot one fine roe. I received a letter from the laird deated the 5th to shoot hares in the hill above Midthird for mysilfe. Very high winds the 8th, 9th and 10th. Slight rain and sleety showers the 11th and 12th. Wm. Taylor not very weall for the 14 days. The plowing match on Blackhall and Woodend the 13th. It was high wind with frost and snow showers all day. The hours of plowing was from 9 to 2 o'clock or no prizes, but John Riach, Wm. Murray, Charles Stephen, and James Stables all first plowman from an hour to 1 and 1 1/2 hours beyond the time. and got the first prizes. The judges of the harness was all night, the night before helping to clean harness and gave prizes all first for the same. It was one of sadler Munros journyemen and him the maker of kid harness. Their was 12 pair the people was aware was never looked at, whether good or bad. The 14th, snow and still snow and frost on the 19th which was eight inchs deep and fully 12 upon the 20th. Ann Addisons, Glack was married the 17th, about

50 at the marriage, and a funny homecoming we had. The 21st, the rents paid, fully ten inches of snow. Thair is one bad job. we have no stored torneeps. We had before the 22nd fully 12 inchs of snow, but the night betwixt the 22nd and 23rd fully another foot. Was quite quaiet and evendown fall of flags, now fully two foot of snow over all livel lands. I am now 56 years old. I never saw so much come one night. The 24th, a kind of snow and sleet and high wind all day, wind south east. The 26th, 27th and 28th quite and sometimes weighty rain, but not fresh. The torneeps bad to get. Still about one foot of snow and the snow hard. Scriped above this is wrote the 30th. Sore work for all the men and towns to get neeps, quaiet and soft the last night of the year. George McWillie, Midthird, 31st.



THE RUINS OF AUCHINDOUN CASTLE.

BALVENIE CASTLE.

On the left is Auchindoun castle which is situated some three miles South-west of Dufftown on the A941. This castle is referred to by George

McWillie in his diary in a manner which leads one to believe that there would have been a connection with our ancestors of years long gone by. Balvenie Castle stands above and north of Dufftown, Scotland and the river Fiddich, and was once believed to have been called Mortlach Castle. Glenfiddich Scotch Whisky distillery sits behind the trees in the above photograph. The area includes that area of Scotland referred to as whisky row and has had a long history of whisky traders. George McWillie also records some of his dealings with the traders. During the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 the district was also known as rebel territory and it is reasonable to conclude the McWillie families of the area would have been sympathisers of the Stuart cause.

January 1860.

January 3rd, 1860. The first begins soft, I see some of the heads of the torneeps on Treeyard as we go into church. The 2nd fresh, the 3rd quaiet with mist and cloes air. My wiffe and mysilfe, or both, is going to Mr. George Allens marriage, schoolmaster, Keith Free Church. The wiffe at 12 o'clock is trying on a jacket of fine black sillk, lined read flannal, was bought for a linder for mysilfe, with a roe of fine black buttons down the front, with her newest black silk gown. The mutch is made of tullie with read pink ribbands, the front is mounted with something like black beads, but soft like cotton. I think the girth at the buttock will measure about one foot more nor hir length, but she wants on the bonnet yet. Now home the morning of the 4th at 5 O'clock. I hade 4 prises of iron work first day of youl, hard frost with deep old snow. The 6th, a new schoolmaster placed, Mr. Donald Stewart, son of Mr. Duncan Stewart, farmer, Davidston. Still hard old snow and hard frost, at the 9th still a dale of old snow and the roads terrible slippie. At Keith with 8 qurs of old oats, the 11th the 12th, a shooting. I had 3 prises of silver. Some soft the 12th. The 13th, high winds and fresh. At Keith with 9 qurs oats, new road quite slippy. Another 8 qurs same day, only went to Maslie. Hard frost, scouring our mill water 17th and 18th. Out shooting some hares for mysilfe. The 20th, rain and sleet, the 21st, high wind south east and rain and snow. Shot 14 hares on Tenroad and Drummuir lands the 24th. On Saturday the 28th, along with the keeper, I shot a fine read deer, in the wood of Scoug, and on the 30th I shot a pritty hind up in the glack above Glackmuck, in a bitt of broom, still weighty snow and hard frost.

February 1860.

Begins frost and deep snow on the 1st. Out shooting hares, began on Westertoon down to Mains of Towiebeg. Two keepers, Jas Mill and mysilfe shot 26 and 3 rabbits. Terrible cold. Oats and straw Â£2 to Â£2.2, and oats without straw is Â£1 for 40 lb. I have sold none below 41 1/2 lbs. Sold five fat quoyes the 3rd at Â£13.5s pr head, some fresh the 3rd and 4th. James Andersen. Mill of Towie and Fanny Garden, Westertoon, was to be married the 2nd. She brought forth young, it was put back to the

4th. Still frost and snow the 6th. A sward was presented to the young laird of Kininvie the 2nd. *Drummuir, 5th Decr, 1859. Mr. McWillie, Midthird. If you wish to kill a few hares on the hills above your farm, this is the authorise to shoot them, J.D. Lachlan Duff. Let the keeper know that he need not be going after you when he hears firing.* The snow a dale deeper the night of the 8th. The 9th still deeper about 14 inches over all, sore work for the men and lowns getting neeps, snowplow and all, great complaints for keep for sheep and cattle. I have 14 ricks the 9th, out shooting hares the 9th Gamie, Alexr. mysilfe, one hour, 4 hares. George McWillie here from Gamrie the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th. Fresh, the land clear, but the furrors, but the ground quite hard with the old frost. I was at the sawmill speaking for one hundred sheet of pailing the 17th. The 19th and 20th, hard blowing, and did not go to church, fresh the 23rd, shooting hares, and out the 25th, we had 4 hares and 3 rabbets. Our plow yoaked for the first time Monday the 27th. Plowed none since the plowing match on Woodend the 13th of December. Straw and oats from Â£2.3s to Â£2.10s pr qur. Hey 15s to 18s. and oats alone Â£1.1s. pr qur. Torneeps scarce, hares has done more harm this year, nor I ever remember, mostly eaten whole fields. I sold two small quoys at Fumakfair at Â£18 the 28th, a good market.

March 1860.

Begins some fresh, a dale of old snow still on many places. Began to plow clean land on the banks the 1st in the afternoon. Hard frost each day in the morning. I sold a thrashed rick of hey at Â£16, about 300 stones to Mr. Leddingham, Keith, the 2nd. Still hard frost and one yoaking a day the 9th. the 10th about 2 inches of snow., the 12th cold with frost. Mr Grants roup the 15th at Ardbrack. I bought a timepice, table bell, some books and pictures. John Burges, Cachenhed, eight chairs @ 1.10s a pice, or Â£12. Geo Garden, Westerton, a carpet Â£3, the rug Â£1.9s, it cost 10s.6d. new. John Burges chairs, 28 sh. a pice. Always frost, high wind and haill showrs on the 23rd. We have just 14 ricks the 23rd. Oats Â£1.2s to Â£1.2s.6d pr 40 lb. straw verry scarce. We was at Keith the 23rd with 15 qurs oats, 8 to Rosarie and 7 to the station for Urquhart, rain and slett the whole day. Oats up to Â£1.4s. pr 40 lb. The 25th and 26th, rain and sleet and land terrible wet. the 27th two inches of snow and cold. An extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Keith and Duffton Railway at Keith in the Gordon Arms Inn the 31st. Mains of Auchynachie was setting his potatos as I went down. Some oats sown today at Mures of Auchendown, the land weat and dale of neeps rotten in the land with the severe winter.

April 1860.

The first a fresh morning, rather cold through the day, some showrs in the afternoon. Westerton sowed the 3rd. We sowed the first on Dinnicorn the 5th, ley all sown the 6th. Hard frost in the morning, clear

and sunny all the day. Weighty rain the 8th, hard frost and the land raw. I sold a rick of corn and straw the 13th, of 8 qurs, 4 bushels, and 3 pecks at £2.3s pr qur. I have but 8 ricks and sow of hey. Oats selling at £1.6s pr 40 lb. Mr James Watt, shoemaker at Pachals and his wiffe Finella Edwards, both cripples, has but one son, George Watt, a clerk in Keith. His mother was poorly in hilt a short time ago, thinking she was to die. She banked thair mony in Georges name. He has taken up every rap of the mony, and of to America. From the 13th to the 20th, cold frosty winds. Sowed our clean ground in glack the 19th, the banks to sow yet. White clover 11d, read new 6d, read old 5d, rygrass seeds 3d. Sunday the 22nd, high winds. Flags and hail shows throw the day. We was at Keith station the 21st with hey to John Watt, at 1/2 pr stone. Verry cold and great hail shows the 23rd. Oats now at Elgin £1.10 pr 42 lb. with straw £2.3s. to £2.5s, hey 1s, to 1/2 pr stone. I have six ricks and took in the 7th. the 23rd. Torneeps near done and 500 stones of hey. The 25th, fine quaiet day, the 26th, fresh I may say for the first time. We sowed one halph of the banks the 26th, clean land. A new factor, of the name of D, Robertson, came about the first. The 30th, quaiet and verry warme, all our neeps home the 30th, about 3 acres to sow on the bank. Sold Major Gordon Duff 224 stones of hey at 1s. pr stone.

May 1860.

The first three days extraordinary hot, the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th cold east winds. Peter Forbes roup by the shirrefs warrent, was on the 28th May, for arears of rent. I bought his tea kettle and chojar at 6/9. I sold 248 stones of hey to Thomas Humphray, Fochabers at 1s. pr stone. The 7th, we have only 4 ricks and one taken in to the barn which is fine, we have only about 2 loads of neeps the 8th. Cold drught, about one third of our neeps land plowed the 8th. All our neep land plowed the 17th, and began to form dreels the 17th with one pair of horses. John Watt and me bought £2 worth of backs at the loach sawmill the 16th, I began to drive the 18th, drughty with wind, moderate capital weather for cleaning neep land.

June 1860.

The 1st, verry drughty and no growth in grass, we have the shift at the end of the closs sown in to the style the 2nd. The 4th, wind east, rain all the day. It was the Monday Market Duffton. I have still 3 ricks, and two of them old ones. The night of the 4th, a gold watch presented to the Rvd. Mr. Fairweather, Nonintrusion Minister, I gave him five shs. Oats £1.8s. to £1.9s pr 40 lb, meal £1.2s.6d. Botriphnie. Helen Peterkin here from the Broom, not very weal, 6th, rather rainy, 5th and 6th, Betty at Rothemay seeing Wm. McDonald the 8th. The 12th was an afull day of wind and rain from the east, did a dale of dammage on Waterside. June Market, few dealers and stiff mkt. excepting for fat stock. I sold 3 small stots to Mr. Finloater for £13.2s.6d pr head. The fifteenth, high wind, about 5 acres of torneeps to sow, mostly all duned. Good growing

weather and a dale of thunder 16th. Our rents paid the 18th at the Castle to Mr. Green, Keith, the Major present, quite warme. A new dyke building of stone and lime around the schoolhouse at this time., Wm. Strath, Masson. Done sowing neeps the 20th, two acres, got the speat, I rolled them with the big roler to brack the scariff. At Turfshill 21st and 22nd, some showry the 23rd. Grass rather scarce but crop doing weall. Hindmost tears sown the 21st. Our cattle out to grass the first time the 15th. not fare up yet, good growing weather. The 26th, some shows, all our torneeps shift formed the 26th, the halph of our tears sown the 26th. A dale of thunder and weighty rain, much good. Rather cold with frost at night the 28th. flying shows the 29th, Taylor & Bremner at Keith for Guano. We sowed the first of the neeps from the 24th to the end of the month of June, cold with high winds and rough shows.

July 1860.

Alexander Garrow Bellman for the past 10 years, gave up his birth to the Parson, the reason is, he had the grass of the churchyard, but grass being scarce this year, the minister thought proper to eat with teathered sheep and was for him to cut the nittles and other noxious weeds. Garrow gave up the birth, and on Sunday the first of June, the Parson came with his big bible, like a pack merchant, and no Bellman, and many of the people gave no babbies. He tryed one Jas. Newlands, he would neather carry books or ring bells unless paid three pence per hour. Mr. Parson had no recourse but give up the grass to Garrow again. Haugh, haugh, haw! Began howing neeps the 6th and I saw the first points of awens coming out of our barley the 7th. A new road finished throw the pasture of Midthird to the new crofts on the other side of the hollow. Stables, farmer, Linmore of Bellyhack sold straw to Miss McPherson, Aberlowr, at Â£1.14s. pr. quarters straw. For the past 14 days, high tearing winds, pasture grass is scarce in many places. Fat cattle dear, and two year olds is Â£9 to Â£10. 1 ditto Â£5 to Â£6, but good weighty rain for one hour at 7 o'clock P.M. the 13th, high wind the 14th and the 15th and rain the 16th, much good, the oats begining to shoot. Our fire house mudthaching, done in 4 days by John Findlay, 9 shs. The 15th, I feed three weaman at Â£2.1s pr head, a cutter Â£3.8s. A dale of thunder the 15th at 8 o'clock, verry high cracks hail and rainy. The 16th, cloudy. Peter Forbes, Cotterton is begun to cross plow his torneep land the 16th. He was sowing something into his clean land at this time, thair is about two acres was not sowen in spring. I hear it is sown with torneeps again. The thunder of the 15th, Sunday, killed a cow to the Rvd. Fairweather. It was reported in Keith I had a horse killed, I now see it in the Banff Journal, it is not truth. Our neeps done hoeing the first time the 25th. rather watery and cold comonly frost at night. Isabella George at Drumure died the 17th, aged 25. A great many thousands of trees for coal props driving out of the wood above our town. We have a ewe of 15 years old has had 3 lambs mostly each year. She was not at the ram last fall because of her

age. She went off to the Mains of Towiebeg, the 26th February, got the ram hirseile and lambled. A fine ram lamb of the southdown breed the 22nd of July. Rather showry on to the end.

August 1860.

Begins the day of Glass Market, a capital sale and high prices. In the second time in dewey days drawing the crops of 7000 larch trees out of the wood for fire. I got the crops for a road to drive down the wood, it is for coall props. The crop will be late, not nearly shot yet the 3rd. I have only one old stack about eleven or twelve quarters. I sold ten quarters of oats at Â£1.11s pr. qur the 3rd. Weall, upon the 6th, Wm. Taylor and me started for Aberdeen, the 6th Taylor came home with the 5 o'clock train. I was to hold on to Edinburgh next day, thair being a Review of 22000 Riflemen reviewed by the Queen. I could get no acquaintance, and I went to Aboyne, thair was a masson walk and ball that night, so thair was, the next day the Queen arrived at 3 o'clock P.M. Stayed one half hour at the station. All hir equpage being thair also, and 50 of the 93 Highland Regement, and as many Rifflelmen from Banchory. The Queens horses and carriage, in leaving the station, got a little restive, and ran to thair own hotel, was owned by one cook, and his son was driving. It was about 60 yards of the road. I came to Aberdeen that night and home the next day being the 8th. I took a bad cold that afternoon, and so did Wm. Taylor, Got no rain, but at home it rained almost all the time, and the 9th and 10th, it rained all day, and me ill with a gout in the top of my left thigh.

Mrs Burges, weddow of John Burges Cachenhead, has managed the farm for the past 10 years. Had a family of 3 sons and 4 daughters, brought them all up with good education. Died the 14th at 6 P.M. Still rainy since the 15th of July, Marter Bullions days. The 16th, the day of Dufftoon Market and all that night, wind and verry weighty rain. The ** in bad condition. Our hey was only cut the 14th, no word of any earth fire being drove. Oats is Â£1.10s. pr. qur of 42 lbs. I am still ill with my thigh and back. I put mustard blister the 12th. That night I had a dream that I shit my britches. I told my wiffe my dream before I rose out of bead. Whean rising and beholding my britches, all spoiled with the mustard the afternoon before. Them that sees this may judge of my astonishment. George McWillie, Betty, went to the Broom by rail the 21st, a dray warme day, but the 22nd, rain the whole day. I would not sell the Major but 2 qurs of oats, the 22nd, untill I see the weather alter, the hey is in a bad state. All in bouts or stooks, and the clover growing up through the hey. The 23rd, I was out with the Major shooting mourfoul and hares. We killed 10 brace and some hares in the hill of Bellyhack. It was the first time I ever was taken out to shoot mourhens by the laird. Quite warme, rain the 24th and some the 25th. The 26th, Mr. Miller, the first Minister of Nonintrusion ever at the Barn of Woodend, he did not use the paper whean he officiated as Minister of the Barn, but now reading the paper

with his spectacles. What may his he and she hearers think of him now, when he was thair pastor, they would go and here none thar read a paper sermon. Oats £1.14s from Geo. Duff to the Major. Our hey colled the 27th, quit weet. Margaret McKimmie, Backhill of Kininvie had a ilegimat child born about the 9th, which she conceald in the wood of Loachpark. Mr. Robertson, supperintendant of police, got a wisper of on the 23rd, and on the 24th, she was taken to Keith, and on the 25th, she returned with police gig. Had him for the child was hid, and he took them both to Banff. Verry rainy, on to the end of the month. Some oats only begining to change to yellow, and no fire, drove as weet as when cut. Grass for cattle now verry scarce.

September 1860.

Begins on Saturday, rain the whole day. We have taken in half of an old rick to straw our cows, horses and calves. No hey as yet got in for the rainy weather. Torneeps getting yallow in damp land. The 6th and 7th, quiet and terrible heat, rain 9th and 10th. At Keith the 12th for coals and 2 flagstons for barn. The 13th, rain the whole day. Putting out some top dressing the 13th and 14th. Some barly and oats cut on different farms in Botriphnie the 17th, Summerssfair the 19th some stiff market. James Dunbar and two sons from Strathdon here the 19th. Drove the first of the fire the 19th, as weat as when cut out of the moss. People building thair hey now, not in good condition. Westerton began full force the 24th. Our harvest hands came home the 28th, and Saturday the 29th was rain the whole day, we began to cut the 1st October.

October 1860.

Begins quait and rank dew, began cutting the 1st at eleven o'clock in the Upper Glack, rain at night. Thair is no ripe oats as yet, in general only meall and kale and some places as green as the torneeps. Thair has been white frost mostly each morning through the summer. Little or no fire drove, and what we drove is only put up in dyks to dray. The grass is completely done. The son was weading all day on Tuesday the 3rd and quait. The wind rose through the night, at 5 in the morning blowing a hurricane, which continued to eleven A.M. I see many house unthached, and up in Haggishaw, above Midthird, upwards of one thousand fine larach trees rooted out. One would think the wood was all built in bothes, some roots are 20 foot broad by 14 foot high. I went up in the hight of temest, the earth was moaving with the tree roots as the waves of the troubled sea. I could not go in to the woods. Weighty rain began at nine o'clock, but the wind still blowed dreadfull. We had about 4 acres cut at Westerton about the 20th, and not one standing stook left. I don't think thairs much corn shook, owing to the strength of the wind, keeping it always bent and down. Alexander McWillie ([134](#)), my uncle in Midtoon of Towiebeg, died the 6th, aged 90 years and 10 days, in the same house he was born in. The 7th rain and the 8th rain and sleet. Some cutting the

9th, rain and hail. Newmills market quaeit and the son weading the 10th. Cutting the Keith and Duff railway. Begun Keith about end of September. Terrible news of the let hurricane by sea and land. The 10th, in the morning, fully one inch of snow, and cold with wind. We are taking in loads of corn for the cattle. It cannot be thrashed for weat. Our old straw done the 10th. The 11th, snow in the morning, some rain and cold, on to the 15th. We began the 17th, 8 ricks of hey and lead some and built it in the Glack, the 18th. We have one third of it and more to cut the 19th. We began to cut on the banks clean land, dray and windy and slight drops of rain. Westerton has lead, all the 17th, 18th and 19th. We have only 17 ricks. The 27th, thair was high winds. The 25th and 26th, hard white frost, and on the 27th. Giving our cattle straw evening and morning. We were done cutting the 30th, hard frosty mornings and quaeit.

November 1860.

Begins quaiet and frosty. About 6 acres of oats to take in the 4th. My people did not go out to 6 o'clock in the morning, and in at 6 at evening. A set of meear cows I had to put them out each morning. We drove up five ricks from Burnend of clean ground oats the 9th, and built it the 10th by our harvest hands. On the 10th, we took 2 hours of the plow, the 10th, 11th and 12th, watery and misty. Frosty with showrs and mist, from the 12th to the 17th. At 12 A.M. came on about one inch of snow, it was on the 15th, the day before the feeing Friday. We built our last howak of brock. Monday the 19th, about 4 inchs of snow. Oats is now Â£1.1s per 40 lb. and meal Â£1 to 19s. per boll. Thair is still a dale of corn to take in, in Boharm and many other places, about 9 acres on Cotterton, and about 4 on Ryhnesses on the White Cow. Rain every day from the 21st to the 25th and the 26th white with snow. Began to plow ley the 20th, the stubles for neeps so weat. The Keith and Dufftown Railway (135) is getting on in style in near twenty different places. I was out shooting hares and rabbets the 24th. Hard frost, stopt plowing the 27th. The 28th and 29th, ground white and quite cold. Oats now Â£1 pr 40 lb. It is weighing from 36 lbs to 41 lbs, Barly in Botriphnie 48 lbs. Sleety showrs at the end. The railway getting on all along the line. The bridges at Woodend, the foundation is cut ten foot deep throw clay, then thair is 15 foot of black moss, thairs 18 inchs of small stones covered with slacked lime, then double planking 3 inchs thick laid cross ways, The grannet is from Aberdeen, the rest of the stones out of the brea of Argarthney anent the farm of Ardbrack.

December 1860.

Begins rain for the first four days, constant the 5th and 6th, high winds with mist and some showrs of rain. Plowing ley, the land terrible weat. Betty and Taylor at Dufftown carding mill the 6th, cold wind and weety, terrible with gutters. I was hunting roes with the Major the 8th and Captain Ewieng. Killed three besides hares. I carried home one roe and

one hare, from the Burn of Oldmore to Midthird for my own share, and at Achlunkhart the 11th with the gentlemen, and Achlunchart, thair was nothing killed but 16 hares and 6 woodcocks. Both days dray, but ground most terrible weat, then rain on to the 17th, it has about one inch of snow. Still above 100 acres of oats in the Glen of Bodinfinnach and on Cottertoun and White Cow, Robertsons daughter, Braehead and one Humphrey Masson, Elgin, proclaimed the 16th. Mr Masson would not allow the marriage to go on without three proclamations, but for a load of fire wood, he allowed it to go on for two proclamation. Thats the boy for the times. Mark that my young friends that intends matrimony. Only one load of firewood, 1/8, besides driving, three hours work @ 9d. pr hour, 2/7 in whole 4s.3d. rather muckle. The 18th, about two inches of snow, the 21st, 9 inches, the 22nd, snow is still on the incress. Our rents was paid, about 70 of us was dined in the Castle. Five navies poaching in Bellyhack, all the rent day. Monday the 24th, out shooting with the Major. One halph dozen of hares, fully 15 inches of snow, and most penetraeting frost, and so on to this time, the 25th. I do not mind to see acres of stooks at a new Christemess. The snow still weighty but quaiet. On to the night of the 29th which was a terrible night of wind and blowing, and Sunday all day the roads all blocked up, but the land all made bear in to hows and dens. Oats up to Â£1.5s. pr. qur of 40 lb. only in general weighing in many places from 34 to 39 lbs. and owing to weety summer, a great scarcity of fire, nothing but wood and coals. Butter 8d. pr lb. and eggs, 9 1/2 pr doz. Beef, Â£3 to Â£3.5s pr cwt. I shot one of the finest roebucks ever, I shot the 31st at Lord Fifes March above Tollroad ley and Ryell small shot, at sixty yards.

January 1861.

Another year is gon over My head and I do not suppose mysilfe old, altho past 58 years, time is fast rolling along, and I am not perceving the swiftness of its motion, so I have no doubt will hurl me along with its torrent sea of eternity. I wish I could look ahead for the brackers of the lea, shore cannot be as to distance fare of. The first day of January, 61, is quaiet with frost, and Betty weaving new feet to my tartan hose for goeing on to the Majors Tea, Ball and Supper on the evening of the 3rd. Be it known to those of the rising generation, the ball did take place after sixty partaking of an excellant tea, and all its followers, Mr. Geo, and Mrs. Garden, mysilfe and wiffe, broak up the ball with highland fling to the tune, "The Marquas of Huntly". Went on to halph past 8, then the sixty ate an excellent supper pined with a glass of best shampine and tumbler of Alloway ale. The dancing began again comenced by the Major taking the floor with my wiffe, along with the ladys maid and mysilfe, to the tune of "Craigellachie Bridge" and lady Duff sitting laughing looking on, but could not join the dance owing to chilblains on hir feet. The musick and merry dance got untill three o'clock next morning, all happy to part, and yes, happy to meet again. It was quiet with hard frost. A shooting at

Tennanton, the ground we lay upon was laid with shaves out of the stook. I had three iron bindings for cattle, and four gills of whisky at 7d. pr gill. I have attended shootings thair for the past fifty years, and I never saw stooks in Botriphnie the first day of Old Christemess. Thair will be no of it to man or beast. I mind thair was out in Boharm the same time, and to some to cut 1817. The 9th was soft and closs air, the 10th, a little fresh. A wager was laid by Alxr. Dey, Forkins and Mr. Anderson, merchant, 1st December, that the foresaid would not have a thrashing mill fit for thrashing in five weeks. I joined on Anderson side, 1 lb. tobacco. I got three notices to be down on the 12th at twelve o'clock, and bring the tobacco. Down I went, the mill was sitting on a small bit of floor laid for a thrash. Neather walls or roof above the mill and three inches of water and sleet on the floor, neather strippers on drum or shackers no belts. Mind the wager was one rick thrashed on the 12th. But I came home and my tobacco. Weall, at 9 P.M. o'clock, the mill thrush three bushels with hilp of John Duff who drove the shackers, thair beeing no belt for the purpose. I think she will require other three weeks or she be a mill fit for thrashing a rick witheout John Duff or some more of the boys with flails. A dale of snow with frost the 15th, a little soft the 19th and 20th, but the 21st, rale fresh and warm and all the bees out of thair hives. We have had just five weeks of frost and snow. We have had hedded neeps all the time, only we was always pulling a few to keep headed ones. Our quoys and stots dead fat, but as we have plenty of keep, they will always be getting bigger and fatter. Beef is from Â£3.5s. to Â£3 pounds for the hunderweight, and the oats at Â£1.6s. pr qur of 40 lbs. pr bushel, thair is from 34 lbs. to 41 lbs. per bushel, not nere so much of the straw as the past year. Still a dale of stooks to take in. in many places. They have been building at the Railway Bridges through the winter, for all the snow. I was out shooting roes, hares and rabbets the 22nd. with Major and Auchlunkhart, and out the 23rd with Chine and Tom, keepers, shooting hares. We were at the scoug at the marriage of his daughter Lizzy, with one Sime from Elgin the 24th. Cotterton took his shift of clean ground oats, 23rd and 24th, so did Rhyness of Whitecow. It was the longest out stooks ever I saw. I forgot we began to plow the 22nd, after five weeks of snowe. The 26th, quaiet and warme. I was cleaning and repairing a kitchen grate for our kitchen, I got in a compliment from Major Duff., Gordon Duff. The 27th, fresh, the afternoon high wind and cold. A great many old wreaths of snowe. The 27th, fresh, the afternoon high wind and cold. A great many old wreaths of snowe. The 27th, a shooting of sculls, I had but one at 2/6, thet used to be from 8d. to 9d, and made of juniper scobs a all. By letter, Hellen Peterkin died here this morning, Aberdeen, 24th January, 1861 Betty is aunt. From the 24th, most beautifull, on to the end.

February 1861.

The first was a Keith Market. I sold 3 quoys at Â£18 pr. head. A beautiful day to two o'clock, then weighty rain, quaiet the 2nd with frost. Oats at

Keith Â£1.5s. pr 40 lbs. High wind the 4th, with great showers of flags. The 5th, the same. Our high land awvel plowed, and began to Dinnicorn the 4th. All my berrie bushes pruned out the 7th, then about two inches of snow through the night. My mother poorly the 5th, still in bed. The 8th, about 4 inches of snow, quiet with frost, snow on to the 16th, all of the 17th. Plows going the 18th, high winds with rain and sleet the 19th, terrible cold. Suddenly by bursting of a blood vessel, at Queens Bridge, Belfast, on the 8th inst., Alexander McWillie (136), aged 28 years, eldest son of John McWillie, farmer, Midtoon, Bottriphnie. Capital draying days from the 22nd to the 25th. Ten rigs of awvel to plow. The 25th, all our ley and avel plowed the second of March.

March 1861.

Begins dray with frosty mornings. I have 24 ricks of oats and small one of barley, and one of hay, and one half of the turneps. The 2nd, oats Â£1.4s. to Â£1.5s pr qur. Peter Forbes, Cotterton, sowing the 2nd on ley. Died the 28th February, Fliza Anderson, aged 27 daughter of Alexander Anderson, farmer of Mill of Towie and Westerchaldier, Keith. The sixth, terrible wind and cold, frosty and high on to the 11th, we are throwing plowing, in to our neeps the 12th. Begun to build the bridge for the railway below the church over the Isla the 14th. The water for Midthird was covered in with 6 inch toils from our improved land up to the burn, in the month of February, and the pasture taken of Midthird for a croft. There is a number of people planting above Blackmure and a dyke building to keep out cattle, and their planting and filling up natural wood betwixt the burn and Sheean park. From the 14th to the 19th, rather cold with showers of sleet and snow. There was a man got his leg broke at the railway bridge at Woodend, by falling of a sandbank. The 16th Robert Stronach came here for his health, an old servant. The 15th, I got schedules for the population, the 16th for the Drummire district. Capital dray weather for work. The Lairds horses and John Watts is plowing on Cotterton, I suspect Pr. Forbes must remove soon. We began to sow on Claggans the 25th, excellent dray weather, on to the 27th, the 28th and 29th, wind and rain. John Strathdee and Wastie sowed the 29th, after 10 o'clock it rained all day. The railway bridge below the manse founded the 29th, Saturday.

April 1861.

Begins rainy. I was out distributing schedules, in the Drummire district for the population on the 1st and 2nd, rainy both days and on to Saturday the 6th, we have put up all our pailing round the Bank of Burnend, being new grass for a park for the cattle. Rainy on to the day I was out distributing schedules for the population to the 6th the 9th and 10th. The population was taken up the 8th, I had the Drummire district. Capital dray sowing weather, all our ley sown out the 12th, and 7 acres of our ley sown out the 15th. The cattle could fill themselves on grass. The berry

bushes green the 4th. and all the flourish out, the 13th, terrible hot and misty mornings. By a decision of the Shirreff Substitute, the Major has plowed about twelve acres on the Cottertoun. The head Shireff has reversed the decision, and Peter Forbes is getting on with the sowing of the farm as usual. Cattle rather back in price. I bought a small gig pony the 16th, of ten year old at Â£8.5s. Quaiet warm misty days and great grouth. This the 19th, wind rather rough and sunshine. Oats, 40 lbs. about Â£1.59. William Taylor got verry poorly the 23rd. All our crop laid down. The 28th, Major Duff Gordon resigned being member for the county at this time. I have sold him two ricks of oats and straw at Â£1.14s pr qur, Grass and eveything growing like summer. Wm Taylor verry poorly the 30th, now much colder at the end.

May 1861.

Begins rather watery. Our potatos set the 2nd, then cold with sleety showrs. My mother, Isabella Shearer (137), died the 3rd. at halph past three o'clock, of two days illness, aged eighty four and eight months, and was buried in my fathers grave the 6th. I have sold the Major two ricks of oats and straw at Â£1.14s pr qur and 2 bushels. Still rain, sleet and snow at the 10th, the land quite weet. Alexander Mitchell died at Hillfolds, aged 60, son of Alxr. Mitchell, let farmer of Midthird, the 6th. A stout fellow in his prime. Still rather watery, on to the 13th. I was putting up pailing round the neepseed the 13th. We have 12 ricks, and one of hey the 13th. Many peoples cattle out at grass at this time. The bridge over the railway below the mance at the leavel, and the dyks round the station the 13th. I was 14 years of age whean all Haughs from Midtown to Linmore was full of alder wood, and that weet and moss hols that no beast but ducks could pass throw them. A deal of Aisla whean cut, was thrown out with pails, and the meall mill of Mill of Hole was oppoite the castle of Drummuire and driven with water out of the loach of Loachpark, and the Mill of Ardrack was at the deep cut beside the station. The railway passes throw the stance of hir and Mill of Hole. Adam Hey was miller and then James Ross, now at Mill of towie. The night of the 15th and 16th rainy, but quite warme. Geo. McWillie.

Ann Roy, born at Midtown, and long day labroure on Ardrack, who wrought hard and lived sober diet, an scarcely any cloaths. She has left Â£127, and died the 19th about 51 years of age. The 19th was verry warme, and the morning of the 20th, a dale of thunder, verry loud from five to six o'clock and weighty rain, in the middle of the parish, and scarcely any here at all. Our torneep land all cross plowed the 20th. The fees for fore or good men Â£10 to Â£12, woman from Â£4 up to Â£5. The 27th and 28th, dray, many Swedish neeps sown that 2 days, then showry on to the end. Our cattle out to grass 25th, capital.

June 1861.

Begins rainy. I put 15 cattle to a park on Braehead anent the school. I paid £26, discount a calf at 16shs. The railway people is taking down the bridge at Woodend that is wrong in the foundation at this time, will cost £100. The one below the mance is riven and posted. Over the railway of 16 men and the 1 pumping water out of the foundation of the one beside it which they are taking down, the water comes out of the brae of Ardgarthney, a beautiful spring, From the begining on to the 9th constant rain mostly. The railway mens wages was £14shs, to June for ten hours, now 16shs. for 12 hours. We began to sow neeps about the 6th, the land terrible weet. Now at the 18th, terrible warme and a great growth to the 15th. All our neeps shift sown out our to the how beyond the dame. I see the new station house risen and now 6 foot up, altho banked and 5 foot up with earth. Our rents paid 20th, very warme and dray, taken and recepted by Mr. P. Murray, Portsoy. Howing potatos 21st, awful grouthy. 6 ricks at this time, torneeps not all sown, the 22nd. I hoed potatos all day the 22nd, it was misty all day. People not fit to distroy thair grass growing like licks, and thair growing at the rate of one halph inchs in 24 hours in our yard. Torneeps all sown the 25th and then rainy to the 29th. Adam George died at Tennantoon the 30th, and was formerly farmer of Oldlenach. People have been thigging for him this 20 years, and has had twenty two children, but wives two had them, yes two wives.

July 1861.

Begins rather watery and great growth, the barly beginning to shoot and I see some of the oats pointing out. Cattle dreadfull darth, three year stots £20, two ditto £16 and one ditto £10, and oats is £1.5s pr 40 lbs. I am facing our dame dyke with stones. Our potatos is set up. The 6th, rather rainy with distant thunder. I started the 10th, for the farm of Broom, Mrs. Is Peterkins. Rough with some showrs of rain, and a large showr of hail, the land white. The 11th, to Banff to the Riffishooting, including Banff, Aberdeen and Morray Shires for a cup of silver given by Lord Fife, value sixty guineas, and to be shoot for 3 years and gained two times out of the three, by the one who gets the cup. It was gained this time by one Dunbar, from Aberdeen at the range of 600 yards. The railway new bridge over Fiddach of two archs fell the 9th, and killed William Robertson and girlie of 12 years. He was below the bridge at his breakfast, he belonged to Botriphnie, The telegraph poasts up from Keith to Lochpark the 16th. Rather watery, some mostly every day. One halph of our neeps hoed the 16th. Our hey cut the 11th and 12th and colled the 22nd. Misty and small rain the 23rd. Mr. James Jack, Ranas, Enzie, and me went to Dufftoon to see the fallen bridge of fiddoch on the railway. The 23rd, great rain and rain the 24th, and 25th, the day of Fifekeith Market, and rain the 26th, and on Saturday the 27th, awful thunder and rain at nine at night and rain on to the end.

August 1861.

Is begun with weighty thunder showrs every day on to the 12th, which is weighty rain. A dale of oats laid and not nearly all shot. The railway people has gone in to my quarry today the 8th. I have objected. The 12th, Lammas Day, weighty rain to two o'clock, the 13th weighty showrs throw the day. We turned two ricks the 13th and 14th and driving gravel to mend the road. I see by the Banff papers thair is barly cut in different parishes. I have other three stacks of oats to turn. Oats Â£1.3s to Â£1.4s pr qur of 40 lbs. Drove home some of our hey to the yard the 17th, but was stoped by weighty rain. The 18th, was high wind and weighty rain. Thair was rain every day on to the 23rd. We took home the rest of our hey the 22nd, John Gauld and John Peterkins wiffe here, a weighty rain after three o'clock. Our barley beginning to grow yellow. The 24th and 25th very high winds and weighty rain, the crop sore laid. Alexander Paterson, coachman to the Major, died the 25th in about 24 hours illness. I belive water in the head, he belongs to near Elgin. We was at Keith station the 26th for 45 cwts. coals and a ram, came from Gamrie. We built one rick of hey ther 30th, and has another one to build, but rain came and stopped us still on to the end.

September 1861.

Begins rainy, we scarcely no what to do. Great rain on Tuesday the 3rd. We are thrashing straw to thach part of our barn. The last thach was put on, the year 1845. The afternoon of Friday the 6th, one of the showrs of rain mixed with hail, we had the weighest I ever saw, the stripes and furrows on leys was like small rivers. It lasted about forty minuts. But oh, the oats is dreadful laid. Betty hir new every day shoos the 5th, price 7/6. The 8th, I found Mr. John Angus in the churchyard looking for his fathers grave, the late Revd. Alexr. Angus. The 9th, a warme quait day. I was making and mending mounting rains the 13th, 14th and 15th, and Monday the 16th. Wm. Buie mudthaching the front of our mill. Began the 13th, and we cut our barly the 13th, pickles of oats cut in the lower end of the parish. Thair is no fire drove this year at this time, and the land as weet as in the head of winter, and the crop laid and twisted, most dreadful. The potatos going wrong and the neeps in weety land. Geo. McWillie, Sepr 16th, 1861.

Our harvest hands came home the night of Summersfair the 18th, and begun to cut the 19th at 8 A.M. At 8 A.M. the 20th, general harvest. The 23rd the rain continued from 5 A.M, tonight and call night, a complete deludge, the waters doing a dale of damage to haugh land. The 24th, 25th and 26th, still rain. Our people making rapes. We begun the leading the 30th and took in 9 ricks of our avel.

October 1861.

Begins with sun and wind the 1st, and 2nd, took in 5 ricks, and took in other three of Mashlech the 4th, but wind and rain in the afternoon, but began to cut the shortest of our ley. More nor the halph of our clean land

is cut, seventeen ricks in, and the Bear in Howaks. We had in 25 ricks the 8th. Maggy Duff, the house woman, grew ill the 18th of September with rematicks, still worse to the 8th of this month, on which she went home. We have good harvest weather, a terrible wind on Sunday afternoon the 13th. Drove over all the stooks and ricks to many people, but the 14th windy. We began to lead at 4 o'clock A.M. and lead to eleven o'clock at night, and the 15th, lead all our cut corn and one days cutting in the upper Glack above the road. Rain the afternoon of the 15th. All our cutting done the 17th, 44 ricks yarded. The oats now £1 per qur of 40 lbs. and the majority of the potatos is wrong. I see by the papers the Queen at Fettercairn last week and at Badonach, all in a privat tour. Capital draying weather now, and all our crop taken in, the 19th, Dufftoon Market day, and all thached the 21st, but 6 without the yard. High wind the 21st and rather misty. About 2 acres to cut on Cotterton. John Dawn, Glackmuck has none in the 21st, but his clean land, his folks not weall. The Majors, and other people cut his ley and avel, not in the 21st. We got home a new cart, mostly made of oak the 25th September. Some people taking home some loads of turfes, as thair was none got home throw the summer, always weat and rainy. I was out hunting with the Major Aclunkhart, and Cornal Fraser. I shot 3 hares and one fox the 22nd. Our potatos up the 23rd, our harvest hands away the 24th, our harvest just one month and warm fine weather. The first frost the 27th. We began to plow the 24th. I was out shooting the 28th, round Haggshaw and Clunymore. I shot six partridges and one hare. Beatifull weather on to the end.

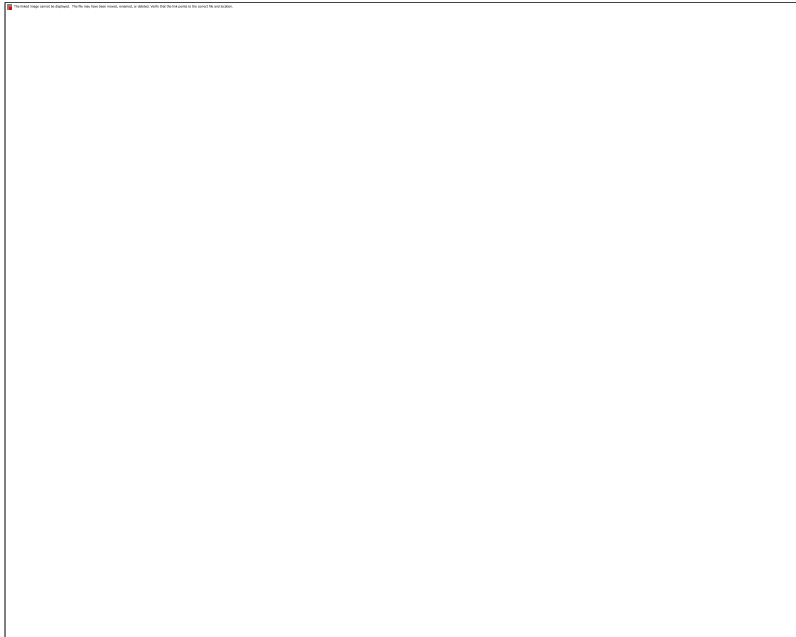
November 1861.

Begins with heat and white frost at night, but shooting the 5th. Got one roe and many hares. I shot two hares, it was rainy. Thair was a meeting of Heritors the 6th, to make the sallery of Mr. Stewart, the Schoolmaster, none but the Major and Minister. The stipend was made £40 stg. Thair was a meeting for electing members for the board, John McWillie, Midtoon and mysilfe elected. I went then with the Major at Lochpark to shoot roes. I shot a roe and roebuck right and left or I was 5 minuts on the station below Ryel in a hollow, and one hare. Bruckly weather on to the 9th. Sunday night the 10th, thair came out an awfull night of sleet and rain. About 2 inches of snowe on Monday the 11th, all of or 10 A.M. I went out to shoot hares in the afternoon. James Shearer, Towie, died the 9th. The 12th, rain, sleet and cold all day. We began to plow our ley the 6th on Haggishaw. Rainy the 14th, Thanksgiving day. The Oats from 19s to one pound. The engine up to the Drummuire station for the first time the 9th. with ballest taking it all from corsairtly near Keith. The day Keith Feeing Market, cold with snow the 15th, and 16th closs ending snow. Taking home torneeps the 17th, about 7 inches of snow. The 18th, verry high wind and fresh, all the snow of or evening, the waters dreadfull swollen, a servant boy drowned in the Burn of Glenmarkie. Quailet the afternoon,

and all the snow quite away the 25th. Plowing the 26th and 27th. The 28th, frost too hard for the plow. The outcray for fire is beginning over all this North Country. We took but three loads of our last years turfes in the end of harvest, I have a halff years fire of fine fir backs, 50 loads of 2 years old, and 45 cwt. of coals. I forgot to write down in the month of July, that two of our young chaps, about 16 years old, went to the top of the Hill of Carron for 2s.6d as naked as whean born, through the close of Glackmuck, Alxr. Bonniman and Alxr. Riach. The one first at the top of the hill had one shilling from his neghbours, Bonniman gained, thair was a quite high wind. they gained the top in 18 minuts

December 1861.

Begins sever frost the 1st and 2nd. Shooting hears the 2nd, fresh the third. Shooting hears the 3rd and the 4th out and shot one roebuck in the brea of Grashekhillock, hard frost that day. Much rain all night and plows going the 5th. Our oats weighing 42 lbs. The engine bussy ballasting from the new road through the Milloflholle Park up to the Loachpark. Capital fresh plowing weather from the 9th to the 14th. William Taylor verry poorly for the past two weeks, and Alxr. my brother also. Began some yavel plowing the 23rd. Bremorrison, Elgin. Mrs. Francis Duff, relict of Archbald Duff of Drummuire, died the 21st, and was buried here in the churchyard of Botriphnie. That saves Â£1000 a year to the Major yearly. About thirty of the parishioners at funeral, it was on the 27th, and Prince Albert (138) died the 14th. on Saturday night, at ten minuts before eleven at night, aged 43 years. The queen a weddow. Frost severe the 21st, but quaiet and not one breath of wind for the past ten days, some verry closs mists, about the end. Oats 21 shillings per 40 lbs. Poor Wm. Taylor verry poorly, Betty and me with him mostly throw the night, I do not think he can stand long, he is so weak. He has been a faithfull servant, about twenty years. My wiffe says she will keep poor William as long as he lives, if she live hirsself. I am quite agreeable. This is a verry cold day, the wind north. This will now finish the old year sixty one. Another year past, and now 1862.



January 1862.

Begins quait with hard frost in the ground, with closs mist the whole day. Still soft and misty on to the 4th. Yesterdays market, the beef, for good fat from Â£3 to Â£3.5s pr cwt. or 8 stones. The 6th fresh, a shooting at Tennanton. I had one prise and broak the nipple of my gun. I went a hare shooting the 7th, and killed none, but shoot some bonnets in the hill of Bellyhack, belonging to the men employed. Planting up oppsite to Paulscroft, being all planted this season, excepting above Whirlhead and Braehead, at the foot of the hill, which was planted the year 27. Quite fresh the 8th and 9th. All our ley done plowing the 9th, a fine day, some high wind. George McWillie Hungryhills the 4th and 5th, A deal of rain and sleet the 11th, the whole day. Upon the 15th, the first engine and train was to pass up and down, but did not. The 16th, high wind with rain the whole day. We was to go to a plowing on Boddingtonnack to Robert Taylor, did not go but took home 24 bolls of meall from the mill. The 17th, high wind and quite cold. Hard frizzel the 23rd to the 26th, but plows is still going. For the past ten days, high winds, which made it quite cold. George Ruthford, Dufftoon, has broake down at this time, his det about Â£3000. I bought his bushel, his toddy kettle, and Lord Fiffes picture. The roup was on the 24th for cattle and impliments. The houses and furniture the 25th, the houses Â£400 to Alxr. Stewart, Old Scougs. Fine dray plowing weather from the 26th to the 30th, and all our yavel plowed but two days work. The engine was up the line the 30th, with freight of railis, and two carriages, with the directors. The contractor has about 10900 tons of ballest to take from a gravel pit at Corsairtly up to the road below the old castle of Balvenie. This is Friday the 31st, a rainy day all throw. I put on a good fire in the house in the garden, and made four gig wheep shafts out of young birch shoots, with the three point

branches, hard plait and then a sneed of weep cord of this form Yours
George McWillie 1862.

February 1862.

Begins with verry hard frost, the ground white with snow the 6th. I sold a bull in Keith Market the 7th at Â£23. Rain the 11th and 12th. Jean McWillie (139) or Mrs. Watt had a son the night of the 10th, called James Watt. The 12th, old Candlmass, dark and misty. We began to straight of our clean land the 15th, the land verry weet, but fresh. Grass and neeps turning green, and I see by the newspapers the Americans is still thrashing one another. Our manufacturers, for want of cotton, is laid iddle, and bringing down the prices of cattle. Still plowing our clean land, but verry weet. The Keith and Dufftoon Railway opened the 21st. I went to Dufftoon Station and travelled home by Dufftoon. The 25th, blustry with sleety showrs. I am taking moles just now. Fummackfair rather cold and dray. Thair was but one cattle dealler from Aberdeen, Mr. Thompson, a number sold, but prices back about Â£2 besides at January. 3 trucks full of cattle left Drummuire Station, the first on the railway. Mr. John Watt (140), Auchmadies, Boharm, died the 26th, aged 76, my daughters father in law. Qualet with some frost, on to the end.

March 1862.

Begins frost and snow came on about 7 o'clock in the morning, about three inchs. We began to drive out dung to Dinneorn the 2nd, and still now. I forgat I sold 3 stots at Fummackerfair at Â£17 pr head, and has 24 ricks oats, 1 barly, one of old straw, and two of hey. The 4th, and still snow. Alexander Andersons roup of merchandise agriculteral instruments on the 4th and 5th, I bought 13 chip white and black hats at 2/4 and a soft hat at 3/6, two parasols at 2/1, a brass 16 shillings. The Major pointed out a valuation for a house and garden for me the 13th, at the end of Towie burn, a capital place. It was quite fresh the 15th, and all the snow away the 16th, the land quite sweet, closs mist at this time and deway. We set pailling round the Banks of Burnend, the 15th, all our clean land plowed to the torneeps. Geo McIntosh, Taylor, was drunk the 13th, fell in the fire and burnt all his face. The railroad engine and carriages going and coming from Dufftoon and Keith four times each day. The station master and wiffe in our house at the end of the kaillyard. Getting the valuations of the farms greatly highted, and great consternation the 24th. From the 18th to the 24th, hard frosts, and land white every morning. Crosscutting for our torneep land for want of work. From the 24th to the 28th, snow and slety showrs. oats for seed Â£1.3s to Â£1.4s. The limekills at Craigminain, Burn of Towie, founded the 26th, belonging to Miss Gordon, Tullocahallum for lace. The people in Botriphnie in great consternation about the valuation and marches of the farms. I sold yesterday in Dufftoon Market three quoyes, fat at Â£13.7s.6d pr head, and

eleven trucks full away pr rail. The 31st, setting pailling for a calves park, frosty but dray.

April 1862.

Begins dray, the Major got one rick of oats and straw the 1st, at Â£1.8s. pr qur. Upon the 2nd, we sowed the first of our oats, and on Saturday night we had 22 quarters sown and harrowed above the road all up to the wood. Gay hard frost in the mornings, but dray. William Taylor very poorly at this time. Jean Smith, a papur on the parish at Blackhall. Our merchant was publickly hung and burnt opposite his own door, Alexr. Anderson, he rather impudent to a hantle of his customers. All our ley and avel sown and harrowed the 10th. We sowed 6 quarters in the clean land the 11th. An extraordinary cold frosty and windy day, no growth in grass as yet the 12th, and 13th, colder nor I mind, hard frost and wind, the plow cannot go. April Market dull, all our oats sown, cut 4 rigs for some neeps. Helen Petrie (141), formerly goodwiffe on Upper Towie, died the 14th, aged 91. long a papur. I sold one stot the 15th at Â£15.15s. Good dray days, little growth now. Jamison, the new merchant, was married to Pharoh or Sarah Anderson, the 19th. None of his two shop keepers, or other servants, got so much as one drop of any article to cool thair tounses, excepting cold water. Other day, our potatos was set. The 23rd, I went over to Elgin and bought a staff of Holland with a spade and hook at one end and a mans hand carved round the hilt at the other or upper end, at the late Admiral Duffs roup an cocked blue bonet 4/6, the staff or hoe one shilling. The grass no better in Morrayshire nor in Botriphnie, out torneeps all home the 24th, about six loads, drughty on to the end.

May 1862.

Begins high wind and sunshine the 1st, at night weighty rain. Our cattle out to the grass the 1st, quite drughty the 3rd, the briard looking fine. I took a grass park on Braehead, 7 scots acres at Â£15.15s, discount 8 shillings, the 5th. Betty at Rothemay and me at Huntly Market the 7th, a beautiful, warme day, the 8th, a fine day to 2 P.M. then a dale of thunder and weighty rain. I forgat, my old mare pony in April sold to Alexr. Edward, Pauchels, for Â£1. I bought hir in the year 47, then 8 year old. I sold one meare out of hir at Â£32. She was thick stout made, a neck like a highland bull. In hir 18 year, she left the Keith and Dufftoon coach, and I suppose the Dufftoon railway now would make no fool of hir. I bought hir at Â£8.5s, Roy Stewart, Scouge. The corn and grass is growing at this time, like rashes, all our neep land plowed for the last time, but a few riggs the 10th, which was rainy, thrashing an old rick. Began to sow sweddish torneeps the 20th, rather drughty, about four acres sown the 22nd, and mostly all formed the 24th, still drught. Good mens fees from Â£10 to Â£12 at Keith and Dufftoon. All our shift of neeps sown on Claggans from corner to corner the 31st. The new Inn was opened the 26th, formerly the Masson Lodge, John Hendry, from Keith, Innkeeper.

June 1962.

Begins quite warme the 1st and 2nd, fine dray days for neeps. The tory or grub still terrible. The torneeps done all the 6th, high winds, but the 7th, Saturday, dreadful wind for the season, the clouds of dust going like snow drift. A warm weighty rain morning of the 9th. A show of wild beasts at Keith the 9th. We took home four loads of our two year old turffs the 10th, gay wet. I got a tree in the Burn of Whirlhead of beach, about 14 inches through up six foot then other six up it being of this formation. As cross bar betwixt the two boughs quite sollid as the rest of the tree. Rain mostly every day. on to the 24th, since the 12th. I went to Inverness the 21st with John Watt and Peter Dey, and Jessie Dunbar and sister Cathriene. I traveled up to Loach Ness the 22nd, and saw some ants hills of 4 foot high, and besids too numurus things to mention. Our rent day the 25th, cold and rainy on and little growth. Casting some turff for fire, but dont expect to get them home, our past two years still in the hill and will remain for me, George McWillie, 1862 (Alxr. McWillie to Strathpefer the 28th).

July 1862.

Began with wind, cold and rain with some hails. The 3rd, weighty showrs of hail and Bellrinnes quite white half down. Our potatos houd out the 2nd and set up. The 3rd, cold, rain on to the 6th. I went to Aberdeen to see the Revuie and 68 pounder cannon firing. About sixty thousand people on the links and Broadhill. I saw some barly shooting at Inverury, We began to hoe neeps about the 1st, about the third and onto the 12th. Quite warme the 14th, but rain in the morning, barly begining to shoot here. I am pulling thrisles the 14th, very hot, and the 15th quite warme and weighty rain at night, and rain the 16th to eleven o'clock Some staks of oats shooting, the rain doing a deal of harm to grass and corn. Beaff good Â£3, grasing cattle back in price, oats Â£1.2s pr 40 lbs. to Â£1.3s. A dreadful wind the 19th, distroyed all frouit trees, and shaken the gose and black berries, awful from the south west, and continued the 20th and 21st, but not halph so high as the 19th, all three days rough showrs and cold. Weighty showrs of hail the 22nd. The 25th, all our neeps hoed terrible high wind, aful dale of my berries shaken again. The 25th, oats beginning only to shoot in general. Alexr. McWillie came home from the Wells of Strathpefer the 26th. Good warme days on to the end of the month, and grouthy for the neeps. John McWillie of Hungryhills, my brother, here the 28th to the 29th. Glass Market verry stiff, and prices back a pound or two on your cattle of say Â£16 to Â£18, grasing stock verry little doing.

August 1862.

Begins the 1st on Friday, in the afternoon weighty rain with hail and thunder. The 2nd, after the thunder, now a dale warmer, but still rain

every day. We took home 2 loads of turffs, but quite weet, all our torneeps finished the 7th. I was at Elgin the 8th, at a cattle show, and quite cold some rain the 9th and 10th, the 12th and 11th, all showrs, the thirteenth, showrs and the 14th, rained all day. The oats is now Â£1.7s to Â£1.8s and the land dreadfull weet. The oats now shooting fast, but not near at the length. I pestered with a tooth, I made Alex, pull it out the 14th at 3 o'clock P.M. From the 14th to the 19th, rain and mist, about 4 days that it never faired, but quite quaiet. Out at 6 o'clock A.M. and shot four rabbets in 36 minutes, the 21st, took in some hey and thrush the 22nd, but rain came on and stopped us. Betty and Taylor at the carding mill, Dufftoon, the 22nd, verry weighty rain in the afternoon. About the 20th, a man, Adam Bonniman, a day labrouer with Major, and stoping at the cottage at the top of the Loach park, had both his legs taken off by the sawmill. He is doing weall now. The 30th, verry warme, grouthy on to the end. Some barly turning yellow, the torneeps growing beautifull.

September 1862.

The first, quite warme and quaiet, the 4th, desperate weighty rain the whole day, and west at Elgin, verry high thunder and quite vevied lightning. The 4th, Alexander McWillie left the Bank of Aboyone, and came to Keith N.S. Bank Accountant. The 5th, Alexr. Sellar called here, home from the states of America, the city of Bouston, and Geo. Sellar, his oldest brother from Huntly, a race of blacksmiths in Botriphnie for the past four hundred years, as will be seen in this churchyard, on looking at thair gravestones. For after generations; George Moggach, 15 years greive on the home farm of Drummuir 1784. From his memorandam book. Going to Portsoy with four horses with meall, the expences for ale, four pence. To Robert George, Oldlenoch, wright, to new cart axhells, 3s.6d. To a new cart, 3s. To John Gray, Cachanhead for burning, the boll of lime, 2 pense pr boll. To Revd. Mr. Angus, a young calf, 1 shilling, to a superior one, 1s.6d. To killing two sheep, three babees. His own wages, Â£6 pr year, and to Wm. Burges, plowman, Â£3, and I have his snuff mill, silver mounted, horn holds five ounces of snuff, date 1784. Two of my men hilping Alxr. Dey, Forkins, to put in his sawmill dame, the 8th, a fine day. I blood mysilfe today, for a sore side, I required two broads of the knife. We have now ripning days, the oats growing yellow, some bits of barly cut about the 17th. Our white torneeps all shooting, I put up 8 quoys on them not to lost them, thair are many neeps going the same every way, the 20th, some oats cut on Ardbrack, and Westerton about the 30th.

October 1862.

Begins some showrs, our harvest hands home the 3rd, and 4th, began cutting the 4th. About one halph of our clean land cut the 7th, and one halph of our avel. The 9th, terrible hot and quaiet, on to the 10th, slight frost in the night, but now general harvest at the 10th. We lead two ricks

the 14th, the 15th dew, and cut some green oats for the horses and cows. We have three acres of ley oats nixt the wood, was all eaten by the rabbits, it was as bear eatten as the closs in Agust, and now five foot in length only weall shoot. I have Â£15 loss, Altho I have liberty to kill hears and rabbits, I cannot clean them of. All our clean land and avel is cut the 17th, and the third of our ley. Verry high wind the night of the 17th, but rain in the morning, Wm. McWillie (142) (*George's nephew*) here from Durres, Deeside, and Alxr. McWillie from the North Scotland Bank, Keith, being accountant thair. We have in 15 ricks the 18th, all our avell, and part of our clean land. The 19th, rough cold wind all day, but rain at night, Monday the 20th, most all the stooks over, and an awfull showr of snow at eleven o'clock. The weather getting verry thrawn like. The 21st, rough and shury, a deal of rain at night. The 22nd, verry high wind, with some showrs of rain. Took in four ricks the 23rd, but a weighty rain at four o'clock. Rough showrs of rain the most of the day of the 24th. Thached the first of our ricks the 24th. I shot a bird about the size of a meaves on the top of our chimney the 25th, breast black and white spots, the back bluish green. All our crop taken in the 30th, but some rackings verry rough, The frost was quite hard the 30th, the 31st, verry high wind and cold.

November 1862.

Begins with showrs, but high cold draying winds. Our harvest hands away the 4th. Yoaked the plow the 5th, quite quaiet. I was at Turfshillock, and saw at Forkins 18 ricks all thached, and not one rape was put on. At 7 P.M. the hills white. The 6th, John McWillie, mysilfe elected for the board. The 5th, hard frost, but still the plows going, A Caird man and his wiffe, on the 7th, had a fire up in our Glack. Thair horse had fallen, and the time they were lifting the horse, they had a chield of six months tumbled in to the fire, was so burnt, it only lived for a few days. From the 11th to the 18th, heading torneeps, some of the yellow weighting 10 lbs. to 12 lbs, the first sown, the average is 7 to 8 lbs. At the 20th, hard frost and quite quaiet, and continues on to the 26th, some hail and flags, making the land white, the frost is percing. Men and womans fees a Â£1 back, excepting those remaining men, say first hands, Â£11 to Â£12, and second Â£9.9s to Â£10.10, woman Â£2, Â£2.10s to Â£3, and oats pr qur 19s.6d. pr 40 lbs. pr bushel. James Millne, Reyl, had a girlie died the 26th, aged 6 years. Began to plow by the 25th, the frost bad. I was out shooting roes on Drummuire and Kininvie the 27th and 28th. Killed 6 roes, one fox, and a number of hares. The 29th, a concert at the school for Lancashire Â£6. James Thomson, second man, got Sauterday the 22nd to himsilfe, be came back on the 26th at 8 P.M. and not able to work on the 27th, and bad the 28th. The little loon wanted two days.

December 1862.

Begins soft but good for plowing. About one halph of ours plowed the 10th, a small shower of flags the 11th. John Dawn, G lack, rent at present Â£33, and Scoug Â£20, both now Â£83. Blackmoor Â£35, and now Â£65. Oats 19s pr qur of 40 lb pr bushell. Barly Â£1.7s pr qur of 52 lbs. Wm. Taylor still poorly. The ware in America (143) still going on in dispiration. Cotton risen from 4 pence to 7 pence, and extraorddmary famine in many towns of cutton. Many factorys about 500-000 idle, enormas sums of mony colecting from most all British Dominions for them. Alexander Donnald, cattleman, left with a sore throat, and put a man in his place. The 13th, good weather, then on to the 18th, then high wind, and 19th and 20th, and 21st, last three days terrible wind and sleety showers. The 23rd, capital plowing weather. Oats 19s.6d. pr 40 lbs. Another chap, the name of Cruickshank, came in Alxr. Donalds place at 4 shs. per week, came home the 23rd. Ground white 26th, Donald came home again the 25th, not able to work with a sore haunch, terrible bealling, not better the 31st. Cattle selling at Â£3 to Â£3.3s pr cwt. I sold two quoys to Geo, Garden, Westerton at Â£15.15s. at this time, Geo McWillie, Midthird, 1862.

January 1863.

Begins fine dray weather. The 1st day I was out with the Major shooting. We began at Argarthney Brea, at the school, and then to Tenroode wood, thair killed one roe, which required eleven shoots. I got no chance of roes that day, but plenty of hares. On Sunday the 4th, some whitning of snow. On the 5th, first day of Old Yule, 2 inchs of snow, but quite quaiet. Thair was no shooting at Tennantoon. Thair was but one year for the past fifty that wanted one. The 7th, a bad day of sleet, wind and rain, wind north and north east. The most of the parishners has got notice the 7th, to puting in writing if they are to take thair farms at the valuation of a Mr. Bettie from Aberdeen, before or on the 15th January. They are saying they winna take them, weall I should not wonder, the most is doubled, but I shall give a scitch in this book after I here all rents. The roads dreadfull with slippiness, but the plows is still going the 10th, 11th and 12th, and capital quaiete days with frost. Oats now about Â£1 to Â£1.1s. pr 40 lbs. Cold, sleet and now the 18th, the 19th, high wind and sleet all day, the 20th, a weighty ding on of snow, and blowing about four inchs of snow. All the snow of the 23rd. The 22nd, I sold 5 quoys and one stot at Â£12 a head. Rather bruckly to the 26th, of which was wind, plowing the 26th. That night most dreadfull wind, spoiled our barn thach, the 27th, rain and snow, and tearing winds, on to the 31st.

February 1863.

Begins with south west, and west winds, cold, the plowing going on. There was a number of the Valuation Rents taken the end of January. Great rise in rent, and some of them doubled. The Midtoon broken in two, the one halph to Cachenhed, the other to Mains of Towiebegg. The

McWillies has possessed it for the past 200 years. My uncle improved the Haughs of Midtoon, mysilfe the Haughs of Cachenhead, and the halph of the Isla run at one shilling pr yard, 20 foot wide at the top and 10 foot at bottom. A ditch at the brea foot of 10 wide and five deep, and Isla the same depth. I suppose it would now cost five shillings pr yard. It was one Frances Innes and John Innes, from Boharme, had the contract, and saved a dale of mony. Upon the Kirkton Haughs, a dale of it thrown out with pails, it was so weet, it was a compleet bog of elderwood, it was all the same from Woodend to Loachpark. The leate Admiral Duff improved all the Loach, and one, Laing, a contractor, did the work for the first crop, but had a bad bargan of it, it was no crop at all, it was too mossy, the top of hir was never drayed. What was called the Eye, was 18 foot of water, after the ditch down the middle. We at the 16th, have quaitte beautiful weather, with some frost in the mornings, and on to the 19th. We killed our mart the 19th. I am quarring stones for my new house down at the Plumpy of wood on Banks of Burnend. Cold and frosty, now the 21st. Bettie from Aberdeen is now throw with the valuation of Davidston, and top of Carny. Peter Shearer, Tenrood, his wiffe died 20th. Good weather for outdoor work, we are done plowing to our neeps. George Allan, Fiffe Keith, here the 21st and John McWillie my brother, here the 12th, from Gamrie. He has taken another farm just now for his George. The name is Upper Clochforbie (144), Gamrie. Oats Â£1.1s6d. seed Â£1.5s. Most splendid weather and torneeps growing. Sowing oats in different places and no rain for 17 days past.

March 1863.

Begins beautiful. John Watt and his daughter Jessie, both verry poorly the 1st, and she died the 3rd, aged three years and six months. We are driving stones to build my new house the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Some oats sown at Kelloch the 3rd and Scougg the 4th. I have about 120 loads of stones drove for my house at roadside. The 9th, sleet and rain the whole day. The 10th, about three inchs of snow with rather rough wind it being the marriage day of the Prince of Wales, the newspapers has nothing to speak about but rejoicing, balls and shootings, through England, Scotland and all the British Dominions. Perhaps the time may arive when he may devors hir Highness Alexandria. Thair was 8 or 9 people killed with mob at London, and many hurt, and maimed through Scotland. Thair was some millions of mony spent on the rejoicing through the nation. Sowing general on Monday the 23rd, the day we began, high wind, and the 24th, rainy in the morning, but I see many people sowing. James Riach, Drumgrain, has taken Poolside at this time. Peter Forbes, Cotterton, was thrown out the 20th, and 21st, mill corn and straw, turff, stack, berry bushes, himsilfe, bag and baggage and one, Barclay, that he let his farm to, and was beggared. They were both weak meat, as to law. Peter through out by subtenant David Innes a number of years ago. Its an old saying, those that stricks with the sword, gets with the scabard. We have

sown the 27th, the Upper Glack leys, below the road, and all our avel above the houses 23 acres. The 26th, Dufftoon Market, an awful day of wind and hail shows, the 27th, awful wind all day, both days the wind from the north west. The farms in the Carny district let the 25th, Shenwall about doubled, former rent was £40, and now £72, and 6 acres off, of the best land, Geo. Petrie, farmer, and present tennant. The 28th, rough wind, then quaiet on to the 31st, the torneeps shooting and yellow and grass growing beautifull. William Taylor taken verry ill the 27th, both cough and great spit up, looks bad.

April 1863.

Begins beautifull weather, all our ley of Banks and Glack, and all our awvel sown and harrowed the 2nd. Our horses plowing on Cotterton to John McWillie the 3rd. Wm. Taylor verry, verry poorly this day, I doubt will not stand long, to his apperance just now, 4 past P.M. William Taylor died the 6th. He came home as servant in 1841, remained in Cachenhed to the end of the lease thair the 11th of October, 1844, then foreman on Midthird, this day the 6th of April, 1863. Died at fifteen minutes from eight o'clock in the morning. He has not been fit for any work for the past two years, but still doing small orrow little things, and seeing others do thair work the right and perfect way. He was 44, a joval servant among the rest, and was greatly beloved by all ritch and poor, for his oblidging manner. He was buried in the Churchyard of Botriphnie in the McWillie lair, it was his last request. Dindunas is the buriel place of the Taylors of Rosarie, but he did not wish to geat his reasting place thair. He was a splended vionlest, and seven years presentor, the time of the disruption, and never paid. The oats coming fast through, the 12th, gay rough drughty weather. All our torneeps taken up the 13th, about 70 loads headed. Oats £1.1s6d. to £1.2s pr 40 lbs. most people torneeps done, and cattle about £3 pr cwt, and calves now dropped £2 to £2.10s. Potatos 2s.6d. pr bushel. Our potatos set the 23rd. I got ten pounds worth of wood for my house at roadside, 45 trees. The 23rd, cold snowy shows. The briard coming fine up, the trees and bushes in full flowrish, 23rd, dreadful, thing of grub or tory in the ley corn, and fears is interetained for the crop. Cutting wood the 25th, in Almore, for my new house. Driving it the 26th and 28th, I have got 46 trees above Mains. I got ten pounds worth from the Major in a compliment, it will not near do the fire house. High winds, extra cold, with sleet, haill and rain. Some thunder the 28th. The ministers wiffe Mrs. Masson, poorly for the past three weeks, and John Catnach put to jail by the Board of Mortlach. because he would not pay a Dufftoon lass Crabe for getting a bairn with hir the 17th or 18th. He is blacksmith, Linmore, Bellyhack.

May 1863.

Begins good weather. Trees and bushes of every kind looking beautifull. All our land for torneeps looking fine. Mrs. Masson is still poorly. Our cows

and calves out to grass the 6th. The first of the Freeston, one truckful, for my new house came the 11th. Major G, Duff had a son, was baptised this day the 13th, called Archbald Hey Gordon Duff. Now cold and dray, no growth. Our cows and calves out to grass the 20th. A capital cow died the 25th, £15, cold and dray. A freeston cutter at my freeston the 26th. All our torneeps formed the 26th and tares sown. Oats now £1.2s pr 40 lbs pr qur. Cold and no growth, on to the end,

June 1863.

Begins cold for the first two days, the 4th quite warme. I went to William McWillies (145) marriage the 2nd, at a farm in Fetteresso, near Stonehaven. Stopped all night, and home. The 6th pulling down the old house for building my new one, warme and grouthy. Mrs. Masson, the ministers wiffe, died the 7th, and was buried the 10th, in old Isle, Botriphnie, now warme grouthy weather. The massons began to build my house the 10th, I am busied shooting rabbets, they are dismal on the briard. The neeps coming beautifull. George McWillie, Hungryhills, Gamrie, was married the 4th. The tennant that took Breahead and Whirlhead has given up, £105 was the rent, a new stating to build, costing £700. Our horses away to Craigellachie Tillworks, for cans for lining my chimnies. The 15th, a capital June Market. All our potatos hoed the 20th. The 20th, my last years foreman, James Bonnyman and Jean Sellar, Tennanton was married. His brother John is with me as ditto. He was only asked to the marriage the night before, be would not go to it. It came on an aful deludge of rain, haill and thunder about four o'clock, and the marriage away to the Mulben station. I am shoure they have thair tails drucked. John Bonnyman, Alexr. Donald and mysilfe in our quarry. We had a stone of one ton weight, begun to split at one end with hammer. We took shelter below a bank in the quarry, thair came a dreadfull flash of lightning and terrible peal of thunder, we thought thair was a cannon fired beside us. Whither the rain, the thunder, or the lightning, the big stone was split in two about ten yards from us, below the bank, to which we three witnesses. Geo McWillie, John Bonnyman and Alexr. Donald.

July 1863.

Begins quite drughty and verry warme. The oats shooting fast, not the length of my tobacco spluchton, and dale of it thin. The old seed all quite thin. Alexr. McWillie to the Strathpaffer Spaw the 8th. Began to hoe the neeps the 4th, great need for rain, Burnend dray, and many fine springs in different places. My house all built the 11th, but the freestone of the chimnies not finished in cutting. This night the 11th, we burnt five verry large wasp hives, and Betty had one of hives swarmed the 11th. Brother Johns cornyard was set on fire on the 5th at eleven o'clock P.M. and on the 7th, at the same time, thair servant lass is taken up for it, the name of Duff from Portsoy. Keith feeing market, wages down average from one

pound to fifteen shillings, and quite easy spoken to. We had some rain that afternoon, great need, frost the two nights before. Potatos in some places quite bleckned. Betty went to Craigellechie station unto the craying of Mrs. Stewart the station master ten milles on the 18th, Saturday. The crop still shooting not the length of your finger, and the crows eating up all the potatos. The Great North line is now running through this parish to Elgin and Granton by Craigellechie. 20th great drught. House finished masson work. A great want of rain, drove some water to the massons with a cart from the well of the mance the 23rd. Margrate Gauld, late goodwiffe of Midthird, died the Saturday, first of August aged 87 years. Burning everything up for want of rain.

August 1863.

Begins dreadfull drught, sun and wind, but some rain the 3rd, with thunder. Our neeps half hoed the 3rd, and the crop of hey will scarcely cut. I have been weall for pasture grass. Upon the 6th, thair was a revue of the Banffshire Rifels at Keith. Captains Thorburn of the first company, and Malcom Stuart of the second, about 250. A shooting match at Burn of Drum after revue. One, McKirron, Aberlour, the first prise among officers. A dale of rain, and great need, the 7th and 8th, weighty rain, fortold by Thomas Willson, Schoolmaster, Auchendown. I have been kept back with my house for 12 days by the slatter. One came the 8th, Saturday, quite warme. The dominie has got his salary augmented this day the 8th, from Â£40 to Â£45 sterling. The 12th, beautifull, the slatting of my house going on. Verry high wind the 14th, the lairds hey built that day. John McWillie and wiffe from Langlanburn, Alexr. McWillie and wiffe, Coldhome, and John McWillie, Midtoon the 12th. The pavement laid and windows into my new house the 19th. John Hendry of the Drummuire Inn, died the 15th. Some weighty showrs at this time. John Strathdees house at Blackmure unroofed, and lightning in the walls for slatting. The oats and barley turning yellow, and barley cut in some places. The massons harling the house, the 28th, rather watery. Peter McConachie my servant, his marriage the 29th, a speat I would not go to the marriage at Newton, Cabrach. Two horses working on the Sourbow road to the laird the 29th, rainy rainy. The day on the roads is not due the last year of the lease, but as thair was no day sought since the Major was laird, I sent two horses. Oats now Â£1.1s6d. pr 40 lbs.

September 1863.

Begins quite warme. Upon the 4th, I was at the wood of Oldmore, and took by fifty one trees for my new office houses. The plastrer souring lime for plaster. He should have been here 14 days ago, a great rascal, John Willson, Keith plaster. Mr. and Mrs. Allan, daughter Annie, and old Geo. Allan here on Saturday the 5th. A beautifull day and hot, but came out rain about two o'clock. I cut two ricks, now to thrash. Cacheahead and Towiemore Upper began to cut oats the 4th, a dale cut in Keith parish.

The torneeps looking beautifull. The American ware (146) still going on. and they are still threatning a ware with England. I wish they would tray, as they are both bragarts. I see buy the papers that England is making 600 pound shells at this time. Geo McWillie, I am some tipsey. We began to cut the 14th, in the afternoon good harvest weather. The 16th, the day of Sumerisfair, cold wind meddling high, some dewey the 17th. General harvest now at the 20th, some frost and shows through the day. The 22nd, 23rd and 24th, weighty rain. Cut on the 25th, in the afternoon rather watry, on to the end. We have only 5 ricks in at the end.

October 1863.

Begins dray with leading. We have 14 ricks The 5th high winds, but dray, about one halfe of our clean land shift to cut the 5th. All my new house has the first coat of plaster and upstairs one room finished, beginning to the other. Laying foundations for three ricks at the new house on the afternoon of the 5th. Great big white clouds appearing all around the north and east. Our crop all in and finished, and harvest people of the 17. The ricks in number 35 and the smallest book of straw I have had for 19 years. The 19, 20th, on to the 23rd, I am almost done providing for roup. The laird not all in the 22nd. The massons came to build my office houses the 19th. My roup was on the 23rd, a beautifull day, a dreadful thing of people and everything sold terrible. We removed to our new house the 26th, bag and baggage the wright work not done, and the plaster not dray and the massons building our office houses, hard frosty weather.

November 1863.

Begins with four days snow, but all away the 5th. All the patch of land furro drained, and finished the 14th, betwixt the house and wood. I have started the plow on my Argathnie cottage the 16th, and oh the kitchen is ill with reek, and the rest of our house is splendid, like to fuss up the littlest schoolers going past to school. The 16th, fresh and warme. Thomas Willson died at Raws, Auchendown the 14th. He was schoolmaster, postmaster and phelosopher, an arthmetican not paralled in the county he belonged to, Bellyhack. Upon the 17th. Thomas Sim, gamekeeper, Botriphnie, went with Major to Park, to hunt roes. He got unweall going down, came home the 18th, and at Ardbrack in his room in the east side of the square, he was found the next morning, with his gun laying beside him, and his brains blown out, naked on the floor. The right barrel was loaded with small shoot, but no powder. The other barrel did the job, with nothing but powder and wadding. My wiffe and Jean Stronach gathered up his brains, put them in his heid, tied up his heid and washed him. He had taken the muzzle of the gun into his mouth, and the shoot came out the left side of the brow. Soft fresh weather this time the 23rd, rather frosty mornings from the 24th to the end of the month. The massons done building my office houses the 28th, the wrights began making the roof the 28th, walls quite weet, the slatters came immedtally.

December 1863.

The slatters began booring sleats the 1st, and done slatting the 5th, altho two days of snow. I was out shooting the 3rd and 4th, killed 4 hears and 1 rabbit the 3rd, and 2 hears the 4th. Thair is four of the people of Westertoon lying in tiphus feavour, at this time. Verry high winds the past 3 days, and quite cold. Thair has been four proclomations of marriages the past three Sundays. Quite fresh but cold, and aful high winds each day the 11th and on to the 20th. Masson done our office houses the 19th, and slatter ditto, the 20th. high wind and cold. Mr Stewart, schoolmaster, is preaching his first sermon at Glenrinnnes this day the 20th, wind and rain in the afternoon. Our two cows is into the new bire, are all furnished the 19th. The people of Westertoon all on the turn better, but old Westertoon it is only ten days since he beaded. Most beautiful weather, but high, verry high winds every day and night. I am putting my shop in order the 25th. All the houses was paid this 22nd, 23rd and 24th. Thair came out snowe the evening of the 26th, Mr. Stewart the schoolmaster in our house whean it came on, he was going to preach at Glass. The 27th, about 3 inchs and storm, but all the snow away at the end.

January 1864.

Begins high winds, but the 3rd quaiet and hard frost. Thair has been no shootings this year. I have been shooting a good dale roes and hares. I have the Majors authority now for shooting over the lands of Pitlurg. Alexander McWillie, accountant, North of Scotland Bank, was on it the 5th, but could not win near the hares' the frost was so hard. We killed but one. The frost is still penetrating the 8th. Oats is 16shs, pr of 40 lbs. I here thair is a man shot at a shooting match at Forgieside parish of Keith by pulling the gun to him through a bush, the name of Turner, and another at Dufftoon of the name of Louas Dey. A man was shooting a dog, the ball struck a stone wall, and going of in a slanting direction went through his forehead. Still hard frost, on to the 16th, which was cold, and soft fresh it was the night of the Majors Ball at the castle, about 70 sat, tea and supper. I was desprate horse with cold, and did not dance much, but drank plenty to four o'clock in the morning. I thought at supper whean the walls and roof vaults and plaster would be like Auchendown, or the castle of Balvenie of old, whean the read and clerrat wine and good whisky was circulating with as much mirth as was in the castle of Drummuir the 15th, I suppose they had bagpipes for music, and we had two fiddlers and the stationmaster helping. The lords, ladies and vassals of ages past are all in the dust, and castle in ruins. In another generation we will be known no more. The 17th, terrible high wind with hard frost, and so is the 18th. Capital open weather, but three or four kinds every day, but allways the frost prevails, with verry high winds, westerly winds, and has been westerly all the suimmer and harvest. The oats is from 25 shs. to 15shs. 6d. pr 40 lbs and meal 13 shs to 13s.6d.

February 1864.

Begins terribly cold and soft. Driving mettle for my garden walks. The 12th, terrible cold and sleety shows. Mrs Hendry, inkeeper has 5 plows plowing ley, but hard frost. The 6th was two inches of snow. I was shooting on my ground at Pitlurg the 6th, killed 4, out the 8th only two, now about four inches of snow and severe frost, and on to the 10th. Oats 15 shs for 40 lbs, butter 8d, and eggs 6d. doz. Whisky 7d pr imperial gill. The frost is continuing on the ground, white to the 26th, but quite quiet. Fummackerfair a good market, beef Â£3 to Â£3.5s per cwt, some blew eyes and broken noses (147) in the evening. Still frosty, on to the 28th. Our man got this afternoon, his mother had died of small pox, at Cloachin in Enzie. The 29th, Monday, the wind east, quite cold with small rain mixed with sleet.

March 1864.

Begins hard frost, the ground white with snow each morning, the wind east and north east. On Saturday the 5th, a good roun and weather the same, the 6th snow, 7th and 8th snow, about 5 inches deep and some blown wreaths three to four foot, and many complaints of the torneeps soft and rotting with the severe frost in January. I was rale ill of the cold and sore breast and sore head, which I never had before, but with blows. Still snow and hard frost, on to this day, the 11th, No outdoor work doing, and verry, verry cold. High wind and cold, fresh the 15th, all the snow away the 18th, plowing going on the 21st, but weet land, never got the plow yoaked in my ley. John Watt plowed all the ley and harrowed the Brackfur for dunging the 19th. I am now making walls in my garden and leaveling it. The dyk to build yet, dray the 23rd. Now begun to drain on Breahead with tills in the howe below the old houses. They are throwing down in the meantime. Upon the 26th, I planted boxwood in my yard, but thair came out snow and stoped me. More the 27th, and the 28th, snowed the whole day, mostly with high wind, norwest, and upon the 29th, began sowing oats on Turfhillock, Davidson and Edintore, it would have been as warme in the barn. Massons from Dufftoon, began to build a new house for the station master, the 25th, by the Major at the back of the wood betwxit me and the school. 5 P.M. and powering on snow. I made this day a probe to cattle, and a horn glass for whisky for mysilfe. Thats a desperate night the 28th, stormy shows on to the end,

April 1864.

Begins cold winds and stormy shows. I am building in my hearth for a smiddy the 1st, Thair is complaints of the torneeps rotting owing to the severe frost in mid winter. Betty not weall, the Dr, Menzies here the 1st and the 2nd. It is small pox, they came out the 2nd, and the 3rd hir face is unkenable and all hir body is spotted with them. The 3rd is raw with some rain, the ground quite weet, I was not at church today, for fear of

the people being afraid of infection, and as good need, I never saw pocks before, they are loathsam. Good weather for putting in the seed. I have sown onions the 8th, and planting trees and bushes. The 9th, the pocks turning black on Betty, she is rather grim in the apperance. The weather always dray with wind and sunshine. Some rain the 12th. John George building our yard dyk the 14th. I was at Fochabers for apple and pear and berry bushes, with other ezectras the 16th. Still drught with east winds. George McWillies (148) wiffe died the 2nd at ther farm of Clochforbie, parish of Gamrie. We sowed all our oat crop of ley and awvel the 21st, great drught on untill the 25th, wind east. Oats 15s. pr 40 lbs, potatos 6d pr bushel. Cheaper nor they were for the past twenty years. I had severe twist of gout or reumatism the 22nd, Betty all right for work the 21st. John George finished building my garden dyk the 29th, cost Â£1.2s.6d. three massons, a stone and lime part of it next the barn. Still hard drught.

May 1864.

Sunday the first of May, Mr. Stewart, schoolmaster preached for the first time in this parish, from Romans the eight chapt and first verse, and sung the first verses of the 103 psalm, and gave a most excellent discourse. A throng congregation. The weather has been scorching dray for about three weeks, it is my opinion Mr. Stewarts good serman has brought out at four o'clock afternoon, a weighty rain, will do much good, 7 o'clock P.M. Geo. McWillie.

Still drught after the first, on to the 12th, cold easterly wind. The new station house at the Woodside sleatting by Robbie Currie, Dufftoon. I am putting up a bee house the 12th. Cattle is from Â£3 to Â£3.2s, per cwt and oats 15s. pr qur, potatos 6d pr bushel some years back, Â£1 pr boll of 12 bushels. The 10th, severe frost in the morning, hard drught, but the 11th and on to the 14th, verry, verry warme. The American war is still getting on, first one side loses and then the other. I went to Gamrie with Jannet Garrow the 16th to Hungryhills to my brothers, all ways drughty. But on the 17th, I went to Clockforbie in the end of Gamrie, and about one o'clock thair came out an aful thunder and weighty rain the whole afternoon, done a dale of damage to runing torneeps, the thunder or the lighhtning killing some people and spoiling or damaging houses. I came home the 18th, no rain or thunder here, but the 19th, a dale of thunder to the east, as early as three o'clock in the morning the 20th, or the feeing friday. A good weighty rain for the past 8 days, great growth in corn and grass, aful hoat for the season, and the cattle all out on grass the 16th, the flowrish on the fruit trees extraordinary. The Americans still killing, other some new accounts states at 40-000 at three or four days feighting. Some cold and watery from the 20th to the 26th, but the 28th rainy, the 29th snow showrs through the day, and rain and sleet the 30th to 1 P.M. and all the afternoon poured on snow and drift about 3 inches

deep. The Merchants cows out to 6 P.M. A dreadfull night, the tops of the hills white all the next day.

June 1864.

Begins cold and rainy for past two three days. We was putting up waire palling posts at this time. Now warmer the 6th. Cattle 60 to 63 shs pr cwt, oats 15 shs pr qur. Aful thunder haill and rain the 10th, it killed a ewe in Glack, and dog, and kindled a rick of straw at Picktallum, Glass. Hot and verry grouthy on to the 17th. Cutting fire the 16th and 17th, from the 17th to the 22nd, great drught with bright sun and high wind. The rent day the 22nd. I paid the last halph of the rent of Midthird the 22nd, no dram, but the station master and mysilfe took a gill at Mrs. Hendrys on the homeward passage. I have left in the house Â£35 after all. Jean McWillie, my daughter, had a young son the night of the 22nd. I went to Aberdeen with Mr. Geo. Allan and Alexander McWillie. I was throw Kings Collage and musium and saw the great Review, and sham feight of 3000 men upon the 29th, came home that night, some rain.

July 1864.

Begins with some rain, the 2nd rainy, the 3rd rained the whole day, only 40 people in the church. Only begining to the howing in this place about the 5th and 6th. Some sowing the second time about the 9th, too late, quite hot and sumry the 10th. We began to hoe torneeps the 18th. John Watt and Jean McWillie (149), Bomickelloch, had son baptised the 17th at Ardgathnie Cottage, called William. Slight rain the 21st, the oats beginning to shoot. Ours beginning only the 24th. Thair was a lassie of Peter Shearers of Towie killed by thair millwheel, by hir and some more children driving hir round. There was a man, Fettes, at Mill of Towie, killed by a throw from a horse the 21st, a cray for rain. John Watt trucking hey at 8d pr ston the 26th for Forres, old hey. I see the oats at Banff 16s.6d. pr qur. The drains on the haughs of Midtoon and Cachenhead is wrong in the two leadders not holding water. Charles Chiyne, the gamekeeper came to Botriphnie the 22nd. A weighty pour of rain the day after Glass Market the 28th, it will do much good. We are putting up a wood house for holding fire at this time. Rather dray and some cold, on to the end.

August 1864.

Begins rather cold and drughty. I went to Abernethy the 5th. I had a drive on the engine up and down for nothing. Some barly beginning to turn yellow up Speyside, the oats not near shot the 9th. Oats is now 17 shs pr 40 lbs. A dale of torneeps hoeing the second time. The 9th, a showr of rain and distant thunder and much need for the 8th was an afull day of westerly wind. The goosberries about halph ripe, people now begun to drive thair turff. The 10th, 11th and 12th, afull heat. Our Holie day the 12th. I went to Keith. Upon the 16th. thair was found by about a dozen

of men deapning Isla run about 200 yards below the Free church, upwards of 150 silver coins of England, Scotland, Spanish, Danish and German. Next day, I found two of said coins, one of Charles the 2, and of Philip the 4th, by the Grace of God, King of Spain and the Indies 1633, and other side Burgmaster of Brabant Archduke of Austria, weighing six new shillings, all claimed by the fiscal for the queen. Thair was also some human bones, in the same place, by one of the chaps, as much as 33 pices in all the 33,21 ozs of silver, thair was a few copper pices of Scotland, and about 6 lbs in all. Weall, about eight days, some wags put an old sword in the bottom, about thirty yards above the place. The contractor found it, and went immediately with it to the Castle and presented it to the Major, Hup hup hurrah. The weather much colder about the 20th, and on to the 25th, with rain and hail shows. The barley beginning to get some yellow and the oats still some of them shooting. The new Square of Brehead all roofed the wood work. Now warmer the 26th, all my fire drove the 22nd and in to the new house. George Gauld, Parkhall of Glass, died the 20th, and left about from 8 to Â£1000, all made by himsilfe. He has left Â£800 for a famile school in Glass, and capital warm on to the end.

September 1864.

Begins the first 3 days warm and quaiet, but great storm of wind and rain in England and south of Scotland, then on Monday the 5th, a full wind here, shook some green barley and apples. Mr. Jamison, merchant, cut 8 stooks the 7th, and then 8th, an aful day of wind, a verry bad herring fishing round this month, coast 24 to 26 shs. pr cran and oats 18 shs. pr 40 lbs. Most oats quite green here the 9th. I am making a cage for taking birds the 9th. When writing, a timest of wind and rain. Showry on to about the 20th. Cutting going on some of the farms, but not general to the 24th Saterdag. I was to Keith to get a raker to John Watt, Kelloch, a cutting machin working on som of the fue lands. The Major has one working on the Home farm, the first in this place, the price is Â£16. Our loon Donald, ill with a pain in his ancle the 26th, then cutting general and dray with some hard frosts, on to the end.

October 1864.

Begins fine weather and hard frost the 2nd. I cut my corn the 4th, and Alexr, Donald went to Banff Hospitle the 8th, with a sore ancle. I went with him. A deal of the crop to cut all the way down. I took in my crop the 12th, the day of Newmills Market. A high wind and wind and rain the next day, the 13th. I had four ricks and a little one. Old oats 15 shs pr qur of 40 lbs, and new oats 15 shs pr qur. I took up a small pit of potatos the 19th, the 20th, day of Fife Keith Market an aful day of sleet, wind and rain the whole day, the Isla and waters aful swollen, all the Haughs covered from the station to the Free Church. Alexr. Donald, my servant came home from Banff hospitle the 20th, his ancle was opened on both sides

and rendring afull. The wind from north and nor west, the 22nd, rain and sleet the whole day, many has one halph of thair crop cut, but all cut out the 21st. John Seller, smith, hindmost and none in. The American ware still terrible, and I am afraid for the Pope of Room. Still cold and always rainy, on to the 29th. Alexr. Donald still ill with his ancle. I lanced it again the 26th, and still a dale of thick mater rendering The 20th, the day of the hurricane, three boats and 28 men drowned, belonging to the town of Buckie and left 12 weddows. The Majors doog cart, the factor and pony broak all to splinters, yoaking this day the 27th, the pony kicked, lay down and broak the shafts again. I have been repairing some looking glasses, and took out the mercurie of the weatherglass and cleaned it, and getting an old rick thrashed at this time. Thair can be nothing done to the crop, it is so weet. Some corn taken in the 29th, and laid round wood. I turned out two of my ricks the 29th, but rain in the afternoon.

November 1864.

Begins closs and rainy. A dale of ricks watered and quite hoat, still weet. I was out shooting the third, in Lochpark, three roes killed above Ryel, and about 30 hares and rabbets, a dray quaiet day, but the 4th, again rain. Some taken in the 7th, but all put round wood. I turned my other two ricks quite hoat at night, weighty rain all night and quaiet the 11th and 12th, frost in the morning and dray throw the day. A dale of corn taken in, in bad condition, weighty rain with wind, and so was the 15th, not any of the crop in sight now but John Seller, of Tennantoon. Muller the London murdrer, hung the 14th, thair was 100,000 spectators, a German. James Garrow, Alxrs old housekeeper here on the 12th. He went to near the Newbrough, came up the foot of Bellyhack hill, down the burn of Whirlhead, pulled a pocketful of ruddens, fell and hurt his back a little. Went to church on Sunday, was very cold on Monday, and Tusday not so weall as usual, on Wednesday the 16th, got Dr. Menzies, he put a blister on his breast in the forenoon, and or afternoon, he was attacked with cough and spitting blood, which has continued on to the 23rd. It is on the louns. Still rainy with some frosty nights. The last crop in this parish. Howaked the 21st a dale of stacks not keeping, being so weet, hoat and roating. Some of the Majors stacks falling from roating. Meal 12/6 to 13 shs, and oats 13s 6d. to 14 shs. Alexr. is rather better the 29th. Still great powers of rain and sleet, and the ground white with snow the 28th. My brother John here, from Gamrie the 29th. Thair was an aful wrake of an Aberdeen Stamer, named the Stanley, on Thursday the 24th, at the mouth of the Tyne, 27 people drowned.

December 1864.

Begins dray, out thanksgiving day and colection for the Buckie weddows and orphans, by the late gale of 20th Octr. Now fine weather for the season, on to the 13th, the day I got my land plowed for torneeps. Alexr. always verry poorly, some rainy the 15th. Sleet and about one to two

inches of snow this the 19th. Out with the Major the 20th, to shoot roes in Tenroad Wood and Bellyhack hill, got none, but a number of hares and rabbits, snow and frost. Out again the 21st, in the Sheean Wood and Burnpark, one roe, a number of hares and rabbits, but about two o'clock in the afternoon, about the centre of the Burnpark, four hundred yards from the road that crosses the burn, up the north side, or near the Swilles, as the place is called, we were driving the wood to the west, Charles Chine, gamekeeper came on a small basket under a tree, thair was in it about two ounces of tea, and one halph oz. of tobacco, a roe passing at the same time, he fired and turning around, stumbled on the bare legs of a dead woman, roaring out, a dead man, but it was a woman without stocking or shoes, or any covering on the head, an old petticoat, shirt and stays. The Major dispatched the under gamekeeper to Keith to warn the police. She lay the next day being the 22nd, then Doctor Manson, Banff, and Turner, Keith, dessected hir in the wood, about 24 people. Whean striped, hir stays was marked, and the shirt with letters G. Citty P.H. which we take for Glasgow Citty Poor House. Thair was in the brain whean opened, an oval lump of spongy flesh about one and halph inches in deamiter above the right eye imbeded in the brain on the right side. She was opned from the lip to the bottom of the stommack, it was quit empty, traces being lead she had lain about 24 days. She was buried in the strangers lair in the churchyard of Botriphnie. Geo. McWillie. Frosty with sleety shows the 26th. Mr. Thomas Duff, young laird, ill with the pox about the 21st, but I was out on the 27th and 28th, shooting, and snow came on the 31st about from 4 to 5 inches, but quite quaiet.

January 1865.

Begins five inches of snow and a verry hard frost, being the first day of the New Year. I wish all and sundry health and happiness, I am now 62 years of age, and cannot expect to see many by course of nature, altho I have good health, but one stone of less weight nor I was the beginning of the year 1864, betwixt old and new Christmass. I have seen 124 of them. Alexander is still verry poorly. The new tennant of Braehead has sent a man and pair of horses, it is Â£135 rent. Cattle higher in price ever, I saw good year olds Â£10 to Â£15, but good, good fat at Â£3.10s. pr cwt, sheep about the same pr cwt and oats 14s.6d. to 15 shs. pr 40 lbs. bushel. My journal of nearly 40 years will be found in part, in the banffshire journal of the 13th and 20th of December. Fresh the 4th. Out with Mr. Duff, young laird Mr. Walker and keepers, roe hunting. I was stationed north end of Shean Park. I shot 2 roes, right and left, I shot another in the wood of Almore, all in the space of an hour. The rest of our party killed two hares and one rabbit. There was 41 plows or Braehead giving the new tennant a yoaking. The 10th capital weather, the ground white with snow the 14th, but plows going. Quarrers begun to quarry for an agmentation to the castle the 11th, The Major to Bremonston and family, the 12th. Miss Menzies, Dufftoon, died the 11th, of dipthria, and

on the 14th, Mary Mead, Livermore, hir nice. A great many dying from deseas and accedint on sea and land. Some snow the 16th, I was at a tea party that night at the gamekeepers, Chyne, terrible slushy roads. More snow the 19th, but quaiet, but terrible hurricans of wind for month past. The Royal Theatre burnt at Edinburgh the 13th, and six lives lost, one of them the Dean of Guild, Mr. George Lorimer, being to foreward, the Banff Journal, Friday the 13th, Oats, 40 lbs 15 shs. barley 54 lbs. Â£1 to Â£1.1s, oatmeal, pure, 12s.6d. beef from 7d to 10d pr lb, butter 11 1/2, eggs 1sh, chickens, pr pair 2 shs. At Aberdeen, I see the oats 15 shs to 15s.6d. Some snow the 18th and between the 20th and 21st, from 17 to 18 inches deep. Upon the 25th, I was at the funeral of two sisters, both came togeather of Mary Mede Livermore, who was interred the 14th, all of dipptbria. Our rents paid the 25th, snowing all day. Still 20 inches of snow. I was not at church the 29th, for cold. The 30th, high wind all day, and hard blowing the whole day. The roads all blocked up, the train was back to 4 P.M. the 31st, high wind, small sleet and terrible cold, 3 foot of snow before the school on the Tollroad and over to the Merchants. The torneeps very bad to pull and get home, I've still about eight days neeps home. The month ends with all the roads blocked up.

February 1865.

Begins with weighty snow, the trains blown up in many places. Near Granton, the train all covered, but the top of the funnal of the engine. The people at Granton on the mail train was stoped at the Dava Station, and had neather meat or drink. The passangers resolved to get to the Dava Inn, an English Commercial man gave a navie two soverigns to conduct him to the Inn. They eat up all the wiffes hens and a big swine. The toll road was a cutting on Saturday and Monday the 4th and 6th. Some sleety showrs on the 7th, hard frost. Great loss by sea of liffe and property, fires by sea and land. Cattle back at Keith Market about Â£2 to Â£2.10s on a Â£26 stot, about Â£3.5s. to Â£3.8s. pr cwt, before it was 70 to 75 shs pr cwt. The toll road blown up and cutting the 13th, then on the evening of the 16th, Thursday, began to snow and continued from the night of the 16th at 4 o'clock to the next morning to 9 o'clock. Thair was from 22 inchs to two foot of snow in about 12 or 14 hurs. The fall was weightier in the time, nor any in remembrance by the oldest person. With the old snow and new fallen, thair is 27 inchs over all livel lands, but in many places, thair is 6 to 10 and even 15 foot. The trains stoped, and many men working on the line. All the lower flat of the Castle, the wooden flowrs and pavement taken out, and laying it with ashfelt and Hughers preparing freeston for the new augmentation to be built on the west end. The railroad cut opened the 21st, tollroad cut the 23rd and 24th. Many of my aple trees and bushes broken down. It began fresh the 23rd. I took home my neeps with a slead and 2 sculls. Alexr. my brother, up for the first time the 23rd. Just 14 weeks now better. Verry cold the 25th, on to the 28th, the day of Fummackerfair, a number of fine cattle, but few

dellers and prices is back, full Â£2 on a Â£24 stot. Oats is about 18 shs, for seed for milling 14 to 14s.6d. pr qur.

March 1865.

Begins cold the 2nd and 3rd, rain and sleet. The 6th, 7th and 8th, frost and snow shows, the plow going on some bear places and others guide keans whean for old wreaths of snow, all my old ricks of the 8th. Always frost at night and cold throug the day, onto the 9th, the night Alexr. Dey, wright at Forkins died. It was him that furnished my house. One of the best nighbours, and most joky man in the parish. The man that saw, thought he saw nothing and he saw althings almost through a stone, Oh, a great blank on the roadside, aged 59. High wind and verry cold the 17th, the day of his funeral to Mortlach. I bought a quoy at the calving from Mr. Longmure, banker, Keith the 16th. The 17th and 18th, both high wind and desperate frost. The 19th, 20th and 21st, hard frost and percing cold with shows of small hail too hard for the plow. The 25th, about 3 inches and the 26th, thair is 8 inches. I was not at church, it snowed all day, but the 27th and 28th, quite fresh, the 30th and 31st beautiful. Thair is still many old snow wreaths on a dale of the land. Now I give my certificate that this book is all truth as fare as I know, or read from the papers, yours firmly George McWillie.

April 1865.

Begins with fresh warm weather. I got my ley shift plowed the 4th, and Donald Cattnach, a capital blacksmith, Linmore, Bellyhack, died. Sowing general the 4th, but high winds. Seed oats is from Â£1 to 18 shs. Souter Watt, souter at Little Greens, roup the 6th, him and wiffe away to meet Gordy, thair son in America, he ran of some years since, to America, and took all thair money along with him. I sowed my onions, peas and carrots the 8th, and planted straberries the 12th. I am away today, I was at an prisentation of a tea service of silver to the Rvd. Mr. Masson, the night of the 13th, John Ord, farmer, made the speeach. Thair is forty massons and hewers working at the new augmentation to the castle. Most beautiful weather, some rain the 18th, the day of April Market. I bought a young quoy of three year old, with calf at Â£18.10s. I had all my crop of oats and seed down the 17th. Setting kail and planting flowrs the 19th. Oats now 18 shs. pr qur of 40 lbs per bushel. Some fine trouts taking from Isla from 14 to 17 inches. I am showr they come out of the loach. Many of the berry bushes is full bloom at this time, and only small remernders of the crop to lay down. Verry hot sunny weather, on to the 25th, the day of Anne Mitchels burial, daughter of the late Alexr. Mitchell, farmer in Midthird, aged 55 years. Good briard the 25th, and grass appearing weall. General Lee of the Confedrate Army United States, surendred with 25000 troupes to General Grant, Federal General.

May 1865.

Begins terrible dray with the wind south east, the briard looking beautiful and oats 18s.6d. pr 40 lbs. The 14th April, or on some time to the end, Abraham Lincoln, the American President, was shot in a theatre, through the head. Seward, the secretary, was stabbed in his own house, in different parts, one son killed, another sore wounded by an assasian, the same night Lincoln was shot. We had some drops of rain the 3rd, but carried off with high wind. My carrots and onions above ground the 9th. Oats now 19 shs, The children of Bomiekelloch has the hoppincough at this time. Engineers taking the marches of the parish at this time, the 10th, terribly cold and the 11th rain and north high wind all day. Still large trouts taking in Isla from 18 to 20 inches. Cattle down in price in the meantime, Â£3.3s best beef. Some fresh showrs the 14th, and grouthy. John Watt and Jean McWillie had a son died the 15th, Monday, of hopping cough, aged eleven months. The 16th, dray and mild, fine growing weather. I bought half a dozen of weighty silver desert spoons at a roup at Dufftoon the 23rd, showrs at Dufftoon, none in Botriphnie. Extraordinary warm and quaiet from the 23rd to the 27th. Cattle was out in general to grass the 26th, our cows out the 24th. Aful grouth, slight rain the 27th, great need. Held the queens birthday with the fishing of trouts with Alexr. McWillie, accountant, North of Scotland Bank, Keith. But on Saturday the 27th, the half past four train came upon William Kelman, forman at the lime works about 400 yards down from the station, he being quite drunk, was run over and killed on the spot, he was greatly given to drink, hot and dray to the end.

June 1865.

Begins verry warme and dray, a fine neep season. Some complaints of the neeps being cut of. Still extraordinary warme, on to the 8th, Jean Petrie from Hungryhills here the 8th, and police at Mrs. Hendrys, Innkeeper, for selling drink on Sunday and throug the night. The large wreath of snow in the Burn of Scoug only disapeared the 2nd, as hot as the weather has been. I am putting up a wair palling at the roadside just now. Still aful drought and verry high winds, spoilling many of the exposed gardens. About 28 cattle of John Watts, Bomiekelloch trucked to Newcastle, for fear of the pluro, he has 6 cows, worth Â£20 pr head, dead the 9th. Now the 14th, he has killede and put of 49 head, which will be a loss of Â£500. Still aful drought, no rain or dewes. Still aful hoat and drought the 18th. Some of oat crop is turning yellow. I was at Banff on the jury the 19th, on a case of rape of a girl of 14, the boy 16, he got six months. I think a shem the way the lawyers go on with quizing and propnenity. Aful drought, some of the oats beginning to shoot, a slight rain the 25th and 26th, great need. Oats 18s.6d. pr 40 lbs, some dewy the evening of the 27th.

July 1865.

Begins aful drought, corn and grass getting yellow. Many fields of torneeps in clay land, the seed has been in the land for three and four weeks, and laying dray in the dreels, not sprung for want of moister. Mrs. Dunbar and eldest son here the 1st, not being here for the past 12 years, from Strathdoon. Still aful dray, most of the cabbage and kaill all gone with a bush of white worms at the root. Onions going the same way. The theromiter standing from 65 to 70, the baromiter betwixt change and rain for the past ten days, this is the 14th. Weall I started for Keith the evening of the 6th, some drops of rain, all night in Keith. Alxr. McWillie and mysilfe went to Aberdeen, seed the Revue of Volunteers, and aful engagement, which was on the links, and the Three Terrible Battries supporting, one on the victorious side and two on the attacking party, who sustained a total defet the 7th, but I saw nothing from the Broadhill but one drunk man fall, which was quickly carried by the police doctors to a place of rest. Started from Aberdeen at halfe past four, by the south estran railway to Stonehaven, the Foudon and Laurecekirk, by Brichan and Forfar, Glammis and Mingle on to Couparangus. Then on the 8th, I started for Dundee and back that night. Weall on the morning of the 9th, I started for home, weighty rain came at 4 o'clock A.M. and continued all day till I arrived home. Thair was thunder and rain the 8th in Botriphnie. The crop is all terrible short all the way to Dundee, a great dale will never cut and round the south getting yellow, also the rain was washing from side to side in the carriage all the way to Aberdeen, but was drught from the 9th to the 15th, which was an awfull day of wind. The 19th, a weighty rain in the morning. The crop is mostly full shoot. Oats is Â£19s.6d. to Â£1. A new square at Forkins building. The hey here is nothing but a light flwach of rygras. The sacrament the 23rd, always excesive hot and dray. The Mrs Spencer, Miss Angus and Mrs John Angus was home on a visit the 24th, stopped three days. Miss Masson and Mrs. Spencer took a drive up Lochpark the 25th, the rent day, the train going up the line, the pony shyed and backed down the bank, upset the gig. Mrs Spencer below the pony, Mary most heroicaly pulled hir out below, having a pocket kniffe in hir pocket, the pony being head formost to the water. She manfully cut both traces and both bellybands, likways the neckstrap of the hems, and then tore the upper shaft of the gig from the body, thairof, the pony went plump in to the loach, missie being none daunted sprung in after, turned round the head to the shore, and saved Donnald from drowning. He was an aful favorite. The gig belonged to John Gauld, old Bomickelloch. Rain only the 27th, terrible high wind the 28th, and some rain the 31st.

August 1865.

Begins beautiful) weather for filling the crops. Many Fields of oats getting yellow but will be a light crop in general. The torneeps is growing beautifull, the first sown, but the lettest sown and the clay land will be far back for an average crop. On the 28th of July, Dr. Pritcherd was hung for the pisioning his wiffe and goodmother. He was about 12 weeks in doing

the deed. He denied like a brick, but confessed or he was hung. The air close from the first on to the 7th, which was rainy. Oats is 19 shs to 19s.6d. pr 40 lbs, and beef was the past week, 70 shs to 73 shs pr cwt. Harvest fees for cutters, Â£3.10s to Â£4 if reaal good hands, woman Â£2 to Â£2.5s. the average, and good purk 6 shs, pr stone and sheep and lambs from Â£1 to Â£1.5s average, butter 10 1/2 pr lb, eggs 7d. doz. the tobacco 5 1/2 pr 2 oz, tea 9d. pr 8 oz, suga 4 1/2 pr quarter of lb, and whisky 7d. pr gill, porter london 6d. pr bottle, and honny 10d pr lb. I here James Millne, Ryell, and the station masters sow making a noies at the killing, the 16th, warme and growing. Many holiedays at this time and large trains, ours the 16th, extraordinary hot the 18th and 19th, some barley and oats cut here the 16th, the Merchant began oats the 21st, I cut and he gathered. Misty and fougy, but quite hoat. General harvest in Morray and Enzie. The new femele school to be founded today the 23rd. Grouse plenty and strong. I had a share of the 12 shooting from Major. Wasterton, Rickmafunk and some others. Began cutting the 25th, but rain all day the 28th, Monday, and Mr. Jammison leading ricks the 29th, rain the 30th. George McWillie.

September 1865.

Begins dray, Mr. Jammison lead his two ricks the first. Thair was general harvest through the parish the 1st and 2nd. You will only see some green patches of second growth. 4th. I went up round the Glack of Midthird, and round the wood of Haggesshaw, and down the tollroad, and all cutting. I weighed 16 goosberries, the 2 which was 16 ozs down weight. We cut all our crop on the 7th and 8th, and took it in on the 11th, three ricks, light crop. It is beautiful shinning weather and enormous warme, no rain. Many people done, the 14th and 15th, Westerton all in the 16th, only 31 ricks. Old Summersfair, a poor market, only about 70 head besides a few old cows, but a number of sheep. People all afraid for the desese of pluro, and that new plague called rinderpest, thought to be imported here from some forign part. Meetings in all England and all counties and parishes in Scotland, and orders given through the north to all to purchase or buy no cattle south of Aberdeen. Beef from 7d. to 10d. pr lb, oats 19s.6d. to Â£1 pr pur of 40 lbs. Still many wells dray and many thrashing mills has no water. The theromiter has ranged about 70 in the shead for the past month. A showr of rain the 20th, the harvest all finished, but small remainders. Westerton hands away the 20th. Many of the torneeps taking the white gum now at the 29th, except leat neeps. They are all white like lime. At the 29th, still aful heat and great drought. Betty at Mains of Bellyhack, I should have been too, hut I was ill of a bad cold. Thair was about an hour of rain at 6 o'clock this morning. I see Donald over washing the Inn wiffes windows, whean I am in bead and Betty at Bellyhack.

October 1865.

Begins most excessive drought, the earth as dry as ashes, the dust is really rising after the plow, the wells dry etc. I was at Bomiekelloch the 7th, I put my bonnet in my coat pocket and my coat on my arm for heat, but on the night of the 7th, it changed to wind, and the 9th and 10th cold wind, with small misty rain, great need for man and beast. An order from Banff by the magistrats, to stop all the markets in the county and the 8th, on the church doors. Rain the 9th, and rain partly every day and cold, on to this the 16th, hail shows the 18th. I am getting my land for neeps plowed the 19th and 20th, some snow the 21st, rain on to the 25th which was a speat to 10 o'clock A.M. Our Thanksgiving day, and for the cholera and cattle plague, all the markets is now stopped for the prevention of said plague. Lord Palmerston died, the Prime Minister, a week ago. Beef Â£3.10s to Â£4 pr cwt, mutton 8d. pr lb, pork 7s.6d pr cwt, oats 19s.6d. to Â£1 pr 40 lbs. A singing school at the schoolroom by one, Grant from Dufftown city. I went a fishing the afternoon of the 27th, the Isla big black. I had 20 worms and I took 12 fine trouts in one hour, my worms got done. The wind north the 27th and 28th, but the east got the wind the 29th, an awful cold day with sleet and rain the whole day. Oats now Â£1 pr 40 lbs.

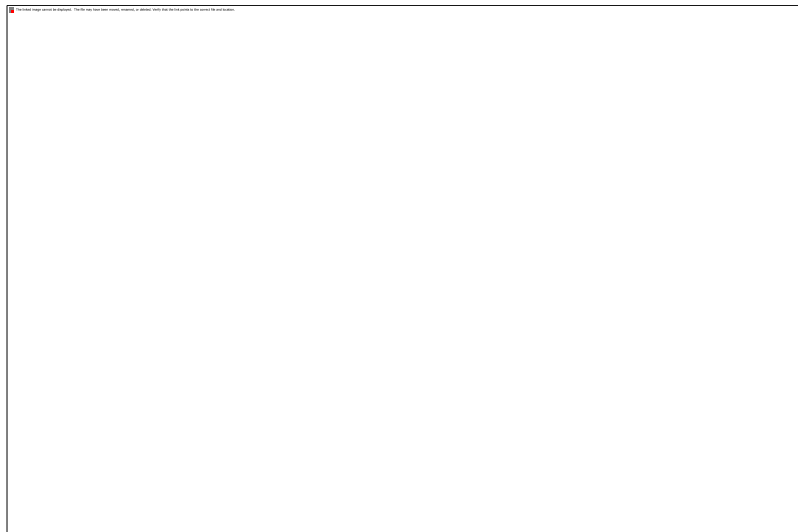
November 1865.

Begins rather watery, but the past year at this time, there was a dale of ricks still in the fields. I seed some of Turfhillochs oats weighed at our station only 36 lbs. but the average is about 40 to 41 lbs. I was at Keith with my wife on Friday the 3rd for 2 pair of trousers, made of serge, made by Geo. Kynoch, was Â£1.1s, for both, and oats Â£1.1s pr qur of 40 lbs. On Sunday the 5th, quiet and hard frost. I kindled match, with my eye-glass at 2 past noon, through the window as fast as the focus touched it. Jas Garden, our Prescenter, failed in singing the tune of St, Andrew, and all his score of men and women, all mighty pipes thinks themselves to be. All looked down, had they been before our spiritual elders for fornication, ha, haugh, haw, Mr. Masson relived the choir by immediately rising to prayer. Rather watery about the 12th, men and womens wages rather back. The cattle plague is still regying in Buchan, an awful in the south, from Brechin to Glasgow. Many hundreds shoot, besides thousands dying. All the markets done away from Elgin to Glasgow. We here of a great massacre (150) of the whites in Jemeca. Some snow the 25th and 26th, white. Some thousands of the rebels hung and shoot, black and white, many missionaries ringleaders. Some rain every day to the end.

December 1865.

Begins with high winds and rain. A ship lost at Buckie with three of a crew, laden with slates. The 5th, very weighty rain, but the 6th, Wednesday, an awful day of wind throwout, and its 10 o'clock at night, done a dale of damage. I had my ley shift plowed the 7th and 8th, beautiful like summer, on to the 10th. Mrs Allan, her husband and old

Geo. Allen here the 9th. A lecture at the school by Mr. Begg, Helpner, Keith, on Austrillia, beautifull weather on to the 15th. I went down to Park the 15th, stayed all night, and seed all the house and paintings with garden and polices. A meeting at Banff the 15th of majistrats and farmers, about the cattle plague and has continued the restrictions of markets to the first of March, 1866, as the plague is now in to Banchory and Skene, the Brichan and Forfar is in a most deplorable state, the cattle is dying in thousands. Some says it is carried by cloths, others by dogs and sheep, hears and rabbets, but like the patoto desease, no one knows how. Thair are no live cattle can cross the Spey or Deveron, any of the ways from Great Britain, It is not in to Banff or Inverness shires, but through most of England. Many, Many a one ill of for fodder, as they have no markets since end of September, and all small cattle and lean must be kept. Now at the 26th, no live stock but horses, asses or mules, can be removed from one shire in to another. I see by the papers the Eirle of Southisks stock all gone, with a bull he bought from a man Brown at Westertoon on Speyside, at Â£180. The weather like summer, the torneeps growing as green as in August, this 26th, but aful winds. The weather glass down the 28th, altho quaiet and warme from fair to storm. The 29th, wind began at 7 A.M. and increased all day to four P.M. then some rain, the wind aful. Oats Â£1.2s, pr 40 lbs. pr bushel. The night of the 30th, an aful wind, with some weighty rain, rough on to the end with showrs. Geo. McWillie.



Photograph courtesy Harry Stephen Scotland.

BOTRIPHNIE CHURCHYARD.

Within Botriphnie churchyard there are ten or more grave memorials in honour of McWillie family members and their families, seven of which have been marked in this photograph. The oldest McWillie memorial is for a John McWillie and his spouse Elspt McIndie. John died in December of 1736, his wife in June of 1783. That weather beaten stone was found

against the wall of the church and there now seems to be some doubt as to the exact location of the grave. The photograph containing the markers is an indication of the individual help contributed by a number of people such as Harry Stephen that makes the recording of history possible. On many of the memorial markers can be found detailed information on families, maiden names of spouses and in many cases the location where the family lived.

January 1866.

Begins rough wind, slight showers of snow the 1st and 2nd. All of the 3rd snow and quait. Out shooting roes the 1st in Tenrood, young laird of Drummuire and young Achlunkart, two keepers, buttler and James Millne and mysilfe. I killed two roes, the others 1 haire. I am failling in strength and sight, espically the right eye, but still I see a roe. I am now sixty three in February, sixty six the day of Fumackfair. Out shooting roes the 5th, grive killed one and Chine one, in the Burnpark, a number of hears killed. Thair was a soree in school at night, thair was 149 men and woman. The schoolmaster, Mr. Stewart, gave for his discource, his travels on the Contenent in the harvest vocation. Mr. Brander, industry, and young woman to hold darning matches. He should have mentioned to them to learn to spin yarn to darn with the schoolmaster of Knockandow example. Thair was 8 or 9 roving singers, thair was two dishes of tea, I by chance had my whisky flask, which greatly hilped the flavour of the last dish, likways augmented the heat. Some showers of the 4th, and hard frost on to the 9th, quaiet. The 11th hard frost with two inchs of snow, quite quaiet. People cannot get quite of thair fat stock, as the Aberdeen authorities will not allow nothing but dead meat in to thair markets. If sent alive they must go streght throw for the southern markets, none can bring cattle from one county in to another. Those having land in the county of Banff, cannot remove them over the March to Aberdeen. Those having torneeps taken in different counties cannot put cattle to eat them. Oats for 42 lbs. pr qur, and oats and straw is from Â£1.18s to Â£2 pr qur. People having lean stock to keep on for want of markets will be finished. Purk 7s.6d. pr cwt, mutton 8d. to 9d. pr lb, eggs 11d. The snow all of the 13th, then frost and fresh day about, but still terrible gales of wind, and aful loss of life, and property by sea. The stemer, London, lost and all hands except ninteen by one boat, three of the passangers and 16 of the crew, 170 drowned and many I may say, one hundred wishels all down and wricks, with many hands. Many of the Finnans in Irland gitting servitude for life, and the police finding many picks and arms of all discriptions. From 13th to the 27th, beautifull weather. The grass as green as in May. Many flowrs is in bloom, a southron wood bush at our door getting quite green. But Monday the 29th, white with snow. It was settled by the majistrats at Aberdeen, to alow fat cattle from Banffshire to Aberdeen by train. Thair has been numbers fined for removing cattle from one place to another. Beef down to 60-55, and 50 shs pr cwt.

February 1866.

Begins the first two days quiet, but the 3rd and 4th, verry high winds with showrs of sleet, the wind allways south and southwest, but still I see white rose bush and the bleads weal spread. A good many cattle sold in the parish to local dealers. Many about the prices they were bought in at in the month of July. The night of the 5th, aful high wind and sleety showrs, but Tuesday the 6th, it blowed a complet hurrican, from s-west, has don a dale of damage to houses, ricks and trees. I see some six, seven or eight painters for the castle today. The execution of Andrew Brown of Montrose the 31st January. He knocked out Captain John Grig of the ship, Nymph, brains with a hatchet, he belonged to Stonchaven. The 9th, in the morning, some frost. I probed one of the Merchants cows, and then I planted two spruce fir trees oposite the kitchen door. Snow began to fall or I had finished. They are about six foot high. They will be flowrishing when I am roating in the earth. Frost the 10th, on to the 15th, frost and land white. This night, Friday the 15th, Alxr. McWillie, accountant, North of Scotland Bank, was invited by a number of his friends to a supper, and was presented with a hansom gold watch, and massive chain of gold, and large toddy jug (151) of silver. The supper at Annands in Keith. I came home the half twelve train with Alexr. and Mr. Geo. Allan. He is now to the branch at Peterhead. Snow came on the 12th, and at the 17th, 6 inchs deep, and appearance of more. Still snow the 20th, verry high winds, the night of the 25th, some soft. Thair is in Irland in the meantime a hub bub of what is called Fennninisem or a Rebellion among a certain class, and many Irish that was in the American service, supling them with mean and mony. What is called the Habis Corpis Act was passed in the house of Lords on Sauterday night, and singed by Hir Magesty on Sunday morning, and now extraordinary seasuers of men and mony. It was fun for a while, but now is earnest, a great number of troops putting to Irland. The school was examined this day the 22nd, by the goverment inspectors. The snow near all of the 24th, but the 25th, Sunday, flags begun at 3 P.M. as large as old penny pices, to about three inchs deeph. The new Cattle Act in force the 23rd. Cattle from this parish bought by Munroe, Keith, was stoped at Aberdeen, and another truckfull returned from Forres to Keith, all his, but fat cattle is alowed to be driven on roads up to the first of March. They gowing past this in scores each day, and hundreds killing at Keith, night and day for the dead market. The beef has risen in price since the 23rd, about 7 shs. pr cwt, no cattle alowed to travel the road after this but two mills, but fat for killing, six mills, that is to the first day of March. The county is in a sad state, all have to keep thear cattle, no markets no sale. Then the straw scarce, many done with neeps. Thair has been sold from Â£1 to 15 shs. pr load, hey 11d. to 1 shs, straw pr qur, Â£1 to a guinea. No Fummackfair, about thirty opposit the Inn door. I belive a good few went in, mysilfe among the rest, 7 inchs of snow the 28th.

March 1866.

Begins with 7 inchs snow, flags falling at interwalls, through the first day, Thursday. Cattle Plague Act, in full force, the 1st. Returns of cattle to the Board of Trade, this 5th day of March. About 8 inchs of snow, excessive frost and blowing yeard drift, snow has fallen, and high wind to the evening of the 7th, three whole days on end. The snowing is soft, or we would have had a great depth, only from a foot to 15 inchs, no work, but snow balling and shooting with the bow and arrow. Many trials of Finnans in Irland, this time, likways the same in Jemeca for the mesachre of the whites, that in Irland hundreds has been shott, hung and flogged, men and woman. Thair was a fresh Sunday, the 11th, most of the land clear, but thair came more snow the 13th, then frost and fresh day about on to the 19th. Oats now Â£1.2s.6d. to Â£1.3s. and straw Â£1 to Â£1.5s, pr qur. Sleety showrs the 19th, and cold. A number of day labrours has been working from the door of the Castle to above the mance, making a new approach road, and 6 or 7 painters, painting the Castle. A dale of humbug in the papers, about the Reform Bill. The night of the 19th, or next morning, four inchs snow from the north. Repairing an old wood clock the 21st. The weather rainy and sleety, on to the 25th, fair with cold wind the 28th. The 31st, I sowed peas and beans. The Banff paper of the 27th, advertised for a Banff Joural of the date 30th August, 1864. The first of that date sent to the Banff office was to receive 2/6. I sent one next train, after reading advertisement. I duly received same, 30 postage stamps, which shall go to the gill stoup, as promised, if I gained 2/6. Geo. McWillie.

April 1866.

Begins high wind, north, sleet and rain. A lecture by Mr. Forrester U.P. Minester of Keith at the schoolhouse here the 5th. The lecture was on the life of John Bunnion, author of the Pilgrims Prougress. We had four lectures befor, and the nonintrusions did not attend, but Mr. Fairweather, thair parson was chairman. A great number of them attended, and blew that it was the finest lecture ever given in the parish, but behold, it was an old lecture in my possession for a long time. I made the thing publick next day, they called me everything but a gentleman. I prodused the lecture and gave eighteen pages word for word. They are now like the Dogs of Egypt, not moving a tounge. The lecture was a Baptist Minister of the name of ****. Some sown on Ardbrack the 6th, land weet. The Merchant sowed 4 bushels the 7th, watery and quaiet on to the 10th, Tuesday, oats seed Â£1.6s. to Â£1.8s.6d. A good many has sown the 14th, I sowed my onions and carrots, and set 350 kail, verry high wind, the 15th, Sunday, quaiet but the 16th, verry high wind from the south west, dray on to the 21st, the day I got my corn all sown and rolled, the 24th, verry dray with sunshine. I took two fine trouts in the loach, 3 lbs. the 20th. Oats Â£1.5s. pr qur of 40 lbs, butter 11d. and eggs 6d. meat

Â£1 stg. The 24th to the 26th we was setting paling, aful warme and verry drughty. The 28th, haill and sleety showrs, wind north. My peas throw and a dale of oats breard and many cattle on grass for want of fodder. Snow showrs on to the 30th, and desperate cold, north and north east winds.

May 1866.

Begins Tuesday about 2 inchs of snow in the morning. On Wedensday the same, percing cold. The reform Bill (152) gained by five of a majority, and all to a Brochan. Allways great losses at sea, above 800 wrecks for the past twelve months. This is the 2nd, half past seven P.M. closs downfall of large flags of snow. The third, in the morning, about 3 inchs of snow, and closs downfall of sleety snow. The 4th, some rain in the morning, but dray throw the day, but a dale of aful white clouds sitting around. No grouth this 8 days past, now the 4th, dray but cold. I had Scouge with his mule and old blind dun horse sowing my tears and potatos, and plowing torneep land, two days, the 8th and 9th, west high wind. Scoug is brocken, leaving loachend and taken the Toolbar of Linmore at Â£22. Mrs. Peterican (153) or Anne McWillie, poorly at this time at the farm of Rumster, near Lybster, Ketness. Thair was a consert of singing with fiddle, peanna and a thing like a keyd flute at the schoolhouse the 8th, fresh with rain at night. The 11th and 12th, rainy, the cows out to grass the 15th. Mrs Hendry, Innkeeper, hir roup the 17th, dray, then the 18th, fine rain and warme. The 19th, a raffle shooting in the hill below the Whitecow, two riflemen from Elgin, but was bet with thair own weppons. The 20th, verry hot with sunshine and wind, Now hot and sunshine to the 26th, the day of old Scougs roup at Loachend. The 28th, cold the 29th, sleet haile and rain all day, no grouth, with frost at night. I feed a boy, James Bremner at Â£2.2s.6d. Putting up a house for phesant cocks the 31st, quite cold for the season.

June 1866.

Begins cold, drught) on to the fourth and the 5th, torneeps was sown, verry hot and good grouth on oats, but the eatten grass verry little. Thair was a slight rain on the evening of the 7th. My old servant Donald was here the 9th, with his horse and cart with a load of different kinds of haddocks, and had a ready sell thairof. Put a loat of young dallias in to the garden the 9th. The 10th, Sunday, verry sultry and the glass down. I went to Peterhead on Friday the 15th, some cold. The torneeps in Buchan looking poorly and many sown the second time. I seed the boiling of whale blubber, the ponds and young samon, the liffe boat, and cart loads of sealskins taking of a Greenland ship. The old Castle of Inverugie, the Bullers of Buchan, the fish wives of Peterhead and Frazerburg all with read and blue check plaids. Our Buckie and Banffshire wives has all white ones. I came home the 18th, with Mr. Jammison. All the time I was thair, northy winds with haill showrs. The 19th, in Botriphnie, some weighty rain

with distant thunder, then on to the 24th, verry hoat and sunshine. The theromiter at 74 in the shade. I hoed my potatos the 21st. A melancholy fatal accident occurred to Mr. George Stewart, oldest son of Andrew Stewart Esquire, of Achluchart, Boharm. Some of the collage volunteers at Winchester at target practise at the riffle butts thair. At the close of firing, a young gentleman named Sewell, also a member of the corps took a loaded riffle from the ground, presumed and thought it was not loaded, Sewell placed a cape on the nipple, pointed it at another persons hand, pulled the trigger, the fatal bullet went through his fingers and in to the breast of poor Stewart, He exclaimed, I am wounded, and expired in a few hours. I was so intemate with him. It was about the 15th of the month. The therimiter at the 73 the 26th and 27th, aful thunder both days, and afull rain in Gartly and Rynie, as is here, has done a dale of damage to oats and torneeps. We had a showr here about 10 minuts the 27th. Our fire drove this week. 32 loads. I began to hoe torneeps the 28th. The first cattle market heald at Elgin the 29th since harvest, they had all to give cirtificate that they was free of deseas and they came from Banffshire. Many bees swarming and flying away the past week

July 1866.

Begins hot with thunder and showrs. Some weighty showrs the 3rd, the oats shooting and apperance of short crop. Great ware with Austria and Prussia, the former lost all the battles. Many hoeing matches here, mine done the 9th. Our white cow bulled the 12th. Excessive hoat, thair is no onions in Botriphnie, through Jammisons bad seed, Keith seed good. The 13th and 14th aful thunder, night and day, and haill in many places, and much damage to crop and cattle. This parish escaped. Extraordinary heat and quaiet, the grouth among torneeps alarming, much oats fully shoot, but quite short, and no old stacks in the parish. Beautiful weather, on to this time the 18th, we had to twin calves, a bull and quoy. All our neeps hoed the 2nd time the 24th, fine quaiet growing days. Oats weall shot. On the 21st, William McWillie hear from Couper Angus. Our fast day the 26th. The Prussions, Austrians and Itallians has fought many hard battles since the first of June. The Scotsman of the 30th, an aful packet of news. Pace concloued betwixt Austria and Prussia. The Great Easton has finished the laying the Alantic Cable, a dispatch dated July 27th, the cable was completed between Europe and America. Then the great Wimbelton shooting match, where the Scottish eight gained the Elcho Shield, and a Kinggussie young lad of 19 gained the Queens Gold Cup and Â£250. Our sacrament was on the 29th, after the service of tables was over, many people went out for six or eight minuts, and macking some noise in coming in. Mr. Masson ordered Alexr. Garrow to shut the door. Sandy shut the door, and locked it too, then, teehee, teehee, John Ord, elder, opened it in about eight minuts, but many of the people was home, it was rain through the day. Weighty rain the 30th to 12 P.M., the 31st, Glass

sheep market, dray, and I'm building a house for swine, of wood. Geo. McWillie.

August 1866.

Begins fine filling weather, and the glass market, sheep verry dead, and no cattle. The oats some early, places turning yellow, oats selling at Â£1.10s pr 42 lbs, goosers and other berries, ripe above average crop. Butter 10d. pr lb. eggs, 6d. pr doz, whisky 7d. pr gill. William Stronach, Greens, buried today the 4th, aful day of rain and high wind, north west. The approach to the castle finished, out to the road above the manse. Thair is seven trains goes up past this and 7 down each day. The cholra aful in many places at this time. The 9th, John Ord and me sent to Hungryhills, Gamrie. We had a little toddy in the evening, and after bead time he roase and broke the chantie. I stoll his poacket book and money, and on the train he says I stool a bottle of whisky. I drank part of the stuff, but stoll none of it. I would have been better next day, if I had not done it, and so would he too. Some rain the 11th and 12th. I went to Aberlour with John McWillie and George Legg the 14th, a bad appearrance of neeps in Boyndie, only beginning to hoe the first time. The oats beginning to turn yellow in general. The Cattle Act recended at this time, and markets as usual, they hey in colls, stooks in bad condition. Owing to past three weeks being watery, people in general driving home thair fire. Upon the 24th, I went to Deskford with John Ord, John McWillie and Betty, saw some barly cut about Keith. Harvest general in Morray. Oats is Â£1.6s, pr 40 lb. bushel. The market for cattle, fat, 70 shs. pr cwt, but lean stock is back in price owing to pasture being done and the appearrance of a short crop of straw. Mutton is back in price, but still high. James Dawn has still his two big oxen. He is begun to build new bires, and keep on for another year. They will grace his new bires. Cut our mustard the 27th. I have eight shaves, its for the potatos. Harvest wages for men from Â£2.12 to Â£3 for binding, cutting and building, 72 shs to Â£4 pr cwt for beef. The cholra is wearing of at Frasersbnrgh, and a bad herring fishing all round the coasts. One Forrister, U.P. Minister at Keith dead at this time, the 28th. My phesant has troad my bounting hen, and now she is begun to clock on 8 eggs. The 29th, still rainy for the harvest. I see by the Scotsmans paper, in the south of Scotland and England the harvest is retarded by rain the 31st. Geo. McWillie.

September 1866.

Begins rather rainy the night of the second, a white frost and grass stiff. Upon the 4th, thair was a meeting of farmers of Â£50 rent to vote for one of thair number for trustee on the new Roads Bill. Geo Garden of Westertoon began to cut oats, quite short. An afull crop of both apples and greens in Mr. Stewarts garden just now. The harvest vocation given the 31st August, all the scholars of both schools got thair tea, fruit, running, leaping and other rekerations, along with the master and Miss

Grant, female teacher. I see by the Scotsman, a ball invented that perces the best iron cased ship 4 1/2 inchs iron, and 26 inchs teak wood. I was at Craigellachie till works the 8th, for 1100 inch and halph drain pipes, 350 two inch and halph pipes, which is 44 inchs long and costs Â£2.8s.2d, besides carriage. It is for the hough out over at the burn. The Mrs. George Allans, junior and senior, and Mrs. Allan, and two of thair family here the 8th, some weighty rain that day, and the 10th, high wind, east with rain. The Lairds hey was to be built, but the rain stoped the job. Some people cutting green oats for thair cattle, for want of pasture. The 14th, high wind with rain all day, and rain every day to the 19th. I cut 14 thrives of oats. General harvest about the 20th and 21st, but many greens. The Prince and Princess and two young Princes, Victor and George, passed through Keith station the 24th, at fifteen minuts past one P.M. Many noblemen, besides me thair. The Prince had a cocked bonnet and highland dress of Stewart tartan. They ware going to visit Dunrobin Castle the 26th, 27th and 28th. High wind, many lead to the yard three nights on end. I have one rick. The 29th is quaiet and rain.

October 1866.

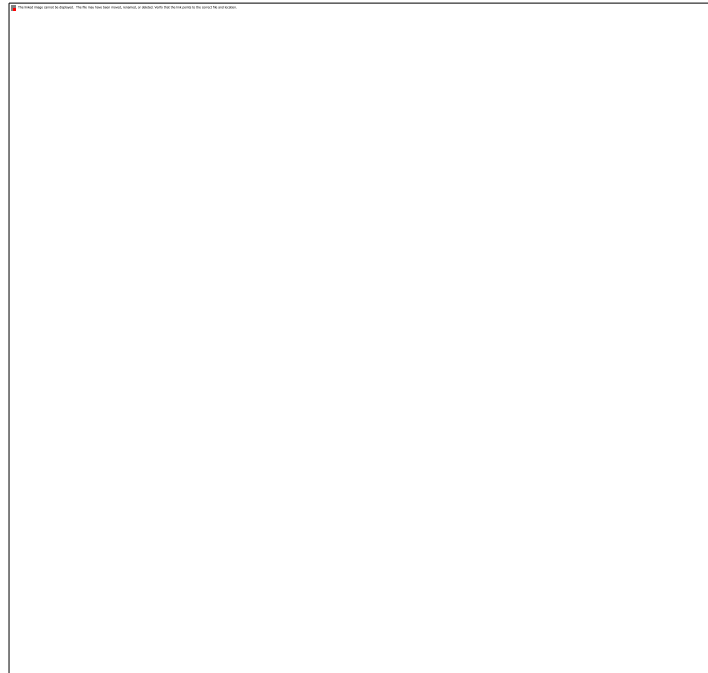
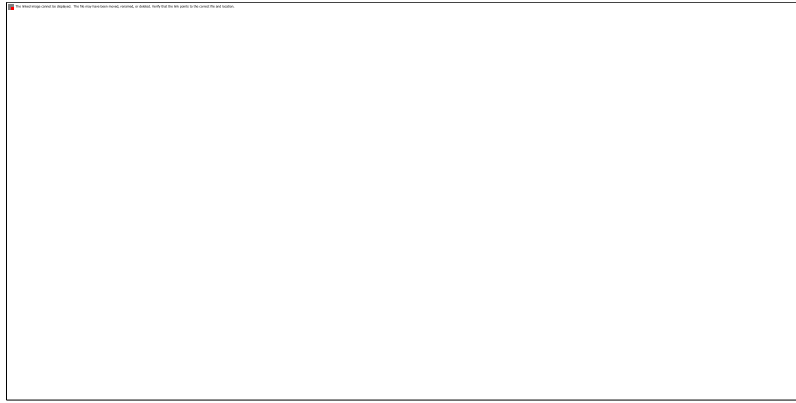
Begins verry quaiet and closs mists. Many ricks heating in the yard. This is the 4th, oats 26s.6d. pr 40 lbs. A dale of the crop is lost in England and south of Scotland with the weety weather. Wheate up 4 shs, this is no wheat growing country. Lean stock back in price for want of keep, beef 70 to 72 shs. pr cwt, sheep down in price, the barometer at 30 since the 4th of this month, and quaiet, with closs fog at night to this time the 10th. The corn stacks heatings in hundreds, some has from 20 to 40 taken down, both in England and Scotland. I see by the papers, thair is more hot stuff, than in the memory of the oldest. The cutting done here in general at the 10th, or day of Newmill market. Out at roe hunting with the Major, Achlunkhart and others the 12th, in the Burn Park. Thair was five killed, ditto, Loach Park the 13th, I had an old dog fox and two hares, a rainy day. Thached my corn stakes, 6 in number. I had but 3 the former year. The 17th, high wind all day, from south east, and great need for constacks and stooks. Crop all in but some remainders here. Lachlan Gordon Duff had a daughter born the 17th at the Castle of Drummuir, the afternoon, and the factors wiffe died at the Barnyards the 20th, a Mrs. Robertson in childbead, she has left a small family of eight, and Donald Cattnach, Linmore of Bellyhack, smith, died aged 92. He has been a pest in the parish for the space of forty years, and on the board since the Poor Act began. He has kept whoorish woman this 7 years, in spite of his family, Minester, Laird or other partitioners. She is called timbertoe, having one of hir leags made of wood. My potatos up the 20th, quaiet and warme. The 21st high wind and misty. Only a small patch of oats at Stripeside to take in. Oats Â£1.2s.6d. pr 40 lbs, per bushell,

November 1866.

Begins fine for the season, plowing going on in land in fine season. From the 3rd to the 5th, some shoows, but the 5th was an afull day of wind, the 6th, cold and dray. The 7th, I had one ton of coals from Portsoy Â£1 and carriage 4 shs. 6 pence. John McWillie, Cotterton and mysilfe reelected for the Perochal Board, I have been on the Board about 12 years, past year paid four pence haphpenny, this year 5 1/2 pr Â£. Our papurs all from people which had left the parish or thair parents birthplace. Now rain in the afternoon, and wind fallen the 7th, but the 8th is aful wind from west. The morning of the 9th, weighty rain, cold and ground white in the afternoon. Wednesday, the wind, snow and rain the Thanksgiving Day, thats the 14th, the 15th, dull and rain at night. Prins first used in Scotland by Hendry the 8 and his wiffe. Cold high winds the 20th, ground white with snow, fresh the 22nd. Extraordinary rains in England, at Leeds towns and lands flooded and many persons drowned, and Preston ditto and Wiggan ditto. Belfast has 100 streets flooded to 6 and 7 foot, from the Scotsman of the 20th. The 22nd, beautiful, Marttissmess Day. Mens wages, foreman Â£10.10s. to Â£11, woman from 35 shs, to Â£2.15s. Cold and high winds on to the 29th, the day of, George McWillies (154) marriage at Clackforbie, Gamrie. Geo Petrie, Shenwall, James Riach, Drumgrain and mysilfe at the marriage. I got no sleep that night being harassed by Alexr McWillie, Banker, Peterhead, him and mysilfe being beadfellows. etc. etc.

December 1866.

Begins high winds, frost at night with shoows of rain and sleet, on to the 6th. James Dawn has sold his oxen, the one six, the other 7 years old. Has been selling for the past three years, at Â£120 pr pair. Oats Â£1.5s. per 40 lbs per bushell. We here James Dawn two big oxen is sold in London for about Â£90. A rather rainy time on the 18th, then high winds about the 23rd, many ship and boat accidents, and the Oaks Colliary explosion, the results of the death of about 400 miners. Aberdeen fire at the Agriculture Copy, loss Â£1500. A coall mine explosion in Straffordshire, upwards of 100 men killed the 13th. Thair was 1440 cattle passed over the Great North Railway the 15th, during the week. Plowing match at Westerton the 26th, 32 ploughs, the denner at the Inn, was 3s.6d. with drink. I was out roe shooting the 27th, two killed and many hares. The 25th, rained all day and the 29th rainy. Sunday the 30th, ground white with snow, and two inch the 31st. George McWillie.



DUFFTOWNS NORTHERN BELL.

KEITH / DUFFTOWN RAIL LINE.

George took a great interest in the industrial revolution which first saw the introduction of the steam engine and his diary has recorded the construction of the Keith, Dufftown, railway system that served Botriphnie area. Prior to the railways introduction the area had been very isolated with limited access. The roads in the area consisted of boggy pathways good only for two wheel carts. The steam engine contributed the area becoming a large trading centre. In the mid nineteen hundreds the railroads closed a number of their lines and only lately has the Keith, Dufftown Railroad been restored primarily as a tourist attraction.

January 1867.

Begins snow, still on to the 4th. The farm steading, Burnside, Enzie, all burnt the 27th of December, eleven fat cattle etc,, burnt, Tennants name Mitchell. Beef £3.12s.6d. pr cwt. Hellen McWillie (155) or Mrs. Watt, my cousin died at New Elgin the 3rd, aged 64 years. The snow is still excessive. Frost up to the 5th, old Christemass Day, but quite quaiet. I put the servant lass of the Inn into the shoulder the night of the 4th at halph past eleven P.M. with the station Mr. Smith and John Garrow hir master. The night of the 4th, Betty got rather poorly with her bowals and mysilfe likways. I was better in twenty four hours, but she is still the same on to the 11th. No preaching the 6th, snow deep and blowing with dreadfull closs mist, the same over Scotland and England and aful wrecks by sea, railway hear still open. I was to Keith the night of the 10th for Dr. George to Betty, hard blowing and snowing the night of the 11th, frost is severe. We have every comfort but are rather short of neeps. The railways all snowed up the 13th, snow increasing to the 18th, average depth about 21 inches. Betty, Alexander and mysilfe laid up with scotch cholera, or what I would call the express train. The snow not stoping in the least, whean I am writing the snow above the road opposite the house is up to the uppermost bar of the 3 barred pailling. The frost is most severe, this is the 18th, no trains. I see by the shipping Gazzet from the first of January to the 14th, thair has been 222 shipwrecks, great loss of lives. The snow from the station on the Hough leavel over, to the mance garden, 27 inches deep. Thair was no preaching the two first Sundays of January, and only 26 in the church the third Sunday. Alexr. my brother quite poorly at this time, the 20th, the snow increasing, and the wind east. The railway clear the 22nd, fresh the 24th. Alexander throwing up everything he takes. John McWillie came hear the 26th, in the afternoon, and Alexander McWillie (156), our brother, died the morning of the 27th at three o'clock, aged 49 years, and was buried the 30th, in Isabellas grave. Fresh, plows going on ley in some places the 31st.

February 1867.

Begins cold, fresh. The young laird veery poorly at this time at Oaxfoord. I have horse plowing the 7th, the mercuary down to 28, as low as for many years. A new snow the 8th, and a aful storm or wind at London, has done a great damage. The snow away the 10th, but verry high wind. Oats and straw £2.5s to £2.10s, to go to Morrayshire, oats £1.5s, pr 40 lbs. pr bushel, now at the 12th, plows going in ley, and most splended weather, but high winds. About the 15th to the 24th, torneeps and grass growing and the buds of berry bushes swelling and coming out. Aful wind the night of the 24th. Helen McWillie here from Hungryhills the 21st. Fummackfair the 26th, an aful cold day, high wind from the north. The biggest cattle market that has been in Botriphnie, highest priced cattle

was Breheads Â£27.10s. a great number sold. Oats Â£1.5s pr 40 lbs. torneeps not half done at this time. The 27th and 28th, the ground white with snow.

March 1867.

Begins hard frost the first, and fresh the 2nd, and fine quaiet misty days on to the 5th, small rain the 5th. Upon the 8th, hard frost, and upon the 9th, I pumped in Forkins water throw his lead pipes, frosty and the wind east, whean writing this blinding snow at 5 P.M. Sunday the 10th, about 6 inchs of snow. Finnisem in Irland again begun in six different counties, Clare, Limerick, Cork, Waterford, Tippreary, and Fallaght Hill. About 14 police routed 40 rebels, 1000 fled, all feart. Thair are a number of Finnans shot and 300 taken. They have burned several farm steadings, and many robries of arms from farms, about fifty six robires in Clare and Limerick. A number of Americans among the prisoners. Quantites of ammuniton and arms have been found at all points of the outbrack, and rails and tellegraphs distroyed. A Finnan leader, Captain Lane taken. Now the 14th, hard frost, but on the 15th, John Robertson and his wiffe, formerly tennant and farmer in Breahead, now living in Tenroad householder, both died on Friday the 15th, within 26 minuts of each other, and was buried at Belly the 18th, in one grave. Upon the afternoon of the 15th, snow came on to the depth of ten inchs, the frost is excessive, it has burst two of my house inchpipes, for taking water down from the easing of the roof. The frost and snow the same up to the 18th, frost excessive. On to the 22nd, which was dull to two past meridian, the afternoon wind east and hard ending with severe blowing. Fresh the 27th and 28th. I went to Portsoy the 30th, an afull day of wind, sleet and rain. I took home kaill plants, and set my own the 1st April, a beautiful day with wind.

April 1867.

My kaill was planted the first and sowed peas and beans the 2nd. The Major sowed the third, high wind. Several sowed the 4th, but rained after 12 o'clock from the north, shows of and on the 5th, rained all day the 6th. A severe cold is prevellant this, a while past, for the past four weeks, old and young. From the 6th on to the 12th, shows of sleet and rain, to the 12th. The 13th, I sowed all my onions and carrots. On the morning of the 16th, Betty Watt (157), daughter of John Watt of Bommiekelloch, died aged 14 months. Thair is some parties has begun the sowing, but not got harrowed out. Rain and sleet on to the 17th, which was hard and cold, the day of Betty Watts funeral, and old Alexander Sellers. Some people sowing this day the 18th, quite cold, the 19th dray, the 20th, dray and warme to five o'clock, then weighty rain. Many sowed, but could not harrow. I took up all my torneeps this week, I gave away eight loads to read the land. Joseph Edward in Broadrashes, has gone by himsilfe, at this time, and sent to the Banff Lunatic the 22nd. I got my clean land all

plowed the 22nd, one and halph acres, by James Moggach, servant at Bommiekelloch, and capital done, he is not above four and halph foot high, just a boy. Small rain the whole day of the 23rd. I got 15 bolls of lime the 23rd. The 24th, weighty rain and wind from east, the seed about halph done, but none sown in season as yet. Always rain, rain, still a severe cold or influnzie raging in the parish. The 27th, an aful day of sleet and rain from east, John McWillie, Hungryhills, here the 27th. The land as weet as it could be. The 29th, the goodwiffe of Mains of Bellyhack died, William Duncans wiffe, aged 40 years, and Archbald Cruickshank, formerly farmer of Glenheath, aged 78 years. The last three days was dray, but cold. No seed laid down in season this spring, and a third yet.

May 1867.

Begins the 1st, quaiet and dray. I got all crop laid in the first, in fair season. Fine grouthy weather, on to the 10th, thair is still some of the crops to sow at this time. It has been an afull weety seed time, and now let. The markets is afull back for sheep. Good sheep bought in August 1866 is giving from 15 shs to 18 shs less money besides loosing the keep. Cattle, fat, is back 4d. per stone, purk is 5 shs. pr stone, oats is Â£1.10s pr 42 lbs. per bushell. Some cattle out on grass the 7th and 8th. The 11th, rain all day, and afternoon, weighty rain, the earth afull weet. The 12th, percing cold wind, many only planting thair potatos. Many has headed neeps at this time. I have three loads the 13th, and the grass weall up. Cold east wind, frosty, the morning of the 17th, weighty fall of sleet and rain, all high places white with snow. Still showrs of sleet and haill on to the 22nd, the wind east and noreast for the past two weeks. The 23rd, dray the day of the feeing market at Keith. No flowrish on appel or pear trees. I have one cherry tree in flowrish. Cattle all out to grass mostly in Botriphnie. No grouth the past 14 days, so excessive cold to the end, and I was at Aberlour Garden the 31st.

June 1867.

Begins with distance thunder, with weighty showrs of rain. Mrs Paterson, Portsoy, on a visit for the past eight days here, went home with hir brother, Mr. Allan, minister of Grange. He was preaching that day at Mortlach. Hot and sultry the first three days with showrs, but the 5th, 6th and 7th, verry much rain. Thair cannot be any of the torneeps sown, or the land harrowed, it is so weety, the farmers all down in hart, as it is now getting late for sweddish neeps. Our yallow cow jumped quite over a three barred pailing this day the 6th, being sicking the bull the second time. Thair was three of our parish young men left for Newzelland the 8th, one George Willson, Miryward and Robert Humphry, Towiemore, and one Farquharson, a servant. Rain the 7th, 8th and 9th, in thundry showrs, rather cold, I made a small round table with three roes leggs inserted in it for feet. Upon the 11th, Alxr. Garrow, Bellman, Newburgh; was cutting a load of grass in the churchyard, and forgot his coat. My wiffe remarked to

him, he should have sent some of his young lassies for it, replied, I just came mysilfe, I thought it would gar me mind better next time, coming and going was three milles. The 11th and 12th windy and drught. I see a prophesy that it is to be a verry warme summer. The Emperor of Russia was shot at in a carriage with the Empror of the French, both missed, but a fine horse shot on the opposite side of the carriage. It seems it was a Poll was the assasian. He deserves a himpen gravit or else gelding. A nice dray day this the 14th, I had 2 pair of horses plowing and harrowing neep land, but Saturday 15th, rain all day, wind north, The 16th and 17th, weety. My neeps all dunged the 19th, but rain came out, and on the 21st they were sowed, but the 22nd and 23rd and 24th dray. Fine warme grouthy weather on to the end.

July 1867.

Begins one day dray, and next rainy. The neeps all down here, but on Cachanhead and Jas. Dawns on the Glackmuck farm. The 3rd, and some people beginning to hoe, looking weall in general, windy the 2nd and 3rd, the 3rd, rain all night. Mostly all the crowned heads in the world at the French Exhibition and visiting Hir Majesty at London. The Viceroy of Egypt dinned with Hir Majesty at Windsor, and slept at the Castle the last night, the 8th. Now verry warme and great grouth, some rain the 9th, and the morning of the 10th from 2 A.M. to 5 A.M., verry loud thunder and weighty rain, and the morning of the 14th, weighty rain but warme. Some of the oats is lying, and no apperance of them beginning to shoot. John Ord, Woodend, poorly at this time. Thair is a pice of oats on the Burn of Towie Croft, and the corn appearing the 16th. The people tells me barly is shooting about Keith and Dufftoon. Rain the 15th, 16th and 17th, but quite warme. The merchants hey was cut 14 days ago, and turned three times at the 13th. The cattle show of the county at Keith the 19th, cold watery day and rain, on to the 22nd. The 23rd, cold. We began to hoe our torneeps the 23rd, Merchants hey turned the fourth time the 23rd. Thair has rain fallen less or more each day since the 20th, up to the 26th with cold north and north east winds. No grouth the past week, little torneeps hoing owing to so much rain. But still Mr. Jamison the Merchant and his Mrs. plays at Crockie, and on Thursday the 25th, they with other two played from eleven o'clock to 6 past P.M. His hey has lain four weeks since it was cut. Mind he is a seceder, but keeps none of the fast days nor givs any of his servants a fast day, eather his own, or the old, or Free Churches. He delights in mony, play, brandy and bass ale and fishing and shooting. Wind from the 26th, rain each day less or more to the 31st, the day of Glass Market, which was fair, the wind east and north for the past tree weeks. I seed the first few heads of oats shoot on my own place the 31st. Torneeps about halph hoed in this parish the 31st.

August 1867.

Begins the first hot and sunny, now cutting in general. Harvest hands cutters from £3.10s to £4, banders £3 to £3.5s, woman from £2.5s to £2.15s, at different parishes. I have ripe cherries the 1st. The 5th, rain in afternoon, the 6th, rain at night with thunder at 9 P.M., lightning verry bright, rain and haill verry weighty after 5 P.M. Verry grothy and hot the 9th and 10th. The 12th August, bright and sonshine, fine for the hills and hunters. Miss Jean Angus died the 7th at Asloon Cottage, Aberdeenshire, only daughter of the Rvd. Alexr. Angus, let minester of Botriphnie, and buried the 13th in the Isle Botriphnie. The holieday of the parish was on the 8th. The two Miss Massons, Alexr. McWillie and mysilfe was along to Elgin, Lossiemouth and Dufftoon. Some rain the 15th, but warme, the berries only ripe at this time the 14th, hot and grouthy on to the 18th. Mist and small rain the afternoon of the 19th, and wind and rain from the east the 20th. Oats £1.9s. to £1.10s, meall £1.4s, Banff Grain and Provision Market, barly 54 lbs. £1.17s to £1.18s, potatos per peck 1 shs. beef pr lb 8d. to 10d. mutton 7d. to 8d, butter 9d. to 10d, eggs 8d. to 9d, salmon 1 shs. 4 pound loaff, first flowr, 8d. Barly cut at Inverurie the 16th. The 20th, afull thunder and rain in the south of Scotland and in England, weighty rain in Botriphnie. The Reform Bill passed at this time. The Queen arrived at Floors Castle at Kelso, the seat of the Duke of Roxburghe, the 21st, most afull splendor. Oats now £1.14s, pr qur 42 lbs, warme riping days, but rain some or less every two days on to the end.

September 1867.

Begins dray but the morning of the 2nd a white frost spoiled some of the potato heads. But the deadly murrion is begun, the station master's and others are wrong, heads and bottoms. Some barly weall mixed the 4th, rain and mist the 6th and 7th, then fine filling days, on to the 12th. I was at Airndilly fishing for samon, took none home, altho they wear rising the whole day, out of the water, year old bairns, rain all day. The Kirton House taken down three foot, and roofed anew this time, and all the inside new, old slats put on. Thair is thirty stooks of oats cut on the Sandy Hillock on the Limekills Croft the 12th. Cutting in Morray in general the 16th, rain the 14th, all day and 15th and 16th. The morning of Summerrise Market, Keith, rank dew and white frost. Sauterday the 21st, Betty and Geo. Ord at hir brothers (158) at Deskford, shows of rain, and rain the 22d and 23rd wind, haill and rain the 24th. The Queen (159) came on a visit from Balmoral, to His Grace the Duke of Richmond at Glenfiddoch, he only being thair to wilcom hir, it was a private visit, no retenew, but seven servants, accompanied by Princess Lousie, Lady Churchill, and Major General Sir Thomas Biddulph. I came in contract with him and John McHardy, gamekeeper. Hir jurny was through Tomintoul, Glenlivat and Glenrinnies, where she stoped opposite the farm of Linmore on a field of grass and partook tea. One of the servants called at the farm for a kettle of boiling water, from a sister of Mr. Andersons the farmer.

The Lady tendred the services of thair parlour which was declined, that the party of ladies preferred the grass. After tea, a present was sent in with the kettle, with the remark the kettle was a good one, and no doubt would now be taken care of, which seemed to convey no meaning. The day being hazy with some rain. Dufftoon was taken unawares, they only had an hours notice. She visited the old Castle of Auchendown, and other Curiosities about the glen. She left the glen at ten o'clock on Friday the 27th, and went the same route home, but the Dufftonians was prepared for her, her servants passed this by rail, I send them, 6 in number, John Brown was on her own carriage. Now the 28th, and some rain once in the 24 hours and so on to the end. There is only some small patches of corn cut, the last few days high wind.

October 1867.

Begins high winds and rain in the morning. Westerton was to begin this day the 1st, cold, cold. The 2nd, high wind, showers of rain and hail. The 3rd, in the morning was hail and rain, with showers of snow. The lands and hills white all day. The 4th, cold and sleet with hail all day. The year 60 the 3rd of October was a full, Westerton about 9 acres cut, and different people through the parish has from eight to 16 threves cut. The wind north west. The morning of the 5th, rain, the hills and high lands all white with snow with cold wind. The land a full weat. The first quarter of the moon. 5th day, 17 minutes past 6 P.M. at that time, there was a second moon about 60 yards to the west, and hour after, there was a bow or arch, the one leg on the top of the hill of Carron, the other leg above Dufftoon. The night quiet and in the morning, a hard frost. The cran of our water cask at the door hard frozen, it required boiling water or it would run. The green peas and beans frosted in the morning, the sun only out at intervals. I doubt the green corn will be gone too. Woodend began cutting the 5th, some rain the 6th. A roe hunting the 7th, in Tenrood and planting of Bellyhack. There was Mr. Thomas Duff and other five of us killed 5 hares and four roes and other game. There was rain the night of the 7th, and the 8th, drizzle but rain at night. The 9th, a roe hunt in the Sheans and Burnpark, 16 guns 8 gentlemen and 8 of us. Three roes killed and a number of hares and other game. The 16th, roe hunting in the Loach and up to Tulloch on Lord Fife, 16 guns ditto and five roes shot and other game. Then dined at the Castle at night. The Major poorly, not out shooting this season. Cutting about general the 11th, but a full green, many not begun the 14th. Upon the 8th, an a full fire at Dundee, £60,000 of loss, and on the 9th a terrible fire in Edinburgh, five lives lost and nine injured, and on Thursday the 10th, the Castle of Dalhousie terribly injured by fire, damages £2000. The night of the 10th, an a full fire in Edinburgh, burning a large tanyard and houses to a large amount, besides three other fires in farmyards and stedings. And on the 12th, the paper mills called Muggiemoss, three miles from Aberdeen, property to the value of £12,000. Rain 5th 13th and 14th and 15th, wind east, many

cutting and it powering on rain. My crop cut the 17th and 18th, dray with winds south. Some carrying to the yard the 19th, for the first leading day, some is done cutting. The 24th, no wind, but small rain all day. The 25th, dray and high wind all night and next day, but rain at three in the afternoon. About one halph of the farmers done cutting. Mine all in the yard or 12 o'clock the 25th, and then rain came at 3 o'clock. Oats in the Banff Journal, new Â£1.6s.6d. old Â£1.10s, meall Â£1.4s, barley Â£1.15s for 24 lbs, the 4 lbs loaff 9d. Upon Sunday the 27th, most of the day verry weighty rain and sleety with flags of snow as big as old penny pices, through the night of the 27th, cold dray wind, and on Monday some people carried to the yard. The 29th has been high wind all day, people are leading all they can do man and beast. A dale to cut the 30th. The four last days of the month thair was one halph of the crop taken in. Geo. McWillie.

November 1867.

The first dray, but rain and haill at night. Thair was many cut out thair crop on Saturday the 2nd, cold west wind the 3rd, and then pleasant fine harvest weather, on The last of the crop taken in to the yard the 11th, in the parish. Cachanhead and Glackmuck was the hindmost. The potatos is one third deseased and the rest quite small like potato plums. Fine on to the 14th, the day that a showr of stars was to fall at 7 o'clock A.M. but the air being with mist, thair was none of them seen, I don't know whither the showr was or not. The roupe of Mr. Stewart, schoolmaster, was on the 14th. I bought six bedroom chairs, 3s.6d. each. Excellent weather from the 15th up to the 24th, like summer. Donald Stewart was schoolmaster for six years and 10 months. He is now King Edward for hilpener minester. Oats is Â£1.5s to Â£1.6s. pr 40 lbs. The torneeps growing beautifully and the glass up to set fair. We have not had so settled weather since March, thair was not 8 days of dray weather on end since to now. The Merchant began building a kitchen the 25th, all built the 30th, but the chimney tops and nearly roofed too. The 30th, wages for the halph year, foreman Â£10.10s to Â£11, horseman from Â£8 to Â£10, house woman Â£2 to Â£3 according to quality. Many of the anual flowrs in full bloosom the 30th.

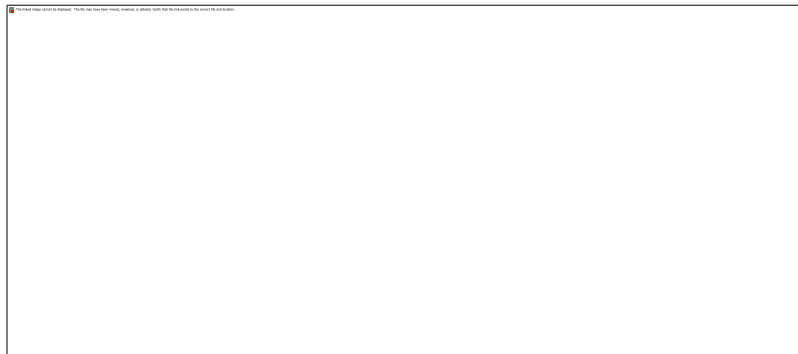
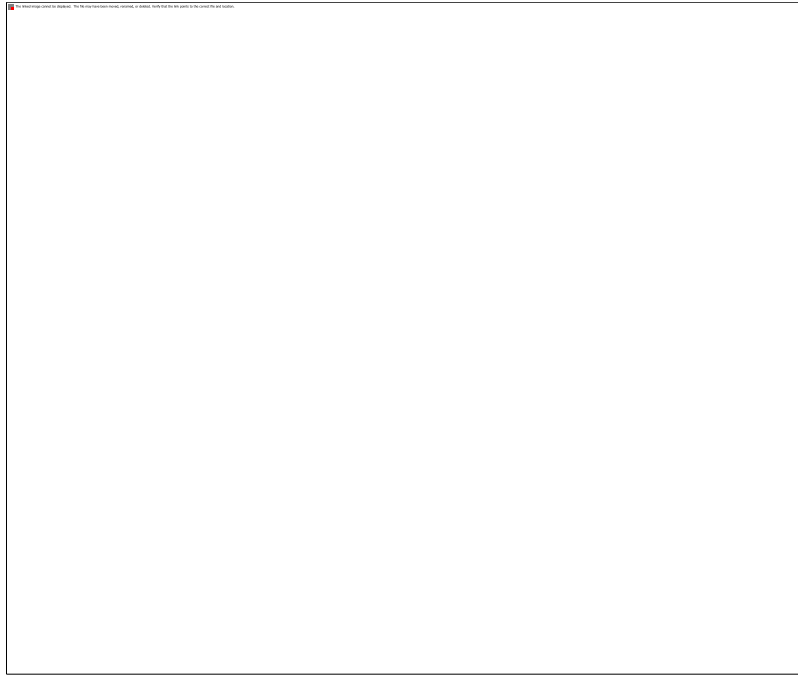
December 1867.

From Yesterday morning, the mercury is back from set fair to much rain. The morning of the 1st, quaiet and closs air, but by eleven o'clock high wind and rain from north west came on. Many of the people stoped here, and I gave word and thair denners. By 2 P.M. the land closs with sleety snow, about 40 in the church, still pilling on at 3 P.M. Monday the 2nd, a gale of wind and snowing all day. Upon the 3rd, the Major here bidding me good day, as he going of tomorrow, for England, with the family for the winter. That I would have a few days shooting of hares and roes at Christemess. Snow the 4th with wind, but little soft, hard frost the 5th,

the Thanksgiving day. An awful loss by sea and land on the 1st and 2nd, an awful gale. On the 18th Sept, a body of armed Fenians, all Irish, released other two Fenians, Kelly and Deasy going from the courthouse to the jail. They shot sergeant Brett through the head and wounded others, Omer Allan fired the fatal shot. Him and two others was hung at Manchester, and many servitude from 20 and 15 years, and Irish is vowing great vengeance on England. A married man, svt in Mains of Towiebegg, fell down filling a load of turneps the 7th, and died immediately, name John Hey. Much rain the 8th, has put away a dale of the snow. Always more news of the hurricane of the 1st and 2nd, a full loss at sea of life and property. Oats £1.5s pr 40 lbs. beef per cwt £3 to £3.5s, butter 9 1/2d. pr lb, eggs 9d. Plowing going now the 10th, soft weather on to the 19th, then some snow with hard frost, to the 21st which was fresh. The new schoolmaster Mr. Strachan came to the schoolhouse the 21st of December, 1867, The Irish Feinaas at London has destroyed many houses by trying to blow up the walls of the prison, where two of their number was confined at four o'clock P.M. by two men and one woman placing thirty six gallon cask on a hurly to the wall, applied a match, then ran off, but the police took one of the men and woman, as the explosion took place, which killed five persons and wounding from 60 to 70 others. About thirty yards of prison yard walls and five three story high houses, the shock hard and found three mills around. It was the 13th. Some frost the 24th, and on the 27th, the plowing match at Turfhillock. The 27th, there was 33 plows, dinner and drink 4/6. It was beautiful weather for the season, quiet and frosty to the end, but still the plowing going on. Some keeping Old Year here as usual, and some New Year. The old people in general old style, and people worse nor 50 years ago.

Queen Victoria wrote of her visit to Glenlivet and area in "The Journal of Life in the Highlands."

"We drove on for an hour and more, having entered Glen Rinnes shortly after Tomnavoulin with the hills of Ben Rinnes on the left. There were fine fields of turnips, pretty hills and dales, with wood, and distant high hills, but nothing grand. The day became duller, and the mist hung over the hills: and just as we sat down by the roadside on a heathery bank, where there is a very pretty view of Glenlivet, to take our tea, it began to rain, and continued doing so for the remainder of the evening. Lindsay, the head keeper, fetched a kettle with boiling water from a neighboring farmhouse. About two miles beyond this we came through Dufftown - a small place with a long steep street, very like Grantown."



**An artist drawing of
Queen
Victoria.**

**BALMORAL CASTLE,
SCOTLAND.**

*Balmoral Castle was built for Queen Victoria and
Prince Albert as their Scottish residence and is still
in use today.*

January 1868.

Begins frosty, the land white and the hills also. I was down shooting hears in the Hill of Janneston, thair was 15 and one rabett killed. Frost on to the 5th ground still white, but the plows working. Our New Years day serman on the 5th, text - Zachariah 1st ch. and 5th verse "your fathers where are they" and of ourselves or another year pass, where will we be? A query. Upon the 6th, thair was 18 of our farmers and cottars with thair guns out for 2 days shooting, granted by Major Gordon Duff. They hunted all day

and only killed five hears, one rabbit and one partridge. It got a full misty when driving the farm of Westerton. Some hard frost the 10th, but the plows is going the 14th. About the 18th, a full dashes of rain. The 20th is hard frost and the land gray. The 16th was the day of Hellen Watts marriage with John Cruickshank. She is the oldest daughter of John Watt, Bomikellooch. The public prints has had little news this while past, but all about the Finians and Finian trials, and the Abyssinian Expedition, The 24th, an awful day of wind and blowing from south west. Cattle from £2.10s pr cwt, oats pr qur £1.5s to £1.5s.6d. pr 40 lbs, mutton is 5d. to 6d. pr lb, butter 9d. pr lb, eggs 9 1/2 pr dozen. As mentioned on the 24th, it was greatest hurricane has been for past thirty years. There is not a county in all Scotland escaped its ravages. There is two Buckie boats lost with 12 men, and scarcely a corn yard in Morrayshire but the whole or part of it is down, and round all the Banff and Morray costs has been a full. But by public papers, south about Edinburgh to Glasgow, I think had been much worse, houses blown down, people killed, slats and tiles strewn the streets, and thousands and tens of thousands of trees brook, or out by the roots. Some ricks down here and many trees down, and the ministers hey ruckie. Plows going the 27th and 28th, but some snow and frost the 29th, and wind west. The night of the 30th, a full rain and so was the 31st Friday, the waters a full swollen.

February 1868.

Begins showers of hail and sleet. The 2nd, an awful shower of snowflakes about 11 o'clock. The minister gave out the text - Job the 37 chap. and 6 vs. "for He saith unto the snow, be thou upon the earth". The papers still full of the disasters of the hurricane of the 24th of December. The night of the 30th and 31st January, has done a full damage to lands, bridges and railways. Craigellachie junction, the bridge impassible, one of the piers undermined and has to be taken down. John Lorimer, crofter, next Mains of Bellyhack, he first built and improved it, died the 4th, aged 51. All on from the first to the 9th, a full gales of wind, hail and sleet and rain, it is said in many places through Scotland, the spout of the 30th January was as high as the spout of 1829, but here in Botolphnie there was not a beginning to 29, there was no overflowing of the Isla on the Haughs of Kirkton. Since the 9th, up to the 18th, still a full blows of wind and rough showers of sleet and rain. I drained the end of this shift opposite the house at this time, fifty yards up my ley, and lands for torneeps plowed the 18th, and 19th was a full wind all day and through the night, dale of damage again by sea. A dale of planting and filling up of the Brea opposite the Station, the roadsides to the mance brea, and up from that to the churchyard, mostly all spruce and silver firs. The oats now to 29 shs. to £1.10s pr 40 lbs. per bushell. The 21st, cold, the 23rd, Sunday, high wind, some showers of snow flakes, wind north to nor west. The 26th, Fummackfair, very high wind, west, a large market but few dealers, and trade dull. There was no blood drawn, and for that cause we will have a

bad year. Milling oats Â£1.9s to Â£1.10s. pr 40 lbs, and for seed Â£1.15s to Â£1.7s.6d. Upon the 31st, Thomas Duncan, farmer, Glenmarkie, brother to Mr. Wm. Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack, had one arm, the right one taken off at the elbow, and the left all shattered by his thrashing mill, an old acquaintance of fifty years.

March 1868.

Begins verry rough with showrs of snowe and 1st, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, blustry with showrs of rain and sleet. Lord Derby (160) resigned for bad health from being Prime Minister, Mr. Deserlie has his place. Still rough wind, sleet and rain on to the 8th, a full fall of snow flacks the 8th, Sunday. It was mostly dray throw the week, but a full winds mostly through the day and nights on to the 15th of the month. John Watt (161) and Jean McWillie, a daughter born about the 2nd or 3rd called Elizebeth, and our brown cow had a calph the 13th. The Major has sown the 14th, and Taylor Robertson, Glack. High winds each day from south, south east and west, a full. The 16th quaiet and sowing general, half done in this parish the 21st, being dray through the week. I sowed my peas and beans the 20th and onions the 21st, an a full day of wind. Some rain and sleet the 22nd, the 24th dull, three inchs of snow. Some sowing the 28th, all our neeps up the 28th, about 10 loads. All my garden seeds and kail in the 28th, and bees working as summer. Splendid on to the end, white cow calved 31st day.

April 1868.

This month begins pleasant and the sowing mostly done, but clean land. Mine throw the 1st, and all limed. The grass looking beautiful, and trees and bushes quite green, I am always looking for the newspapers or they come, for seeing the Abyssinea Expedition, and the Parliment on the Disetablishment of the Irish Church. I have one the name of Price, a painter, at my house from Aberdeen, with printice. Rain and sleet the 5th from east, the briard beautifull the 14th, many done sowing and grass is looking fine. About the 16th, a servant lass to the Rvd. Mr. Fairweather, Free Church, verry bad with some inward complaint. Had to Keith in his gig, by Miss Fairweather, but on reaching Keith, behold there was a child, the girle denied it was hers, then it must be Miss Fairweathers, this is the sixth at the Free Manse, to Mr. Fairweather. Some fresh showrs the 16th, and Sunday 17th, strong cold wind from east the whole day, with rain Monday. The 20th, east wind the whole day with weighty rain and cold, on to the 26th. I see all the onions through and some apple flowrish out. John Garrows dog, Innkeeper, worried John Ord, lam the 25th dead. Showrs on the evening of the 27th, the day we received intelligence of the capture of Magadalla in Abyssinea, by Sir Robert Naiper, and the death of Theodore, thair king. The same paper also has a teligraph, that at Port Jackson, New South Wealls, the Duck of Edinburgh was shot at and wounded by a Fennian on the 12th of March. The ball entred the back

and was extracted. The 14th of this month, the Prince and the Princess of Wales, visited Irland, and recived a princely reception. The 28th and 30th, afull winds with showrs and verry cold.

May 1868.

Begins afull high winds for the season. I set potatos and sowed tears the 2nd. Our brown horned cow bulled the 27th April. Cold and no grouth on to the 9th, which was an afull hot sunny day and so was the 10th, but upon Thursday the 7th, in the morning, an afull hard frost, ice on the ponds, three fourths of an inch thick. Our cows out to the grass the 9th, cattle out in general the 10th. The grub doing a dale of damage for the past fourteen days. The 11th, 12th and 13th, verry high winds, the sand and dust blowing like the snow drift. A little rain the 15th, drught and sunshine the 16th and 17th. Still drught the 19th. Many done sowing sweddish neeps the 21st. I am getting turffs cut the 21st, verry dray and dale of high wind from west and south. First horsemens wages from Â£10.10s. to Â£11 and 12, and first class woman from Â£4 to Â£5. Oats Â£1.9s pr 40 lbs. pr bushell, meall, pure Â£1.3s.6d. The Major and family came from Brighton, being all winter thair for his health the 17th. Weather since the 21st afull winds, and sunshine. On to the 30th, Alexr. Anderson, farmer Westerchalter, brother to Archbald Anderson, late minister to the Queen at Crathie, died the 25th. Still aful drught the 31st.

June 1868.

Begins aful drught, has continued for the past month. Hey, corn and the grass getting yellow. We had a fine showr of rain the evening of the 4th, but the 5th drught. I had the Major calling for me the 5th. The 6th, Saturday, an afull hurrican of wind the whole day, doing much damage, the wind is blowing from west. Many done sowing neeps. The 7th, high wind, with five minuts of rain in the afternoon. A dale of rain falling around, but this I think is completely forgot that is rain falling around, but none in Botriphnie. I have four horses plowing and harrowing the 8th, verry, verry dray. My torneeps sown the 9th, sunshine and high wind, great drught and so was the 10th. Now at the 12th, the wind is whirling the dust and sand in clouds in all direction. The flowish of trees and bushes all spoiled, the wind still south and south west. On the 16th, the wind a little east with some small rain for an hour, but the wind back to west. Upon the 17th the day of June Market, an aful day of wind, the dust and small sand on the streets was suffocating and blinding. Cattle down in price, no grouth, no grouth. Then on the 19th, George McWillie (162), his wiffe and young son here from Gamrie. Drught, and on the 20th, hoat, hoat, and on the 21st excessive warme and a slight showr. As we went down to church it scarcely wetted womans bonnets. Our rent paid the 24th at one o'clock. Fire and smock was seen at the north corner of the Wood of Burnpark. The people of the parish was raised imediatly, and a horseman dispatched to Keith, but before the men of the parish reaching

it was to the top of the Hill of Towie and the north side of the wood all in fire. Hundreds of people from all derrections flocked from all derrections. Thair eforts was in vain, no efort could stop the fire but kept it from the large wood next to the Burn, but the wind blowing a gale from the west drove wood and heather all to flames all along to the Wood of Tombrack, and to the old road, with the destruction of natural, and planted wood to the amount of 400 acres, and all the hill to the Wood of Rosarie, and all heather, to the lands of Achanacie to about the space of four square mills. It burnt for two days and nights, for all that men could do, and now at the 30th, the moss and foug still in fire. Many of the trees burnt up by the roots. Still aful drught, was up to the night of the 26th, whean thair was fine rain through the night. The oats and barly shooting fast at the 24th, not two inchs long, and the same through the North of Scotland. I am sorry to write down the death of Miss Duff. at Drummuire Castle, the 28th at one o'clock A.M. Typhus feavour, aged 16. Some people howing torneeps the past few days, but many afraid of the drught, the 30th, aful hot.

July 1868.

Upon the first, an extraordinary day of heat, the 2nd, Mary Louisa Duff, Major Gordon Duffs oldest daughter, was interred in the churchyard of Ordifull. All the paritionrs at the funeral, walked down to Mill of Towie, four horses in the hearse. The Park tennantry met the funeral at Barriemoss. The 3rd, warme and quaiet, misty all day, dewes falling, refreshing the thirsty ground. Many has home thair fire and busied howing neeps. Many no briard at this time, the seed as dray as in the pock. From the Scotsman paper of the 3rd July, at the Leeds corn Market on the Tuesday, 70 quarters of barly, of this years growth, were sold. The 4th, the air cloudy, wind north. I have ripe chirries and rasps and full peas, all at the 4th of this month, and at the 10th, the fire in the Hill of Towie and Burnpark still burning in the fogg and moss. This is the 10th, I have the halph of my neeps weaded, and still aful drught. Grass and oats is burnt yellow with sun and drught. John Ord and me went to Fochabers the 11th, and went throw the polices gardens and all the Castle of Gordon. The theromiter thair in the shade 84, aful dray and still on to this the 13th, hot, hot, hot. Wednesday the 15th is said to be the hottest day ever felt in Liverpool, the therometer at 124 degrees in the sun. At Wimbleton 92 in the shade, and in Botriphnie at 3 o'clock in the shade 74 degrees. Thair came out rain at 2 o'clock, the morning of the 16th and continued up to midday. My chirries was pulled and made into jelly the 17th, blackberries, gooseberries, rasps and strabries all ripe, and peas quite full. The white cow bulled the 16th. The 20th, high wind and sunshine, and 21st, high wind from west, sunshine and the threomiter at 72. The sweat running over my nose writing this three lines, the dust going like snow drift. Barly cut at Huntly the 24th, most of oats full and fast whitning whither filling right or not. The grass all burnt up and

yellow, nothing but dray roots, nothing green. Many of the trees yellow, of all kinds, cattle in misery for grass. Many places in England and Scotland in misery for water. The threomiter hear standing in the house at from 69 to 74, a full heat, this is the 26th, the day of the sacrament. I went to Aberdeen 29th, many cutting oats and barley round Inverurie. You can hardly see the stooks, they are so small. It was the day of the Hilland Societys Great show. Thair was Â£1570 of ticket money for the three days show. I paid one shilling, it was an aful, sight, both cattle and instruments. I came home the 30th, most a full hoat and warme. Cutting on the Limekill lands of Burn of Towie. Grass and water for cattle a full scarce, the grass like the Toll road. Alexr. McWillie in poor health; the 31st.

August 1868.

Begins still hoat and with wind and a full drought. Alexander McWillie here, not in good health. Always the appearance rain, but none comes, this is the 3rd. A fine slight rain the 5th. I began to cut oats the 6th, the glass at much rain. General cutting the 10th, many of the first sown torneeps getting yellow and all hols in the bleads, the grass all burnt up on the roadsides, all natural grass like dray stubble. Alexr. McWillie (163), Callies son married the 5th at Pearth Methven Station. Stots of Â£20 value, down to Â£16 and all summer keep lost and sheep down one halph and more. A slight rain the morning of the 8th, Tuesday the 11th, slight rain all day, then the morning of the 14th, about five o'clock to seven, a perfect deludge of rain, the waters rose in one hour, the rest of the day heat and sunshine. It has done an a full good to the neeps, and the young grass among the corn it was all burnt up. Harvest going on rapidly now the 15th, the 16th and 17th a full warme. I dripping sweat altho I have on my kilt. Mr. Geo. Kynoch, Keith is plowing stubbles the 18th, being a dewy day all over. Oats Â£1.10s. pr 40 lbs, hey is 1/6 pr stone, cattle but fat unsellable, fat 60 shs, to 63 shs. Grass is now getting green again with the rain, many wells is dray and cattle in much want. Some leading the 21st. The 22nd, rainy most of the day, 20th, high wind, I had all my crop cut the 21st. Bomikelloch done cutting the 25th, and only his barley into the yard. A good many leading the 26th, a dale of land is tired for a few ricks. All my crop is in the 29th August. There is many in Botriphnie has all the crop in and many has not, the one halph as in average years past. I have three and halph and two old ones. The torneeps is all getting white, as covered with frost, and the shaws all eaten and bored like a meall sive, but the grass is growing like the month of June, altho the past two months as read and burnt as dray heather. The potatos is all taking a growth of long strings, many of them is through the ground and forming a second crope.

September 1868.

1st begun excessive warme and growing days. The young grass among the crop which was weathered and burnt is now coming bravely. No sell for store cattle for the past two months, fat is from Â£3 to Â£3.5s pr cwt. The harvest all done here, but John Sellar, Tennanton the 2nd, the stack yards about one halph of former years. Mr. Cantly, Keithmore, had his barn and thrashing mill burnt down the 4th, with straw and dressed oats. I went to Hungryhills the 7th, along with Mr. Alxr. McWillie. Growing weather and quite warme, plowing going on fast the 10th, my onions is large and fine crop. I see by the Teligraph, an afull earthquack in Peru, 30,000 lives lost and property immence. We had a rather weighty rain from south east with high wind the 20th, with mists and shows throw the week, then on the 27th, afull watery and the 29th, rain all day. Oats down to Â£1.5s. The Prince and Princess of Wails etc. at Keith Station the past week, few went to see Royalty, the 30th rainy.

October 1868.

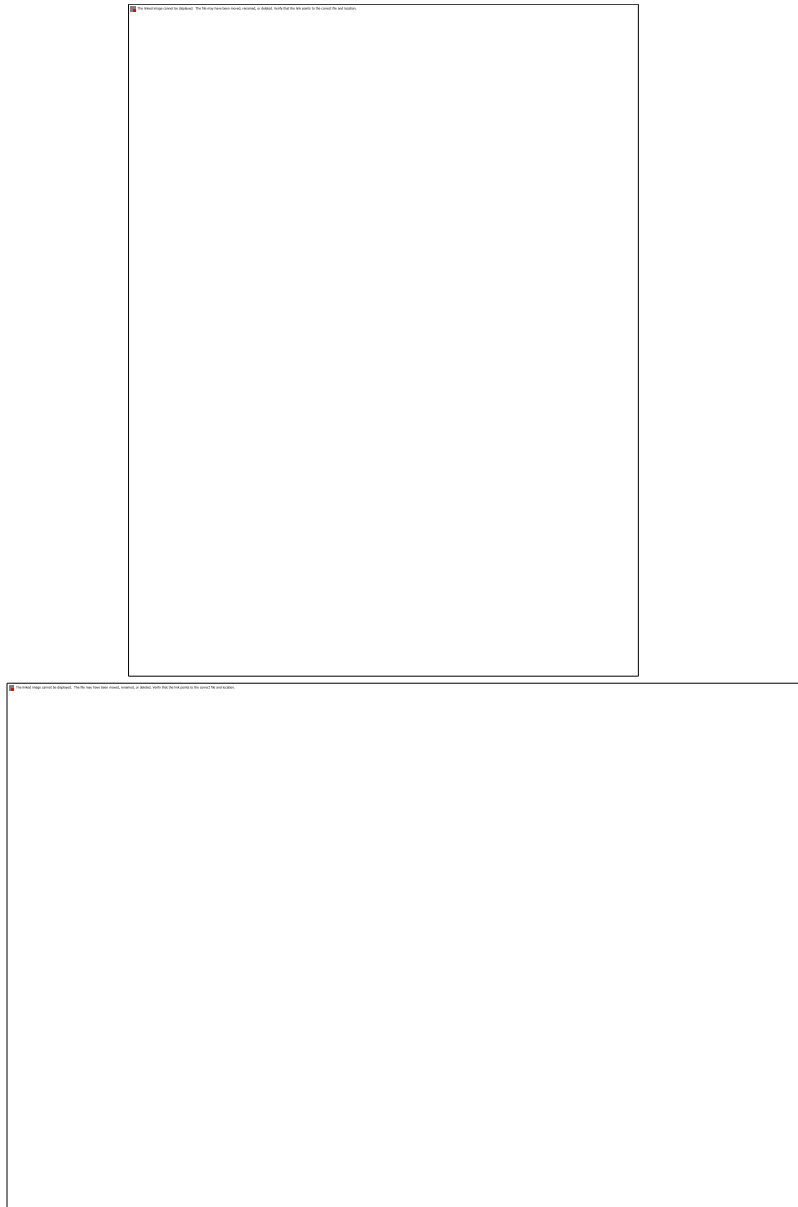
The first begins damp. The 2nd, beautiful warme day. Thair was a roe hunt in Lochpark, thair was 7 guns and we killed 3 bucks and 3 does. The 3rd was dray, the 4th rainy. I see by the publick prints the Peru earthquack has killed upwards of forty thousand, we may judge the amount of property. The briard on the stubbles is most beautifull. The plowing weall through, but the hey and grass good besides in summer. Fat cattle from Â£3.5s to Â£3.8s, mutton 6d. pr lb. We have had no frost to make ice on the water untill Sunday the 18th. William Smith took ill the 13th with throwing, or spitting blood. It has continued up to the 18th, at intervalls. He is now better the 19th. The wind north west the 19th, with rain and cold. John Garrow, Innkeeper, signed his trust deed the 16th, the sum is Â£396, in the space of two years and five months. Mrs, Grants roup the 16th at the Limeworks, Burn of Towie. Its not for too much monny I suppose. Now at the 22nd, colder and some sleety shows, and at this time, the Revd. Mr. Murdoch, minister of Boharm has been labouring under dropsy, and not expected to live. He sent for Mr. Thornburn, Keith and for a girll Stewart, a pupil teacher at Maggynocketr school, proposed marriage, was accepted, she being 18 and him upwards of 70 years. Mr. Paterson, J.P. and farmer, he tied them in the strong bands of matrimony, he being confirmed to bead. The clargy all around got into a fury, for thair widdows fund, says it is a swingle, and he most be pulled up and put to the charge of the horn, so thair brother in trade got himsilfe proclaimed and was married by an established clergyman on Sunday the 25th October, 1868. Cold now with sleety shows and hills white, William Robertson (164), farmer. Achern. Carnie, died the 25th. He married on Jean Moggach, sister to Betty McWillie. He was buried at Ruthven, Carnie. Many people bussy taking up thair potatos, weet, weet,

November 1868.

Begins cold and watery, Out parochall boord had thair anuall election of members the 4th. John McWillie, Cotterton and mysilfe was elected for the 16th time, for sixteen years. The thrashing machine at Bomikelloch the 5th, snowed all day the 6th and 7th and 8th, about 4 inches of snow. Revival meetings in the Glack at John Guns every night, I am afraid they will soon die out, as they have done all round. I have seen no good done by them as yet. Snow since the 5th to the 13th, rain all day the 14th, the 15th quaiet and cold air. The Sunday school given up the 15th, it would not lasted so long if Mrs. Gordon Duff Gordon had not attended. Aful, balls, denners and rejoicing with the Ritchmond tennantry, for the Eirle of Marchs marriage with a Riccardo laddy, not known here. Bruckly weather, quaiet with mists and small rain. On to the 20th, the day of Keith feeing. The fees is back on first and second horsemen, from one pound to 10 shs. wages first for beast men Â£10 to Â£11, second Â£8 to Â£9.10s, woman last year from Â£4.10s to Â£6, this year Â£1.5s to Â£1.10s to Â£2, some best hands staying Â£2.10s. There is no word of keeping hours this term, just if only they can find a place. They were getting above the masters. Barly at this time is Â£2.2s per 54 lbs. It is weighing from 55 to 59 lbs, oats is Â£1.5s.6d. per 40 lbs. It is weighing from 42 lbs to 43 1/2 lbs. Now rain and sleet the 23rd, then high winds, but the plowing and field work going on splendid to the end.

December 1868.

Begins high winds. The Major and family left for London the 1st, for the winter season, and the minister of Aberdeen to a marriage with his two daughters, and the schoolmaster on the 4th, to Aberdeen, so we want all heads in the meantime. The plowing match at Mill of Towie the 8th, thair was three of the best hands and best horses ware thrown out of the prises. The time was four and halph hours, but James Humphray, Alexr. Humphray, brothers, and a man and pair from Pitlurge. The ball at Mains of Towiebegg. The 9th and 10th blustry. Thair was two Virgin School misses came to the female school on the 28th of November. The 12th, hard frost, now plowing the 13th, frost, the 14th some plows going but the frost hard. Verry high wind from south east, but that tearing working man John Garrows is taking up his potatos, altho the wind nearly blows a hurrican with small rain runing above the frost. Oh thriftless Jim Garrow, shoemaker and Innkeeper, Drummuire Inn. The new moon the 14th at 33 past one P.M. and was seen at halph past three in the afternoon the same day. I never saw one so soon, come what will after, quaiet with closs mist on to the 21st, which was an awfull day of rain and wind, south east. Week new harbour building all destroyed. At the 23rd, again quaiet and some frost. Peoples cattle all out grasing for fear of want of fodder the 25th, frost, the 27th, wind and sleet. Then from the 28th to the end of the month, quaiet with frost. Oats Â£1.6s, pr 41 lbs. pr bushell. A great cold or influenzie plaguing old and young. The year done and I am in good health.



ARGAITHNEY COTTAGE.

The home was built by the Drummuir estate for George McWillie at the time he gave up farming of Midthird farm. There was a small holding attached to the home which allowed George to carry out farm however on a far smaller scale. George passed away at Ardgraithney cottage in May of 1885. Subsequently a number of other McWillie family members resided in the house. It was from the library in this house from which George's diaries were removed by a person not related to the McWillie family. The photo was taken in 1996 and shows the large garden, and there is no doubt that George also spent many hours working in the same garden.

January 1869.

Begins on Friday, fine green weather on to the 5th which was wind and rain. On the 5th, the people of the Carney district belonging the Honourable Lauchlan Gordon Duff of Drummuire, had a days shooting of game. They had but 15 hares. The next day, the 16th, the Botriphnie people had thair day. Thair was 25 guns and killed 29 hares, two rabbets and one partridge. I had but two hares. Capital green weather, and cattle out grasing this the 10th. I was hilping John Watt, Bomiekelloch out with his pailing wood in the Brea of Argathnie the 8th. Thair is about 1000 larich poasts in a compliment. Oats now from Â£1.7s to Â£1.7s.6d. Now at the 14th, fine spring weather. On Sauturday the 16th, a plowing match at Insch, three plows and Â£10 bet on each plowman. Grant svt. man, Smallburn, Carnie first Â£10 and silver meddal, Keith Challanced William Alexander, parish of Daviot, against Grant, Carnie, he accepted and Alexander challanced William Sharp, Sunnyside, Premnay other Â£10. Alexander lost with Cairnie, but gained on Sharp. Thair was upwards of 2000 spectators. Sunday the 17th, fresh and rain all day. Sharp frost the 25th and 26th. Out shooting rabbets the 28th, but returned home, came on fresh and rainy. The bleads out on apple and pear trees, and the rose bushes bleads getting quite green. Oats 1.8s, pr 40 lbs. The 30th, David Innes wife funeral, most afull wind, and rain. England, Scotland and Irland, the tides most afull, a dale of damage of shipping etc. 31st, quaiet.

February 1869.

Begins wind with rain all day. Upon Thursday night the 29th January, I gave Mrs. Jammisons wiffe a pair of gloves, to wash with a handfull of tracle, James Deys face of Forkins, he agreeing. Having six inchs of a beard, the tracle taking a fine hold, then the heat of his face meade the tracle ran so fine down on his breeks and weastcoat. Made such a hollobeloo, the family being all to bead, but awacking through the terrible noices, all being alarmed. Thought the mans throat was cut from eare to eare. Through the candle light and the tracle running down at such a reate, it required two batches of sope and water, aye and quite hoate by the by. Upon the first of this month, the mavies singing as if in summer, and we are supping young kaill the same as summer. Apple and trees of all sorts as in the month of May. The beleads as broad as sixpences. The ground never white since November. At this time the 6th, young grass growing like June, and all the cattle but those feeding, upon the grass. On the 4th, I was among the rabbets in the Brea of Argathnie without a bonnet and the sweat dreeping over my nose. The 5th, afull wind from west, but quite warme. John Strathdee, farmer, Blakmure, died aged 84 years. The 6th, an afull cold or influenzie has been raging since the first of January, few escaping, old or young. While writting this, my cow grasing anent the window as in June. I see by the papers oats and foddeer in Morrayshire 3 pr qur, some 2.10s. in Botriphnie, hey is about 1/6 pr stone, torneeps 1 pr ton. A good haddock is 7d. I see some large takes of

herring at from 1.10s. to 1.15s pr cran. High winds with frost, and the ground gray with some small hail. I forgot, the maivies and liverock singing as in summer since the month came in. I understand by the publick papers, farmers in many places has thair last rick in the barn. I don't mind on the oats being so hevvy since. It is from 43 lbs to 44 and 45 lbs., beef 3.8s to 3.10s pr cwt, mutton 8d. to 7 1/2d, purk 7/3 pr stone. The Major putting up a greenhouse or vinery in the garden. And still many people still verry bad with the cold or some influenzie at this time. The 16th, fresh with south east wind, and Alexander McWillie, North of Scotland Bank is verry poorly at Hungreyhills, Gamrie. John Riach died at Poolside, the farmers brother, they ware in Drumgrain for two nineteens and both born in Cachenhed. He was 53 years of age. It was on the 19th of the month. The weather always beautifull, the frouit trees getting green, the growing and greeness of grass beautifull. This is the 21st, cold blustry on to the 25th, which was an afull day of wind. It was the day Dufftoon Market and the 26th, the day of Fummackfair, which was white with snow, verry cold, wind west. Verry few cattle, but what was fat was from 3.10s to 3.15s per cwt. Cold wind with six inchs of snow the 28th. Our parson at Keith, Geo. Ord drove him down, and Mr. Allan, Keith, preached in Botriphnie, from first Thessalonians and 13th verse. The church was verry thin, when I am writing, a thick on ding and blowing from north west at 4 P.M. Geo. McWillie.

March 1869.

Fife house, London - One of the finest old mansions in London , Fife house, has just disappeared. It was situated on the banks of the Thames at Whitehall, and was remarkable for one circumstance connected with history. The late Earl of Fife, the friend of Sir Walter Scott, being resolved that even when in London, he would always walk on Scottish soil, sent the gravel and loam for the garden at Fife House by barge up from Scotland at a cost, it is said of nearly 20,000.

Begins with snow the 2nd, about 10 inchs in depth. Some of the railways, both Lossiemouth and **** stoped with snow. On the 3rd, Alexander McWillie (165) who was an accountant in the North of Scotland Bank, first at Buckie, then Aboyne, and next Keith, and last at Peterhead, died at Hungryhills, Gamrie, his fathers farm, aged 31 years. He was in the bank for fifteen years. He was intered in Botriphnie Churchyard the 6th. Many inhabitants of MacDuff walcked with the funerall to the bridge of Banff, and the people of Keith and some of the parishioners came along, without invitation, with the railway. He had formerly received presentations of gold and silver plate from them. The 5th was cold, fresh with high north wind. The two Miss Massons in thair love and emulation pressed the session for a bottle of wine for Alexr. Thompson, Sloggan. They had it with reluctant consent of some of the members. They both went over the Hill of Bellyhack next day with the said bottle, but behold hir son Jas.

Thompson sent the session back the price, three shillings, thanking them for thair goodness through the Misses Massons, not being out of thair own pockets. The old snow in hollows and dycksides still remains with frost, and allways the ground white in the morning with new snow, but the new allways away or night with the length of the day, but the old allways remaining. Now the 14th, it being quaiet. A dancing school at the Inn or Garrows. Hellen Petrie (166), or Mrs. Reach, Poolside died on the 18th, a few days illness. Her goodbrother, Jn. Riach, died the 19th February, her nephew Alexander McWillie died the 3rd March. Cold sleety showrs the 20th and 21st and rather showry on to the 24th. I had all my torneeps taken up the 26th, and land plowed the 26th, showrs of sleet through the day. The afternoon hard frost and the land white with snow, wind north. Thair has been little farm work got done since the 1st to the 27th, now quaiet. Mr. George Allen, my aunts husband, died at Fife Keith on the 31st, aged 84 and 8 months.

April 1869.

The sowing begun in Botriphnie the 1st. I planted my beans the 2nd. The 3rd snow. It was the day of Geo. Allens funeral at Keith, an afull day of sleet and rain and snow the whole day, wind north by west. About 3 inchs of snow the 4th, verry cold. The ministers pony, Donald, verry poorly the 4th. A strong pillar of the Free Church of Botriphnie, I will not spoil the blood with the name. Had a cow died on Saturday the 3rd, and himsilfe and forman, Malice, and John Stewart, whitcow, skinned hir on Sunday the 4th in the bire. His servant by mistake cut of the taill from the skin. He said it was one shilling of the price. The snow all away the 5th, being high wind. Mr. Strachen kept in two of his schoolers the 2nd. Geo. Duncan, Bellyhack and Garrow Tenrood from halph past 4 to eight o'clock, both about 9 years of age. Many people is verry birsey about it, I should wonder. The sowing general the 9th. from the 11th to the 14th, afull grouth. I limed my cleen shift and sowed all my crop the 15th, and the afternoon afull thunder and rain about Inch and estran to the southran destrects. The 16th, rain the whole day, and the 17th, blustry all day. The 18th, 19th and 20th afull grouth. Hey has been 18 pence for long and oats with straw from 2.10s to even 3 at this time. Cattle out to grass. I see my peas through in my garden, pear and cherry blossom out the 22nd, fine growing weather the week past. The 25th and 26th, afull hot, the 27th hard frost, and hard frost each morning with wind north east on to the end of the month.

May 1869.

Begins with frost each morning and clear sunshine all day. Peas mostly all throw the ground, they have come extraordinary fast, I have put up nets above all trees of fruit on the walls, as I am told the frost will not effect them, but I am afraid for thair was ice on the water, one halph inch thick the 4th. Sleet and rain all day the 6th, with cold. The 10th, furious

battling in Parliment on the Irish Church Disestablishment this session, the Game and Hepothic Law. Oats 1.4s pr 40 lbs, meall 1 to 1.6d. Still cold noreast winds with drught up to the 19th, then rain all night and all the 20th, from north. Still frost each morning and afull cold, no grouth. Fees for men, first class 11 to 12, second 8 to 10, woman first 4.10s. second 3.15. The Major home from Edinburgh the 25th. He paid me a visit of an hour the 26th. The 27th, snow shows, wind north.

June 1869.

The month of May began with frost and continued so on to the end, no grouth, frost every day. But the first of June some rain and quite warme and fine grouth. The Major and leady here the 5th. He has sent me two volumes of the Annuals of Scotland. Alexr. Garden, Westerton second son went to Austerillia 1863. He came home on Saturday the 5th. The minester on the 6th read the Parable of the Prodigal Son before sermon, it having conection with the text, all friends and conections being him in church, and as James, his eldest brother was at a nighbouring farm, I don't know if the fatted calph was killed or not, but Robbie Blackie was playing the fiddle. Some rain the 8th and 9th. My torneeps was sown the 5th. Mrs. Cirmichell flitted from Westerton to the Old Masson Lodge, beside the school. The 16th, rain each day from the 8th up to the 13th. On Monday the 14th, I have been toron the whole day with the readwide gout in my shoulders and arms. Now at 8 o'clock P.M. the road and closs white with sleet and haill with bitter cold. Upon the 15th, rain the whole day, and round the east coast afull wind, rain, sleet and snow, two inches on the fields, and hills on to depth of 3 foot. The hills all white, east and north winds. Mr. Fairweather, Free Minester, has been bead fast for three weeks, not speaking the 21st. On Midthird, ten acres of neeps to lay down. Thair is 16 acres of manure, in whole corn and grass doing weall now at the 21st, all my neeps throw. Mr. Gillavery, Free Minester, Keith died about the 1st and Mr. Fairweather the 24th. The one of Dufftoon verry poorly. Our white cow bulled the 25th. Now hot and great grouth, on to the end.

July 1869.

Begins afull heat, the theromiter at 68. I see barly shot at Mains of Auchinachy the 4th, and on the 6th, oats is coming out. Revieue of 500 rifflemen at Keith the 7th, great drught. The 9th, afull wind, the dust and sand is blowing the same as snow in winter, that I could not look out. My torneeps all hoed, but a few drills the 10th, great drught. My fire drove, 23 loads, the 14th, fine rain in the afternoon. John McWillie (167), my brother from Gamrie putting up a stone on his son Alexander, the 17th, afull hote the theromiter at 70, still afull warme, on to the 21st. I was at Dufftoon paying a visit to Mr. Mrs. Barclay esquire, and was drove home by himsilfe in his carriage. We had a afull showr of rain on the afternoon of the 28th, the day of the Glass Market, which refreshed the earth greatly.

Oats in general halph shoot. Hey a good crop, oats 1.7s.6d. pr 40 lbs, and fees for harvest, first hands, men 4 for building and cutting etc, binders 2.10s to 3, woman 2.5s to 2.10s, at this time. Not one rick in the parish, it was not the like since the year 1827. I have yet about two quarters straw in the barn, out of sight or I suppose it would be stolen.

August 1869.

Begins warme with weighty rain afternoon and rain the 2nd, and thunder shows now and again to the 6th. The 7th, rainy most of the day and much need. The barley getting yellow, the oats that is strong not fully shoot. The 10th and 11th, rainy and windy all day. The Irish Church Bill now passed, and the Education Bill thrown out the 9th. Oats now 1.7s to 1.7s6d, eggs 7d pr dozzen, butter 10d. pr lb, chees home made 3 l/2d. pr lb, whisky 7d. pr gill. Most of the hey still remains in the fields in stooks for seed. The fire or turffs all home. The Major and leady here with a compliment of grouse. The 16th, fine filling weather. Hollie day the 19th, I was gardering that day, and the 20th, some oats cut, thair crop light. Geo. Ord was along with me, extra warme. General harvest in Morrayshire, torneeps here growing afull, and new potatos plenty, and pasture for cattle verry scarce. I was at a Revue of the Morayshire and Banff Artillery, on the Haugh beside Crigellachie Bridge on the 21st, a game of jumping after the Revue. James Reach, Poolside, has about one acres of oats cut the 27th. Thair was a slight frost on the night of the 29th. Thair is many of the torneeps shooting of the early sown sweeds and some of the yellows. My neeps sown the 14th June, not any shot of them. People are pulling out the shoot ones for thair cattle, loads by the day. It is a bad wind that does not blow good to something. Many cattle badly of for want of pasture. Hard frost in Perathshire 29th and 30th.

September 1869.

Begins with slight small rain, and a little cold the 1st. Great scarcety of water through the south of Scotland, and the oat crop very short, and potato heads frosted. The 3rd and 4th, farmers driving mettle for the new Bellyhack road. The Sauchanward one done in spring, the gullot of Argathney the summer 1868. Drughty since the first on to the night of the 10th, which was rain throout. Many cutting here, but in Morrayshire mostly cut and carried. I was at the Free Church the 12th, hering Donnald Robertson preach, the superintendants son, Keith. I don't think he has any chance of the kirk. It rained all day the 12th, rather weighty. Up to the 18th, shury. Summerives Fair was dray, few cattle, good fat 70 shs. to 75 shs. Great horse market, good was dear. From the 18th to the 23rd, a dale of rain by night and day. Some people cutting, verry weet, for fare of wind. I did begin to cut the 18th, not one rick in al Botriphnie the 23rd. Still rain every 24 hours. The night of the 25th, afull wind from west, has shook all oats exposed to it. Not one rick here in Botriphnie the 28th. The Lord Justice Clerk, Paton, cut his throat and threw himsilfe into the river

Almon, near Perath the 20th. The 29th, rain at night, the 30th, closs mist, the corn weat and the wind east. Not one rick in all Botriphnie, but hey. James Reach, Poolside, parish Keith has two complints on the shak the 25th.

October 1869.

Forbes Turfhilllock lead sundry ricks the 4th, and Dey of Forkins the 4th. They are both turning the 7th and many leading the 6th and 7th. Thair is no wind, quaiet misty and dew at night. Afull complaints through the county on stacks growing and stacks heating. A roe hunting the 6th, thair was three shot, two does and one buck. I shot the buck.

From Banff Journal, Inveravon Churchyard-

(168) "Heir lyes ane honest man called William McWillie, who lived in the Corries, who departed the 10th of June, 1685, and Ketren Gordon his spouses."

The forsaid William was my fathers grandfather, of the McWillies of Delgarvin, Inveravon.

I took one rick in the 8th, extra hot and the 9th and 10th, the theromiter at 64 in the house. Its so quaiet for some days that the oats is growing in the stooks and people here and through the county are driving out and turning thair ricks in all places. A breise up the night of the 10th, all the 11th, a dale taken in. I have all in the 12th, high wind, and the 13th afull cold in the morning, but after 12 o'clock wind and rain and haill. All cut but on Blackmuir and Glackmuck the 13th. The 14th, rain all the afternoon with haill, and Bellrinnes white, rain the most of the day. A new house below Blackhall opposite the Forkins at the roadside. The foundation laid the 14th. The 15th, rainy. Major Duff, Major Read and another gentleman called on me today the 15th, and asked me if I belived in witchcraft. I put them of with an anicdote. Saturday the 16th an afull day from four o'clock morning, of terrible high wind with dreadful, sleet and rain. We cannot open the door to look out. Wind from east and nor east, the waters rising while I write, quite fast. Sunday the 17th, three inchs snow. Oats on the Haughs of Cachanhead and Midtoon, all the corn stooks is six inchs of water. The 18th rain all day and wind north. At five o'clock, weighty rain and sleet from north P.M. Those having corn out are all bussie and putting it round wood the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, worse in order then it was when cut.

Snow came on the 25th, and continued to the 29th, then rain for the last two days. Thair was one Miss Blacke from near Edinburgh for the female school teacher the 1st. Mrs. Duff canvassed a dale of the parish for scholars, and the parson on two different Sundays, praised hir scholarship to the skys. He did the same with the Miss Panton, former

teacher, but went all to a bubble in one year. Miss Grants side schoolie had 30 and Panton 15 at this time the 8th, the big misses 13, the little, 18 scholars. Learning has come to right pitch since the Rvd. Mr. Masson became minester. Not pleased with Mr. Cameron, he got Mr. Lawson for helpner and retains the house and garden, the salery and Â£150 from Dick Trustees. He was a master 54 years. Weall Lawson won't do, next Mr. Grigor, by Lord Fife and Mr. Masson, weall he is put next. I should have put the minesters son William, before Mr. Grigor he was put in. William Masson had but four scholars the first three weeks. He entred school in 1850, in the month of July, and gave it up the 1st of May, 1851. Whean William found a gig or conveyance to Dufftoon, William left school and scholars untill he returned. He would not do with the paritionars. One named Mr. Robb entred the 13th January, 1852, William Masson not quite satisfied with Mr. Robb, smashed in two of the school windows the 8th of March, cut all his hands in the act. His wounds did condem him. He was taken to Banff and fined Â£5. My brother John at Gamrie paid the fine, to keep him from jaill, twenty eight days. Mr. Alexr. Cirmichall entred school master the 24th October, 1853 and died the 27th Novr. 1859. Donald Stewart entred 6th January 1860 left for King Edward for parish minester 14th Novr. 1867, and the present Mr. Strachan the 26th Decr. 1867. Mr. Strachan left the 22nd Novr. 1868 and Mr. Hunter entred the 23rd Novr.

November 1869.

Begins rain by night and day, a good many huaks and rakings still out, and the halph of the parish has not up the potatos the 10th, which is snowing all day. The Suz canall opned, or the Suez canal was opned this month with extraordinary pomp. Oats is from 15 shs. to 18 shs. per 40 lbs, barly Â£1.8s. to Â£1.9s. pr 54 lbs, meall 15 shs. to 17 shs. Still rain with sleet and frost, on to the 26th, fees about, men Â£10.10s. and second Â£8 to Â£9, woman from Â£1.10s to Â£3, potatos are still taking up, grand crop. James Day, Forkins bussy puting in his thrashing mill at this time the 29th, snow last three days.

December 1869.

Begins frost, severe with snow, about six inchs deep, verry verry sharp frost. Oats at our station is 17 shs. pr 40 lbs, its weighing from 39 to 43 lbs. The station masters youngest boy Arthur, verry poorly at this time. The 6th, still quaiet and afull frost. James Dey, Forkins, his threshing mill thrush the first time the evening of the 7th. The 8th is soft and the snowe is a little brocken. The Misses Massons and Mrs. G. Duff has collected mony for cloaths and schooling James Newlands and one Lemmonds families. Newlands has 12/6 pr week, and Lemmonds 17 shs. pr week. It is not for the families, it is to get scholars for the famile teacher, a Miss Blacke, they have canvased the parish, but Miss Grant, Forkins Side School carries the day. A high wind the 10th, which has put away the snow, which has lasted 16 days. The 11th it is still frosty and the roads

verry slippry. Mr. Smith, station masters Arthur, died the 13th, the 14th
 all the snow away and quaiet, the 15th an afull day of snow and wind, full
 6 inchs came on. I went with Arthur Smith fewnrall to Insh Churchyard.
 The 16th, hard frost. The 18th mostly of high wind, the 19th, wind with
 frost. Oats Â£1.7s. pr 40 lbs. The snow mostly of the 22nd. Some plowing
 the 23rd, some frost. The countess of Fife died the 18th, was married the
 16th of March, 1846, and was born the 12th of May 1829. The day of hir
 marriage was an awfull, awfull wind. I was at the marriage party at Mains
 of Bellyhack, and coming home next morning thair was 18 inchs of snow,
 it was an afull night of wind and snow. Died in London and was buried at
 Duff House Missulium the 25th, wind and snow all day, an awfull night of
 wind and snow. Wm Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack and Stables of Linmore
 at the funerall. A large burial, but got no intertainment, all like to perish
 for cold. Thair are one foot of snow on the ground the 26th, only fourteen
 people at the church. I see by the publick prints the 25th was an awfull
 night, snow and blowing through Scotland and England. Great wrecks and
 loss by sea and land. The ship Viscount MacDuff of MacDuff wrecked.
 Wednesday the 29th, fresh and quaiet, but on Tusday morning at 3
 o'clock, the 28th two fire engines, two tenders, and one wane with a large
 snow plow, left Aberdeen at one o'clock. Came on all night to Greenhaugh
 at bridge thair. One engine went over an imbankment, 60 feet high,
 turning over three times. The other engine went of on the other side,
 killing four men and a fifth hurt. The wane stoped halph off the line with
 17 men in it. The cupplings having lost thair hold. A most afull escape,
 thair time was not come. It was two miles out from Huntly Station. Oats
 is now at Keith, 17 shs. pr qur of 40 lbs.

VALUATION ROLL for BOTRIPHNIE			
Property	Valuation	Property	Valuation
Castle	Â£90.0.0	Mains of Towiebeg	Â£116.6.0
Woodland	Â£42.0.0	Buttrebre	Â£49.6.0
Ardbrack	Â£207.2.3	Cottertoon	Â£88.16.0
Part of Easterton	Â£26.0.0	Mill of Towie	Â£21.4.0
Westertoon & Cottertoon	Â£38.0.0	Woodend	Â£76.16.0
Haughs of Midtoon	Â£25.0.0	Blackmure	Â£65.6.0
Braehead	Â£135.6.0	Midthird	Â£210.5.3
Houdoup	Â£73.6.0	Bomielelloch	Â£200.6.0
Cachanhead	Â£126.4.0	Starhead	Â£50.6.0
Tenrood	Â£43.10.0	Free Church Managers	Â£0.15.0
Stripeside	Â£48.5.2	Free Manse & Croft	Â£3.18.6

Drumgrain	Â£145.6.0	Mains of Drummuire	Â£178.11.0
Forkins	Â£53.1.0	Lime Works	Â£80.0.0
Glackmuk	Â£80.6.0	Bellyhack	
Turfhillock	Â£159.15.0	Lower Linmore	Â£43.0.0
Wastertoon	Â£192.3.6	Upper Linmore	Â£42.10.0
Farm Mill of Towie	Â£75.6.0	Mains	Â£60.0.0
Towiemore	Â£143.6.0	Wester Corrie	Â£31.0.0
Lower Towiemore	Â£145.9.0	Easter Corrie	Â£53.0.0
Merchants	Â£21.14.0	Sloggan	Â£36.0.0

ABSTRACT	
Property	Valuation
Bellyhack	Â£347.17.6
Drummuire	Â£3574.4.1
Bodinfinach	Â£357.9.10
Miscelanions	Â£45.5.0
	Â£4324.16.5
Railway assesed	Â£379.16.0

January 1870.

Botriphnie, Ardgathnie: George McWillie His Memorandums.

From the first of January which begins with a full frost & some old snow in the hollows, and furrows on the land. There has been no plowing since the 26th, of November. Alexr. Thompson, Sloggan, Bellyhack died the 2nd, aged 75. He was a hardy strong fellow, attended all markets and rous to a great distance, loved a good dram, could feight or play the foot ball, lay in the hill blown over with snow and nothing worse, but he died. On the 7th out shooting roes in Tenrood wood three killed, I had but one. Still a full frost nothing of out work doing. Out shooting Scoug wood, two roes, a full cold high wind with frost and a full shower of snow in the afternoon. Fettes Breahead had a child died the 11th. Still a full frost on to the 17th. Out at the roes in the Burnpark the 17th, there was five roes killed, I had but one and blackcock and some hares. Many accidents on the ice this few days to man and horse. The frost so hard no work can be done with

horse owing to the carts slidding to the side or of the road. The working class can do little or has done little since the first of December 1869. Geo. McW. Still frost-frost-frost but quaiet. On the 22nd. Saturday a girlie of the name of Garden, servant with John Fettes, Breahead, went to Dufftoon to get her shoes repaired, bought two ounces of Oill of Vitrale, drank one halph of it and died at Dufftoon. On the 25th, the farm house of Boddenfinnach, all burnt to the ground by a bead being kindled nothing saved, Mrs. Taylor tennant. At this time a young lad the name of Lyon from Limeburn Grange, was drowned in the Burn of Ruthven going to see his sweetheart at Mance of Carnie. I was out in Lockpark & Bogbuie with Mr. Thomas Duff, & Mr. Leslie, Kininvie shooting the 24th. The frost still afull, the Major & Merchant putting salt on the road & some truckfulls of coall cinders about the station. Sunday the 30th, afull cold east wind the frost most percing.

February 1870.

Begins quiet with a little soft the 1st., the second a day shooting for the tennants quaiet, soft but afull frost, 34 hears and 1 rabbet killed with 30 guns. The 3rd, quaiet and soft the 4th, ditto the 5th, high wind and at night afull wind with rain from the east did damage to houses. Some plows is going the 7th, with wind east and cold. Thair has been no plowing for the past two months, Monday the 7th, the 8th afull wind south east a dael of damage by sea and land. The Weick Breakwater at Weick is all washed down the morning of the 7th, and on December 20th, 1868 an easterly gale did the same. The Eva of Aberdeen wrecked at Banff one crew drowned. On the night of the 8th, snow all night and blowing hard all day the 9th, and has still increased up to the 11th. John Forbes of Newburgh down bankrupt at this time Â£1400 to Â£1600 cash. Oats Â£0-16 to 17 shs, meall oats 14-6 to 15. Many of the torneeps is gone with so long bear frost. About 6 inchs snow the 12th, but quaiet. Parliment meat this week, nothing but the Irish and education bills just now, with hard frost. The Parish school was examined by the government inspector the 15th. I had him through the evening, Mr. Jolly, I sent him away as jolly as he came. We disputed about running round the earth, I gave him centre. A little soft with mist the 16th. The snow still closs, I may say days labroures has got no work done since November. Upon the 19th, some people yoaked the plow through desperation, about two inches of snow and many old snow drifts, some unloosed for snow and frost. The 21st afull wind with snow, Major Duff brought me over a Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs, in a compliment printed for private circulation, beautifully bound by old manuscript by William Baird of Auchmeeden. The Rvd. William has refused to sign Mr. Strackans papers for the government grant for the school the reason is he sometimes goes to the Free church. Six weeks of Harvest Vocation, his sister going in to the school to hear some lessons, he being ill with astmahe, all without his Reverances consent, Horried,Horried Major Duff exclaims. The frost is so

severe I have on my Muffels writing this the 24th, and a dale of snow the 27th, and 28th, fresh.

March 1870.

The first the day of Fummackfair an afull day of west wind and rain and excessive cold, cattle down in price Â£3 pr cwt. Plows going in some places for the first time, some has not any plowed at all. On to the 7th, some farms cannot plow ley for frost, oats 17 shs, to 17-6 per 40 lbs, oats in general weighs from 41 lbs to 43 and 44 lbs. The 11th hail, showrs, sharp frost, wind north by west, the 12th, snow showrs all day, excessive cold and frost but plows working in desperation. The 13th, thair is 3 to 4 inchs of snow and bitter frost, I was not at church the 13th. I suppose I lost nothing, an old sermon, only I may say we get nothing else. We have had only one new sermon for the past ten months, but the minister is an old man of 70 years and only weighs 17 stone and was always like Robie Burns, dead sweer and lazy. I got the first of my land plowed the 21st, a warme day. I have a plow the 22nd, in my ley, afull cold with high north wind and great showrs of hail, all day, the 23rd. and 24th. six inchs snow. Oats 17 shs., fat cattle Â£3 to Â£3-3 pr cwt. I am stuffing a rams head with afull horns at this time. Died at Gateshead, Newcastle, on the 20th. Hey MacDowall-Grant, Esqur., Arndilly, aged 65, buried at old mance of Boharm. At the 26th, a dale of snow and hard frost. John Gauld, Midtoon, sowed oats about the 29th.

April 1870.

Begins cold but dray. Sowing is now general the 4th, in good season and thair has been no brake up to the 14th. I have got all mine down the 14th, some rain in the morning but a good season. Thair is great complaints of the neeps being rotten with frost. The 16th, 17th and 18th, all afull hot sunshine and drught. The crop all put in the land since the 4th, just two weeks, and not one hour of a brake and little harrowing made a most excellant mould. Old John Gauld has been verry poorly for the past three weeks, now some better the 18th, Oats now 18 shs. for 40 lbs. and potatos now Â£3-10 per ton. G. McWillie. the 18th. The new house and smiddy is finnished in building opposite Forkins. A new school for the Famile class is founded the 21st. Afull drughty with high wind the 21st. A concert at the school the 20th, by Findlay Johns the 20th. The 22nd an afull day of wind, many places has to sow thair grass seed and oats the second time, especially Morrowshire. The wind has continued rough on to the 27th, it being cold with haill showrs. All oats a fortnight in the ground is beautiful, briard, carrots, onions up and cherry trees and apple in flowish, my potatos set the 30th, cold with rain and sleet.

May 1870.

Begins high north west wind, an afull day of rain, haill and sleet the whole day. I was not at Church, thair being only 35 in hir, minester, bellman, elders and all. The 2nd, cold with snow showrs, John Forbes, Newburgh, stood before the Lords for forgery at the Abdeen, Circuit but wan clear to get more Bairns. The 4th, dray and Alexr. Chalmers croft plowed and sown, I gave one bag of guano. Weighty showrs of cold rain all day the 5th, no grouth for the past week. The fast day of the Free Church the 5th. The land is verry weet at this time, the wind west by north. At the 12th breard thick and beautifull, our cows is out to grass the 16th. Some thunder at a distance and an afull afternoon of rain and haill, rain the 17th, 18th high wind from the south west. The wages about the same as the past halph year. George Petrie, Jas. Riach and mysilfe at Hungryhills, Gamrie at Helen McWillie (169) and Alexr. Grants marriage, he is the champion plowman of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. In the meantime dray with rather cold, some verry hoat days nere the end of the month, cattle selling at good prices and oats is Â£1 per 40 lbs. The new famile school is roofed and the lobby to build.

June 1870.

Begins rather dray, about the 6th and 7th is afull hot. A Pick Nick from Keith of 100 young men and ladies the 8th, to Loach Park, with tea and vivands, musick and dancing and boat excursions on the loach ending with fiddle and dancing at and around Drummuire Castle. The 9th, a good dale of rain but all my neeps sown that day, the 10th and 11th, afull days of rain and haill, the hills white with snow, the 13th, hot and dray and afull grouth, the crop is quite thick and some grass for horses suppering is cutting, complaints on the sweddish neeps being cut of but the others looking beautiful, this the 17th. Jas. Dunbar here the 14th and 15th. The ley oats getting rather yellow, clean land black and dark, looking fine, Our white cow bulled the 21st, the other served the 7th. The rents was paid the 22nd, some rain the 24th and 25th. Sunday a deall of rain but warme. The minester of Glass wiffe died 19th. The two daughters and son of John McWillie (170) Langlanburn, Deskford here the 25th. Some people has sown sweddish neeps the second time. eaten of with a small black clock, she jumps lick flea. At the 27th, showrs of rain each day, the 30th, a dale of rain at night. The hoeing of neeps began here the 25th.

July 1870.

Begins wind northwest with rain the 1st. Two of James Petericans sons from Catness here a few days the 2nd. Thair was a batalion revue of the Banffshire rifflemen at Craigellachie the 6th, high wind and cold. Many weall through with hoeing neeps the 8th, hot now and quaiet, great heat the 9th and 10th, I began to hoe neeps the 11th, but some thunder and weighty rain after 2 P.M. Oats shooting fast now, part of my clean ground ludged and not begun to shoot out, ley shooting not 8 to 9 inchs long. Jamison, Merchant and Urquart, Free Church Minester, to Strathpeffer, I

am afraid Jamison with his brandy will turn him to a U.P. minister. Sultry the 14th. The morning at one o'clock of the 15th, very high thunder with vivid lightning a deal of rain, the 16th, rain, weighty at night, the 17th and 18th, sultry hot, hot. Oats shooting now fast, ley oats is light but clean ground very weighty crop. Black berries and cherries ripe, many hoeing neeps the second time the 18th. War proclaimed by France and Prussia and my fire drove the 19th and 20th, some rain the 20th and the bleaberries full ripe and my whisky barrel toom. The 22nd, 23rd and 24th excessive hot, the 25th, high wind, great heat. Nothing but rumours of war in the meantime with France and Prussia, great debates on both sides, which is to gain, I have no doubt but France will gain the day. Great heat and drought the 26th, 27th and 28th, wind north, oats all shot 29th, and 30th, berries all ripe.

August 1870.

Begin excessive warm and sunshine, the afternoon of the 2nd, thunder and rain round the south west from Strathdon to Inverness, none here. A full drought and excessive heat, I am wearing my kilt every day. The merchant oats cut the 10th. Now hard fighting with France and Prussia, France has lost the first four battles in one week. The drought is a full round Morray and all the eastside 13th always drought, the harvest is just on all the crops is now quite yellow, the 16th a full want of rain for neeps and grass and water for man and beast. Now the night of the 17th, a fine quiet rain through the night, the 18th, our holiday John Ord and myself went to Gamrie and saw the Viscount of MacDuff, wrecked at the mouth of the Harbour with 1000 crans of herrings all to pieces. General harvest round the coast, short crop and grass burnt red, showers have continued on from the 18th, to the 23rd, the day of the cattle show Dufftown. I took one month of the Scotsman paper the 19th. General Harvest now is dry but rain the 24 - 25 and 26th. The 27th rain with hail showers. The France and Prussia war a full the past 10 days, the French is still losing every battle, I still think they will turn hand or all be past. Soft showers of rain on the 31st.

September 1870.

First and 2nd, some rain, on Saturday the 3rd, I began to cut the clean land, oats and I cut the 5th and to 10 o'clock the 6th. Distant thunder the evening of the 7th, with some rain and dry and cold, wind east with rain. The Emperor of France taken in battle and McMahon wounded and 90000 prisoners. Now a Republic in France and the Emperor is prisoner in Prussia, the Prussians now marching on Paris. Much rain the night of the 13th. and 14th, on day of Keith Summervilles Market dry and horses very dear. There is only a few ricks in yet in this parish, cutting almost through but remains the 16th. On Monday the 19th, leading in corn to the yard began in earnest. Hot and quiet and continued on to the 26th, on that day corn all through this place in the space of eight days. The weather is

the same on to the 29th, excessive hot and quiet, Paris is closely surrounded by the Prussians, draught is great and water scarce the 30th.

October 1870.

Begins a full heat and drought, plowing going on fast, hot and burning sun. Oats 18-6pr qur, barley £1-7 pr. qur. I have taken out a gun licence for the first time. The happy postage stamp began the 1st. James Forkins had the first letter bearing it at Bottriphnie post office, on the first day it took place. There was a roe hunt the 4th, the merchant killed two I did not fire one shot, extra heat and on the 7th, which was close the 8th, hard frost, the potato heads black. The 9th shows of hail and sleet, potatoes may be lifted now, I think G. McW. The Banff Journal due about the 15th, rather cold with sleety shows 12 and 13th. A review at Keith the 15th, fine day, the 16th. Shows the 17th, dray mostly all the potatoes to lift at this time. On Wednesday the 19th, the tennantry on the estate of Arndilly Banffshire gave an entertainment in the schoolhouse Maggieknocker, Boharm to their new landlord Mr. Stuart Menzies of Culdares, husband of the heiress of the estate Mrs. Stuart Menzies Grant, for the purpose of welcoming him and his lady to the banks of the Spey, and showing their gratification at his chosen Arndilly as his residence. The whole proceedings passed successfully and agreeably, but life is uncertain, he died on the morning of Friday the 21st, of Apoplexy. Upon the 23 and 24th the Aurora borealis was beautiful especially on the 24th. They appeared as an umbrella as the noted light of all colors that is as white green black blue red yellow, they covered the whole heavens and were seen in every nation. The time they lasted the telegraph would not work. Roe hunting the 28th, Burnpark five killed, the 29th Loachpark only one killed, the 31st, Tenrood two killed, harvest is very scarce. G. McW.

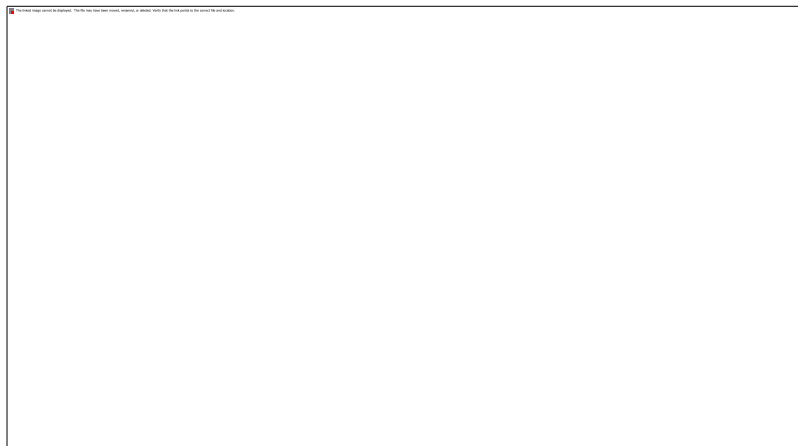
November 1870.

The 1st beautiful, fresh and sunshine weather on to the 9th, in the evening shows of hail and rain, some high thunder at half past nine p.m. a deal of vivid lightning with loud thunder. Some snow up to the 14th. Paris has been blockaded for three weeks no getting in or out of it, the French has an awful blow about having an awful army, but the Prussians pillaging all their towns laying large contributions on them. No communication from Paris but by balloons in and out, many of them taken down with Prussian shots, and little to eat but horse flesh mules and donkeys. But the French fleet is cruising all round their and our coasts taking all their shipping. Oats turning well but for quantity and quality average 43 pounds per bushell £1, per 40 lb., beef 70 to 76 shillings per cwt. John Sellar Blacksmith Tennantoon failed at this time. At the 18th, good weather for plowing. George Watt, Kelloch, plowing my ley the 21st and 22nd, but a hard frost the night of the 22nd, that stopped the plow the 23rd, but quiet quiet. Oats one guinea per 40 lb, quiet with fogs

through the day and frost at night on to the end. Now many marriages at the end.

December 1870.

The first frosty and the 3rd fresh with small rain, plows going, Thair was five marriages proclaimed in the Church on Sunday the 4th, and James Thomson, 25 years servant Mains Bellyhack, to weddow Kelman, Corrie, was married at mance the 6th, a cold rainy day, wind north. The ground was white with snow the 7th. Feighting in France (171) every day at this time, a great battle at Orlins, the French was driven out. A sortie out of Paris of 150000 men, an afull slaughter, it is the French drove the Prussians lines back. We have snow from the 7th, up now to the 14th, which is rain and sleet all day from the north. Oats is Â£1.2s, pr 40 lbs, beef is from Â£3.18s to Â£4 per cwt. Many people ill of the Scotch Cholera at this time. Tuesday the 20th an afull day of sleet and rain, the 21st snow. Mr. Barrie from Stonehaven hear the night of the 21st, snow on to the 26th, about six inchs. John McWillie, Alexr. Petrie and mysilfe at Gamrie, the snow at Gamrie about eight inchs deep, general through Scotland. Verry quaiet for the past ten days afull frost but on the 31st, high wind from south which has filled up all the roads through the county but Dufftoon and to Keith and Elgin. I shot two heares and one blackcock the 30th.



January 1871.

The 1st rough and cold all the roads blocked up with the blowing on the 31st. My garden has four foot of snow lying above the bushes, hard frost on to the 6th, which was some soft, the Keith market was on the 6th. James George, farmer, Mains of Drummur, being thair came home with the 5 o'clock train with his son in law, James Stables, Linmore. Both proceeded homewards when Mr. Stables put him on his own farm and in sight of his own house and in sight of his own house window, Mr. George never arrived at home. Search was made on Saturday then on Sunday the 8th, the parish was raised made search all round. He was found in the

den of Pitlurg about one and halph milles from his own house. He was an elder of the Church, mind he had a dram. About two inchs of new snow 9th. Paris was bombarded by the Prussians the 4th for the first time and some of the outer batterie silenced the 6th and 7th, further accounts state no batteries has been silenced up to the 16th, always hard fighting on the Loire. Frost and snow thair as well as here. Thair is great many old snow wreaths deep and as hard as solid ice, rain evening of the 19th, but the roads afull the 20th, no work doing just now the 20th. Now the 23rd, the frost is excessive about one inch of snow but a dale of old wreaths as hard as iron. Adam Bonniman died at Blackhall the 22nd. He had got both his legs taken of at the Majors sawmill in the month of July 1862 and a papper in this place ever since. A crabbet ill natured, ill to please boddy, he has left a large family. The cattle afull dear Â£4 to Â£3.15s., horses dear likeways, oats Â£1.2s.6d. for 40 lbs pr bushell, at the 26th, the frost afull. Word of the surrender of Paris the 25th. Torneeps going wrong with the frost and Paris has surrendered and an armestice on sea and land for three weeks. G. McW.

February 1871.

Begins the frost peircing the 3rd and 4th rain, high east wind with great shows of sleet, roads excessive slippy. Mr. John Robertson, the factors son and schoolmaster, Drumblade, preached in Botriphnie the forth on the wedding garment, did splendid like an old minester, I am happy at it. I gave him money to put him in the school, he was only licensed three months ago and now a situation as minester St. Pauls Glasgow. Still cold with frost to the 19th, sleety shows the 10th, I am mostly making staves for work, high wind blowing snow from south east the 12th. Still sleety shows and the frost not out the 18th, out on Monday the 20th. Some plowing from the 21st, up to the 24th, plows going with extra high winds. The French armestice out this day the 24th. Fresh and warme the 27th, the 28th or the day of Fumackfair cold.

March 1871.

Begins good weather for plowing. Westertoon sowed one quarter of rye about the 3rd, many torneeps spoiled with the frost. Doctor Turnor elected for the board. The 4th blustry and some shows the 7th. Betty Sutherland died at Broomhill about this time at the age of 93 years. About two inchs of snow the 15th, some wind terrible high at this time the 18th and 19th, dray and fresh. John Gauld sowed oats the 18th, at the 21st, thair was general sowing and at the 23rd, berry bushes green. I sowed peas, carrots and onions 24th, now the 25th, hard frost in the morning which has continued on to the 29th. Oats now Â£1.3s.6d. pr quarter, general weight 43 to 44 and 45 lbs, one shilling up above 40 lbs. Many done sowing but where thair neeps in the land, fine on to the 31 St.

April 1871.

Begins Saturday the first wind sleet and snow. On Monday the 3rd, the population was taken up, I had the 4th Destrict or Drummuir side up past the Towiemores to Woodend. John McWillie, Bodinfinnach, and James Dey the south side, Schoolmaster John Strachan the north side to the top of Glack, and George Ord the Bellyhack, this was the fourth and I am shoure the last time, high winds with showrs of haill all day, the number was total 787, thair was 121 scholars from five to thirteen . The French now two governments one in Paris called Comune Council, the other at Varsilles they are feighting each day with great slaughter. The weather at the 8th and 10th good. I had all my crop laid down the 13th, but the 14th and 15th rainy the 16th, cold with rain. I was fishing in the Loach the 17th, only 6 trouts taken from one to two pounds weight. Afull hard frost 18th, the day of April Market. The 19th, high east wind with snow the whole day from 6 am. to 10 pm. The 20th snow and sleet with wind north and percing cold. Oats Â£1.4s for 40 lbs. my oats weighs 45 lbs. all oats weigh from 42 to 45 lbs, this year. I am afraid the grass seeds and flour will pay such weather as this is. At the 24th, still rain and sleet the 26th, the day of the roup at Strathisla Mills, Keith. High east wind sleet and snow every hour of the day from morning to night, the roup was stoped by Sequestration. The 27th and 28th softer and warmer, Robert Duncan, Drumgrain his daughter Barbra was married 26th. At this time some breard appearing and my peas in the garden, rain and sleet on to the end.

May 1871.

Begins the first dray and cold, I set my potatos the second, thair is but few people has potatos set, and a good many people has a dale of thair oats to sow yet. Torneeps almost gone and some are puting out thair young cattle to the grass and nothing to them. The 6th and 7th fresh and warme all the crop to roll in with grass seeds. I have sold oats at this time at Â£1.9s. pr qur. I have sold none below 45 lbs pr bushell. My land rolled the 15th, the 17th was hard white frost and the 18th, hard black frost, the eves of the houses tangles of one foot of length, and high percing north wind and the 19th, high north wind with showrs of haill and sleet. I am putting up a March wire pailling, hard to stop for the cold. I have put up sheets on my pear and cherry trees to save the flurish, some sweddish neeps sown at Bomikelloch the 17th. Some rain the 18th and 20th. Upon Monday the 22nd, began to sow sweddish neeps in general and dray and warme on to the 26th, some thunder on that afternoon with rain, verry good growing weather on to this the 28th. Thair has been afull feighting in Paris the city is in fire afull to behold. Many men and fire ingions has left London to assist in putting down the conflegation. The finest of all the Pallices and fine publick places made like Sodom and Gomorah, the rabble or rebels burning and killing all alike. Grass is now plenty, the Major and family arived the 31st, at Drummuir castle, they being in excellent health,

June 1871.

The news has arrived the 1st that the rebels in Paris is completed, and the conquered an afull number of men, women and children shot and baynoted, many women rebels in mens clothes feighting worse than divels, nothing like it on record since the destruction of Jerusalem. I had the Major and Mrs. Duff calling on the first, I hold it a great honnour. The full halph of the yellow neeps is down the 2nd. Thair is five or six servants has runaway this term, I hope some one will make an example of some of them. The weather at the 6th, dray fine for cleaning the land for neeps, drught on to the 12th and 13th the days my land was cleaned and torneeps sown. June Market the 14th, a good rain through the afternoon. John McWillie (172) and Jeane Petrie here from Gamrie. Some rain each day up to the 19th, which was rainy and a dale of thunder after 12 o'clock but quite warme. The hey crop not weighty in general, but some of it laid with the rain. The potatos onley wering through, and my neeps breared the 18th and was sown the 13th. Beeff 78 shs. to 80 shs. per cwt, good year olds Â£10 to Â£15, an afull price besides in my time of farming, buying them from Â£2 to Â£2.10s. and capital Aberdeenshire stock. Oats Â£1.4s pr 40 lb. I was at Bannf the 24th some plowing in Bondie and Botriphnie too, dray rather cold east wind. Oats looking weall, grass plenty, I had Mr. Thomas Duff seeing me the 27th, he came home to Miss Mackys marriage at Hazzlewood. Some thunder with flying showrs of rain at the end

July 1871.

Begins dray William Cruickshank married at Stripeside the 1st. The parishioners put in thair votes for four new elders the 2nd. The goodwiffe is in fine houmer to day the white cow was bulled the 4th, at halph past 11 a.m., verry hot day, by Breaheads white bull. Some flying showrs, the loon Gordon Barrie at Kelloch howing neeps much thunder in many places. Isabella and Helen McWillie (173) here the 9th. This day I see a good dale of oats shooting on Forkins, both ley and clean ground, some rain showrs mostly every day at this time. I began to hoe neeps the 12th, all hoed the 13th. I had four from Kelloch helping. Oats shooting fast now the 15th, cherries ripe, quite warme and bees swarming fast. Mr. Robert Urquhart, Free Church minester, married the 12th, at Aberdeen. Kelloch done howing neeps the first time the 12th. Distant thunder each day with showrs but done a dale of damage to the torneeps in many places ruining them. On the 23rd, our white cow bulled the second time. Our fast day the 23rd, thair was thunder and weighty rain at 2 o'clock George Mitchell formerly of Westerton here the 28th, it is 33 years since he left his wiffe Anne Main and 3 sons he has been in London since. The 29th, quite hot with thunder and rain in the afternoon, a bad time for cut hay. The bee hives has mostly all swarmed three times this year. Grass has been

plenty for cattle throat at £4 pr cwt. Weighty rain for three days of the end of July, nothing can be done to the neeps.

August 1871.

Begins the first, on Tuesday hot and warme. Glass market the 1st and 2nd, sheep afull dear, lambs good from £1.10s to £1.15s., cattle fat £4 per cwt. Harvest wages, men to cut and build £4 to £4.10s, bansters £3.33 to £3.7.6d, woman £3 to £3,11sh. Grass plenty and the corn shooting to a great length, afull warme on to the 11th. One blanket too much for old people, I do not know how new married ones can manage through the heat. The 12th Lammas, afull hoat, grass plenty but wild, some barley quite yellow and some oats too, the thermomiter at 71 in the house, the 13th and 14th afull warmer. Major Duff has given of four acres of land to the Taylor from Mr. Jamisons 14 acres. Oats £1.3s, in Keith, at Banff £1.4s.6d. I have sold some of 45 lbs. weight at £1.8s. Some people driving fire out, dray the 13th, 14th and on to the 17th, afull warme the 18th, a dale of rain all day but quaiet, rain the 20th, and rained all night and all the 21st, wind and rain much of the crop is laid since last night. Harvest in many places along the coastside and Morrayshire. I had forgot to mention our new elders was made the 22nd July, namely James Dey, Forkins, James Garden, Westerton, James Stables, Linmore, Alexr. Millne, Broadrashes, old ones, John Ord, session clerk, Alexr. Humphrey, Towiemore. I shall now give a history of my gun. She was commissioned from Mr. Playfaire, Aberdeen, only the two barrals three foot two inches long no. 23 wide, it was in 1835 sprt. The barrals cost £2.10s, I bought the two locks and mounting from Thomas Bowar, merchant, Keith, for £1.1s., sent them to Playfaire who put hir in the stoak at £1.10s being burdey mapple. The first shot I fired at a roe in the wood of Almore, an afull snow blowing, she fell among deep louse snow. I was long in finding hir among the loose snow. I went out another day in Agust, and fired at a read deer in the Cachnaconachie stripe, not forty yards, I hat him in the shoulder but of he went, I never saw him more but still looking out. I seed a large buck running streght out, I fired, the ball cut the top of his shoulder, went in at the back of the head and out above the eye, ninty yards, 1836.

In September 1837 I fired from the dame of Cachanhead at the houses up to sky at the top of the land, 500 yards, thair was five bucks, one of them stood, I said he was hit, my brothers and servant laughed at me, he sat down on his haunches then lay down. We went up to him, the ball hit him at his privy part and out at his rigback. Another shot at a flock of wilde pignons, 300 yards out, one sat, my brother Alexr. went for hir, both hir wings was cut of about one inch from the body. I fired at three patriges 200 yards, one was shot through the breast. I fired from the Tennantoon to the sky at the upper Tennantoon at three read deer, one of them fell, the ball passed through the back of the neck, his head came

down betwixt his legs. Another the summer forty two, Thomas Simpson, wright from Keith, was boarded with us. One evening two bucks came to the corn, we being at supper, I took the gun, fired one fell, Thomas went first to him, the buck rose, Thomas behind with a hand on each side of the bucks backside holding on. The buck struck him on the calph of the leg, drove it up to his garter with his hind foot, Tom lay in bead four weeks. The same mould shouts as weal as ever for balls.

I went one day in October with James Dunbar, Keeper, to Auldmon for blackcock, I killed a buck at sixty seven yards with small shot. Another shot on the Hower haugh on Cachanhead I killed two roes at one shot, when I blooding them a big teme hauk lighted on one of them, put me nearly out of wit, thought the Keeper was come on me. I went over to Auchlunkhart one day with Major Duff, Drummuire and Major James Duff of Knoclith. I shot a roebuck with three full grown horns, it was stuffed and may be seen at Knoclith to this day. I could give many more, thair was one on Bellyhack across the burn of Scoug, I killed a buck computed about 500 yards. I shot the 3 last read deer was killed in Botriphnie. I went to a shooting match at Broadfield, I shot a fine buck going and gained 2 new chairs and my gun is as good as ever but not so weal kept. Whean I go out a day yet she kills from one to three roes besides etc etc. I fear none a shot, Gentle or simple, but my legs carries me any way they like and my sight has required specticles for the past eight years, the will is good as ever but the ability is gone. I have had my time, a long one of 69 years without a sore head but by blows. Geo. McWillie 20th. August 1871.

On the 23rd at cattle show at Craigellachie, capital day. The 24th, high wind with racking rain from eleven to four afternoon, 26th and 28th verry hot. John Fettes, Braehead, has got the foot & mouth deeseas among his cattle from the parish of Mortlach. Some barly cut in the parish the 28th, capital harvest weather at the end. I was at Gamrie 25th, our holiday. G.McW.

September 1871.

Has begun verry warme and some oats and barly cut, the most of the parish is in a blase. I had to stop the driving of fire, afull weet, but people driving the 2nd and 3rd, hot fine harvest, quite warme and no wind, I cut mine the 16th, and the 18th. The 19th dewie but the 20th east wind and rain the whole day, we have had no wind since the month came in. I was up at Boat of Garten with John Ord the 15th, quite hoat Foot and mouth disease quite common through England and Scotland among the cattle at this time. Some people done cutting 18th, betwixt the 20th and 21st, afull wind and rain from north and a great damage to the crop from the Majors haugh at the station, about 1 1/2 acres of and all down to Keith and all the haughs below Keith to Deveron. The crop being cut and none being taken to the yard, all of it is carried of and the crop not cut is so sanded

up and wreck upon it, it will be of little use. The merchant has in four acres, that is all in the parish. The 21st all rainy, the 22nd 23rd, and 24th rain. The minister had a cow died 20th, she was ill all summer, it was a large growth on the stomach touching the liver. Some cutting the 26th, after 12 o'clock, the 27th dray to afternoon then rain, the 28th rainy all day. Hard frost the morning of the 30th, all the potato heads quite black or 12 P.M. The crop in bad condition, only four or five ricks of barley and the merchants some oats.

October 1871.

Sunday the 1st, rain the whole day and the 2nd, weighty rain too, did not fair five minutes the whole day. Our cows not out for two days, many people that has not old straw their cattle cannot be out. High wind from the east but owing to the quiet weather for the past three weeks the stooks is all standing but now beginning to grow. If it continue much longer it will be famine for men, women and all kinds of beasts. It is now 5 weeks since the barley of Midthird was cut. *New Ink.* Tuesday the 3rd, dray, fair day, east wind, about 15 caravans passed here for Keith with 4 elephants drawing 2 carriages, some very fine horses. I loosed and spread out my shift of clean land the 5th, beginning to sprout, bound it at night, next morning rain but there was some lead in the afternoon. Saturday the 7th, the most of the parish is leading, I took in my ley, not in good condition, many spread out on Saturday but rain and sleet all day. Sunday the 8th hard frost, the 9th, everything a full weat. The 10th, 11th and 12th, frosty mornings and quiet, the reek of the houses as straight up as a rush. On the 12th, we loused all the clean land the 2nd time, tried to lead but would not do, then we drove it up to the ley above the road. The wind rose the night of the 13th, and on the morning of the 14th we built, it being wind the whole day, a full thing of stuff taken in that day but on Sunday, the afternoon, the 15th, a full rain for an hour wetting everything. The 16th quiet and warm, the 17th all leading but bad condition, a great number took all in the 14th. Monday the 16th, massons to build offices to Jamisons, merchant, warm 17th and 18th. Burges, Cachanhead, has some of his crop out the 26th, now good weather for taking up the potatoes. Some of them is going wrong but good weather on to the end.

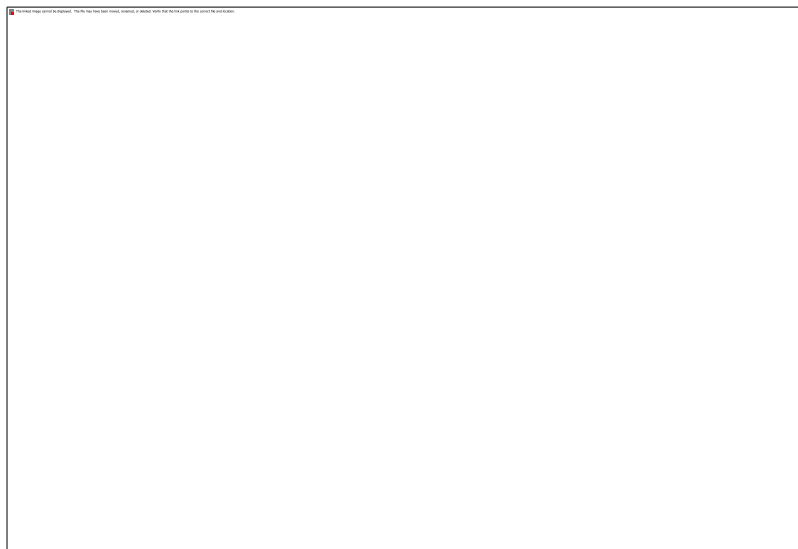
November 1871.

Begins fine dray days. New oats the damp is weighing 41 to 42 lbs per bushell, price is at Banff 24 shs., Keith 23 shs. The foot and mouth disease of cattle is prevalent but none has died. Some rain the 3rd, with frost in the mornings, rain with some sleet the 7th, dray and cold the 8th. The thanksgiving for harvest the 9th, the ground white with snow. Massons work of merchants offices done the 6th. I have three weeks headed neeps now. The 9th and 10th sleety showers but evening of the 10th, the land white. The 11th and 12th, hard frost, very cold, the 14th,

soft. A roe hunting in Lochpark, 15 guns, 8 gentlemen. James Millne shot one and I shot another. The 17th, Burnpark, five was shot, I shot two at one shot, the land white with snow, very hard frost the 18th and 19th. The 20th a full high winds and so was the 21st. Oats 19s. to £1 pr qur. The merchants houses begun to slate but so wet and frosty nights, cannot work. Cold and snowy shows on to the 25th. I have a boy, Wm. Thomson, for winter from Breas Cottage, I put him to school and he does my work. The land is white but plows is going on to the end.

December 1871.

Begins frost and snow shows on to the 3rd and 4th, about 6 inches of snow but quiet. The Prince of Wales took ill of typhoid fever about the 8th of November, now the 9th, his life is despaired of. On the 11th all snow away. Sandringham 13th Decem. 7 A.M. the condition of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales continues unchanged, signed Wm. Jenner M.D., Wm. Gull M.D., John Low M.D. Fine quiet with white frost at night 14th and 15th. The merchants houses here done slatting. The police says Read Burges stole a wheel at Sims Inn at Keith at martismass market. I am pruning berry bushes the 15th, now fine weather and every one is busy lifting and storing turneps on to the 20th, rent day but the 21st, 22nd and 23rd hard frost. Upon 25th, John Ord and me went to Banff, Macduff and Gamrie, held our Christmass, ate and drank well, came home the 26th quite happy. Capital green weather and quiet days, the plowing and heading neeps going on briskly, the 28th, rather high winds and cold.



KIRKTON HOUSE, DRUMMUIR ESTATE.

Kirkton House was the first residence built in Drummuir by Archibald Duff and referred to as his "little cabin in Banffshire". It was the residence of the Duff family until the castle was built in 1848-50. After the building of

the castle, Kirkton House was generally used as the residence of the Estate Factor, but is now occupied by the Gordon-Duff family.

January 1872.

The first on Monday was a full high wind which did damage to houses and corn stacks. The 2nd and 3rd high winds with frost which lasted to the 5, then very hard frost on to the 8th. Helen McWillie (174) or Mrs Grant had a child the 8th, at Shenwall but died when born. Frost on to the 10th the 11th quiet, fresh the 12th, old Newyearsday. James Dey, Forkins, trayed his new bucket wheel of 18 high for his saw and threshing mills and wrought beautiful. Likewise a shooting match on the station haugh of 5 rifle men and 5 of us plain, double and single pices at 100 yards. The rifles had no shots in the paper of their target of three inches but in our target of the same size their was four in the paper. The Rifles core said the target was too near, it was removed to 200 yards but one of them never broke wood so we allowed them to shoot along with us at 100 but we carried off double of the prizes. Some of the Keith Riflemen was in the core. My gun has shot for the past 36 years. I had the first prize and I had 8 in whole, we had but one glass and half of whisky throw the day, if I had got 3 I done better. Most beautiful, weather, all kinds farm work going on as in April the 16th. Oats £1 per 40 lbs, beef is from 70 to 75 shillings pr cwt. Their was one the name of Smith with a wife and 3 of a family and a fourth is at the coming had just finished his tea and in perfect health on the 14th, fell down and never moved, many sudden deaths around. Grass green, bushes budding and flowers springing, the mercury as low as it can be 15th and 16th with some wind but by the papers, in Perth and Edinburgh an a full storme of wind and rain which has done much damage. The 19th like summer, water taking to the mance at this time and the tobacco aye three pence per oz., the whisky 6d. pr gill. 22nd almost gale from east with rain the whole day. The 24th quiet with mist and rain in afternoon. The Tichburne case going on against the clamint, the Atorney General has required eight days to lay the case before the jury for the defence. The clamint required about three months to get his witnessses examined. At the 28th rain, 29th some frost, 29th, 30th and 31st most beautiful and grass looking fine. Extraordinary occurance, discovery of a human skeleton by a dream, Banff Journal, January 30th, 1872. William Moir is a greive at the farm of upper Dallachy, parish of Boyndie, about 3 1/2 miles from Banff and a mile west of Whitehills. Moire is an intelligent, steady, modest man, 35 years of age and married. About Whitsunday 1871 he dreamed that on a particular spot near the farm of Dallachy he saw lying a body dead with blood on the face. The dream was so vivid it deeply impressed his mind, the spot he dreamed the body lay was a slight mound on the sloping ground which bounds the farm and stretches to the seaside about 16 foot from the high water mark. Moir did not think much about it but the idea of the dead man still haunted him. By and by the matter took so firm

a hold upon him that never was he a moment unocupied but the idea and the vision still recurred to him. But on Wednesday the 24th, Jany. 1872 he went to the place and found the skeleton of a man complete, thought to have lien for fifty years. Hurricane night of the 31st from south.

February 1872.

Begins most beautifull weather, but the high winds is doing damage the 5th, afull day of rain the wind blowing a hurican from the east. John McWillie my brother and his wiffe here the 5th, 6th and 7th. The 8th beautiful and on the 12th, neeps and grass growing and birds singing as in June, the wind mostly from south and south east. We have a cow has been ill for the past ten days, was overeaten with neeps, but she has two fine bull calves. It has been extra cold since the 12th, thick turbulent on the 15th, wind south east. Station Masters wiffe a daughter the 15th. The weather beautifull as in May, I have a Apple tree with 1 -1/2 inches of young grouths and roses the same. The small pox is in many places, in towns, the people in Botriphnie old and young are all getting cow pox the second time, five grown men got them the past evening. The 22nd and 23rd was fresh and warme as June. James Dey has broak his large spur wheel sawing big Larach from the wood of Haggisha, he will soon make the wood of Haggisha look a bear hill. The 24th cold east wind with drizzle rain, but at night weighty all night and Sunday, the whole day high east wind and rain. I see by the papers round from Aberdeen and all the south to Dundee, Stirling and all Pearthshire the wind flood did great damage to shiping, houses and lands, but then beautifull on to the end. G. McW.

March 1872.

With the labouring all done but where the torneeps is in the land everything as beautifull as in the month of May. This day the 4th bright sunshine, wind south quite fresh, and oats 19 shillings, beef 70 shs. per cwt. Upon the 6th I went and measured the white cow along with Miss Mary Masson, the girth at bottom 28 foot 2 inches, at the top 25 foot 2 inches, hight 6 foot 6 inches to the grass, and as much below the surfice, bits was cut of the top of her about 100 years ago. The 6th and 7th as hot and fresh as June, the Miller of Davidson sowed this day the 7th and Cottertoon. The weather fine and sowing is general the 12th and on to the 16th, which bought a fine fresh showr of rain. I have all garden seeds in the 10th. William Smith Station Agent very poorly from the 7th up to the 16th. Many people poorly with a bad cold, and great many young and old has the mumps. All my torneeps headed and bire and shed full. In the year forty six all neeps was shot and yellow the middle of February. But this year none is shot at this time the 16th. The grass is beautifull, all fruit trees and berry bushes coming fast into flurish. Afull corn yards at this time. The 18th, misty dull to one o'clock then high north wind with pilting rain throw the night and most of the 19th, then the 20th about three inches snow wind north. About one third of the crop is laid down.

The Station Master is still poorly. There are still a full cornyards in the parish, the 21st. slight snow flakes throw the day. The 22nd slight snow flakes all day but the snow is not above four inches and Sunday the 24th, weighty flags throw the day but melts as it falls the depth none augmented but in the hills a deep snow. I see by the Scotsman paper it is general through Great Britain, Bridget Garden farm of Mill of Towie is wrong in her mind and Mr. Barrie Greve at Glenheath has cut off the point of his left hand fore finger with the axe. And I am making a wanscot little tub for dishes, I like a dish of tea after a dish of hearty brose to breakfast, I have had them for the past ten or twelve years, I have eaten no white bread for the past twenty years just the good oat bannock, still heall and hungrey. From the 24th to the end still snowing but 26th, weighty downfall the whole day wind N. west about 8 inches, a soaree at the Free Church the night of the 25th, station master poorly. The 27th and 28th some hail and sleet both days. The 29th cold rainy sleety shows the 30th, the snow of some of the knowes and haugh land and the 31st snow is of a good deal more owing to the length of the day, the heather on hill of Bellyhack is appearing weall the 31st.

April 1872.

The first cold with hail and sleety shows the 2nd. ditto. The 3rd a full cold the wind north west, hail shows through the day, the land almost clear of snow owing to length of day. Oats is £1 pr qur. This weather has been the same through all Great Britain, Beef from 70 shs. to 73 shs. The night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th a dale of rain and a full cold the 5th dray and the 6th extra fresh and warme, but a gale of snow on the hills. The station master still poorly. Trades men of all discriptions has been making stricks for more wages and shorter hours and now the agricultral labours and servants are holding meetings for the same principle. They think they are too hard wrought, too long hours and too low wages, they work for four hours with the horses twice a day and think it too much. There is no threshing now with the flail, dressing oats, beating barley and sifting is all done with machinery and four bushels in to a sack for a burden and no shearing all sything the crop, Untill I was 24 years of age we began the flail at just five o'clock every morning, thrush to eight, gave the cattle straw, the horses water then in to our brackfast, then four hours twice a day. After the first of March yoked at 6 A.M. to ten and from two to six P.M. and two hours of the flail in the afternoon. The crop was all dressed before the wind riddles, it was all to dray on brick kills at home, drive to the meal mill then we had to winnow the shilling and sift the meal and mind you a meldre of fifty bolls was a good days work. I have had my two thumbs, faces of them they would not button my britches, with your leve, all with holding the sive. Your meal to drive home and chist then to take out and weigh then drive to Portgordon, Portsoy, Banff or Ballendalloch and all the barley to Breaggah for the smugglers. The barley in boll sacks, now in six bushels, the oats the same.

I heald the plow on Cachanhead from 1816 to 1836, we had but one plow and the same land John Burges had for the next lease, he required two plows and improved about 3 1/2 acres twixt it and Tennantoon. Whean I went to Midthird in 1844 my foreman had Â£5 for wages the halph year, the second Â£4.10s. The foreman was with me to his death, that was 23 years, he never had Â£11 highest and he left upwards Â£200. You not find a man now worth 200 pence. James Riach when in Cachanhead always rose at 4 A.M. being a weaver to trade, worked his loom to halph past 5, then out to the barn and thrush his day straw then cleaned and meated his cattle, then a yoaking of the plow. My father in winter always went out to his shop at four, wrought to nine, made from 2s.6d. to 3 shillings each fortnight. To his shop at five A.M. and John my brother, thrush with me the days straw then I had four hours for the plow. We mended all our shoes, did all our smith and wright work, made spoons, mended pots, kettles and pans. I would mack a horse shoe and drove it on as weall as any shooring smith. I have made many clock hands and as weall going clocks with three wheels going eight days, I have one to this day was made twenty six years ago. And thirty stones of smuggled whisky was the weightiest burden I ever carried from Cotterton to the whins in the Shean Park, it belonged to James Stewart and Helen Dick his wiffe.

The 7th rather cold, the 8th wind N.W. with rough showrs through the day. Tuesday the 9th fine and sowing going on. I have a plow in my clean land the 9th, the 10th. Land quite dray and all farming operations going on. My corn all sown the 16th, the day of April market it came an afull day of wind, haill and sleet. Dr. George Angus was interred in the Isle of Botriphnie the 12th. He served in H.E.I.C. for 40 years, head inspecting doctor. He was son of our late minester Mr. Angus, he was aged 78 which will be seen on thair memorial stone in the church of Botriphnie. We had an afull thunder and rain at 7 o'clock the evening of 12th. It was excessive sultry and hot through the deay, colder the 13th and 14th and the 16th, wind from the north, afull showrs of haill. The 17th and 18th, sleet and rain and excessive cold and the station master still poorly, A few of us went out the 13th and got the sum of Â£47.5s. as a present to William Smith station master, Drummuir. The sleet and rain has continued from the 18th up to the 20th and 21st which was snow. The 22nd sleet and rain the whole day, the 23rd cold north wind. The first sown the breard is appearing, land excessive weat and cold. Some sowing the 25th and 26th, on the 28th a weighty rain in the morning. The Station Master, William Smith, died the 28th at 4 P.M. on Sunday, a great machinist and splendid fiddle player and maker. He made a new moddal tellegraph, he got a premium from Edinburgh for it, he was buried the 30th. Beautiful growing weather, some apples and pear flowish and onion and carrots throw the 30th. G. McW.

May 1872.

The first, Monday our potatos and tears laid down beautifull, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th rain, the 5th dray then rain the 6th and 7th. The 8th our brown cow bulled, the 9th rain. The land afull weat, no labouring, a deall to sow, 17 acres on Midthird and Glackmuck and many places the 9th, 10th and 11th, cold north wind with showrs of rain, hail and sleet. James Ross, miller at Mill of Towie died the 11th, he was long miller at Mill of Holl opposite the Castle, the loach was his gatherdam, he left it in the year 25 whean Mill of Holl was rased to the dust. His son James succeeded him, he was 78 years. The 14th was dray to 7 past P.M. then through the night very weighty rain but through the 15th, dray for a farlie. Our cows out to grass the 13th, the 16th and 17th weighty hail, sleet and rain, the hills all white. Thair is not many has thair grass seeds sown at the 20th, any that is rolled in the land is clear with water and still rain and sleet, wind north. Few potatos is set and no one can go on the land and no work doing. First sown the 7th of May, ten weeks ago, thair most shourly be a great difference in reaping but if I be weall I shall take notice. Grass spoiling with feet of cattle terrible. Alexr. Humphray, Towiemore, sowed the last part of his clean land with oats the 20th, some showrs of rain and sleet. Midthird harrowing his last days sowing the 21st, weighty showrs of big hail with rain, afull bad weather. The first of the sweedish neeps was sown on Mill of Davidson the 25th. Some people in Botriphnie sowing the 29th and the 30th, high wind from south west and dray. Potatos. not all planted the 30th, the 31st is dray, Cachanhead set out thair potatos the 30th.

June 1872.

Saturday the 1st warme and dray, the 2nd cloudy, some rain forenoon and much rain at 6 P.M. with high thunder to the north east but quite warme. The 3rd weighty rain through the day and at 6 P.M., a dale of thunder to north east dray the 4th. This day Mrs. Carmichael had a fine cow died of pision in most afull state, we had to kill hir to put hir out of truble. The 5th rain begun at 12 forenoon, the 6th rain after 7 P.M. and closs small rain from the east, the land so weat no horse can go on it to harrow or to plow. Farmers losing hart that the torneeps crop will be lost and the land not got cleaned. The Mrs. of Breahead had to pull a young woman out below a young man by the shoulders among straw in the feeding byre - the second, on Sunday. On Saturday the 8th, verry weighty rain with some thunder in afternoon, the 9th, nearly dray. The 10th, I got home 16 loads backs for firewood, some weighty rain, a good many peals of thunder with rain the 11th. Keith June Market the 12th dray, littlest fair I ever mind to see, it used to be one of the largest in the north, cattle £4.3s pr cwt. Some neeps sown the 15th, but some rain, the 16th some rain. John Ord here from Leith and Ar. Ord from Abdn. the 17th, mist and rain the whole day. I see much of the oats in the furrows all drowned altho in toltable dray land. Grass doing weall but new grass so weat no cattle can be put on it, I see some of it weall laid down with

rain, some of the farmers has no torneeps sown yet, Alexr. Humphray, Towiemore, has none the 17th. The 18th and 19th high wind and sunshine but rain at night, grass and corn growing beautifully, rain the 21st. I began to hoe potatos the 22nd but stoped with weighty rain at 11 A.M. it was a little colder. I see thair has been a full thunder storms in England and on the Borders and much damage done to life and property. Hoed out the potatos the 25th, weighty rain the whole night, the 26th, the land is almost clear water, all mankind idle. I was keeping my cows on the land for the past week to crop of some of the grass it was so long for the plowing, Geo. Munroe up from Kelloch with one pair of horses to crosscut it 27th, but some showrs. Rain began 7 A.M. on the 28th. at 11 A.M. verry weighty rain from east. Thair has been no word of cutting fire this season, we have had rain once every twenty four hours for the past five weeks I may say since the first of April. Grass is plenty but cattle going to the knees in first and second years grass, I much fear a late harvest. The Education Bill read the third time at this date, the 30th. Sunshine with wind but some rain through the night.

July 1872.

The first air close with mist and small rain. Grubbing my neep land, verry weat and great growth amongst the knapgrass, my neeps sown the 2nd, some rain through the night. Betty a whitly belling in hir right fore finger, it was opened in three places on the 4th, it began on the 30th. My neeps throw the 6th, the first dray 24 hours for the past 5 weeks was on the 5th and 6th a full hot, the 5th, 6th and 7th, some wind the thermoter at 68 in the house. A great breadth of neeps to lay down yet, Ardbrack people howing sweeds the 6th. The 8th cloudy and rain after one o'clock, the wind east but quite warme. I see by the newspapers the Duke of Sutherland is about to start the mining of coals in Sutherlandshire. Wm Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack and me started the 13th, a closs misty day, for Strathpeffer, arrived at 11 P.M. We had a small room from a man Murdow Campbell, one mille from the wells. We visited the falls of Rougue on the Conan river and to the top of many hills and a large tree at Cloud Castle of chasnut, 26 foot 6 inchs at the root. Five foot up was 24 foot. Attended Muir of Ord market the 18th, dray, hoat, sunny weather all the time. The crop mostly all shoot, with us in Botriphnie the shooting fast. The Major and family arrived at the castle the 22nd, verry hot the 25th, and 26th the wind north east with closs mist. Alexr. Cruickshank buried the 26th, his history would be worth writing from his being a smuggler to Toll Keeper, Rod Keeper, Inn Keeper and died a paper. He was alwies against what every one else was for, a thran, rough, ill designed fellow all his life. The last 4 days of the month dray but weighty rain south and England.

August 1872.

Begins dray and warme, I began to hoe neeps the 1st but rather small and the land afull with knots like your head. Oats weall shot and grass plenty but the price of cattle rather back Â£20 cattle from 10 shs. to 20 shs., oat meall 18 shs., oats 22 shs. per 42 lb., our neeps mostly done the 7th, but rain came on at 3 A.M., potatos going fast wrong and the torneeps, many of them, wrong with finger and toe. The 8th and 9th dray, Sunday the eleventh from 12 P.M. weighty rain and the 12th which is Lammas day, weighty rain the whole day, no grouss shooting for rain. The 13th great white clouds but dray, much of the crop laid the 12th. The 14th we set our fire about 15 loads and I pruned the hedge of my garden, no crop of goosberries or apples, blackberries good, rasps extra and strawberries large. From the 15th up to the 23rd the day of cattle show at Keith, cattle 196, horses 100, swine 10 lots, sheep 12 lots, pultry 50 lots, direy produce 57 lots, impliments 17. It was a extra hoat day, the 24th dewie the 25th, dray the 26th, wind north east showry. The barley and oats is getting some yellow, I see the potato desease in ten counties. John Watt (175) and Jean McWillie. Bommiekelloch, had a son baptised called David the 14th, August at Argathnie. The 27th dray the 28th I had Major G. Duff and Colonel South was calling on me. Verry weighty rain the afternoon of the 29th and showrs the 30th, I have been bad with gout in the top of the right thigh for the past ten days. The 31st rain.

September 1872.

The 1st dray, the 2nd and 3rd rain has laid the crop most afull. The 4th a misty gull all day to five P.M. then rain. I was at Bommiekelloch the 4th to see his new mill going in, some rain. The Queen at Balmoral Castle on the 6th, at halph past 9 o'clock on a visit to Dunrobin Castle to the Duke of Sutherland, arrived at Keith at 1 and 2 P.M. stoped for 12 minuts. Thair was distrebuted 1000 tickets for inside the station besides the county Volunteers as guard of Honour besides some thousands at both ends of the station with a band of the Rifles, she was cheered most afull. She was looking, laughing and bowing, so she might to see so many of hir loyal subjects. She was at Golspie station at 6 P.M., Duches waiting with a coach and 6 horses, 226 milles. Some rain night and morning, we have had rain every 24 hours since the first of the month up to the 10th which was wind. Westertoon began to cut barley the 10th but rain at night, the 11th rain all day, no sign of fire and coals Â£2 pr ton and complaints from all counties where harvest is begun, afull complaints from every place where the crop is cut that sprouting is extraordinary, likways the ludged and standing crops is growing. Westertoon is taking in barley this day the 17th, but some rain last night, I cut most of my ley the 18th, but at 1 o'clock an afull afternoon of rain it being the day of old keith market. The 19th rain mostly all day, I went to Craigellachie the 21st, came out an afull day of rain and haill, the hills white. The morning of the 23rd all the hills quite white with snow and the high lying land and the hill of Bellyhack quite white when I am writing this at 12 o'clock. The 24th verry

rainy, the 25th almost a gale of wind and rain but the people at Fochabers was all leading. Every night rain worse than through the day, the crop is all lying flat, the land is so wet beasts go to the bottom of it and excessive cold. There was killed a fine highland cow of Major Duffs, killed by the train on the line the 9 o'clock train P.M. the night of the 24th. I see by the papers the rain of the 24th has done a full damage at Aberdeen and through the county, hundreds of acres under water and houses flooded, rain every day. Some people cutting the 28th, but rain, I had John Lorimer cutting but rain in the afternoon which stopped us at 1 o'clock and rain through the afternoon. Really the weather is a full, there has been no earth fire got and coals £2 pr ton and oats up to £1.7s., what is to become of the many poor people I don't know. Showers of rain the 29th and 30th. G, McWillie.

October 1872.

Begins the 1st with showers through the day and weighty through the night, the 2nd is dray and cutting through the day but the lying corn is very wet. The morning of the 3rd is dray and cutting is going on but some flying showers throw the day, all my crop is cut the 3rd. On the morning of the 5th, full half inch on all the pools of ice, the roads are quite slippery to travel, the rain and sleet through the day of the 5th, continued through the day but many people are cutting through desperation but the 7th many are leading. I took 2 ricks the 8th and all the rest on the 10th, the 11th a full through the day with wind, rain and sleet. The morning of the 12th hard frost, the roads quite slippery and tangles at the eaves of houses one foot in length, the 13th everything out, nothing could be done but the 14th dry, the 15th rain and sleet and on to the 18th, close mist with dew, the 19th dray with wind. The cutting not near done the 19th and the one half to take in to the yard, Midthird has but two ricks 21st, most large farms have in 12 to 20 ricks. No earth fire and English coals, with carriage £2, the Scotch £1.12s. per ton We have not had three days without rain since the 27th of March but from the 13th July to 19th, just one week dray to this time the 19th, October. The 20th dray with wind and sun but being Sunday no leading, I advised John Fettes, Braehead, on going home from Church to lead in the afternoon, rain came at 6 o'clock P.M. and a dale of rain throw the night. The 21st mist and rainy, very quiet but the 22nd weighty rain with high wind the whole day. Isla is overflowing all the haughs and every bit stripe is a large burn, wind west. No cattle can go on the land without going to the knees, I never saw the land so wet although now past 70 years. The 23rd was dray, I was out shooting with Mr. Thomas Duff and the young Laird of Kininvie, the 24th some sunshine, no wind but some people leading through desperation, rain through the night and the 25th rain. On Sunday night rain, on the 28th, Monday and Tuesday 29th but I see by the Banffshire journal the rain on the 27th has taken down no less than eleven bridges in Enzie and Raffin and dale of damage in many other

places. All the crop cut out in Botriphnie, the 30th, wind at night and very high wind the 31st, whole day from west, a rough showr at 10 A.M. and another at 3 past P.M. but no stop to the leading. G. McW.

November 1872.

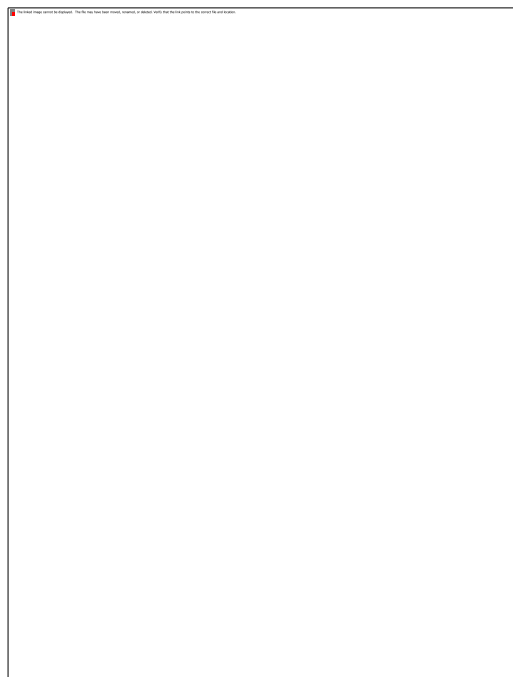
Begins very high wind, people all busy leading from three in the morning to 5 o'clock then rough showr then rain from eleven to seven in the morning and all the waters flood. I think the crop is mostly all in but some small remenders. The 2nd rain throughout the day, the 3rd and 4th and 5th showrs once in the 24 hours, the 6th dray to 12 then showrs at one o'clock and excessive high wind through the afternoon. I was elected on the Board for the 19th year the 6th. That high wind will do a dale of good to the damp ricks, oats £1.2s. pr 40 lb., meall 19sh. to £1 pr bol. I see by the newspapers the wind has done a dale of damage both by sea and land upon the 6th and 7th. Houses, corn stacks and shipping a full damage. Likways at Boston in the United States an a full fire on the 10th and 11th, damage above the sum of 150,000,000 dollars. I was hunting in the loach on the 7th, only one roe, a number of hares, rabbets and cock phesants, an a full wind, trees falling. On the 8th in the wood of Tenrood and Hill of Bellyhack three roes shot and a number of hares, rabbets and other game, they were all distrebuted to the tenantry, frost with hail and sleet the 9th, the 10th, wind with sleety showrs, showrs of sleet on to the 14th which was quaiet with frost with some flags falling throwout the day to three o'clock then a thick fall. The 15th Keith feeing market, thick gull and small rain the 16th. Mrs. Smith and family removed from the station house, weighty rain to two o'clock, she is in the house of Paulscroft now to Whitsunday. The earth is as weet as the day that Noah came out of the Ark, stubbles cannot be plowed, on dray land farmers is at the ley and neeps cannot be taken out of the land but thair is not many to take, for the potatos many has none and some has from two to three carts fully per acre quite small and bad quality, many has none at all. Rain less or more the 17th, 18th and 19th, the 20th dray but rain at night. The 21st and 22nd dray I was prowng berry bushes, the 23rd, wind east with cold rain, the beef from £3.16s. to £4 pr cwt. all other classes of cattle back in price owing to the crop of torneeps. The sheep back 7sh. to 8sh. pr head. Upon 23rd and 24th an a full gale of wind and rain on the English coasts and south of Scotland and in Ireland has done great damage by sea and land and many lives are lost by the wind and rain, little wind here and little rain but passing showrs every twenty four hours. Upon the Knockan in Boharm a dale of the crop is to carry to the yard and on the farm Starhead, Boharm, not a rick is in and dale to cut on the 26th. The 27th cold wind from north west showring rain, a dale of the land in clear water. We have had now eight months of rain, many nothing to burn but green whins and heather. Upon Wednesday night the 27th at six o'clock being hard frost and light in the north a showr of stars commenced and rained down in twos and threes to 12 to 14 even 18 to

20, all at once that none could count them. There were some to half past nine that I went to bed, it is said they continued to morning, I think it has settled the rain for the 28th, is clear and frosty some of the largest ones had very long tails, appeared first clear yellow and ending in red. The night 28th clear but I think the stars appear a deal less in number but my eyes getting dimmer. I may be wrong for I told some of the younger boys and girls if they were at Spey they would see them floating down the river like shells of ice. The hen wiffe of Ardrack had a child morning of the 27th, said to be neither boy or girl but still she went out to the birch and helped the dairy to milk the cows, the dairy hard the creature whistling in the bed when they came in to the kitchen, so fare for the Henwiffe. Rain every day on to the end,

December 1872.

Sunday the first begins with rain and rain showers through the day but weighty at night, I got home three bolls of meal out of 2 quirs and 6 bushels of oats the 2nd. Every paper nothing but stricks, I am thinking many a one will stricke themselves out of house, mate and fire. Mr. Strachan, schoolmaster, began an evening class last Monday the 25th, Sptr. 8 scholars in 8 days. John Duncan, shoemaker, has raised the price of men of my size boots, with shods and tacks, from 16sh. to 19sh. The 3rd cold and damp, Martismass fair, I have raised a pair of trousers and west with all thread and mountings at £1.1s. The 4th hard frost, the 5th hard frost the Thanksgiving day, Mr. Bruce, Glenrines, preached Mr. Masson is so poorly, wind south. The 6th, 7th and 8th, frost, still great loss by sea and land in England, Scotland and Italy, France and Belgium. Botriphnie has about two inches snowe, about Keith none but hard frost, this is the 8th. This night of the 10th I hear the Inverness train better nor our own and whistle at Keith which is a bad sign for the coming weather. Oats is 19 shs. to £1 pr. 40 lbs. and meal 17s.5d. for contracts for different boards for the papers. The oats is weighting from 35 to 40 lbs. pr. bushel!. The wiffe is at the mance seeing the minister, he is some better. The 12th about three inches snowe and the 13th, about 4 inches and wind south west at 10 A.M. with a weighty downfall of snow, the 14th and 15th, frost. On the night of the 13th Anne Gauld or Mrs George died at Mains of Drummair, she was of proud and high mind, kept no correspondence with any of her neighbours and even could not give a civil answer for real dirt pride, her husband was the same who perished in January the 6th, 1871 being worse of drink and both of her sons, Adam and James is the same having made narrow escapes at different times, Adam having lost some toes being found on the road covered up with snow being obliged to a horses foot driving the snow off the top of him.. Her pride being none subdued to the last in this world and I suppose none in the next. The 16th cold wind from the south east, always a full wreck, eight or 9 the past ten days, of ships loaded with wood from Quebec. Upwards of 60 vessels of 50,000 tons of the St. Lawrence timber fleet lost

at sea or stranded during the late gales, loss Â£400,000 besides many lives, attributed to the system of deck loads in winter. The 17th frost ground white, the 18th rent day, snowed all day, at night rain, the 19th snow almost away but rain and sleet all day, roads slippery. Margaret Gauld or Mrs. Duncan, Corrie, Bellyhack, died the 19th, her sister above the 13th, but of a different disposition. She was kind and oblidging to all, espically to the poor and children going into hir house would not depart without a piece of bread and chesse or some babees. How different from hir sister. The 20th wind, sleet and rain, the 21st Mrs. Duncan funeral, sleet, wind and rain all day, wind from south east, the 22nd, the same high wind with rain. The 22nd, Sunday, Mr. Allan, Keith, preached on the downfall of Peter the Fisherman, at two o'clock afull sleety rain and wind from south east, the 23rd and 24th fresh and quaiet, the 25th rain in the morning, the 26th dray, the 27th very high wind south cast. Mr. Masson poorly and still scarcety of colls, many factories and steame tuggs laid iddle for colls. I see by the papers thair is one hundred ships wrecked or is completely lost, all having deck loads of timber, they are like a top loaded cart, helsterhead they go. The 30th and 31st dray, Geo. McWillie.



BOTRIPHNIE PARISH SCHOOL.

We acknowledge this photograph by Peter Bonar and information as published in Keith and area, Past and Present as compiled by Mike Seton of Moray District Libraries 1987.

Education came to Botriphnie in 1643 when a James Rany, was appointed schoolmaster although the Presbytery complained of his too gryt frequenting of taverns. In 1827 a new school was built and George has commented on its construction in his diaries. He seemed to have held a

particular interest in the school, participating in a number of spelling bees. The school building was enlarged in 1875 to accommodate extra pupils due to reorganization of the school system. The building is unusual among rural schools in having a fine tower, after on Early English design.

January 1873.

Begins dray weather with frost the 2nd. I hard the Mavis singing, we have had no rain since the 28th, Decr. Our water cask dray for the first time since the month of March. The 6th the ground white with snow, the minester of Botriphnie and the Heritors, the minester, whose present stipend of 15 chalders had been modified in 1851 now asked an increase of 3 chalders. The parish popalation had considerably increased since 1851 and the rental of the parish had also very largely increased. No opposition was offered and the court granted the application, council for the minester, Mr. Asher, Agent Alexander Morrison. Oats 20 shs. to 21 shs., the land now at the 8th, drayer nor in the summer. I begun to my onion ground the 8th, most beautiful the 12th, the 13th, I had two plows, the 15th two plows. One plow the 16th but could not work in the ley for frost and went home. Some of the rose bushes over an inch of young sprouts and the yellow goslips blown but the night of the 16th, snow beginning to fall and closs all round. The 19th west wind, hard frost most afull cold. I see by the papers thair is snow about Breamar, oats Â£1.2s. pr qur. and little coming out of the ricks, no potatos, many is buying forign 3s.6d. per bushel. This is now fine weather with hard frost up to the 23rd. This 23rd out shooting roes in Loachpark, two killed, one went on the ice on the loach out about 30 yards, she had a broken hind legg and somemore damage. We could not get hir off untill getting a lot of broad dealls from the sawmill to go upon. The 24th and 25th hard frost, the 26th Mr. Masson preached none since the first of December, still frost the 28th. A generous gift of a new townhouse to the parish and town of Keith by Wm. Longmure, Banker and Distiller, was handed over to nine trustees on the 24th, the cost Â£2000, it is called Longmure Hall. An emmigrant ship called the northfleet was ran into the night of the 23rd, thair was 317 lives lost, by a stemer unknown, she did not slacken hir stem altho hailed by all on board. She was anchored in Dungoness Roads sunk in 25 to 30 minuts, thair is Â£200 offered as reward for hir name, thought a forigner. It was an afull loss of liffe. High wind with frost 28th, 29th and 30th. Friday the 31th a little soft but cold, I was out to shoot the 30th, only two hares killed.

February 1873.

Begins quaiet with frost, the ground white but the 2nd about 4 inchs of snow. Mrs. Millne or Jessie Donald died the 2nd at Ryell. I think thair is seven inchs of snow the 3rd, at four o'clock P.M. and a very weighty fall from north when I am writing this. Patrick Smith, late Station Agents son has got on to be ticket clerk at Drummuire station the first of the month.

I made application for him the 16th September 1872. The snow is closs the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th and a full keen frost and wind north. The 9th school examination by Mr. Jolly, the 12th fresh and cold, Thursday the 13th. I was at the Loach, Sheans and Burn park after some hinds got thair track but none of themselves, I was sitting among the heather smocking in the Burn Park, thair was five roes came as near me as 15 yards, stood amased, I had no allowance for the shooting of them, my heart was beating because I never saw the like before, I killed 2 partridges only that day. The plows all going the 14th, the 15th fine fresh the coals always turning dearer. Capital farming weather for the past 8 days. I began to the flowrs before the door to clean them, the soil in fine condition and quite dray but on Saturday the 22nd hard frost with hail, shows the 23rd, more snow on the 24th, the snow stopped the Buchan railway and a new station Mr. to Drummuire named George Kaie, the old one has got no presentation of any thing for his oblidging behaviour, Oats 40 lb is £1.4s, seed oats £1.8shs., barley £1.5s., coals now £2 to £2.5s pr ton, meall is £1 pr. boll. Complaints is begun about scarcety of neeps, straw has been from 10 shs. to 12 shs. pr quarters straw. The 25th has been blowing high wind and snow through the day from south east, excessive cold. The 26th the morning misty and quaiet but as the day advanced a drizzling rain during the day. At Fummackfair thair was good sale for cows and fat cattle prices about £3.18s. to £4 pr, cwt. Thair was a few men and boys was rather top heavy, through the night frost and new fall of snow north wind, now 4 inches of snow the 28th, quaiet and frosty. George McWillie Argathnie.

March 1873.

Begins with hills white and dale of snow lying on the low lands, fresh the 3rd and the 5th, a beautiful day. Thomas Duncans, farmer Glenmarkie, his wiffe was buried at Botriphnie. Plows is going the 6th, the small rain the whole day, the 7th, also the 8th, high cold frosty winds. The night of the 9th, weighty rain, sleet and wind, the 11th two inches of snow, thair is meeting at the school the night of the 11th, for the explanation of the School Board Act, a bad rainy, sleety night. On the 12th a weighty fall of snow from 12 to night, the 13th snow fell to 12 but the length of the day it thawed and made slushy roads. On the morning of the 14th, about 6 inches of snow, all the trees and bushes were hanging quite closs with snow, made beautifull appearance of senery. The snow began to abeat the 19th, on the low lands but the hills quite closs, the wind is east and north east for the past few days, the plows is begining on some places the 21st and 22nd, the 23rd and 24th the weall of the hills. I began to some delving about some flowrs in the garden the 25th cold east wind. Torneeps is now getting scarce and as small in general as hens eggs, cold with easterly to the 28th then fresher on to the end. A good dale is sown at the end. Geo. McW.

April 1873.

Begins with frosty nights and sunshine through the day, the sowing now is general and the land extra hard for plow or harrow, I have in all my garden seeds the first but the soil is as hard as John Horns head with so much rain the past year. The 4th cold frosty wind, the 5th hail shown, a dale of rain and sleet through the night, the hills white. The 6th rain, sleet, and hail, the wind is north west and verry cold. Nothing in the public prints at this time but the formation of School Boards throughout Scotland. James Dey has finished the cutting down of his third lot of wood on Haggishaw the 5th, some of it to drive home yet, the 6th about one third of the oat seed is in the ground, all in good condition. All my crop was laid down the 11th, in fine condition, good for sowing on to the 15th, now rather dray for the harrowing. Verry warme with some frost at night from the 16th, to the 21st, the torneeps mostly all out of land and many has done sowing, Thair is sad disputes about canvassing for the school, Malcolm Stewart has canvassed the whole parish voters for a seat. The 22nd and 23rd was a full cold with showrs of hail and sleet both days, the 24th the wind plate north with three or four inches snow, it was the day of Dufftoon Market. I see my peas throw the ground and some good breard in the parish. The Taylors new wood barn and bire coll tarring the 22nd, 23rd and 24th, three men working and not done. Cold north west wind peircing showrs of hail, my potatos and tears sown the 26th, by John Watt and some of his man Ronald McDonald, cold frosty wind till we were done and rain and sleet in the afternoon, rain through the night but the 27th was dray with cold norwest wind. Oats is £1.7s. pr bushell of 42 lbs. Alexander Humphray has been poorly for the past five weeks, he had a shock of appoplexy, he is now going about. Great want of straw with many, I have four stacks yet but indebted about three of them, the potatos is from 4sh.6d. to 5shs. per bushell, home and forign, I see my peas, beans and onions weall through the ground the 30th, the same as last year. The 30th and 29th two fine days, nothing but our School Board election just now. On the 29 of April 1873 Malcom Stewart sent in his resignation that he cannot site for the School Board, his supporters I really think will eate their lugs and fingers, ohone, ohone. The 30 a full rain.

May 1873.

Begins with west wind & rain and our white cow was bulled the 1 at 9 A.M. The 3rd was an a full day of wind, rain & sleet from north west. Geo McWillie and his wiffe here the 3rd, he is 17 stone & his wiffe 16 but four pounds. Our first School Board Election the 3rd. Rev. Mr Urquhart 91 votes, Jas Stewart 75, Mr Cameron 48, James Dey 47, John Fettes 39, Jas Garden 25 was out. The free Church voters 28, the Established 49. This gave just to the Free 140 votes & they canvesed untill the polles 166. The Old Church has 240 votes, and polled just 159. Mr Urquhart had 16

plumpers, with 11 ode ones, the 4th dry & cold, the morning of the 5th hills white, with wind, sleet and rain the whole day from south east. The land afull weat. Some flowrish appearing on the cherry trees. George Garden former Mill of towie fled the country about the end of April I dout it is not for having too much money in pocket. Upon the 6 rain the whole day strong wind from north. The land extra wet, best beef £4.2. pr. cwt. and the weather same as May the 6, 72. Wednesday the 7 dray & closs air, the 9th began to rain at 12 rather weighty rain to night. The Major & family arrived the 8 from St. Lenoards to Drummuir. I had a call of Him & Mrs Duff of ane hour the 10th. Still rain, our flecked cow calved, Sunday the 11th rainy mostly throw the day, but quait. The earth quite full of water, that persons cannot go on it. Thair is a eight acres to sow, four of it to plow on the farm of Cachanhead. Mr Burges should put of his coat in a good day, if it always does with him why should he not keep it on. The 12 rain in the morning and cold throw the day. A telegram from Sidney stating that the Captain Longmuir of the ship Riffleman of Aberdeen has been mured in his bead by the steward. He likways tried to pision the crew & stabbed 2 of the other officers. He was married to Hellen Ord, has six of a family, John Ord farmer Woodend is his Godfather. The 13 cloudy with showrs. The 14 wind north closs air with slight rain. Thair has been little or no growth for the past 14 days. Scarcety of straw at 15sh. pr. qur & little grass.

The morning of the 15th, all the hills white with snow, land afull weat, the 15th, dray east wind, the 16th and 17th, cold dray, I was setting out pailling. Oats £1.8s. pr 40 lbs. Now this house of mine called by the name of Ardgarthnie: and it shall be the absolute property of no man; for it will turn to my use one while and by and by to that of another and all thing in this world is the same. The night of the 17th strong white frost, the morning of the 18th weighty sleet and rain, land white. John Burges of Cacahanhead sowed the last of his clean land the 16th but he has left a few acres of stubble land he was to dung but thinks it is too late. The 20th verry high wind from south but excessive cold, I cannot go out. Oat meall is £1.1s to £1.2s pr boll, no growth at all. Servant wages is up; Formen first from £12 to £13.10s and £14, woman, good from £6, to £6.10s. and £7, second men £11 and £11.10s., herd boys £4 to £5. The 22nd dray to past 12 P.M. warme and dray then rain to night, the 23rd Keith Feeing market, rain to 12 P.M. then dray to night. Many people setting potatos, some sweedish sown the 20th and 21st. Season is verry bad for cleaning, always so weat, my garden has been as stiff as altho never trenched. The 22nd rain and the 23rd, rain to 12 noon being the Keith feeing market. The 26th and 27th dray, the now weat I think is over and the sweedish neeps is getting in the ground, the 30th and 31st, dray and sunshine wind hard frosts at night.

June 1873.

Begins drught land hard for neeps, the 3rd sunny but about mid-day thair was about ten minuts of weighty rain and quite warme. The halph of the torneeps is down here in general. The flowish of apples and pear trees only coming but goosberrie bushes and other peoples is quite rotten with so long rain the past year. Oats now about Â£1.10s, pr 40 lbs. and cannot be got, but thair is a great quantity of forrign using or thair would be a scarcety. The 4th verry warme and sunshine, the 5th the air closs and mist with wind north west. The 6th, 7th and 8th, dray, some flying showrs the 10th, but only weeting like dew. The drught rather severe about this time but excellant for cleaning land. Still but little grouth many is done with sowing the torneeps. The 11th has been verry drughty with sunshine, the 12th, slight rain, I had horses plowing my neep land the 13th, slight rain at two o'clock and at three a perfect deludge which lasted about two minuts thair was thunder to the south about three o'clock people had all to louse thair horses for the rain. I sowed carrots the second time on the 6th of June. Thair was need for rain, and on the 15th Sunday a deludge of rain. The 16th dray but closs mist the 17th air cloudy. The 18th dry and sunshine the beef pr. cwt. from Â£4.5s to Â£4.10s. My neeps was sown the 19th by George and John Watt, Kelloch, a fine grouth at this time. I saw Geo. Ross, Auchindachy howing his neeps the 18th. John McWillie, Cotterton at Aberdeen for his health at this time. John Sellar blacksmith is at Edinburgh infermery; water works is wrong. His Majesty the Shaw of Persia landed at Dover the 18th and was welcomed by an immence assamblage. He is come of the oldest kings in the world, he is sprung from Elam, the eldest son of Shem, in Persia at one time they had an army of 5,283,000, a full splendor in London at this time. The 21st high wind, sunshine, William McWillie from Aberdour here the 17th. The 23rd and 24th misty with small rain, thair is fine showrs fresh and warme. Hoeing of the sweedish neeps now the 25th. We have got home four loads of turfes, old ones but quite weet. Meall now verry scarce, oats Â£1.10s pr 40 lbs. and cannot be got mostly all forrign oats and wheat meall Â£1.4s to Â£1.5s pr boll. Sunday the 29th fine growing day, the 31st quite warme.

July 1873.

Begins warme, our brown cow was bulled the 2nd at night, Friday rain at 3 but drught the day. The 5th a review of the Banffshire Riflemen at Keith, Cornal Cumming and Captain Carter reviewed them. Thair was 500 men & officers. Thair was a holiday at Elgin the 7th. The Great North had 3811 passengers, mony Â£264, Highland line 1672 passengers and mony for tickets Â£273. The 7th high wind with sunshine great drught, the Major gave me Â£5 when I was writing this to help the Taylor to buy a cow, I have lent him other Â£5 I am afraid we will not be soon paid. Some fine growing showrs the 11th and 12th and thair was distant thunder the 13th and 14th. My turfs the 14th and 15th, some flying showrs. I see some of the oats beginning to shoot, fine growing weather

now the 19th and hoeing the neeps all done. The 21st thunder distant to the west and excessive warme specially quait, some of the Majors men failled cutting hey for the het. I was awakned at twenty minuts to one o'clock on the morning of the 23rd by thunder, the lightning, and electricety being so bright I could see the slates on the houses of Midthird individually, and the young plants on the hill of Bellyhack not a foot high, thair was flashes so vived and fast no one could have counted them, and the thunder was one continued roar. The heat excessive my wiffe got quite sick, the lightning began to abate at halph past two o'clock. At 7 A.M. thunder went down Diveron towards Huntly, and for one hour me, the station master, and the taylor sat at my door, and thair was no brake of the thunder for three qurs. of an hour but one continual peall, I am afraid we will hear more about it, the rain was not to call extra. Wednesday the 23rd, cloudy with sunshine at intervalls extra warme, the 24th and 25th verry hot, the 26th cloudy some thunder at three p.m. I see by the newspapers the thunder has visited every county in Scotland and done damage in them all, thair is not many people killed nor cattle, many sheep but many horses in different countys, houses struck, moniments knocked down. Thair has not been such lightning in the memory of man. It was in Yorkshire in England the herring boats that was at sea had an extra catch. John Sellar home from Edinburgh the 22nd, an operation on him was made at the infirmary, he is now quite weall. The 27th, was weighty at one o'clock to two with thunder to the east. It was the day of the sacrament, I pulled a basket of cherries the 28th, everything growing extra ordinary and grouthy to the end.

August 1873.

Begins with more or less rain each day. I have about one halph of the neeps second hoed the 2nd, grass is getting scarce, mine is down. Our first rent at Lammas was the 6th, which was dray and 7th was flying shows and the 8th, 9th 10th, 11th and 12th weighty flying shows, our read cow bulled the 3rd time the 13th. Grouse is verry scarce and great number is deseased, thair has been verry small bags. I think they have been witched or a judgement for the sporting cruelty. I see by the Banff paper harvest is begun at Turriff and some at Elgin, some here getting yellow but we have always some rain once in the 24 hours, this is the 18th. I have got my old rick thrashed and the straw built up, some small rain through the day. Betty and me went to Gamrie the 19th and the 20th, we went round all the rocks to the Church of Gamrie which was built in the year 1004, the date is on the door lintel in the west gavel. Thair is some of the roof of but the halph of it is whole and the cupples and sarking as fresh as the best new wood, it is now eight hundred and sixty nine years since built. Verry hot with bright sun, many of the herring fishers has thair quantity of 200 crans, one boat of Portesssie at Fraserburgh had 120 crans in one night which is Â£120 strg. we came home the 21st. Many cutting oats and barley in Gamrie but quite green in

Botriphnie. The 22nd verry rainy, the 21st and 22nd great thunder in the south of Scotland, dray the 27th and 28th. People is busy driving fire now, in fair condition. Prowning my hedges at this time, rain less or more every day to the end. James Days 20 foot bucket millwheel all broak in pices.

September 1873.

Begins the 1st with dark cloudy air to past noon then weighty rain. The new approach road to the Castle is finished to the Cachanhead Braes, a great cut but all the earth is required to level the Tennantoon Stripe and the bridge on the Cashnacaple Stripe. The 2nd rain, the 3rd weighty rains through the whole day. Best beef at this time from Â£4.5s to Â£4.8s., the 4th weighty rain through the day and the 5th weighty rain, the 6th was rain to twelve, the day of competen of mowing machines at Bracco in Grange. The 7th was Sunday, weighty rain the whole day, the waters greatly swollen, the 8th rain to 12 o'clock, the 9th dray to 5 p.m. a few began cutting in the fornoon but the rain stopped them. At Bracco Howards machine had the first prise. Mr. Smart preached the 8th, only 14 in the Church owing to the rain, he was the minester of Cabrach. G.W. Murray & Co, Banff foundry has challanged Howard two to one or one hundred to ten on Horosbys machine. Much rain the 9th, 10th and 11th, land afull weat, farmers is losing heart the weather is backward. But little rain on Friday 12th, the 13th dew in the morning, verry quaiet and warme. I thached an old straw rick and people cutting the 14th, from eleven to night weighty rain. Meslies barly all spread out on the stubbles quite black. The 15th weighty rain mostly the whole day, the 16th rain to twelve then dray. The Queen passes through Keith at 5 and 25 minuts p.m. from Inverlochy to Balmoral and stops 5 minuts. The 17th weighty rain to 10 A.M., it was the day of old summerfair, cattle dull, verry few fat which was from Â£4. to Â£4.6s. pr cwt., large horse market good from Â£6 up to Â£8, rain and wind at night. The 18th high west wind, all bussy cutting, the Northestran Railway to Abdn. is stopped with a flood of rain, it took of some bridges about Montrose. All the traffic from the south of Pearth to Aberdeen comes down the Speyside line past here and Keith, all verry long trains. The 19th shows through the day, the 20th rank dew in the morning but cutting at 9 A.M. then high wind through the day, the 21st Sunday dray to night, thair was 7 trains up and 7 down with two engines at each train, all luggage from Boat of Garten to Aberdeen, owing to the flood of rain. The 22nd, rank dew in the morning, people are cutting then rain at 9 o'clock, wind has been west, northwest all the past week. The 23rd small rain the whole day and many cut and many did not cut but on the 24th. I cut my clean ground and a few was leading, not a breath of wind and excessive hot and so was the 25th, you could not hardly draw your breath. Wm Burges cut out my oats the 26th, all but about one hours work which was done the morning of the 27th, I was done at ten o'clock. The wind rose from southwest an afull gale which

leveled all the stacks, many was leading. Sunday the 28th quiet, warm and frosty dew all night but people all leading the 29th. Bommies came up with two horses and took in all my clean land, three ricks, with sunshine all day with slight wind. The Laird and some others done cutting, the 30th, rank dew and rain in the afternoon, the night ditto.

October 1873.

Begins the first east wind the whole day, some people has in the one half of the crop and others has none, the 2nd rain all day, the land and crop is extra wet, grass is gone, some potato disease appearing. The 3rd drizzly rain the whole day, James Dey has put in his new bucket wheel, the metal and iron is upwards of three tons. The 4th and 5th showers, the 6th dray to two o'clock but then wind and weighty rain, the night of the 6th, a full high wind, all the stacks down and dale shaken. Rain began at five in the morning lasting to six but many leading. I set up my ley at 7 and began to lead at one, had it all in at four, quiet, hot and sunshine, some rain the morning of the 8th, then rough shower at three but people are cutting. The wife and me took in half a straw rick to be meat to the cows, the 8th, the day of Newmills market. The 9th dray to three o'clock but I may say an a full gale of wind and weighty rain from south east, strong wind all night and almost through the 10th, Some slight rain many leading the 11th. The 12th dray, many roas Monday morning the 13th but rain came from three to five then dray and quiet through, I thached 2 ricks the 13th, many patches to cut through the parish especially on the Glack and Cachanhead. Showers the 14th, the 15th, but the 16th hard frost but dray, dray the 17th. I set cabbage, early york and drumheds. You will find in Second Kings who broack the brasen serpent, the 18th. chap. and 4 verse. The 18th some rain to eleven but Cachanhead leading in the afternoon, some green oats to cut on Cotterton the rest in the parish all taken in. Betty and me had each a pair of new shoes the 1st of the month, hers was 9 shs, and mine 14 shs. My brother John came here the 20th, it was a gale of wind and rain from west, at Cotterton the 21st and his people cutting at green oats and Bellrines quite white, it was a full cold and cold and raw on to the 23rd, he went to Shenwall and home the 24th. Wombells Menagree at Keith 25th, rain the whole day, at night at ten it snowed, in the morning of the 26th, fully two inches of snow. At Glen of Boddenfinach oats to cut and to carry, on the 27th and 28th, snow of but on the hills and high ground. On the 30th I had all my land plowed in good season. Out shooting with Mr. Duff but very watry the 31st.

November 1873.

Begins an a full gale of wind and sleet throw the day from west. On the 31st Oct. Stewart, Achiunkhart, shot a horse that died next day, he belonged to one Cockburn in the Backhill of Kininvie, he was taking a neep sowing machine from the farm of Delmore he had bought from the

weddow thairon. The 2nd and 3rd frosty, Mr. Stewart, Achiunkhart was taken by four policemen for shooting the horse on the 4th, they had to keep him one day and two nights in his own room untill a doctor from Aberdeen and one from Banff arrived to make him insane but no, he told the police he would not allow them to sit on his chairs and make them pay for thair fire. They would not allow him kniffe or fork to eat his vittals then to Banff joil 6th. The 7th and 8th was east by north wind and weighty rain for 48 hours, the land afull weat, the 6th was our Thanksgiving few people. On the 8th, the county member at Dufftoon giving an account of parlimentary duties, John McWillie, Cotterton, quite poorly at this time. The now fine winter weather the 12th. Oats £1.2s.6d, per 40 lbs. it is weighing from 40 to 43 lbs., beef down from 90shs. to £4.2s.6d. Most people plowing ley, stubbles so weat. William Duncan, Mains of Bellyhack, is poorly at this time, capital working weather the 20th, prawning bushes now, from the 20th up to the 21st, fine but the 21st the day of the feeing market, rain whole day, 22nd high wind and slight rain. The wages of svts. a little down. John McWillie and William Duncan are still poorly. The sea on the English and Scottish coasts has been tempestuous and many wrecks and loss of liffe. The 22nd and 23rd thair was high winds in this place, the 26th pleasant, the 27th much rain but the plowing is weall forward, from the 28th to the 30th beautifull weather.

December 1873.

Begins fine fresh and quaiet, all kinds of work going on especially plowing and heading of and storing torneeps. Upon the first John McWillie and Helen, his sister, here, brought me some beautifull Canadian apples, afull large and extra sweet, they got home four casks of them. The weather extra fine for the season up to the 8th which was verry high wind. Oats £1.3s per 40 lbs. and best beef 78 shs. to 80 shs. pr cwt. beautifull weather every day now the 11th. The 11th I was hunting roes in Sheans and Burnpark, Mr. Duff and Mr. Gordon, Main, Gordon shot two and I shot one, they were crossing the road from Sheans to Burnpark thair was seven guns. Fine weather and every thing growing as in spring. Great feighting with the School Master and School Board about his sister teaching. The 15th, Monday fine day but at night the wind rose to a great hight and continued all day to one o'clock the 16th and by the Scotsman an afull damage in the north of England and south of Scotland, houses, corn stacks, chimny stalks and shipping blown to pices and many lives lost. Round this county many houses is damaged, corn stacks is blown down but pleasant then up to the 21st. Great accident at Loachlomond, Sir James Colquhoun and party of three keepers and the Kenald boy went in to the island of Inchconachan with a brother of Sir James having a boat and small skift, the days sport over they all returned to the shore with venison. Sir James and the four servants entered the boat, his brother refusing altho the night being squally, he reached the shore but all the

other four were drowned and sorely lamented. The 22nd soft, the 23rd small flacks of snow all day and quaiet but or the morning of the 24th, thair was six inchs of snow, or the morning of the 25th, fresh all day. The 26th fine, fresh and the plowing going on and heading torneeps. The 31st out shooting, for the first time roes in the young planting on the Hill of Bellyhack, from the Duck of Ritchmonds march down to the burn of Oldlenoach I killed the first one, Merchant Jammeson and Captain Burton the second, both fired at once. The third, Mr. Duff with a riffle, the 4th ball entered above the fore knee and came out below the neers. The first drive in the place for roes, those who lives a few years more will see it a fine roe hunting wood. Adue to 73.



Today, as in George's day, it would not be Scotland without a piper.

January 1874.

Begins with high winds the first, the 2nd, cold with wind, the 3rd hard frost and quaiet. I have one stone of beef and three bottles of wine from Major Duff of Drummuire for Christmas, I and wiffe at a ball at the castle, about ninety of a party. Most beautifull for the season it was on the 6th and fine the 7th and 8th. The 9th is beautifull, I am prowning sauch bushes, the wans is for fisherwives creels. Mrs. Cirmichals has four plows on hir croft the 9th. The 11th a beautiful day, old New years even high wind, fine for a good fruit year. The 12th snowed all day, the 13th high wind snow almost of cold. The 14th fresh and warme, the 15th air closs with small rain and sleet. The 16th frosty and hills is white, but the plowing still going on. Oats of 40 lbs. is Â£1.5s. oatmeal, is Â£1. Mains of Bellyhack is much better and sees to read and write, John McWillie Cotterton is some better but some light in the brain. Dr. Kennedy the

clamints lawier, throw with his speech to the jury, which in whole lasted for one hundred and fifty days. Sunday the 18th at night a full wind with sleet from west, thair was preaching at 5 p.m. at the Free Church, she being vacient, umberales broken, bibles lost, women blowen in to ditches. The 19th cold with frost, the 20th at plowing match on Turfhilllock, 34 plows, ground gray with frost, first prise to Forbes Linmore and 40 sat denner. The 21st fresh and cold the 22nd wind west and cold, it has wind from the west for this past 14 days. Upon the 23rd was the Duke of Edinburghs marriage. John Fettes, Jas Stewart, Jas Garden and James Dey and mysilfe at eleven o'clock down at the station, made up our minds for a ball in the Famele School at 7 pm. Garden and me went to the three schools, got them dismissed and it was at two o'clock and at eight thair was 90 scholars and about 180 other people, married and unmarried. We provided about three gallons of whisky and 15 bottles of wine, with shortbread, nuts and oranges, which made a jovall party to three o'clock nixt morning. The 24th was hard frost, soft the 25th, the 26th all the plows going. Oats Â£2.6s pr 40 lbs. and beef Â£4 pr cwt. The 27th, fresh but cold, the wind still west and south west. I see by the papers thair has been rejoicing throughout all Europe for the Prince Arthurs and Princes Maria's marriage. Hir dress Â£40-000. I see in the Banff Journal 27th a farmer in Texas U.S. America, Samuel Allan, who has total 225,000 head of cattle, 3,000 horses and 60, 000 calves to keep the supply, I think it is a large supply. The 28th and 29th beautiful, the 30th is frosty cold west wind, railway accident near the town of Linlithgow, 17 killed and 30 to 40 injured. The 31st beautifull.

February 1874.

Begins beautiful, like summer, the flowrish on pear trees almost out, the rose bushes growth of one to two inches. Oats Â£1.7s. pr 40 lb., horses is for farm work at a full prices small ponies from Â£20 to Â£30, ordinary work horses Â£60 to Â£70 and Â£80 to Â£110 pounds. The rents paid the 4th. I applied to the Major in behoof of Mrs. Smith late station Mrs. Wiffe that she had bought a cow and tight mony, he gave me Â£10 to assist hir, he said she was a industras woman. The 5th, 6th, and 7th like summer everything beautiful. Peter Dey still poorly, at night when the cock does crow, some of the houses does go awa. The 8th frosty and the land white with snowe, nothing in the papers now but parlimentary elections. Mr. McCombie, Tillefure, west Aberdeenshire has 2075 majority, McDuff, for Murrayshire has 210 over Grant Ross was for Abr.shire. The 9 and 10th and 11th hard frost, the 13th and 14th beautiful. The embankment, on the Cashnacple Stripe, on the new approach to the castle going on at this time. The oats now Â£1.8s to Â£1.9s. per 40 lbs. Slight frost at night quait. A ball at the merchants with bannocks. The 17th and 18th and 19th quaiet and sunshine and extraordinary dresses are providing for the forth coming ball to be held at the Famile School, it is for a return for the ball given by a few at the Duke of Edinburghs

marriage day. Our white cow had a bull calfe the 19th. Fine weather on to the 25th, which was high wind from south east, bitter cold very high the night, a full to 10 o'clock a.m. when rain and sleet began a full. The 26th being Fummakfair a few gentlemen came of the train, up to our house and stayed to 2 o'clock, then home with the three train to Aberdeen, The wind blowed in one of the big peans of our low windows, and has done a dale of damage through the country to houses and corn stacks. The 27th quite quait with some showrs of rain. I see by the papers, the storme of the 26th has done a full damage to life and property by sea and land likeways. Orton the clamint, has got fourteen years sevitued, the court sat for 188 days, it has had a full disputs that case through all England and Scotland and all the world.

March 1874.

Begins high winds the 1st and 2nd but then beautifull the 3rd and 4th and a fresh showr the 5th. Bridget Garden, formerly Mill of Towie died Banff lunatic the 1st, a pappur. The 6th and 7th was most beautiful, I was bussy in the garden delving among the flowrs, the 8th hard frost but at one o'clock rain and sleet, the 9th frost white with snow and haill through the day. John McWillie verry poorly and taken to bead at the 3rd. The 10th and 11th snow wind north, the 12th fresh and quaiet. I was at Cotterton seeing John McWillie, he is beadfast, John Gauld, Midtoon very, verry poorly and confined to bead, I am afraid none of them will be able to go about again. The 13 and 14th sleet and rain, 15th and 16th, fresh wind in the morning of the 19th wind and cold. Cameron, Turfhillock, sowed ley but nine o'clock the wind from the west with rain and sleet was a perfect gale, doing damage to houses and ricks. The 20th wind north west, land white with snow, at the 22nd and 23rd, sowing is general but every two days a gale of wind, torneeps and grass growing. John McWillie still poorly and always walking him. West wind on to the end of the month and some rain.

April 1874.

Begins a full hurricans of wind from the west. The hills all white with snow and low lands white but all of or 12 noon, then tearing wind and showrs of rain. The sowing is fully halph done the 2nd, a full high wind from west with Kankard showrs of rain. John McWillie has not been walked for the past three nights. I was down to Keith the 3rd for garden seeds, just a gale of wind with haill showrs. The sowing almost done but where torneeps are. The wind west and southwest all the spring. The 6th I got 14 loads of torneeps drove home and all the land plowed and the 7th all my corn sown and potatos planted. Most famous season. Thair was a servant man at Glenheath went to Dr. Turner, Keith on the 5th, he travelled thair and home again and was dead at 10 P.M. Splendid farming weather with west winds rather cold on to the 14th day of the April market which was soft and warme, rain from west the 15th, at 12 P.M. All

the coliers who has been receiving 8s.6d. to 10 shs. pr day for the past two years and only working three days per week to keep down the supply. The Mr. Coal Masters has now taken down there wages two shillings per day. They all struck work above 8000 men all idle now applying for work at the 2 shs. down but the masters will give no work less down another shilling, A great many furness being blown out, last two years coals has been Â£2 now Â£1.8s. John McWillie, Cotterton is now better able to go out. John McWillie of Langlanburn hear today the 15th. The 16th a full high west wind shows of rain and sleet. The 18th fine day but cold, most beautiful growing days to the 25th, verry warme. My oats is breard, was sown the 7th. Geo. Garden, Westerton taken verry ill the 24th. Wm. Duncan veiry ill. The 26th threomiter up to 70 great heat. Thunder at 3 o'clock P.M. Great rain in Boharm none in Botriphnie. The 27 warme & sunshine, great growth. George Garden farmer Westerton died the 27th at 10 P.M. aged 85. He intred the farm in the year 1838, on James Mitchells lease. The 29th a full hote with sunshine & no breath of wind. The 30th air close with mist.

May 1874.

The first is rather cold with drought. William Duncan Mains of Bellyhack died the 1st. He was a sensible and quait man and jolly companion. He has left three sons and two daughters, with a full town of horses and cattle. I have been a companion since boys. The flowerish all out, but the air now cold with weighty clouds. Sleet & rain the morning of the 7th. A great roup at Dandileth. The 8th white with snow all of or 12. The 9th all white and hill tops white all day. The hill of Haggisha quite white all day. The masells and hooping cough is common through this, & other parishes, all round. The 11th & 12th cold wind north. Our white cow served at the Barnyards the 13th. The 14th I was taking out pailing wood at Tenrood Wood. Weighty rain after 2 o'clock, and has continued up to 9 P.M. wind due east. No growth for the past two weeks. Many cattle out to grass. Our was out the first time the 14th. The coliers in a deplorable state. Having struck work for thair wages being taken down 20 pr. ct. now they are all locked out. Thair money done, goods paned, and bellys toom. Former wages was 8s. to 9s.6d. now 5s. per week. Coalls down from Â£2. to now Â£1.5. They deserve wat they hav got. The ground closs snowe, the morning of the 15 land very weat. The Editor of Zadkils Almanac Captain Morrison died now, and so did Lizzy Stewart, at near Pearth, Wiffe of James Sim Station Agent. She was born in Belniescoug Botriphnie. We have a young pig my Wiffe got in a compliment, from Major Duff, the 18th. The weather now is dray with cold east wind. Many has thair torneeps, the sweeds sown the past few days, dray but cold. James Dey pappered my West Room the 23rd, it & 24 cold wind from the east, with gull & mist. The 26th putting up wire pailing, 100 yards at the Burnside, dray with cold wind, the 27th & 28th shows at night. The 29th & 30th

high wind and great drught, wells is dray, and the tory is thining the corn. Many weall through the neeps.

June 1874.

Begins warme sunshine and high wind, John McWillie my brother came here the 1st, and home the 5th. Still great drught. I was down at Shenwall the 4th, all the ley oats is one halph thinned with grub or the tory on some quite gone, afull want of rain. Putting up the sticks around my peas the 5th. The 6th, Calsie drove over John McWillie of Cottertoone, he is looking poorly. Great drught with high wind, great need for rain. The 7th the air cluddy with drught. The merchant has a boy verry poorly at this time, mizzles and Hoppingcough still too plentiful,. The merchant boy died the 8th. two year old. Still great drught. Our white cow was lined the second time the 9th, at halph past nine P.M. The night of the 10th and the 11th rain and wind, the 12th two pair of horses at my torneep land. The 13th all my neeps laid down in a business like manner, quait and dray the 14th and 15th ditto. Singled my onions the 15th, some of the white roses blown the 15th. The 16th and 17th the day of June market, air closs and wind north, all at the market complaining for want of rain for the torried ley crop and torneeps. The 18th and 19th high wind from Norwest and raising dust of the roads and torneeps lands. Great drught, most of the potatos is hoed. Oats is Â£1.7s.6d. to Â£1.8s., some people driving fire. Upon the 21st, weighty rain through the day and quite warme. The 22nd warme with wind and verry large white clouds whole day. The 24th thunder and rain distant, none here. The 25th distant thunder and rain at 8 P.M. some rain here. Mr. and Mrs Jammison to Strathpeffer, the 25th. James Addison, Miller, Davidston, died the 25th and aged 89 and James Garden, late farmer, Bankwall Upper Towie aged 89 died at Upper Estertoone. The 26th distant thunder some rain, the 27th verry hot with thunder clouds, the 28th ditto. The 29th a dale of loud thunder and weighty rain betwixt two and three o'clock P.M., it will do much good, it is quite warme. Now sowing of neeps 30th.

July 1874.

Begins with many of the roses of all coulours full blown. The 1st the Banff Riffle Batalion incamped on the Haugh of Collargreen at Craigellachie for a weeks driell. The 2nd high wind from south, Friday very high wind from south but quite warme. I have got all my house roof and chimnies pointed with cement at this time. On the 4th afull high wind from southwest doing a dale of damage to gardens. On the 5th wind is northwest, some shows in the fornoon, wind cold to night. Barly is shooting fast and some ley oats is coming out, still little rain. Thair was a brake down of the train at Lower Towie, the axle of a coall waggon broke, the people had to travel, being the day of Keith market, a few of the sleepers broack and rails torn up. I was at Craigellachie the 6th to see the Riffle Batilion, thair tents sleeping and cooking and an afull battle fought at 5 past noon. They all

complained of many gallochs who infested thair beads at night, if they might be called beads, was a fine day. The 7th a fine but drughty day, the 8th, dray, hot and sunshine. The 9th large clouds and very hot I was pointing the rigging tiles of my barn, bire and shop. The MacKilligan, the grieves wiffe, sore hurt milking her cow by trampling her. The 10th drughty, the 11th about 7 minuts of rain. The 13th very drughty. The morning of the 14th weighty rain and dale of thunder at 10 A.M. to east with showrs throughout the day. The 15th and 16th very dray, the 17th excessive hot not a breath of wind afull growth of neeps and oats shooting fast. I have but 19 dreels of neeps to hoe the morning of the 18th. People cutting hay now. Tuesday the 31st the thermoneter at 74 degrees, afull hot. The Free Church Minesters and people are in afully birsd anger and the U.P. Church against the Patronage Bill being passed, but the Parliment has got the numbers of the communicants of the Establishment, they number more than both the other Churches. The 22nd was weighty rain, verry weighty at three o'clock. Thair was a preaching match at Elgin by an extraordinary singer Moody and Sankeys. The Sacrament here the 26th. Mr Allan was halpener, fornoon was weighty rain, 28th hot, Moody and Sankey at **** the 28th and 29th. The morning of the 29th rank dew with frost, heat through the day. This 29th the day of Glass market, cattle and sheep down. Thair was no cattle or sheep passed this way to it. Forty years ago thair was thousands of sheep and cattle, it was one of the leading markets in the north and afull feighting. The 31st sunshine, high wind from S. west. The dust flying on the road like snow.

Agust 1874.

I got my fire drove home the 1st, dry with high wind. I was at Cottertoon with Coldhome seeing the crop, his ley is the best I have seen, I could have eate the watch pickles of all the field without bowing my bead, some rain at night. The 2nd afull high wind the whole day from west shaking my apples desperate. A great cattle show was to be held at Keith on the 4th but an interdict was served on the sectrary the first owing to the Pluro being in some places through county. I see thair is 200 cattle enterede and 180 horses but now no cattle can be shown which birsed many of the farmers. The day of the show afull hot. The 5th rent day weighty rain and high wind weighty rain through the night. By the Banff papers some barly cut in Grange at this time is excellant, barly and oats mixing fast. Our rents paid the 5th, which was rain. John McWillie, Hungryhills and me at Dufftoon and Craigellachie the 7th and brought home my Andra Forara Sword which was on loan for the past twenty six years. The 10th was rainy after 12 o'clock to night from the east, high wind, we have plenty of rain now. The 11th, verry rainy. I had a visit of Mr. Duff and Mr. Duff of Hatton Castle and Cornall Radcliff all seeing me and Andraforara sword and then Major Duff in the afternoon. The 12th Lammas day, dray to 12 o'clock then weighty showrs throw the afternoon. They had only 24 brass

of grouse in Bellyhack hill and White Cow hill both. At the Nonintrusion Kirk thair was preaching the 6th, 8th and 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. I clipped the hedge round my yard the 13th, large clouds but warme. The 14th from five in the morning was an afull pour of rain and wind from noreast continuing to about 5 in the afternoon, great damage to crops, roads and bridges. Loss of herring boats but especially nets, many lives lost. Oats is from Â£1.8s to Â£1.9s. From the 14th to the 19th putting metal on the road from the merchants to the Gullet all from the Shean park. Dray with wind, I see by the papers the harvest is begun in many places. Hard frost morning of the 20th, some of the potato shaws quite black. The holiday the 21st, afull frost heat, I was at Rothiemay. Some cut oats on Limekill croft, Wasties barly cut the 25th. Thair was competition of corn cutters on Mr. George of Haugh Keith the 26th, rain in the morning then hot through the day. The 29th I had a visit from Mr. Duff of Drummuir and Mr. Taylor of Inchgarth, Deeside at Cults in the fornoon, at five o'clock my wiffe and me was just begun to tea, Mr. and Mistress Taylor rang the door bell, which made a quick dispatch of the tea dishes, eggs and all. Then in twenty minuts Mrs. Duff and daughter and the tea so hot and fine had to be warmed again when they departed. On Tuesday the 29th I had a visit from Colonall Angus, East Endian Company, grand son of the late Mr. Alexr. Angus minester of Botriphnie. Thair was an afull showr of rain for about halff an hour and the wind was afull at 2 past P.M.

September 1874.

John Gauld, Midtoon, had all his crop cut the 27th August, harvest is about general, the 3rd high winds. I painted all my windows the 2nd and 3rd. The 4th I went to Boxburn to see Peries Paper Work, Mr. John Stewart and Mr. Groundwater showed me through the whole. I shall not tray to describe it. Thair is 1700 hands working, halff by day, the other halff by night. On one vat 400 foot by 200 the bree goes in at one end and out at the other around cillanders of 7 foot of length by 30 diameter. The length over all is 1400 foot and will turn out 7 miles of length in one day a webb of 7 foot broad, I shall say no more. The 5th I went to Aberdeen to view the fleet, seven in number. The Northumberland, length is 400 foot, tonnage 6621, speed 14 knots, pr hour, hir compliment 705 men, I seed them all dined at once. Hir plating 5 1/2 inch iron. One gattling gun of ten barrals fires 150 shot pr minute. Hir cannon measures 3 foot across the britch. The Devastation, hir length 285 foot, breadth 63 ft, 3 inch, tonnage 5600 tons. She can work up hir engines, 40 in number as far as 5500 horse power. Hir canon are 35 tons and plating of iron 12 inchs. All the ships has steel guns quite clear, high masts, afull. The Devastation has none, all ram headed. Some rain and cold high wind all the time I was aboard for 4 hours. Mostly showrs every day from the 4th to the 11th, the day I began to cut, rain at night. The 12th rain after 2 P.M. None lead but Wasties barly. Good filling but the potatos is all

spotting in the heads, the 15th some flying showers. The 16th Summerives Fair a small market, many leading. The 18th flying showers, I am done cutting the 18th, high wind the 19th, leading fast to day. My cousin, Jean McWillie, or Mrs Miller, oldest daughter of Alexander McWillie farmer, Midtoon of Towiebegg, died at Aberdeen the 19th. I lead the first rick the 23rd, windy with sunshine, cutting almost done in Botriphnie. The 25th my crop all taken in, fine harvest weather. On the morning of 29th halph past seven about 8 minuts of a full rain, and at 5 rain and wind. I had the Major & Mr Duff, the 30 high wind the whole day, the *** mostly all in in Botriphnie.

October 1874.

Thursday the first very quiet and warm fine for thaching. The 2 very high wind. The mercury down to 28th which is Storme. The 3rd high wind from west with weighty rain, and rain is throw the night. The 4th is high wind from norwest with rain morning and afternoon. The crop all in but on Camrons of Newburgh, and James Dauns Glackmuck. It has been a short harvest, the crop has far more bulk than expected, and the high winds will make it keep fine. It is weall filled and the potatoes a brave crope as dray as meall, but appearance of desese. At the 6th 7 & 8 high winds with flying showers. My potatoes all up the 7th. Terable fire Aberdeen. Upon the 9th the East Church was burnt Drums Aisle, the Steeple & Peal of Bells, a Prayer Meeting, and after it a Coir of Singers at 8 P.M. An alarm was given by Mr Duffus & Mr Daniel Builder who, being going up Upperkirkgate spied smock coming through the roof, in the inside was seen nothing unusual, the singers was warned the top was on fire and the alarm given. One of the afulest fires ensued, the whole Church Stepple of 140 foot & five bells, one of them which had rung the Aberdonians to Church for the past 400 years, called St. Larunce, was presented by William de Leith in the year 1351 and now lies sillant among the ruins of the Church & Stepple. The Communion was to have celebrated on Sunday the 11th. The fire arose from the lighting apparatus. And on the 10 at 9 P.M. the Castle of Kinnaird, and the House of Errol Park at the same hour, 9 o'clock was burnt. It will be a puzzel to Zadikel, thair was a eclipses on the sun on the 9 at 9 A.M.

Buckingham Palace Octr. 15, 1874 this morning at a quarter to three o'clock Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duches of Edinburgh was safely delivered of a Prince. They were married the 23rd, February its just eight months two weeks and three days. The weather is beautiful, rather high winds. Potatos mostly up and a dale of plowing done the 17th. The evening of the 19th, a weighty rain, the 20th dray. Thair was one McFarlene placed for secedor minester at Keith the 15th. Beautiful on to the 21st. The glass came down to 28 the evening of the 20th, the wind high through the night from the west and northwest, from 8 A.M. to 12 o'clock a perfect hurrican of wind and rain which will be remembered to

the next generation for damage done to houses stacks of corn and trees broak and blown down. In England, Scotland and Ireland not many lives lost on land but by the sea. The accounts of the hurrican is arriving each day of great loss of life and property for eight days after both by sea and land, the sea especially. Then on to the 24th winds high then most beautiful weather on to the end of the month being very warme and quaiet, the plowing of stubbles done and a dale of ley, I have got my shift plowed for neeps the 31st, frost heat all day. G.McW.

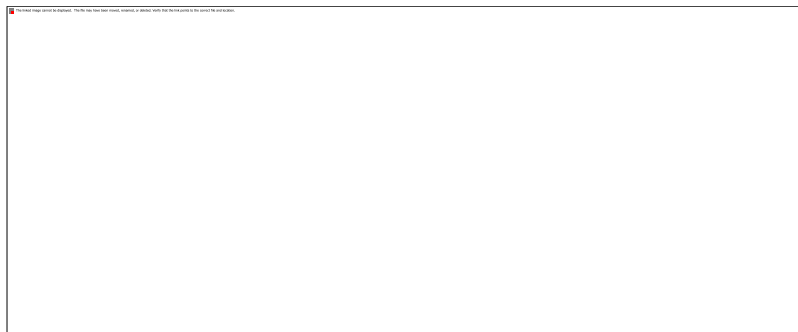
November 1874.

The Zadkiel Almanack quite right the morning of the 1st closs foug with rain at 9 P.M. Oats from Â£1.3s to Â£1.4s pr. 40 lbs., barley from Â£1.14s to Â£1.15s. pr. 54 lbs., beef 70 to 80 shillings pr. cwt. The weather most beautiful from the 1st to the 7th. I was at a roe hunt the 7th in Lochpark, only one shot with some small game. The 8th, fine the 9th, fine to one o'clock then rain. I was at the funeral of Elspet Moggach or Mrs. Reach the 9th, spous of John Reach, Cachanhead. She died in Boharm aged 90 years. The land white the 10th, the 11th about one inch of snow, little frost. 200,000 new shears of the North of Scotland Bank giving out at this time. The 12th about 4 inchs of snow, the 13th. I was shooting roes at Sheans and Burnpark, we had 3 roes. I had but one, I wounded other two at one shot, Mr. Duff got one of them requiring to give hir another shot. Bad travelling the heather being closs with snow, I was tired the next day and would not go to Bellyhack Hill. Thair was roused in the wood of Haggishaw 2699 trees at Â£1677.16s. Beautiful weather, John McWillie my brother here the 16th, and home the 20th. Oats Â£1.3s.6d. to Â£1.4s. pr 40 lbs. The schoolmaster, Mr. Strachan, the 21st. I bought an iron chair at 16 shs. Beautiful quaiet day. Out with Mr. Duff the 24th and killed a roe in Tenrood. I had an invitation from the Major to come over that evening, we drank toddy through the evening, the whisky was fifty years of age. Him and family went of next morning at halff past eight for Edinburgh, an afull high wind with frost. The 26th hard frost so was the 27th, the 29th was high wind from southeast with rain the whole day. The morning of the 30th. hills white, low down rain and sleet A new school master Mr. Hunter took up school on Monday the 23rd. I see by the newspaper a dale of damage on the east coast many wrecks by sea the 29th and 30th. G. McWillie.

December 1874.

The first frost and the land white with hail,, the second about three inches of snow. In the evening a meeting of eight of the farmers to see what would be done on the occasion of Mr. Duffs marriage. I told them to wait and see another month, it would not be until the day got longer. Oats is here Â£1.4s pr. 40 lbs. pr bushell, beef Â£4 pr. cwt, butter 1 shs. pr lb., eggs 13d. pr. dozen. 70 scholars to the new Mr. Hunter. The 4th high west wind which put of all the snow. The 5th sunshine but frosty air. I got

2 bolls and 5 stones meall new the 4th. The 6th and 7th some frost the 8th, about one inch of snow, the 9th, about two and the 10th, fully five inches but quaiete hard frost. The 11th sleet and hail, the 12th quaiete hard frost. The morning of the 13th, about 7 to 8 inches of snow. At Edinburgh and Glasgow great meetings of Nonintrusion and U.P, clergymen for the disestablishment of the church. The 13th Sunday the snow deepened to 10 inches. The snow plow of Drummuir cleared the road down the Drummuir road and Howdoup and up the Mill of Towie. Quaiete the 12th to the 16th, but a dale of loss and damage to shipping round the East coast and in England. The torneeps is deep covered and bad to up thair being no stock laid in. From the 13th to the 18th the trees is most beautiful all hanging full of snow, but the 19th wind and soft, some of the neeps is appearing. The 20th frost and downfall of snow in the forenoon but quaiete hard frost. The 22nd some downfall, the 23rd clear hard frost. Beef Â£4 to Â£4.4s. pr. cwt. Oats Â£1.5s pr. 40 lbs. Really the snow hanging on the woods is makes a beautifull appearance and so quaiete. This 23rd a terrible railway accident near Oxford by the bracking of carriage wheel. There are 31 killed and 70 sorely hurt, many of them past recovery, all on holiday Christmass excursoin, afull. The 24th, 25th and 26th all the 3 days some downfall and on Sunday the 27th about one inch more. The 28th, clear, pulling neeps about 13 inches of snow but quite fresh. The workmen on the new approach road to the castle never one day idle cutting it through the Mill of Ardrack park. The 30th and 31st closs foug then severe frost. We have had just one month of snow, every two days all along always some downfall.



There are many Distilleries in the area, this one, Milton distillery, was established in 1786. George sold grain to the local whisky traders.

January 1875.

The first the wind began to blow about four o'clock A.M. at seven sharp blowing, continuing about the same to 12 o'clock then the wind got very high from southeast, afull blowing, thair is cattle market at Keith I cannot see how men or beast can stand or how they will mak home. G.McWillie. 3 o'clock still worse, the two o'clock train was turned back below Maislie, many passagers returned to Keith and a few of the Botriphnie people mead home but was afully bet out. All the rail and other roads are close

both North and South from 4 to 6 and 10 foot. Most of them opened on Monday the 4th. Men cutting the toll road on the 5th, 6th and 7th. Thair is 5 foot before my house, at Sauchanward the Taylors and wivers is blown complete over the top, had to cast the Taylors lum to let out the smock. The garden is 7 foot deep but most land is blown quite bear and the plows going. The 5th and 6th land quaiet dray, quaiet and fresh up to the 14th, slight frost. The annual plowing match on the Hillands of Cachanhead the 15th, thair was 32 plows, fine weather but all the hollows and braes snow wreaths from 2 to 8 and 10 foot in depth the 18th. The 19th high wind with sleet and driving rain, the 20th, about 2 inchs of snow. The 21st about 3 to 4 inches, hard frost. Making preparations for denner and ball in honour of Mr, Thomas Duff Gordon Duffs marriage which is to come of the 2nd February. He called on me the night of his booking and showed me a portrait of the intended, Miss Tennant, I hoped she would make a good tennant. The 22nd, quaiet and frosty, high wind with snowing and blowing. James Dey and John Fettes disputed about visiting the Cabrach, Fettes gained and of they went, it proved a hard cold day, still about 4 inches of storm the 24th. The snow all of the 27th, and plowing on to the end of the month this has continued with excessive frost since the 1st of December, a few days plowing about the middle of this month has been got but a closs snow I may say the whole winter.

February 1875.

Begins Monday, and plows going. All are preparing for tomorrow being the marriage of Mr. Thomas Duff Gordon. The 2nd came in beautiful, day, before ten am. flags was to be seen at most farms, and the tops of the highest trees, nothing but bustle and prepartion. Three bonfires, a barrel of tar in each. One at Haggieshaw, one on the Elph Hillock, one at the Hill of Shenwall. The Ball and Denner at the Barnyards, One Hundred and six at denner, three hundred at the ball, great rejoicing at Park, Drumblade & Hopeman. At the Glen, Peeblesshire, Charles Tennant the father of the bride, his oldest daughter Miss Tennant. Thair was rejoicing of magnificent stile. The marriage lasted over two days presents of great value and numbers was given to the bride, one of the pages of this would not contain them, Mr. Gordon Duff is in his 27th year. On the 10th was our rent day, on that day Alexr, Humphray, lower Towiemore was on the railway below his own house at 10 o'clock am. Being seen by his own son Thomas, and the drivers, the whistle was blown long and loud, he steped to the side, but altho he had his face to the train he stood stockstill, the corner of the engine struck him on the right breest throw him to the wire fence and he was no more in one second of time. He was 80 years of age, none gray bearded or bald headed you would have taken him for a man of 40. He was an elder of the Old Church. It is cold and frosty the 13th. but the plows going, the 20th. ditto. Oats is £1.6s per 40 lbs. I had my ley plowed the 19th. The 23rd snow began at 7 O'clock am. and has not faired at 3 pm. about 4 inches of snow. The 24th wind north, afull cold, it

was the day of the cattle, seed and hen show at Keith, the 26th day of Fummackfair wind east high and cold, a good sale but owing to the snow and cold not many cattle present. The east wind, hard frost, I see by the public prints, thair has been many wrecks by sea and railroads stopped by the snow, general over Scotland and England. The 27th and 28th, air closs hard frost wind east. No out door work can be done, but carting the dung. It has been a closs winter since the first December.

March 1875.

Begins hard frost and snowe, the 4th and 5th ditto. The 6th high wind from southeast Margaret French Housekeeper, Kirktoon House, Drummuir, the eritor Admiral Duff from the year 47 then flitted to the castle about the year 50, then with Major Duff from the year 58 to the year 70, then pensioned and a house at Sauchanward to this day the 6th of March she died aged 73 years. The 9th an afull day from 3 o'clock morning to 12 pm, of rain snow and wind. The 12th fresh and cold plows going in ley clean land weet, the air cold with frosty east wind the 15th. The 16th, at Dufftoon hearing a court, the 17th cold frosty air, prouning apple trees. The first week of March thair was five funerals and two the next. I do not mind so many in one week in Botriphnie. The 22nd fresh and warme, I see by the Banff paper a dale sown in the lower district from the 23rd to this time the 26th, some has a dale of ley to plow. A wood roup the 24th. The torneeps is beginning to grow, some green. The Oat straw is from 15 shs. to £1 in many places and oats £1.5s to £1.6s. pr 40 lbs.

April 1875.

Begins dray cold air, a fine season for sowing, many done but clean land. The 2nd was held for Old April market for the first time. It was always held on the first Wednesday old stile. The Wenterings was always sold of for the Aumoilre market in the south, thousands being annually bought up and driven thair. A fine fresh showr of rain the morning of the 3rd, rather weet on to the 9th, which was sleet and rain, no plowing, on to the 10th. Some sowing about the 12th, the 13th all my neeps up, 12 great loads. The 13th and 14th all; my oats and potatos planted, the past few days very quiate with mist, all my garden seeds in the 13th. I have been ill of the cold for the past month. At this time the heat is blows, the thermometer at 63 for the past four days and this the 19th, afull warme, man or beast can hardly work. The 20th afull hot, sun set read and firy, a deal of rain through the night. The 21st cold and wind north, my peas through the ground. The 24th I see the flowish on the cherry trees. A fresh showr the 27th and 28th. The colliers wages now down and iron miners too, many thousands idle. The 29th and 30th very droughty cold east wind, the breard is coming beautiful,. Jannet Duff died the 27th, hir husband shot 2 men at one shot Keith.

May 1875

Begins with sunshine and drought, a fine season for cleaning neep land on to the 3rd, our white and read cromed cow had 2 ox calves the 7th, at 4 o'clock am., a great drught and east wind by south. An old saying is that a poor man always loses the law, it is shown in the tichburn Claiment case, he has lost because he was Arthur Orton the butchers son. The gouk heard at Ardgaithnie the 2nd. The Major home to Drummuir the 6th, and visited me the 10th. Still severe drught, high west wind the 9th, 10th and 11th. The sails of The Victory found in an old store at Chatham, makers name upon the bonnet of one of the sails was then found marked, Miller, contractor, Portsmouth 1805. The industrail sails of the Victory (176) in which Lord Nelson led the weather division of the British fleet at the battle of Trafalger, they are full of shot holes as a potato strainer. The 15th the flying the whole day of dust was like the drifting of snow, piercing drught, wind west. Slight rain the 17th and the morning of the 18th, the feeing market the 21st. Best men Â£16 to Â£17, Woman Â£7 to Â£9, Boys Â£5 to Â£7. Afull high wind south east the 21st, 22nd. Still great drught on to the 24th. The dust is rising most afull upon the torneep land where people are working, on the upper land of Westertoon you see nothing but a cloud of dust. A weighty showr of rain the 25th, the 26th wind, the 27th small rain the whole day which will do great good to everything growing on our earth, I see the potatos coming through. The 28th to the end drught.

June 1875.

Begins wind Southwest for the first three days, very drughty, many weall through with the sowing torneeps. My turfs cut a month ago, one load home quite dray. Oats Â£1.7s to Â£1.8s pr 40 lbs, beef Â£3.18s to Â£4 pr cwt., eggs seven pence and the butter elevenpence. The hair cut of Geo. Ords pony and filly, both mane and tails, in the park. My neeps sown the 7th, betwixt the yard and wood. We had about one hour rain the morning of the 6th. The 8th wind west, strong and bright sunshine. The peas is getting to bloom and appearance of a good crop of fruit. The morning of the 11th, weighty rain, a son of Wm. Innes Forrester, died the 8th, aged 4 years. Some rain here and thunder to the east. The 12th fine growing days, torneeps sowing done, much cutting of the grass laid. The 16th I got home 9 loads of turfs in fine condition being the day of June market, warme with thunder and rain in the afternoon, some rain the 17th, getting home more turfs, fine growing days. Our white cow served the 21st, at 8 o'clock pm. the Majors bull on the Haugh at or below Cachanhead. The 22nd high wind Southwest and the dust rising high. The 23rd and 24th dry, the 25th dray and hot, the 26th some very weighty rain, much need. The morning of the 27th massons taking out the foundation for an augmentation to the Parochal School which will cost the sum of Â£714 strg. The sum of building Â£600 strg, built the present

school and the church for both. The masson Mr. Jas. Ettles, Keith Â£573, plumber Robt. Wright Â£19.11shs., plaster Jn. McIntosh Â£42,10s., Simpson, smith work Â£7. Masson work, Wright, Painter work, Jas Ettles, the whole Â£714. The 29th dray and cloudy.

July 1875.

The first some weighty rain, our brown cow was served. Barly weall in care and many of the oats pointing out, the cherries was ripe the 27th, June and roses blown the 24th June, some oats weall shot the first of July. I had a wager with the school board members about the piece of ground betwixt an Ash tree on the top of the Dyke and Gullot road that they could not claim it for playground the old school being built within 20 foot of it. They took out the foundation over the March, had built about two foot high having on the freestone corners but behold, Major Duff put a stop to thair work, had to pull it all down and put the augmentation out on the west end. The roof and front wall to be taken down which will require other Â£200. The Board was too big to ask advice or show the plan to the Major, so I have gained the wager. The Major brought me five foot of Shugger Kean and two inches throw the 4th. On the 5th I went over to the castle to see an alegators head from India with beautifull hides of different animals, one of them the skin of a large serpent. On to the 7th, extra hot and great growth, the torneeps is leaving the hoers are so scarce that ls.6d. to 2 shs pr. day is given and most people are cutting thair pasture grass for hey or suppering to the cows and horses. Oats Â£1.6s. to Â£1.7s. pr 40 lbs. Harvest hands at Keith the 9th. Men for cutting and building Â£4.10s., Women Â£3.3s. to Â£3.10s. The morning of the 10th, weighty rain but hoeing in afternoon. The 11th, rain mostly all day and weighty rain the whole day from Northwest and shows throw the day of the 12th, wind west. I am a lucky man that has all my fire in the shead. The 12th, my brother John came here from Gamrie, all my neeps singled. The 13th very hot, the glass at 71 in the shade. Hey general in cutting, a weighty crop on some farms but not general. Many of the ley shifts a light crop especially on weighty soil. The 14th, hot not a breath of wind. Our brown cow served the 22nd, the second time at 8 pm. My brother John home the 23rd, rainy day the wind Northwest. The 24 wind west, but dray. The Sacrament the 25 dray. The morning of the 26th, our white cow served the third time. On a tombstone at St, Leonards, Cheapside, 1750

Beneath this silant stone is laide
A noisy antiquated maid
Who from hir cradle talked till death
And never before was out of breath.

William McWillie and son Alexander from New Aberdour here the 27th. Hot sunshine the 27th and 28th, the two days of Glass market, goose and all other kind of berries ripe.

August 1875.

Begins very warme the 3rd, distant thunder to the east, we had some weighty showrs. The Keystone of the school door to the noreast was placed the 2nd, the building going fast on. I see by the Banff Journal barly cut in both Banff and Aberdeenshires. Rents paid the 4th and 5th, the 6th and 7th closs air and warm, Mr. Duff called on me the 7th for the first time since he was married, Mrs. Duff a little sick the 7th, a good sign. A great cattle show at Keith the 10th, an afull number of people, horses and cattle, sheep, swine and pultry. Thair was taken up at the gate Â£102 from people to see the show, rain and thunder in the afternoon with prodigious heat, rather showry on to the 13th. Our white cow sortet the 3rd time the 15th. Alexr. Chalmers died the 14th at Broomhill. He was long farmer in Midtoon Bellyhack, He was weall edicated and sherud man but was not at church for the past 20 years was called Dr. Chalmers, as weather prophet. The 17th afull hot and through the night thunder and rain. The 18th weighty showrs through the day. Great preparations for the Ball and Supper at the Castle to be the 27th. The 19th laying my barn floor with sleepers and flooring of the thrown down school. This day the 20th the cupples set on the school and near done in the masson work. The Oats now getting yellow, some cut on Westertoon the 26th, and the two marquees from Elgin and Keith for the Ball and Supper put up in the Castle park, all floored with forign wood, was blown down, poles broak and ropes were toren from the canvas at 11A.M. men and horses were employed and all removed down to the Kirktoon green and or dark again put up and furnished. I went home to denner and on returning at three o'clock to give a little help I was overtaken by a runaway horse and cart in the Gullet. It was loaded with logs 18 inchs long by 8 through, before reaching me some of them thrown over the breast and coming in contact with the off wheel exactly ahent me on the side of the road, one of them struck me below the garter, threw me down and broak the split bone of my right leg, many of the logs being thrown 30 to 40 foot. Some people come past but I said thairs little wrong I go home myseile. I rested a little and home I came but was a little done out. The 27th Mr. Duff (177) came over to see me, urged me to come to see the Ball and Supper and he would take me in Mrs. Duffs pony pheton. I said one with a broaken leg was of no use at a Ball. Thair was 748 tickets given out, thair was above 500 sat supper. Thair was above 80 lights from the Castle down to the Kirktoon and 12 of Musitions all playing at once. Every thing came of beautifully. Rain the night of the 28th, ditto the 29th, and much rain the 30th. The 31st dray.

September 1875.

Begins the morning of the first frost and ice at the station as thick as a babee. The 2nd rain after 12 o'clock. The 3rd rain the whole day and the 4th weighty rain after two o'clock, many are cutting but now stoped. I am

rather lame but goes nicely on two crutches but against the doctor order. The 5th dray the 6th sunshine wind west many are cutting. The two ornamental large stones above the school windows put up the 6th, all vanity and great expence, they cost £2 each and 8 of them will be £16. The 8th many cutting, fine work day, rain through the night weighty, thunder next morning and weighty rain the 9th. The 10th dray but land weat, the 11th, sunshine some wind. The 12th air quite clear, excessive hot. The barometer at 72 not a breath of wind. My Hough always doing capitall, but still requires two sticks. The barometer at 74 the 13th, the 14th, closs fog to 12 o'clock. The 15th ditto the day of Summerives Fair but a small owing to foot and mouth desesse. The 16th air cloudy and slight wind some farmers about done cutting but none carried to the yard but some barly. Wm. Burgess began cutting to me the 14th, our woman failled, and cut out the clean the 16th and 17th, was hot and dray. The 18th, John my brother here. The 19th and 20th closs fog to 12 pm, no cutting in season. The new 81 ton gun was tried the 17th, at Wolwich 250 lb. powder, the ball 1250 lb. and penetrated the earth 45 ft. The 21st closs foug to eleven o'clock. I am getting my ley cut by Wm. Burgess the 22nd, cloudy with sunshine at intervals, thair is slight wind from north east, my leg always mending. The school massons is founding the towr of the school today the 22nd. Some people is begun to lead for the first time, the 24th, the wind from south east. Many people leading, many was stoped with the wind being to high all the stooks down, I put up mine in the evening, but all down next morning the 25th. Many leading the 25th, but rain at two o'clock but some leading on. The morning of the 26th, much rain and wind from south east but dray after 12 pm. But through the night of the 27th and up to eleven o'clock of the 28th, the wind and rain from the norwest was afull. The railways both Banff and Aberdeen stoped, the Isla having cut the Embankment at Grange, at Keith, at Boyndee round by Turiff, and Ellon. Guid Kens fu much further. Thairs been damage by wind and rain, the stooks was down and the rain got such hold of them. Some leading the 29th, but in bad condition. All my apples on the standing trees was shaken, I pulled some beautifull ones of the wall trees the 27th. The plastrer came to the schoolhouse the 29th, tho not all slated nor the towr built. Betwixt the night of the 24th and 25th, the Manse of Glenriness was burnt to the ground with all its furniture, the wind was very high. The foot and mouth desase is through all England and Scotland, and so is the potato desase. The hurrican of the 27th, has done afull damage in Scotland, England and Ireland, both with the rain, wind and lightning the damage is enormus, the morning of the 30th weighty rain.

October 1875.

The first blustry, the 2nd I took all my crop of, five ricks, the school Mr. forked and John George built, rain at night, Mrs. Cirmichael took hers in the 4th, rain at four o'clock. At Elgin a petition of 61 foot, signed by 1925

signatures to the Presbetry for a new harmonium. The 6th, day of Newmills Market and high west wind. The most of the crop now in, the morning of the 7th. Mr. James Dey and his men put up four corner posts on the school tower of oak 18 feet by 7 inches square all secured by cross beams by strong iron bolts at each joint. I am thinking if the wind get as high as I have heard and found I will see it some fine morning laying on the play ground. New Oats from £1.3s. to £1.4s. per 40 lbs. The 8th sunshine and high wind fine for leading and draying the ricks. Much rain the morning of 9th, the 12th hard frost, my ricks five in number all thached the 12th. Some rain morning of the 13th, sarking on the tower of the school. The 14th, rain whole day, the 15th, rain, I was at Keith for the first time since my leg was broak the 15th. The 16th, rain, the wind southeast past week, A son of Mr. Camron Newburgh died the 16th, aged 8 years and Mr. Camron himsilfe on Tuesday the 19th. The wind has been blowing from east since the 14th, and rain every day up to this the 21st, which is a full rough and weighty rain. Jean McWillie or Mrs. Watt, Bomiekelloch, has been poorly for a while past and no better at this time, The crop all in Burgess, Cachanhead being the hindmost, laissy brute. Rob Milne, croft Newburgh, has cut the third of his at this time the 21st. The 22nd high wind southeast small rain the whole day. Oats £1.4s, per 40 lbs. I fell on the corner of my work bench and broak one of my ribs, I heard the crack, it is very sore. The wind has left the east to the south and the 24th dray, the 25th, sunshine and hot. Since the 14th to the 24th wind east and rain every day. A full floods in many places England and Scotland and dreadful loss at sea both life and property, many parishes the crop not got in. The first slate laid on the upper storee of the school tower was laid on the 26th, at 15 minutes past one o'clock pm. dray some rain the 27th, day of our thanksgiving and rain the 28th and land very weat. The main body of the school got the third coat of plaster but two lobbies and class room only two coats the 28th. At the haugh Aberdour, Mr. James, Connachie, the famous bone setter died the 29th. He had from 36 to 50 patients each day of the week, a sore miss. Cold and raw the 30th and 31st. First rick thrashed 28th.

1882 Report

Botriphnie Public School (Banff).

A highly successful, appearance has been made. The work throughout is solid and substantial and there is a commendable activity and earnestness about it all. Order is excellent and the children show politness. Arithmetic is very accurate throughout. Intelligence good, Grammar of the third and fourth standards excellent, of the fifth and sixth standard good. Writing bold and well formed in copy books, on slates and on papers. Geography of the fourth and fifth standard very good of the sixth standard good. History very successful. Sewing and knitting much improved and now

highly satisfactory. Singing good. Latin accurate, French very audible. Domestic Economy good. Percentage of pass 95.6.

November 1875.

Begins cold east wind the 1st, the 2nd very high wind and excessive cold. Began flooring the school the 1st. Some rain the 2nd, dray the 3rd and 4th, I pulled my onions the 3rd, the school advertised to be opened the 8th, the windows not in or doors hung or the flooring laid in the class room, the roof stones and all the lead to put on the 5th, which is wind and rain. The 6th foug with small rain the whole day, I kisted three Bolls of new meall the 6th. The earth very weet but warme but on the 7th fully two inchs of snow and sleet in the morning and showrs of rain and sleet through the day. Now the 8th fully three inches of snow. Our new school opened the 8th, at ten o'clock am. lobbies not plestered and only the seats placed for the boys, none of the writting tables put up and the class room no seats yet. Locks and latches of doors not put on, most of the lead to put on the corners and rigging, all scaffolding is yet up to the top of the spire, no doors on the shit house and offices, I peity Mr. Hunter and boys. Farm of Mains of Drummuir let on the 8th to one Mr. Simpson, brother of Simpson of Clunymore, Auchendown new home from New Zealand having been thair for thirteen years. Still frost and snow up to the 12th. Eggs 13 pence pr. dozen, butter 13 pence per lb. One day dray and the next rain on to the 15th. Mrs Watt (178) Bomiekelloch always poorly. I see by the papers most afull rains in England and high tides has afull damage by sea and land, nothing like it for 40 years. The 19th, rain the whole day wind south and into the north, the 21st and 22nd, quaiet, the 23rd, hard frost. I was at a roup of wood the 27th, at Tenantoon strip and around the Pollices hard frost and two inchs of snow, quaiet the last three days with hard frost and two to three inches of snow.

December 1875.

Begins with snow and oats Â£1.1s. pr qur, butter 1 sh., eggs 13d. A trial of Henry Wainwright and Thomas Wainwright for the murder of Harriet Lane and cutting up the body into ten different parts, being convicted one year after the murder, it was done 11th November 1874. Henry to be hung by the neck till dead and Thomas to 7 years penal servitude, trial lasted 8 days. About 3 inches of snow the 4th and hard frost. Snow and hard frost on to the 5th, I had Major bidding me good bye the 5th. I see by the papers afull snow at London and many places in Scotland 12 to 14 inchs but no wind. The Major away to London the 6th. The 8th is some soft with rain then frost on to the 13th, the day John Munro, merchant, Fife, Keith died was married to my cousin, Isabella Allan. The Major gave a days hunting to the tennantry, only two roes and 13 hares shot, I was not out, but went up to the foot of Bellyhack in the evening I shot a very fat hare. The 14th and 15th. hard frost the 16th. quite fresh up to the 20th. Plows is working levelling the playground at this time, some flying

shows the 24th, making a potato creel at this time. James Dey, Forkins, his son Peter died the 29th. aged 5 years and 6 months. The weather is beautiful, like summer on to the end.

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Ardgaithnie Saturday 1st January 1876.

Begins here the first clear and frosty but the plowing going on and in fine season. I am prawning berrie bushes, most beautifull weather, Beef Â£4 pr. cwt, oats Â£1.1s. to Â£1.2s., eggs one shilling. The plowing match on Newburgh the 6th, thair was 41 plows, James Moggach, Bomiekelloch was first, thair was ten prises went to Bomiekelloch, cold wind from east. I had my shift for neeps plowed the 8th, very cold frosty day. Began to drive mettall for the school play ground the 9th, from Knocknebuk, frost hard to the 12th, the 13th and 14th hard frost. My ley plowed the 17th and 18th, cold west wind. The Massons building the dyke and pillars in front of the schoolhouse. The evening of the 20th, one to two inchs of snow, very hard at frost. Oats Â£1.2.6d. per 40 lbs. at Banff. Mrs. Watt (179) is very poorly at Bomiekelloch, hir mother is staying thair just now. The 21st and 22nd fresh, the night of the 23rd. afull high southwest wind. The barn, bires, open sheds, thrashing mill, stame engine, 32 head of fat cattle with a lot of swine, 500 quarters of barley, Wrights and Coopers shop at Milton distillery Keith was burnt down. The fire began at ten o'clock pm., Â£3000 but all was inshoured. Thair was a firehouse near Maltkilin at Mortlach and all the furniture burnt and at Aberdeen another fire, Blackies Works and I see by the Scotsman paper other five fires south of Aberdeen, all the same night. From the 23rd, up to the 31st the weather is most beautifull, massons working building the dyke and pillars before the new school. The massons is to Forkins to build 40 foot to his sawmill two flat high. The 31st beautifull.

February 1876.

Begins beautiful, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, then slight frost. Mrs Watt, Kelloch is still very poorly, Betty staying with hir. Cattle down to 3.10s. per cwt. Misty with slight frosts but the plow is still going. The tower of the school

only finished the 9th., Jas Read, Glack, driving gravel for the play ground. Quaiet and frosty the 10th, the 11th, about 2 inchs fell before 10 o'clock am. quaiet and frosty on to the morning of the 14th, which is a downfall of snow flacks, about 4 inchs before 10 o'clock. George McWillie. The 15th about 4 inches of snow hard frost. John Catanach cleaned both my eight day clocks the 15th. The 16th, fresh, the 17th, Keith Cattle show, seeds, torneeps and potatos, Kelloch had the second prise for fat stock first class, and first prise for best two year olds fat reared, near 200 entries, for Fools. The 18th, small rain whole day, the 19th, small snow flacks to 11am, then thick and broad flacks with high wind from north, about 4 inches or five o'clock pm. and still coming quite thick and closs. Not at church the 20th, so cold and frosty, the 21st, fresh and quaiet, 22nd, ditto. The 23rd wind northwest with rain, the roads and land extra weet. The posts and running beams in front of James Dey new shop put up the 22nd. The 24th from 7 AM. to 11 am weighty downfall of snow and high wind from northwest, it was the day of Dufftoon market. The 25th frosty and cold, the 26th, small rain and sleet the whole day, Sunday the 27th, sleet and rain the wind still east. The 27th was the first Sunday the Free Church was heated by a stove by subscription by the parishoners. The first spelling Bee was held at Keith, a few from Botriphnie of the Arastocracy was thair and came home all Droons. Mr, MacDonald, Inspector, was champion, he is one of the old school, his mother belonged to Botriphnie. The 28th, land afull weet, the 29th, day of Fummackfair fresh then from 12 to 2 o'clock weighty rain but few cattle sold, in the spirit trade a good, a very good clearance was made. Every ones shoos spoiled and the doups of britches and the backs of coats was a pitiful, sight, both Taylors and other machinests was iksy pigusy.

March 1876.

The first and second quite fresh most of the snow has disappeared, the roads afull soft, the wind west with driving showers of rain. Our school examined by Mr. Stewart, Government Inspector, the 7th, high wind from west, flying showers of snow and sleet, the land very weet, no plowing. The 8th soft the roads are afull with dubs, the 9th, snow began 4 A.M. and rained snow the whole day to 7 o'clock P.M. about 9 inches deep. The 10th, sleety showers the whole day. Upon the night of the 8th, a soree at the Free Church, the proceeds to pay the debt on the heating aperatus. The wind norwest for the past three days. Thair was an ugly advertisement in Banff paper about Fummackfair on the 7th, said to be by Alexr. Gordon at Westertoon. His pride is above his manners, he is the prodigal son of Austerilia who spent his birthright. Saturday the 11th, showers of snow through the forenoon, quaiet and frosty at night. Beef Â£3.10s. to Â£3.15s. pr. cwt., oat meal Â£1. The 16th snowed to ten A.M. Mrs. Watt, Bomiekelloch, much weaker and very poorly. A dale of snow fell the night and morning of the 17th. The 11 train past at halph twelve today the 17th, hard frost after 12 wind high and downfall blowing hard.

Thair was a spelling to be at the school this night but owing to the wind and snow it is posponed the scholars carrying the news of the stop. Upon the 18th, flying showrs to 4 P.M. from Norwest the wind rose to almost a gale, the snow fell thick and fast to eleven o'clock. Our railway kept clear but the Banff - Turiff, Great North, the Highland and Sutherland Catness snowed up from 6 to 16 foot. Many passengers had sit in the carriages through the night cold and hungry. We have about six inches depth being blown into the hollows, flying showrs of snow the 21st, the snow is little deeper owing to the sun. I went down to Bomiekelloch the 24th, fresh, the roads being one foot of deepness of gour and slush, I was three days or my old broaken hough forgot the journey. Fresh the 25th and 26th, roads and land terrible weet. Our Spelling Bee is to come of on Friday the 31st. It is said that Alexr, Garden, Westerton, has eight days sate at the dictionary preparing his cranium with store for the Spelling Bee. He may put in his cranium something with the spoon but the spoon will take little out of the said organ. Tuesday the 28th, high wind, noreast, cold with sleety showrs, in the afternoon worse. On Friday 31st, our Spelling Bee, the braggard hands all put down those in the younger classes, 1st, Geo. Smith, Pachalls, 2nd, Jas. Mitchell, Bodinfinach, 3rd, Alex. Stewart, Midthird, Adult class 1st, Mary Garden, 2nd, Jean George, servant Blackmore, 3rd Jean Carmichael, Ludge. The Royal Class 1st Joseph Moggach, Mains, 2nd, James Dey, Older of Forkins, Hurrah, 3rd, James Cruickshank, Tenrod.

April 1876.

Begins fresh and warm, meddow of Turffhillock sowed the 3rd. The 4th, 5th and 6th sowing is general. On the 8th Mr. Hunter, schoolmaster, and me went to Elgin to see the ruins of the Cathedral, the Duke of Gordon and Russian cannon on the top of Ladyhill, very warm sunshine. The 9th small rain through the day, the 10th, about one inch of snow, the 11th about 4 inch, excessive cold at 4 P.M. closs downfall of snow. The 12th in the morning 5 inches of snow with hard frost. The morning of the 13th, clear but about 10 o'clock air closs and downfall from northwest.

Aberdeen accident about the first of the month, a ferry boat crossing the Dee at Torry Aberdeen was swamped with upwards 72 persons mostly all below 30 years was thrown into the water, 32 only saved, none more being recovered to the 12th, when 21 bodies was brought up by a new grappling implement within a distance of 300 to 400 yards. The 14th air softer and clouds brocken, length of day melting some of the snow, Sunday the 16th, the land free of snow. The 17th cold east wind with small rain. Complaints for want of both straw and neeps. Some rain and sleety showrs the 18th and 19th, slight small rain the 20th. The morning of the 22nd, the ground white, cold Norwest wind and some snow falling. The 23rd and 24th, dray and cold and rain at night, some slight rain the 25th. Some people sowing the 24th and 25th, land weet but the season is getting late. I have set Kaill the 25th, and dunging my onion, carrot and

peas ground. The 26th, dray and cold, sowing going on, the 27th, a full high east wind with rain. Mrs. Watt a great deal weaker. The 29th, cold and dray, the 30th, much rain and east wind but afternoon wind north with hail.

May 1876.

Begins cold North wind and the 2nd, in the morning white both hills and the low lying lands and a close downfall of broad flakes. The land very wet about one third of the oats is sown but many not begun. Straw and neeps are done with many and no grass, farmers are in a bad box, when I am writing this a close downfall of snow. Oats is £1.2s.6d. to £13s., meal £1 pr. boll, beef £3 to 75 shs. pr. cwt. Bettie going away down to the Kellock to see Mrs. Watt. Soft and dray the 4th, and some are sowing through desperation, some people have put out their cattle to grass. From the 4th up to the 7th, dray and warm, some of the farmers done the 7th, with sowing. The 9th dray, my clean ground plowed and at nine and 50 minutes P.M. my daughter Jean McWillie (180) or Mrs. Watt.

Bomiekelloch, died and was born the 14th of January 1829. Her age is at this time 46 and 4 months and was buried at Boharm in John Watts burial ground there. Isabella, my second daughter died the 1st of January 1854 aged 21 and Betty my third died the 16th June 1855 aged 7 years. The Father and Mother still alive 1876. This is the 16th and some remainder to sow in this parish. The growth was good about the 6th to 9th, but wind has been in the north since the 10th and the drought and cold has put a stop to growth. The slatter of the school is putting up the water spouts this the 16th, and the plaster has not finished the lobbies and schoolhouse rooms at this time. Our cows only out to grass the first time the 16th. My potatoes set the 8th, but now at the 7th, the head hurry at setting. Still a full drought, wind north and no growth, a fine appearance of flowrish on apple and other trees. The feeding market at Keith the 19th. The mens wages, first hand from £15 to £18, second, that cannot be called men from £11 to £13. Women, first £8 to £10, second from £4 to £5 who could scarcely wash a hippen or dishcloth. There was a small shower of rain at night the 19th, the 20th very dray with frost heat. The 21st slight rain, some swedish neeps sown about the 24th and 25th. Farmers putting out dung but the land damp for sowing. The morning of the 26th, much rain. Oats £1.5s. to £1.6sh. The 27th and 28th flying shown, the 29th high west wind. Mrs. Hunter twin sons the 29th, some past eleven at night, the Schoolmasters wiffe.

The following is the last entry in the diaries of George McWillie.

My Uncles, Aunt and Father when born and died.

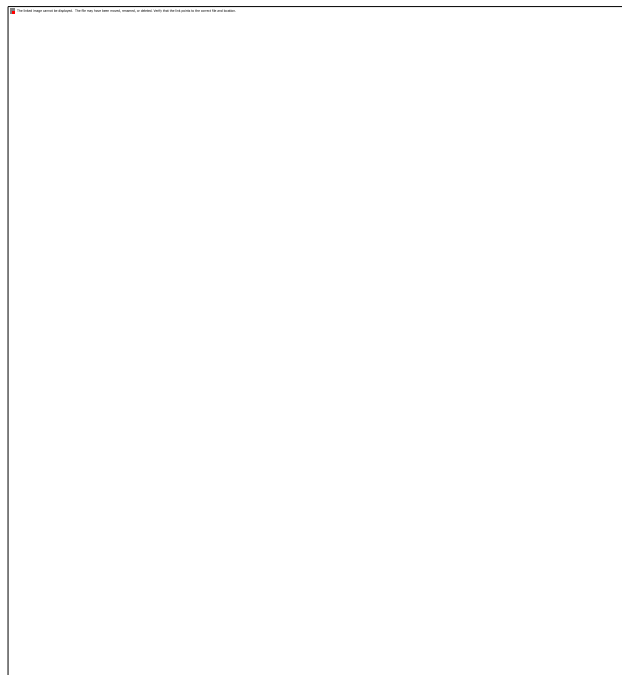
Helen or Mrs. Donald, March 4th, 1764, Schoolmasters wiffe Botriphnie, died January 23rd, 1840.

Alexr. McWillie Sptr. 26th. born 1770 died Oct. 6th. 1860

John McWillie October 15th, 1772, died Sept. 6th, 1848.
William McWillie Aug. 15th, 1776, died March 16th 1855.
Isabella Shearer, my mother born 1776, died May, 3, 1861
Bettys mother Mgt. Mitchell March 13th, 1769, died January 10th, 1858
aged 89 years.

George McWillie had arranged to have a memorial stone placed in Botriphnie Churchyard, in honor of his family and that weathered memorial marker can still be found today within the churchyard and contains the following epitaph;

Erected by George McWillie, Farmer, Midthird, in memory of his daughters, Isabella, who died on January 1, 1854 aged 21, and Bettie, who died on June 16, 1854, aged 7. Also his father, William McWillie, wheelwright, Midthird, who died March 16, 1855, aged 78, Also his mother, Isabel Shearer, who died on May 3, 1861 aged 85. Also his brother, Alexander McWillie, Millwright, who died on January 27, 1867, aged 49. The above George McWillie died May 27, 1885, aged 83. His wife, Betty McWillie, who died at Plewlands, Drainie, September, 1895, aged 87.



Tuesday Feb. 7th, 1928, A Banffshire Family.

The recent death of Helen McWillie at Ardgaithney, Botriphnie removed from the parish the last of a long line who for over many years held important positions in the farming world in Banffshire and Aberdeenshire. These can be traced to Mrs McWillie, a widow with a large family, who

took up residence in the parish some 150 years ago, having immigrated from Perthshire or the Lothians. The family all showed inclinations for farming and in spite of meager incomes and small returns from agriculture in those early time, all prospered. Three of the family tenanted the farms Towiebeg, Midton and Cachenhead, which in those days as now were considered the best farms in the district. Another son George, occupied the farm of Midthird, also on the Drummuir estate, and he built the desirable property Ardgaithney to which is attached a small holding. All had natural aptitudes for carpentering and were well known in those days as skilled wheelwrights. Deceased's father tenanted the farm of Forkins and there carried on these trades with market success and this was the beginning of that place being for many years afterwards the leading carpentering business, so long in later years conducted by the Dey family. This was when home grown wood was worked, foreign timber being then unknown, in these parts. Later this son John, removed to the farm of Hungry Hills, Gamrie, which he tenanted for many years, while the farmer of Towiebeg removed to Langanburn, Deskford, being succeeded by Mr. Moggach father of the present tenant. Mr. Joseph Moggach, J.P., Chairman of Botriphnie Parish Council. That farm therefore has now been tenanted by the latter family for over a century. Other descendants of the McWillie family tenanted farms on the Shenwell district, Cairnie and on the death of an uncle there, deceased retired to Ardgaithney, previously occupied by her father on retirement, where her father and mother died living to 90 and 100 years respectively. Helen McWillie who has just passed away was 87 years of age. She was married to Mr. Alex. Grant, farmer, Shenwell, and had been a widow for long.

The above obituary, courtesy of Gordon McWillie, Nova Scotia, Canada. Helen McWillie RN=119, born 22 November 1841, and died 12th of January 1928 was the last known McWillie family member bearing that name that resided on Drummuir estate. She was also a resident of Ardgaithney cottage, the home of George McWillie at the time of his death in May of 1885.

Robert & Jane McWillie.

We have been doing genealogical research on our McWillie family for over 25 years and found it to be a very rewarding hobby. I treasure those occasions when I had the privilege of meeting with or just corresponding with family members during the course of that research. Compiling of family history can only be achieved through the exchange of information with many family members and for which I am most grateful. Hopefully some of that pleasure and knowledge gained can be shared with other family members throughout this and other work that has been published. Readers are also cautioned that as much as one may try occasionally errors will creep into work of this nature and for which I take full responsibility. October, 2002.

(1) During George's life time he look a active interest in all the affairs of Botriphnie church, serving on many of its boards and committees and recording and reporting on major events throughout the diary.

(2) George married his first cousin Betty McWillie RN=20 at Botriphnie church on the 23rd of August 1829.

(3) George and Betty's first child Jean was born on Sunday 17th January 1830.

(4) Fumach fair: The parish residents would gather each year to barter their local grown products and hand made items. It was a boisterous affair where the men tried out the local brewed whiskey and it was believed that if the whiskey did not work so as to make the men fight and draw blood, a bad harvest would follow that year.

(5) Alex. McWillie RN=36 was George's uncle and operated Coldhome farm near Keith for many years. Many of their descendants immigrated to Canada and a number presently live in various locations of the United States. That line of the McWillie family have maintained the MacWillie spelling of their name.

(6) Jean & Alex, was likely Alexander McWillie and his wife Jean (Jane) Mitchell, see RN=36.

(7) Jean MacWillie married Charles Millar and was the daughter of Alexander MacWillie and Jean (Jane) Mitchell RN=36.

(8) Poland was annexed by Russia.

(9) The reform bill passed on 7th. July 1832 resulted in a redistribution of Parliamentary seats and gave householders the right to vote in Boroughs if paying taxes in excess of 10 pounds in rent and in county areas for those householders paying 50 pounds or more.

(10) Alexander McWillie RN=40 married Mary Taylor 20th, November, 1831 at Keith, Scotland. Alexander was a first cousin of George.

(11) Helen Ord was the daughter of Anne McWillie RN=38 and John Ord.

(12) William MacWillie RN=21 was George's brother and married Janet Taylor on April 26th 1832 at Botriphnie church.

(13) William MacWillie RN=231 married Helen Milne at Botriphnie church on May 1st, 1832. William died in 1841 in Scotland, his wife Helen then immigrated to Montreal, Canada with their five children.

(14) George and Betty's second child Isabel was born on this date.

(15) John McWillie RN=37 married Mary Symon on the 18th of December 1832 at Botriphnie church.

(16) Ann Riach was the granddaughter of George's Aunt Helen McWillie RN=100.

(17) The local men who attended the fair tested the locally brewed whisky at the fair and if it did not lead to a boisterous party with a lot of fighting which drew blood it was considered a bad omen for the upcoming harvest.

(18) Mary Symon, wife of John McWillie RN=37 gave birth to Alexander McWillie RN=120.

(19) Wm Duff was the Laird who owned Drummuir Estate during this period. The diaries indicate that George maintained a close and good relationship with the Laird, attending many functions at the Laird's residence as well as joining him on hunting trips and meeting with him personally in their respective homes on a number of occasions.

(20) Ann was the daughter of John McWillie and Margaret Mitchell, see RN=7 and RN=115.

(21) Robert McPail was the local blacksmith and George seems to have took a keen interest in his work, mentioning him on a number of occasions, quite possibly because of George's interest in mechanical items.

(22) Jas. Shearer was George MacWillie's maternal grandfather.

(23) Charles Millar was the husband of Jean McWillie RN=41, daughter of Alex. MacWillie and Jane Mitchell. Charles and Jean had married in Aug. 1831

(24) Isabella MacWillie was George's mother RN=19.

(25) Jean MacWillie was possibly George's sister RN=94 or his brother William's daughter RN=113.

(26) John Petrie was the father of George's sister-in-law Jean Petrie RN=22.

(27) At the start of the diary George signed his name MacWillie but later he was to drop the a from Mac, without explanation.

(28) Robert Mcphail may have been George's uncle on his Mother's side of the family. Note epitaph to the Blacksmith.

(29) There were small deer that lived in the surrounding woods called Roe deer and which the Laird of the estate sometimes allowed to be shot by the tenant farmers for their own consumption.

(30) William was George's father who he would help with his farming chores from time to time. William was also a wright and hand-made various farm and household articles such as knives and forks etc. for the family and for other local tenant farmers.

(31) Cpt Duff was the owner of Drummuir estate and lived on that estate during the summer months, but spent the winter months in England..

(32) It is believed that "the old goodwiffe of Towiemore" was Anna Ord the wife of John McWillie RN=6 who had farmed Towiemore farm. His son John RN=7 would have been farming Towiemore at the time of Anna's death and would have been living with him.

(33) Jean Petrie RN=22 was George's sister-in-law. She gave birth to a daughter Jane RN=118 in June 1835.

(34) William RN=19 was George's father who George worked closely with sharing their farm duties.

(35) This is believed to be George's brother John RN=22 who was living at home until their new house was built.

(36) Helen was the daughter of Alexander McWillie & Jane Mitchell RN=36 and had married John Watt at Bottriphnie church on August 30, 1835, see RN=39.

(37) A number of Bremner family members left Bottriphnie parish for Canada at this time and later inter-married with McWillie families in Montreal. Note Mary Ann McWillie RN=279

(38) Anne McWillie married James Petician RN=115 daughter of John McWillie RN=7 and Margaret Mitchell, married James Petercian . The name Petercian also appears as Peterkin in Bottriphnie church records.

(39) Jean McWillie RN=94 was George's sister. She married Alexander Gordon and later moved to Canada.

(40) George McWillie had learned the art of drawing blood from people. which was a common medical practice when a person was ill.

(41) THOMAS DONALD native of Banffshire graduated M.A. at Kings college, Aberdeen in 1790. He became schoolmaster of Botriphnie in the same year. A petition from parishioners accused him of going to tippling houses and getting drunk in school hours and striking the children unmercifully, also stating that "he uses a shoemakers foot-fang in place of tards, which is not common to be heard of in schools, so that by this usage the school is reduced from between 50 and 60 to only two or three children". The Presbytery met at Botriphnie on the 9th. July 1793 and examined witnesses and on 9th. July deposed him. His appeals to the Synod and General Assembly of the church fell and the school was declared vacant. He was afterwards schoolmaster at the parish of Edinkillie. George's father frequently made trips to Edinkillie and it would seem these were to visit his sister Helen who married Thomas Donald. Mr. Donald died in February 1836 and his wife, in May of that year, returned to Botriphnie to live at Cachanhead with her brother, William McWillie who was George's father.

(42) William McWillie RN=111 was married to a Janet Taylor and their son William RN=112 was born the 27th of March 1836.

(43) Wm. Watt was John Watt's father who had married Helen McWillie, see RN=39.

(44) Peat was used for heating and cooking in homes and required an extensive amount of work to dig from the peat moss, dry and transport.

(45) George played an active part in many of the church functions.

(46) George hired a number of local people, particularly at harvest time to assist him in his farming operation. it was still the days of threshing with the flail.

(47) George took a keen interest in world affairs and had subscribed to the local Newspapers, which he has reported on from time to time throughout his diary.

(48) A long carriage was a four wheeled wagon which where just coming into use, prior to that the poor road conditions had restricted farmers to two wheel carts.

(49) Ann McWillie and James Peterkin RN=115 had a son, John, born on March 9th, 1837.

(50) Alexander Gordon was married to George's sister Jean RN=94 and they emigrated to Ancaster, Ontario, Canada.

(51) General Duff, Laird of Drummuir castle was electioneering for a seat in the government.

(52) Jean and Isabel were the daughters of George and Betty McWillie RN=20.

(53) Helen McWillie RN=122 was the daughter of John McWillie and Margaret Mitchell RN=7.

(54) Jean Gordon was George's sister, RN=94 and was leaving Scotland to join her husband Alexander who had moved to Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. During this period there was large exodus of people from Scotland to North America seeking new farmland.

(55) Jean Gordon was George's sister who had immigrated to Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. It is believed that around this time Jean's husband, Alexander Gordon had died, cause unknown. Jean was later to marry a William Crawford and continued to live in Canada until her death in 1852. It is believed she had three children with possibly descendants still living in Canada.

(56) The goodwife of Mains verry ill was Margaret Mitchell, wife of John McWillie RN=7. John and Margaret continued to live at Mains of Towiebeg farm, which was the first farm the McWillie's occupied when they moved to Drummur in the seventeen hundreds.

(57) The Church Disruptions of Scotland: A conflict within the church of Scotland began in the early 1830's and was basically about patronage; who was to have the most say in the appointment of the minister to a parish, the landlord, or the congregation. In 1834 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed a Veto Act which gave the congregation the right to reject a minister nominated by the State or the Landlord but later this law was declared unlawful by the Court of Session as it conflicted with a law made by Parliament in 1712 which established the right of Landlords to nominate parish ministers. This decision was upheld by the House of Lords and remained unchanged through various governments until in 1843 the matter reached a climax when two fifths of the ministers walked out of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and formed a new Church; The Free Church of Scotland. In taking this line, the new Church received no support from traditional funds which the established Church benefited from and had to build its own Churches and schools entirely from voluntary contributions. Many of the Highland ministers went over to the Free Church and support continued to grow for this new body at the expense of the Established Church. Those people who remained within the old regime were generally regarded as cowards or toadies of the Lairds. In 1851 a census taken of the membership of the various churches showed that the congregations of both the Established and the Free Church were about the same. Also about this time (1847) another body came into being; The United Presbyterians which later absorbed the Free Church and the Church then became known as the United Free Church, and then in 1929 the Free

Church and the Church of Scotland were once again reunited. George McWillie and other members of the family had taken a great interest and were active in Botriphnie church. The problems that developed within the local church were of great concern to George, which was reflected in his writings within the diary, particularly during the two year period of 1840 and 1841.

(58) Janet Taylor was the wife of William McWillie, George's brother.

(59) George's brother William and family left for Toronto, Canada on the 9th of April 1840.

(60) Ann Peterkin RN=115 was Georges first cousin, they farmed at Forss, Caithness, Scotland.

(61) Mrs. Donald was Helen McWillie Donald RN=100 the daughter of John McWillie and Anna Ord RN=6.

(62) William McWillie RN=231 died at the age of 39, he had married a Helen Milne at Botriphnie church on the 1st of May 1832. William died in June of 1841 and following his death Helen and her children emigrated to Montreal, Canada where they where first employed on local farms and later became farmers themselves.

(63) It is believed that George's brother William RN=21 at age 35 was killed in some type of construction accident in Toronto, Canada and was buried there. His wife, Janet Taylor, returned to Scotland with their three children. Later their daughter Jean RN=113 had a child named George Robertson RN=262 and a number of his descendents settled in Western Canada.

(64) Jean and Isabel were George's daughters.

(65) Many firearm contests and shooting matches were held within the district and it would seem that George, who obviously was a good shot, was a participant in most of them,

(66) John McWillie RN=7 farmed the Mains of Towiebeg and was searching for a new farm and shortly thereafter moved to the Langlanburn farm at Deskford. Also, George's brother John RN=22 took over the farm of Hungryhills near Turriff, Scotland.

(67) Duncan McDonald a schoolmaster was the husband of Helen McWillie and she was a sister to George's wife Betty McWillie. It would seem that he had a severe alcoholic problem.

(68) It was on this date that George left Cachenhed farm and took over a larger farm (Midthird) and it is obvious by the list of his possessions he would have been considered one of the larger farmers in the area.

(69) John McWillie RN=37 was married to Mary Symon and farmed in the Botriphnie parish. They had six children, of which a son George was born in 1845 and died at the young age of eleven years in 1857.

(70) It is believed that this John Watt was the father-in-law of Jean McWillie RN=67 who married a John Watt in 1855 at Botriphnie.

(71) John McWillie RN=22 was George's brother who farmed Hungryhills farm near Turriff.

(72) During severe wind and rain storms people would be required to repair the thatched roofs and mud walls of their homes in an effort to keep the cold, wind and rain out.

(73) During this period there was a major exodus from Scotland to the United States and Canada in search of cheap farm land and a better life.

(74) 1846 was the year when what was to be called the Irish Potato Famine was at its worst, having spread through Ireland, England and Scotland leading to severe famine in many areas which in turn contributed to the out migration of people from those countries.

(75) Jean or Jane Mitchell was the wife of Alexander McWillie RN=36 who was George's uncle. Alexander and Jean were tenant farmer at Midton of Towiebeg farm on Drummuir estate.

(76) George and Betty's third and last child was born on the 14th of February 1847 and died on the 16th of June 1854 at the age of 6 years. The cause was Tuberculosis for which there was no cure of that time. George's diaries indicate that they held a deep appreciation and love for their children and their deaths would have been met with the deepest of sorrow.

(77) This was the start of the construction of the present-day Drummuir castle.

(78) John McWillie RN=22 moved to the farm Hungryhills in the parish of Gamrie near Turriff. Hungryhills was farmed by a succession of McWillie families before it was relinquished around the nineteen hundreds.

(79) The present day Drummuir castle was built in 1847, however the estate of Drummuir has been in the possession of successive generations of the Gordon-Duff family for over 350 years, as follows:

Adam Duff 4th. Laird of Torriesul: aquired 1621
Robert (The Gallant) died 1645 (Battle of Alford)
Adam Duff, died 1683 (built Mains of Drummuir 1670)
Catherine m. Alexander Duff (no relation)
Mad Robert (allowed estate to fall into disrepair)
Archibald Duff (bachelor, succeeded estate in 1735 and built Kirkton house died 1788.
John Duff (bachelor, cousin of Archibald Duff, lived mainly in Switzerland died 1836.
Admiral Archibald Duff (brother of John Duff took over estate in absence of John) died 1858.
Major Lachlan Gordon Duff (cousin of Admiral Duff).
Thomas Gordon Duff.
Lachlan Gordon Duff. died 1914.
Col. Robin Gordon-Duff Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.
Alexander Gordon Duff.

(80) John McWillie RN=8, who was the father of George's wife Betty McWillie, had left Mains of Towiebeg farm in Botriphnie parish and moved to the Langlanburn farm, which was situated in the parish of Deskford, a small village south of Cullen, Scotland. Robert McWillie and other McWillies presently living in Sask., Canada, are descendents of that John McWillie. There are numerous other descendents living throughout North America.

(81) John McWillie RN=7 had been born in Botriphnie parish on the 15th of October 1772 and his death occurred in Deskford Parish on the 16th of September 1848, however the location of his burial remains a mystery with Botriphnie parish the most likely location.

(82) Jean Sinclair was George's cousin and was the daughter of Helen McWillie RN=100 and A. Sinclair. Jean had been born out of wedlock and prior to Helen marrying Thomas Donald in 1793.

(83) James Peterkin, it is believed that this James Peterkin was the husband of Anne McWillie (see RN=115).

(84) John McWillie RN=22 was George's brother who farmed Hungryhills farm in the parish of Gamrie. Isabell was John's 17 year old daughter.

(85) George McWillie was George's nephew from Hungryhills farm in Gamrie parish.

(86) Jane Moggach wife of John McWillie RN=8 died at Deskford on 14 July 1884 and we believe Betty was possibly her sister.

(87) Jean McWillie Watt RN=67 was George's daughter and had a daughter named Jessie born on this date. The family farmed in the nearby parish of Boharm.

(88) This Jean Mitchell may have been a relative of Jane Mitchell who married Alexander McWillie RN=36.

(89) Agnes Shearer was a sister of Isabel Shearer the wife of William McWillie RN=19.

(90) George McWillie had participated in recording the official 10 year government census during the years 1841 and 1851.

(91) Granny of Langlanburn, Deskford would have been the former Margaret Mitchell widow of John McWillie RN=7. She had been born in Botriphnie parish.

(92) This would have been John McWillie RN=22. John was a tenant farmer on a farm called HungryHills which was in Gamrie parish and the family memorial is in King Edward Church.

(93) John McWillie RN=8 of Langlanburn farm Deskford. He was the brother of George's wife Betty McWillie.

(94) Jean McWillie married Alexander Gordon RN=94 and immigrated to Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. Shortly after immigrating Alexander died and Jean remarried a William Crawford who was a farmer in the Ancaster area. Jean had three children, one by the first marriage and two with William Crawford.

(95) Margaret Mitchell was Betty's mother (see RN=7) and lived at Langlanburn farm, Deskford.

(96) Guano is a manure from seabird droppings. It was gathered from the Islands off the coast of Peru and was widely used as a fertilizer on the farm lands.

(97) Harry Millne was a descendant of George's grandmother's brother, John Ord.

(98) Isabella had been ill for over a year and died of Tuberculosis for which there was no cure at that time.

(99) This was the start of the Crimean War. Britain and France had concluded an alliance with Turkey and then declared war against Russia on the 27th of March 1854 with an unopposed landing in the Crimea and a siege of Sebastopol.

(100) It is believed that Betty had Tuberculosis and then developed pneumonia from which she died. Their daughter Isabella had died from Tuberculosis only six months previously.

(101) Margaret Mitchell, wife of John McWillie RN=7 was still residing at Langlanburn farm, Deskford with her children.

(102) Alex. was Alexander McWillie the son of John McWillie and Jean Petrie RN=22. Alexander was an accountant with the North Scotland Bank.

(103) There is considerable evidence in George's diaries that he enjoyed a wee dram of spirits from time to time and obviously kept a supply on hand. Evidence also shows that George sold a quantity of his grain to the near-by whiskey Traders. The selling of the grain was not illegal but the purchasing of the whiskey was a violation of law.

(104) The dates of birth listed for aunts and uncles correspond with dates to be found in Botriphnie church records and IGI index for those individuals listed. As elsewhere in his diary George has been very meticulous in recording family dates and information.

(105) The cause of death appears to have been congestive cardiac failure. The death of his father and the recent death of his two children had created a great deal of sadness in the home.

(106) Jean McWillie, George's eldest daughter married John Watt.

(107) This was George's son-in-law, John who married his daughter Jean RN=67.

(108) It is thought that this Isabella is the daughter of John McWillie RN=22.

(109) This George McWillie was the son of John McWillie and Mary Symon RN=37. They farmed Midton of Towiebeg.

(110) Alexander McWillie RN= was George's younger brother and was a wheelwright, a trade he had probably learnt from his father.

(111) Helen McWillie RN=39 was the daughter of Alexander McWillie and Jane Mitchell and was married to a John Watt who was a tenant farmer on the Mains of Cabbach.

(112) John McWillie RN=36 his sister was Helen McWillie and had been married to a John Watt..

(113) Margaret Mitchell was George's wife's mother and the widow of John McWillie RN=7 who originally lived at Mains of Towiebeg, Drummuir but had been living at Langlanburn farm, Deskford with her children after the death of her husband.

(114) Jean Mitchell was George's brother John McWillie's mother-in-law RN=22.

(115) Mary Symon was the wife of John McWillie RN=37 and they farmed Midton in Botriphnie.

(116) Helen McWillie RN=39 had been baptized Ellen and married a John Watt in August 1835 at Botriphnie parish. They had a son Alexander and a daughter Janet.

(117) William Garden was likely a McWillie relation through marriage (see RN=309).

(118) The Indian Mutiny had broken out in India and he makes further references periodically.

(119) Betty's mother was Margaret Mitchell RN=7.

(120) Jean McWillie Watt RN=67 had their second child.

(121) Margaret Mitchell was the wife of John McWillie RN=7 and was buried at Botriphnie Church.

(122) Admiral Duff was the Laird of Drummuir estate and lived in Drummuir Castle. He was buried at Botriphnie church on his death in 1858.

(123) William McWillie RN=111 was George's nephew, the son of his brother William McWillie RN=21.

(124) In the original writing George had hand drawn the eclipse in the lines of his writings.

(125) Isabella McWillie was the daughter of John McWillie and Jean Petrie RN=22 who farmed Hungryhills near Turriff. George had hired various relatives as farm labourers from time to time.

(126) Jean (Jane) McWillie RN=118 married George Legge at Gamrie parish on May 6th, 1885. She was the daughter of John & Jean McWillie RN=22 who farmed Hungryhills near Turriff. Harry Stephen RN=342 of Scotland who's photographs have been used throughout this work is a grt., grt., grt., grandson to Jean McWillie.

(127) The month of August of 1858 the ancestors of the present day owners of Drummuir castle moved into the castle. There was a major welcoming celebration held by the local tenants.

(128) This would have been Donati 's comet.

(129) Isabella was the daughter of John McWillie and Jean Petrie RN=22. Isabella married an Alexander Grant at Gamrie parish on the 16th of December 1858.

(130) Helen McWillie McDonald was George's wife's sister (see RN=122) and had led a hard life suffering from depression not helped by an alcoholic husband who had been a schoolmaster and died leaving her destitute.

(131) Alexander McWillie RN=40 was George's cousin who farmed Coldhome farm near Keith. It is thought that the farm may have been in the Fife estate which was next to Drummuir estate.

(132) Alexander McWillie was born in September of 1770 at the Mains of Towiebeg farm in the parish of Botriphnie. He lived to the age 90. His parents were John McWillie and Anna Ord RN=6.

(133) It Is obvious that George took a great interest in the development of his community as he held a number of positions not only on the local school Board but also with the local Botriphnie church which in those days exercised a large influence within the community.

(134) Alexander McWillie RN=36 was born and lived all his life in Drummuir. He was a farmer on the Midton of Towiebeg farm.

(135) The Keith Dufftown Railway, often referred to as The Whisky Line, was opened in 1862 and closed in the railways reorganisation in 1985. In 2001it was reopened by KDRA (Keith & Dufftown Railway Association) as a Heritage railway. It is an eleven mile line linking the World's Whisky Capital, Dufftown, to the market town of Keith. It passes through some of Scotland most picturesque scenery.

(136) Alexander McWillie RN=120 son of John and Mary McWillie RN=37 was killed in Belfast, Ireland. He was a young man married to E. Paterson and had three children for which we are lacking information.

(137) Isabella Shearer was born in 1776 and married George's father William McWillie RN=19 in 1799 at Botriphnie Church. She lived to be over 84 years of age and is another example of longevity that can be found in McWillie ancestors!.

(138) Prince Consort Albert born In 1819 and died on the 14th December 1861. Queen Victoria, Queen of England and Scotland was to continue her rule for a number of years.

(139) This child, a son, was the third child of Jean and John Watt RN=67.

(140) John Watt of Auchmadies was John Watts father who had married Jean McWillie RN=67.

(141) It is believed that Helen Pirie was a sister to George's brother John's wife Jane Petrie RN=22.

(142) William McWillie RN=111 was the son of William McWillie and Janet Taylor RN=21.

(143) Civil war had broke out in the United States in 1861 and continued into 1862 with Union forces capturing Fort Henry, Roanoke Island, Fort Donelson, Jacksonville and New Orleans; they had been defeated at the second battle of Bull Run and Fredericksburg. The "Emancipation Proclamation" was declared and was to become effective Jan. 1st 1863, all slaves held in rebelling territory declared free.

(144) The Clochforbie farm in Gamrie parish referred to here is the only farm in Scotland still being farmed by a McWillie Descendant.

(145) William McWillie RN=111 married Janet Taylor on this date near Stonehaven, Scotland.

(146) Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States and the Civil war was continuing. Lincoln had earlier issued the Emancipation Proclamation for Jan.1st and it was also the year he made his Gettysburg address.

(147) It would seem that George continued to take great interest in the old tradition of drinking whiskey at Fummack Fair, which was thought to ensure a good harvest in the coming year.

(148) Isabella Gill, wife of George McWillie RN=23 died on the 2nd of April 1864. They were tenant farmers on Clackforbie farm. Later George married an Isabella MacDonald.

(149) George had recorded the birth of a son by his daughter Jean named William on Sept. 22nd 1857. it is believed that he died and this child was given the same name, which was not an uncommon practice.

(150) Outbreak of the Boer war.

(151) The large silver toddy jug is still displayed on the mantle of a McWillie home in Scotland.

(152) This 2nd Reform Bill was passed in 1867 and conferred the right to vote on householders paying poor rates, on lodgers paying 10 pounds a year and to tenants paying 12 pounds.

(153) Anne McWillie RN=115 was the daughter of John McWillie and Margaret Mitchell and had married James Peterkin on the 5th December 1835 at Botriphnie church.

(154) George McWillie RN=22 was George's nephew and this marriage to Isabella McDonald was his second marriage. His first wife Isabella Gill had died in 1864.

(155) Helen McWillie RN=39 had been born in 1802, baptised Ellen and married John Watt in 1835 at Botriphnie church, farmed Mains of Cabbach, Boharm and was buried at Elgin, Scotland.

(156) Alexander McWillie was George's brother. Born in April of 1817, he lived with his father in Botriphnie parish and died in January of 1867 at the age of 50 after a brief illness. There is no record found of a marriage for Alexander McWillie. He was buried with Isabella McWillie, his mother, at Botriphnie church.

(157) Betty Watt was the daughter of Jean and her husband John Watt RN=67 who farmed in nearby Boharm parish.

(158) This would have been John McWillie RN=8 of Langlanburn farm, Deskford.

(159) Queen Victoria was noted for her detailed notes made as she visited various places throughout England and Scotland. Her notes on this particular visit can be found following the December 1867 entry of George's diary.

(160) Disraeli became British Prime Minister but later that same year he was replaced by William Gladstone.

(161) Jean McWillie was George's daughter RN=67.

(162) George McWillie RN=23 and his second wife Isabella McDonald had a son John born in September of 1867. George farmed in the parish of Gamrie.

(163) The Alexander McWillie referred to was Alexander McWillie who had married Margaret McGlashan RN=107 in Perth, Scotland. He was the son of Alexander McWillie and Mary Taylor RN=40 who farmed Coldhome farm

near Keith, Scotland. The family emigrated to Canada and their descendants now live in the United States.

(164) It is thought that George was referring to a relationship through marriage of Jane Moggach who had married John McWillie RN=8. John McWillie was Betty's brother.

(165) Alexander McWillie was the son of John McWillie and Jane Petrie RN=22. He was born in January 1837 and was employed as an accountant at various bank branches in Scotland and obviously well liked. Although he had a girl friend in Keith he never married.

(166) Helen Petrie was a sister to Jane Petrie who was married to John McWillie RN=22.

(167) John McWillie RN=22 was installing a memorial marker at Botriphnie graveyard on the grave of his son Alexander, who had died on the 3rd of March 1869.

(168) During our family research the above recorded inscription is the earliest confirmed McWillie ancestor that has been discovered. Inveravon parish Churchyard is the burial place of William McWillie his wife Ketren Gordon. Other McWillie members have been found however their connection to William has not been determined.

(169) Helen was George's niece and married Alexander Grant RN=119 at the Gamrie parish church on May the 24th. She died in 1928 at Ardgathney in Drummur.

(170) This would have been Jane, Ann and William McWillie, children of John McWillie and Jane Moggach RN=8.

(171) George took an interest in following the Franco-Prussian war that had broken out in Europe in 1870 and concluded in 1871 when France signed an armistice that ceded Lorraine to Germany and paid five billion francs.

(172) John McWillie who was married to Jean Petrie RN=22 was George's brother and was a tenant farmer in Gamrie parish.

(173) Isabella and Helen were daughters of the above John McWillie and Jane Petrie RN=22.

(174) Helen McWillie or Mrs. Grant was the daughter of George's brother John RN=119. Note Helen McWillie's obituary.

(175) John Watt was married to George's oldest daughter Jean and was a tenant farmer in the nearby parish of Boharm.

(176) Lord Nelson's future flagship HMS. Victory was launched in 1765 and was commanded by Nelson in the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Cape of Vincent as well as the historical sea battle of 1798 in which the French Fleet was destroyed in Abukir Bay. It is obvious that George had a great interest in these historical events and has referred to a number of them throughout the diaries.

(177) The visit of Major Duff to George's home to urge him to attend the Ball even though George had a broken leg from the accident a few days earlier would indicate that he prized George's friendship

(178) Jean Watt was George and Betty's daughter and it would seem that George lost interest in the recording of events shortly after Jean's death. It is interesting to note his signature following the last entry in December of 1875.

(179) Mrs Watt (Jean) was George's last surviving daughter.

(180) The death of Jean Watt the last of George's daughters, in January of 1876 seems to have been a very sad and tragic event in the life of George and his wife Betty. Following her death he seemed to have lost interest in the diaries with the last entry being made in the following May of that year. George lived for another nine years, dying in May 1885 while still living at Ardgathney on Drummuir estate. His wife Betty lived another nineteen years, dying in September of 1895 while living at Plewlands, Duffus, Scotland. After working many hours with George's diaries one can only conclude that he would have been greatly honoured to know that his diaries survived and continue to be of great interest to a number of McWillie family members as well as others in society.

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