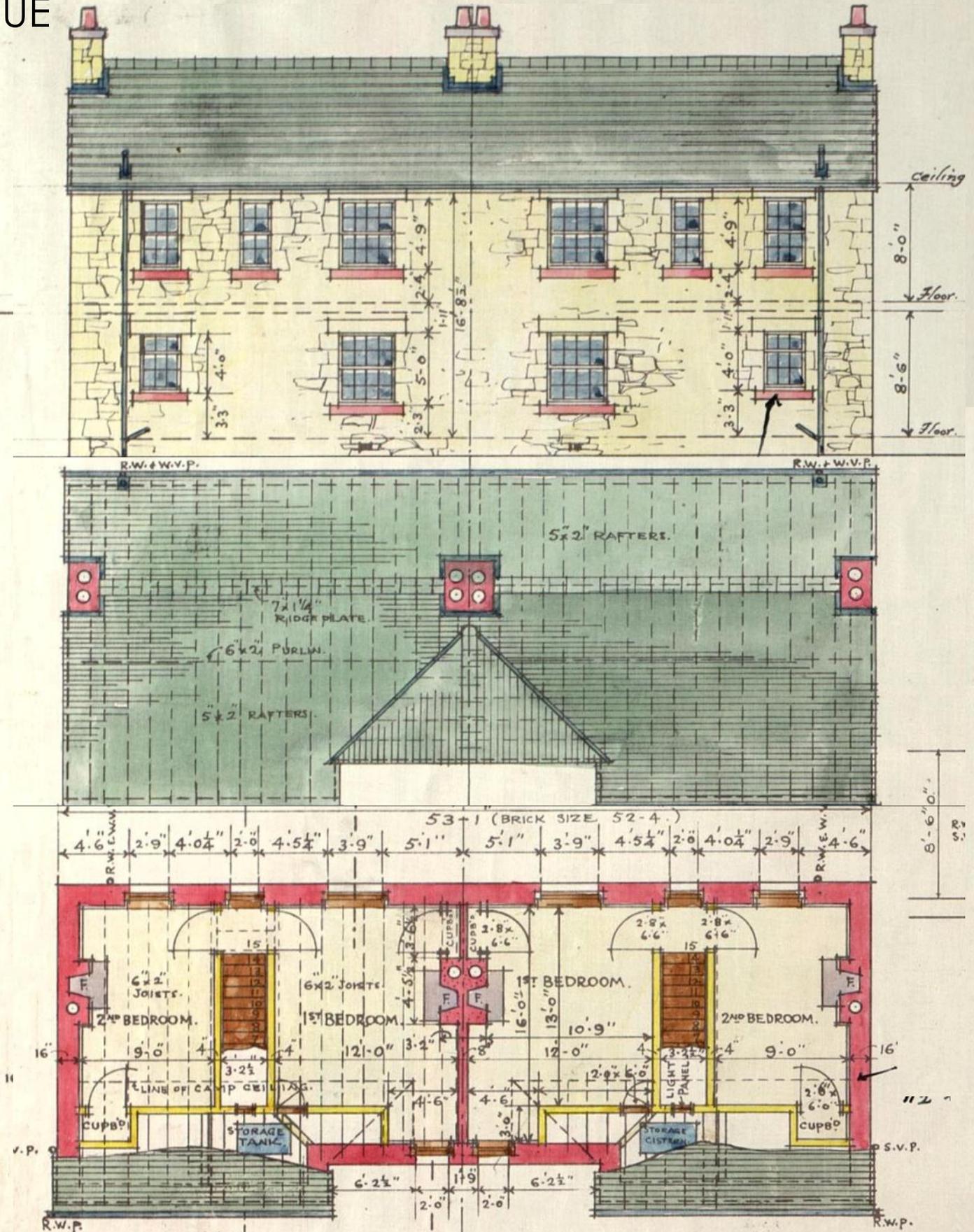


BROADSHEET

ISSUE
24



*omit Straps & batts
on Brick houses.*

FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



WELCOME TO THE ISSUE (number 24)

Visiting an archive is probably the closest any of us are likely to get to time travel—at least in one direction. For those who have moved backwards through the records, and for those who are thinking about getting started, a quote from Douglas Adams, author of *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* won't go amiss: *One of the major problems encountered in time travel is not that of accidentally becoming your own father or mother. There is no problem involved in becoming your own father or mother that a broad-minded and well-adjusted family can't cope with. There is no problem about changing the course of history—the course of history does not change because it all fits together like a jigsaw. All the important changes have happened before the things they were supposed to change and it all sorts itself out in the end.* Like most good advice, this is at first alarming but ultimately, reassuring. We cannot change the past, but with archives we can make truly novel discoveries about past events and lives.

The search for Private Gibson (page 9) and the Digital Nomad's (aka Andrew Evans) quest to uncover his Scottish roots (page 4) shows that archival time travel can be fascinating, challenging and potentially addictive. So never fear, though we might find ourselves to be part of a family that is not exactly broad-minded or well adjusted, there's no changing it. Besides, rowdy, eccentric and puzzling families are more fun and interesting to travel back in time to meet...

The Editorial Team

www.scottisharchives.org.uk

Follow us [@ScotsArchives](https://twitter.com/ScotsArchives)



PATH OF SELF DISCOVERY

Travels with National Geographic's **Digital Nomad**

To me all archives smell the same—the smell of very old paper and canvas, old carpet, old air. It's the smell of old milk and the scent of history and like a hound sniffing the air, I followed the trail to the domed research room inside the National Records of Scotland.

Genealogy is nothing less than serious detective work. For me there were no black sedans or smoking guns, but I did have my little black notebook and half-pencil, and over the course of the day I was dealt many, many false leads.

I knew the man's name and even his supposed date of birth, but this is usually never enough. Tracking down written proof of a man long dead takes patience and sleuthing. I had come to the [ScotlandsPeople Centre](#) in Edinburgh to unravel a personal mystery but as I sat in front of a computer searching their incomparable database, I felt a little less hope in connecting present-day me to my family's Scottish roots.

I have three different Scottish branches in my family tree—three different travelers who left for America at different times. Those of us who are Scottish take pride in our heritage, we brandish our tartan and get teary with the bagpipes, and yet so few of us actually know who we are or from whence we came. I had a name and date, but now that I was in Scotland, I wanted proof.

Poking around in the past quickly revealed that the McGregors and Campbells of Glasgow are like the Smiths of New Jersey—filling up the pages of the phone book, or the database as it were.

My search through a few million birth records brought up nothing, and though I had the help of staff, we were unable to turn up anything from Scotland's national registry. Prior to 1855, all births, deaths and marriages were recorded by the churches only, so I imagine many individuals fell through the cracks.

After a while, I grew discouraged by the constant computer response, '0 Records Found', as well as false leads of same name, wrong guy. There were a lot of McGregors back then, but my archivist was an artful detective, crunching numbers and guessing at ages, then turning to the census records.

"He would have been seven or eight around the time of the census, so where did he live?" Glasgow, I remembered, and suddenly I was transported into the digitized spread of long handwritten sheets—a national profile of every individual in Scotland from more than 150 years ago.

Continued on next page.

“

... suddenly the past was opening up to me and suddenly, Scotland felt so much closer - a real part of who I am ...

”

“... all good travel is a path of self-discovery - to go somewhere new is to invite serious bouts of self-reflection, introspection and curiosity, leading to a stronger sense of who you are ...”

Scrolling through the pages, I read the carefully-scripted ink names, every one of them a human life once upon a time. And then I saw it—William, 7.

I was staring at the handwritten name of my own great-great-great grandfather, William Campbell McGregor.

I felt my heart soar. Immediately I imagined the scene on that early summer evening back in 1841, the census takers knocking on a door, standing on the threshold of a stone house in Glasgow, speaking to a man. Somewhere in that house stood a seven-year old boy, perhaps clinging to his mother's skirt—and he was counted.

Staring at his name on the 1841 census, I wondered if I look like him. There are no pictures from so long ago, but my mother keeps telling me that my dark curly hair comes from the McGregors.

From the census, I was able to confirm William's father's name (my great-great-great-great grandfather), Alexander McGregor, and with more searching, I was able to track down a death record for him—in 1872, along with his address in Greenock (near Glasgow).

Suddenly the past was opening up to me and suddenly, Scotland felt so much closer—a real part of who I am. All good travel is a path of self-discovery—to go somewhere new is to invite serious bouts of self-reflection, introspection and curiosity, leading to a stronger sense of who you are.

Coming to Scotland and searching my family history was a way of connecting the dots—linking bits of information to greater truth and confirming, in fact, that these people lived—Scottish blood flows in my veins. There is no way to describe the joy at establishing that link with one's past. All of us create storied versions of our family tree, but picking out the golden flecks of truth is so much more rewarding.

This will not be my only visit to the Scotland's archives, nor is my search over. Now that I have a trail to follow, I will follow it. I have so much more detective work to do, but right now I am happy, because I found William.

By ANDREW EVANS
Travel Writer, [National Geographic](#)

Image: Andrew hiking in the Highlands during his recent trip to Scotland

Stuart Harris-Logan is the Archives Officer for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with responsibility for the historical institutional papers such as student records, minute books and event programmes. In addition, there are a number of extrinsic collections which find themselves in his care (perhaps most notably the Jimmy Logan archive, the Ernest Bullock music MSS, the Friedel Keim research papers and the Francis Reid archive).

Why Archives? I actually began my career in libraries, firstly at the University of Glasgow and then later at the erstwhile Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). After completing a master's degree I began to work freelance for a number of private collectors, cataloguing their archives and performing basic conservation work. When, in 2011, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland instituted its own archive, I was fortunate enough to already have some experience of building archives from scratch, so I was very much in the right place at the right time.

What projects are you working on at the moment? The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's archives are not yet fully established and the priority at the moment is to get the main institutional papers organised and listed. The Conservatoire's predecessor institutions date back to 1847, so there is a profusion of material requiring attention.

Running tangentially to the newly instituted archives service, our Principal (Professor John Wallace CBE) is promoting the creation of a 'living museum' of historical instruments, augmented most recently by the acquisition of the John Webb brasswind collection. In partnership with our School of Music there is significant scope for collaboration, bringing archival music MSS to life using authentic instruments for which they were originally written.

What are the main challenges currently faced by the sector? Funding, funding, funding; the perennial complaint of all educational and creative services. The onus is on archives to demonstrate their value and pertinence which in recent years has offered the sector a platform for new thinking and creativity which is always welcome.



And the main strengths of the sector? Adaptability. In recent years archives have become less staid and more dynamic in their provision of information and services, which safeguards their relevance for readers and researchers in the future.

If you had an unlimited budget what would you do? Try to acquire the music MSS and personal papers of the UK's most famous composers: Britten, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Delius (I could go on).

Do you have a favourite item or record? One of the most striking items in the Royal Conservatoire's archives is a photograph of our late patron HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, during a visit to our scenic art studio in the spring of 1964. The photograph shows Her Majesty holding a spray-can, smiling mischievously, whilst helping the scenic artists create a backdrop for an upcoming production.

It is the only photograph I can remember seeing of the late Queen Mother in which she has her gloves off!





Glasgow University Archive Service collections are regularly displayed in both external and internal exhibitions throughout different University departments and museums. When the original plans for the main buildings on Gilmorehill by Sir George Gilbert Scott were selected for an exhibition it became apparent that the architectural drawings couldn't be used without conservation treatment.

As part of the preparation work for the exhibition the conservation team in Glasgow worked closely with the curators and conservators from the Hunterian Museum and the University archivists to assist with the selection process and, most importantly, assessed the condition of the objects. During the project the team held scheduled meetings to collaboratively collate various questions and answers with the main aims of assessing the condition of architectural drawings and plans, formulating a conservation treatment proposal and carry out the conservation treatment and to define recommendations for future display in order to protect the objects and make them accessible to our visitors and for future digitisation.

Art historical research (the image here features Claire Richards, postgraduate student in Technical Art History) and technical examinations, such as infrared reflectography and ultraviolet illumination, were undertaken to inform the treatment process and selection of materials to be used in conservation. Following this research a general work plan was established, although each object was treated individually to determine the correct approach depending on the extent of deterioration and the composition of the object. Removal of surface dirt was identified as a high priority as the layers of build-up obscured the drawings.

During the preparation for exhibition at the Hunterian Museum, paper conservators also advised on the environmental conditions; focusing on standards and lighting policy as devised by PD 5454 and archives monitoring statistics within the Darca Heritage system.

In terms of the objects themselves, we believe the results speak for themselves but other benefits have been identified. For example, the project has provided a better understanding of the treatment of large-scale paper objects and housing requirements of the diverse drawings and plans collection. Furthermore, it has helped to inform treatment priorities and a strategy for large records of this type that will ensure the overall preservation goals of the collection are being met.

Lastly, one of the most important elements of the project was the focus on collaboration and partnership. In particular, during the conservation stage our paper conservator established connections with students from the History of Art department at the University. This collaboration helped address the preservation goals of the project, and students' research was presented during a course about Gilbert Scott at Oxford University.

By ELZBIETA GORSKA-WIKLO
Preservation Manager, University of Glasgow Archive Services

KNOWING THE UNKNOWNNS IN PRESERVATION

In scale of importance - ranging between 1 and 10 - the Preservation Advisory Centre's 'Knowing the Need' conference (held at the British Library on 1 March 2013) scored ... well, 10. The publicity claimed the event was 'focussed on getting more bang for your buck in the management and application of preservation strategy'. The claim was fully met.

The core purpose of the conference was to launch, *Knowing the Need: optimising preservation for library and archive collections*. The Preservation Advisory Centre (PAC) has pulled together and analysed the results of no fewer than 86 preservation assessment surveys carried out across the UK and Ireland between 2006 and 2011. The survey methodology is statistically robust, and the resulting analysis is both informative and hard-nosed. Quite simply the PAC has delivered a report that is a mine of information about the state of preservation in archives, and it has done so with the professionalism that we have come to expect from it.

Of course, statistics are not everyone's 'cup of tea'. The report has made full allowance for those of us who do not see ourselves as primarily number-crunchers. It has pulled off the detailed statistic attractive and re-manner. The conditions and the report are available ... **quite simply the Preservation Advisory**

It is sometimes unknowns remain justify avoidance the daily grind pre-lenges. That ap-marginalisation for Convincing busi-larly at a time of straits, require tistics that prove

which to build further or point to challenges that must be met if unique archives are to be preserved and made accessible to a wider public.

It was this reality that led the Scottish Council on Archives to meet the financial cost of preservation assessment surveys in Scotland and the Conservation Services Branch of the National Records of Scotland (led by Linda Ramsay) to give the hands-on support to the archives that made taking part a practical option. The survey data for Scotland will be published soon. Some of the data makes uncomfortable reading, but the challenges will be tackled. The Scottish Council on Archives is committed to setting up an Archives Preservation Working Group that brings together professional conservators, archivists and the users of archives. The focus will be very much on practical solutions, on the incremental and often modest steps that can make a difference. Watch this space.

“ ... quite simply the Preservation Advisory Centre has delivered a report that is a mine of information about the state of preservation in archives ... ”

trick of presenting analysis in a visually markedly accessible ference presenta-*Knowing the Need* [here](#).

tempting to let the unknown, and to by emphasising that sends enough chal-proach is the road to any archives service. ness cases, particu-severe resource con-hard statistics - sta-existing strengths on

A FORGOTTEN HERO? THE SEARCH FOR PRIVATE GIBSON

The Black Watch Castle and Museum in Perth recently received a moving enquiry from two boys from West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver, Canada. The students' teacher had bought a box lot at an auction in Victoria and so acquired an old British war medal, which she gave to the boys. Saddened that a soldier's sacrifice had been forgotten and his medal tossed away only to turn up unidentified in an auction house, the two students decided to clean it up, find out who it had belonged to and endeavor to return it to the soldier's family. After cleaning, the engraving on the edge of the medal revealed its original owner as Private Andrew Gibson of the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch), and so their international search began ...

The boys assumed at first that Pte Gibson must have been a member of the Canadian Black Watch and so contacted them. It quickly became apparent, however, that there were no matching records and so the search was expanded outside of Canada. Pte Gibson's death record was found through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, which revealed that he had died on 21 April 1917 while fighting with the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch in Mesopotamia and is commemorated on the Basra Memorial.

Eager for more information so that Pte Gibson could be honoured at their school's Remembrance Day Ceremony later this year, the boys called for volunteers from their community to help them in their search. They

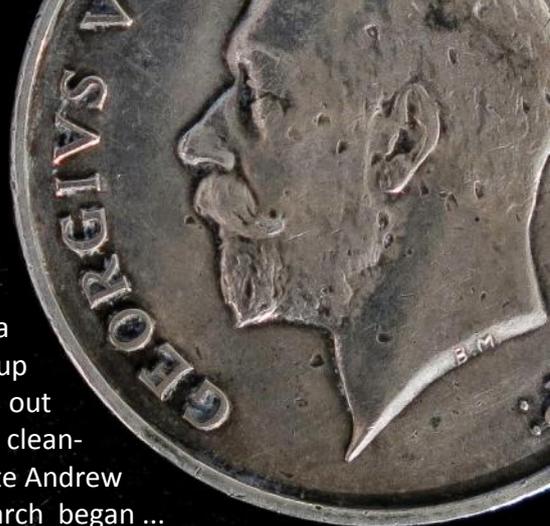
wrote letters to the editors of newspapers in Vancouver, Victoria and Scotland asking for help and contacts but this turned up no further information. A number of

local volunteers joined the search and through their connections the students acquired a copy of the War Diary of The Black Watch for the day

that Gibson died, which they transcribed. They also discovered several books online about the Regiment's time in Mesopotamia which helped them to understand what Pte Gibson's experience would have been like.

The team were then put in contact with a relative of Andrew Gibson who had undertaken a lot of research and developed a family tree. Through this contact and the information she had gathered, the boys learned a lot more about the life of the soldier whose medal they had found. They sifted through the records they now had access to, verifying as they went along, finding the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses particularly useful.

Still keen for further information, the boys' next step was to write to Prince Charles, the last Royal Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch and now honorary Colonel of the



“their dedication to the search has moved people around the world to help however they can”

Royal Scottish Regiment (in which The Black Watch exists today as the 3rd Battalion). This letter was forwarded to the senior living Black Watch Officer who replied with some information about the battle of Istabulat where Pte Gibson was killed. At this point the letter was also forwarded to The Black Watch Museum. By the time we received it, however, the research that had been carried out was so extensive that there was little we could add to the search.

There is now a [website](#) about the search for Private Andrew Gibson that is updated regularly as more information is uncovered. The boys and their volunteers are now searching for the Canadian link, trying to find out how Pte Gibson's medal ended up in Victoria. Their dedication to the search has moved people around the world to help however they can.

By REBECCA BERGER
The Black Watch Castle and Museum

“

After a bit of research, we have concluded this medal belongs to Private Andrew Gibson, who was killed in the line of duty during World War I. He seems to have been forgotten and we would like to honour his memory by locating his relatives, so we can return his medal.

”



INSIGHTS AND IDEAS

Want to be guaranteed a monthly dose of inspiration? Insights and Ideas, a joint initiative between Museums Galleries Scotland and Creative Scotland, has been running for just over a year and past topics have included social enterprise, social media, philanthropy and equalities. The two main aims of the informal afternoon events are to give people an opportunity to hear about work that is new or a bit different, that might give them inspiration and ideas for their own work, and to provide a place for people to network and make contact with individuals from other organisations that they might not otherwise have met.

Speakers talk about their work, in conversation with the host, to a room set out café style with the audience grouped around tables. Museums Galleries Scotland Research and Evaluation Manager, Heather Doherty, comments that “this informal atmosphere has really appealed to both speakers and audience alike. There is also a break half-way through when we encourage attendees to get talking with the other people on their table about the topic. This combined with the open invitation has been proving successful in enabling our attendees to make connections with new contacts.”

Insights and Ideas takes place on the first Thursday of every month in the Creative Scotland office, Waverley Gate, Edinburgh. It is free to attend, but places are limited so advance booking is recommended. If you aren't able to attend in person, you can join the conversation on Twitter.

The March topic was tourism and *Broadsheet* readers may be particularly interested that ancestral tourism was especially highlighted by representatives from Visit Scotland and also City Archivist for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, Phil Astley. Phil was invited to discuss Aberdeen's work on ancestral tourism in the North East of Scotland, including quite a bit of bridge-building between the heritage sector and the tourism industries. You can find out more information about their 'Routes to Your North East Roots' project by visiting the web-site.



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A GEORGIAN DOCTOR

If you haven't already done so, we strongly encourage you to take a look at Stirling Council Archive's new blog, *The Dr Lucas Diaries*.

The author of the diaries, Thomas Lucas, lived in Stirling and his entries cover the dates 1808-1820 when the good doctor recorded all sorts of interesting topics to do with the town, his family and business life, and local events as well as international affairs. Since January the blog has been releasing diary entries from 1813 and will continue throughout 2013 allowing people to compare contemporary life and events with those happening in Stirling 200 years ago.

It is hoped that the blog will be a growing resource, containing transcriptions of the original diary entries along with comments from guest bloggers and other useful background information. Assistant Archivist Jane Petrie said "exploring Stirling through Dr Lucas's original Georgian recollections will give us an unprecedented opportunity to look into the town's past through the eyes of someone who was actually there, and lived it! At the moment he's mainly talking about his garden and the weather but his insights into the Napoleonic wars are fascinating. There was also a funeral he attended in St Ninians which I was able to look up in the St Ninians Parish Mortality Register we hold and find the entry – it's wonderful to be able to knit the records together."

“...an unprecedented opportunity to look into the town's past through the eyes of someone who was actually there, and lived it!”

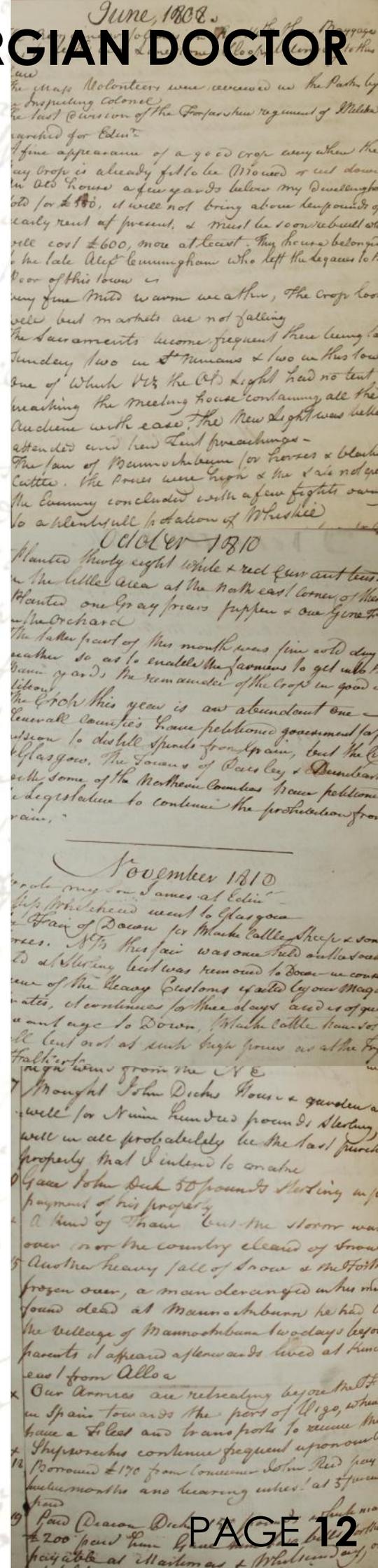
The collection in Stirling holds two diaries written by Dr Lucas and a Memorandum book. They were written before the first Stirling newspapers came into print and therefore provide an insight into local life not recorded anywhere else. As part of the project, Stirling Council Archive staff will be fully transcribing the diaries and researching the life of Thomas and his family and, through the blog, will make the diaries freely available online to an international audience for the very first time.

In addition to the blog, the service, as part of Stirling Council's Information, Libraries and Archives, must also be congratulated for being awarded the Investing in Volunteers Standard for their work with volunteers.

Volunteering provides people with the opportunity to be involved in the development and delivery of the service. The value offered by volunteers is recognised by staff who commented "they offer their time, motivation, enthusiasm, skills and sense of community engagement and allow us to undertake additional work, such as indexing, that adds value to the professional work that we do".

The Volunteers range in diversity from those in retirement, school students, full time employed professionals, those at university or applying, those wishing to find employment and trying to get their CV and skills up to date and some with disabilities and health issues which has meant they are unable to work but choose to volunteer. The Volunteers themselves express very clearly that they benefit from volunteering. One said "this is my hobby, a real passion so I feel very privileged to be given access to the archives". Another said of the housebound delivery service "I like caring for the elderly, they have very interesting stories to tell, they feel like part of my extended family now especially after all the years visiting".

You can find out more about the Archive by visiting their [website](#).



659 S. SKrit to scratch
 660 SKer-wup. Joining wood with a rope serving
 661 SKJug. to shelter.
 662 SKarf. shag. or cormorant
 663 SKorie. young gull
 664 SKon. oatmeal cake
 665 SKeb. straw basket for rubbing here in
 666 SKave. not even
 667 SKuff. to destroy surface of
 668 SKJo. open ribbed house for drying things in
 669 Skeelik. skuld
 670 SKail. scatter
 671 SKooder. to partly burn
 672 Slidder. to slide
 673 Slazg. could be used in many ways. for many things
 674 Sloo. a layer of anything
 675 Slokk. put out fire
 676 Slott. a shell and diet composed of fish liver, roe, and meal
 677 Slester to make a mess
 678 Sleekit sly.

679 S. Smush. fine rain
 680 Smueksit) walking as if in snucks
 681 Smoorie. cloud of dust smoke or snow
 682 Smoorikin. a kiss
 683 Smirk. sarcastic look or smile sort of sneer smile
 684 Sma. snail
 685 Smore. to choke. as with smoke or water
 686 Smueks. soft house shoes
 687 Smit. to affect. (infectious).
 688 Snirl. a rattle (revel)
 689 Snee or Snae. to cut bait
 690 Snud. the twine in a rope or thread
 691 Snipper. as snirl
 692 Snell. cold or (sharp)
 693 Snib. A way for a door
 Snippik. snipe.
 695 Snush. snort.
 696 Snoribane. one of the small bones of a pig's foot
 697 Snuil. stupid person