



## Fairburn Gardens

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**In 1878 John Stirling started on the planning of his new home and gardens at Fairburn and enlisted the help of Mr Archibald Fowler from Castle Kennedy.**

*Archibald Fowler was born about 1817 in Govan, Lanarkshire and listed in the 1881 census as Gardener (new) practical and landscape. In 1866 he was involved in the construction of the walled garden at Glamis Castle.*

John Stirling Esq

Sir,

I accompany plans of the proposed garden and buildings connected therewith, proposed to be erected at Fairburn; as also Mr Gordon's plan of the site and levels.

The garden will enclose about one and half imperial acres or thereby. I have not extended the garden wall to the west, as was proposed when I had the pleasure of meeting you at Fairburn, as it would destroy the proportion of the garden, and would not look well. If additional ground is wanted for vegetables or fruit a portion of it could be enclosed with a holly hedge and protected with wire netting round the outside, which would look much better than a wall, and would save a good deal of ground work as a hedge garden does not require the same care in levelling as a walled one.

The probability is that there will be enough of ground inside and outside the garden as shown on plan; and if Mrs Stirling wishes a flower garden, the place being well sheltered and very warm would be very suitable.

A terraced geometrical garden would suit the style of a house; or a modern English garden would suit well enough if preferred, not being close to the mansion house; either would require to be surrounded with ornamental trees and shrubs and connected by winding walks with the garden and road,

I have shown by pencil lines the levels I propose for the garden on Mr Gordon's plan. The finished surface level will require to be about 2 feet higher than the lower unsoiled level. There will be about 12 inches of soil on the ground, other 12 inches will be got in the vicinity, and by keeping the levels well down, a considerable quantity of gravel will be got on the ground for walks and roads.

The levels I have marked on Mr Gordon's plan, show a fall of 1 foot 6 inches to the south; the north and south walls to be level. I have shown a fountain in the centre of the garden, which I have not specified; as I omitted to bring it under your notice. As water will require to be brought to supply the house, it is probable that the garden supply will be got from the same source, if so, the fountain would have a very pleasing effect in such a place, and the basin would be useful for supplying the garden with water.

As the subsoil appears to be open and porous; I have not shown any drains on the plan. I do not think any will be wanted. The drains in connection with the buildings can best be arranged on the spot.

The plans of the principal range of hot houses you will observe have been reduced to meet your views.

The open roofed cucumber, melon and propagating houses I have made as small as possible to suite the purposes for they are proposed to be erected. They will be very useful not only for their special purposes, but also for storing and keeping bedding plants during the winter and will also be useful as feeders of flowering plants for the conservatory.

I propose surrounding them with an open gravel space enclosed by a hedge which space will be found useful for numerous purposes. It is not necessary that they should stand on the same level as the other houses. They may be a number of feet lower to suit the general average of the surrounding levels.

I have specified for the upper portion of the garden offices to be laid with flooring and formed into two lofts. These lofts are necessary to store away nets, flower pots, mats, stakes and a host of little things which require to be kept under lock and key.

I have got tenders which I enclose from the two leading horticultural builders in Scotland and have made a calculation of the probable cost of the other buildings without having very exact local information about £2150 should complete the whole.

If the plans meet your approbation and contracts be immediately entered into, the whole might be completed before winter, so as the fruit trees might be planted either late in autumn or early in the ensuing spring.

If properly carried out and placed in the site proposed and supported with groups of trees and shrubs, judiciously arranged, they would fit well into the landscape, have a pleasing effect and be well adapted for the purposes for which they are formed.

I am sir,

Yours respectfully

Archibald Fowler

Castle Kennedy  
Stranrar  
14th June 1877

**In 1878 the following are involved in the creation of the gardens.**

David Lowe, Architectural Builder and Hot Water Engineer

Execute all joiner work, painting, glazing hot water heating of range of glass houses  
W Macdonald is also involved in building the greenhouses.

MacGregor and Logan carry out the plumber work and installation of water pipes.

Murdo McIntosh, Mason, Muir of Fairburn contracted to erect garden walls, garden offices, fruit and plant houses.

Alex Mackay, Carpentry.

James Stenning, who had worked for John Stirling at Bridekirk House, Cumberland became the first Head Gardener at Fairburn. He had a team of labourers working with him, among them Alex MacRae and Alex Maclean who carted earth.

J.B. Banks supplied Hot Air oven for Greenhouses.

N.A. Company supplied the new railing and gate erected on south side of garden.

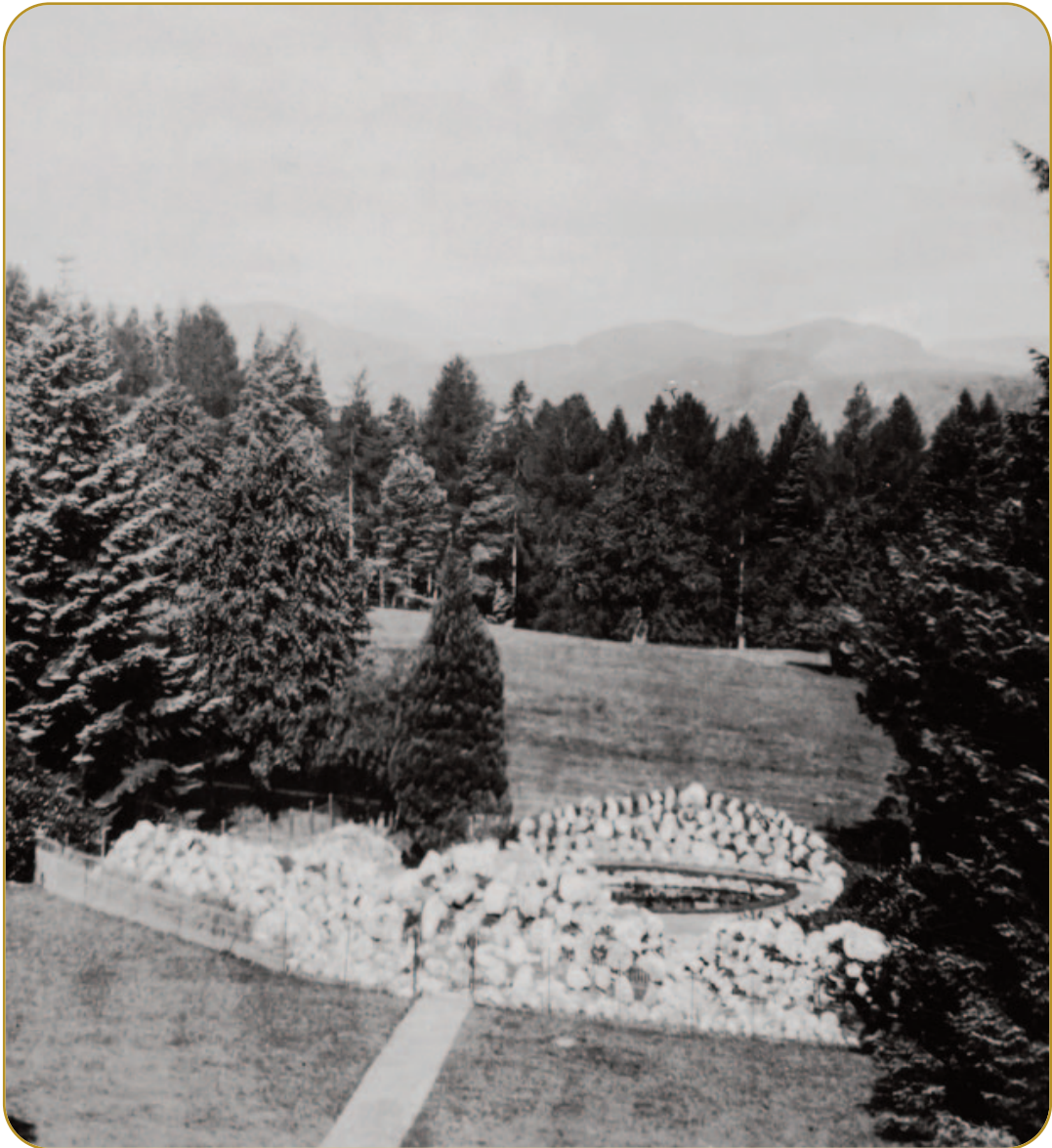
**Aerial view of Fairburn House.**



The house was approached along the beech hedge lined East Drive. If you took the path, first right, this led to the Rock Garden, created in 1910 when William and Charlotte Stirling lived at Fairburn.



Looking west towards the rock garden.





Charlotte Stirling – Robin Stirling – William Stirling.



William Stirling – a Gardener – Robin Stirling.



John and Marian Stirling c1900.



*The road, first left, is the approach from the Orrin Drive.*

Charlotte E. Stirling.



On the Orrin Drive which approached the house from the South.

**Taken from Kythe Stirling's Garden Guide,  
given to visitors in the 1950's.**

As one starts down the Orrin Drive... the rhododendron further on, with very large leaves is *Fictolactum*, and is 47 years old. Blooms ruined by frost this year, as were most of the hybrid arboreums just beyond. On the other side of the drive is a younger big-leaved rhododendron *Sinogrande x Regale*, which, flowering earlier, escaped the frost and bloomed well. The timely arrival of a very tall friend ensured that it was properly dead-headed.

But the lower parts of the shrubbery are a wilderness of bamboos and spiraeas, where, in earlier times, we had primulas and meconopsis. *Gaultheria shallon*, too, is hard to keep within bounds.



*From the house, walking west, very slightly uphill, you pass the shrubbery and the gate for the tennis court. The tennis court was separated from the garden by a yew hedge.*



About to croquet an opponent.



Organizing a tennis tournament.

## **Description of the Garden by Sir Roderick Stirling**

John Stirling chose an area some 300 yards to the South West of the house, which was fairly flat, except for a slight slope at the West side, where he constructed a garden of some four acres. Although I have never seen it, I understand that the first thing he did was to put in a major drainage scheme at some depth. Having done that he then imported a lot of soil from an area about four hundred yards away which was reckoned at the time to be considerably more fertile than the soil on the site he had chosen. Around the centre of the garden he constructed a wall which is about eighteen feet high in the form of a rectangle.

The North and South walls are I suppose about one hundred and fifty yards long and the East and West walls are about one hundred yards long. He placed two doorways in the North wall about fifty yards apart and between the doorways on the North side of the wall he built a fruit room, a potting shed, a bothy and a tool shed. In the basement he installed a large wood burning boiler. Along the whole length of the North wall he constructed Glass Houses in a lean-to pattern in which were grown figs, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums and grapes with the remainder of the space taken up bringing on flowers of many different varieties and possibly a few early vegetables.

In the centre of the East and West walls he also installed doorways. On the South wall there was a larger gap with tall iron railings on both sides of an iron gateway.

In the centre of the walled garden there was a Rose Garden and through the middle of it from the centre of the Glass Houses to the gate on the South wall was a pathway about three feet wide made of Caithness slab, in the very centre there was what was known as the 'Font', which was what I might describe as a stone basin about four foot high and three to four feet wide. Running East and West from the Font and the Rose Garden was a grass pathway stretching to the doorways in the East and West walls. On either side of those grass pathways were herbaceous borders. About twenty feet out from the wall there was a gravel pathway running right round the walled garden. There were four large plots for growing vegetables and strawberries, all of which were used for the big house, but there was of course wastage of vegetables. Round the edge of each of those plots was a row of apple trees of various varieties. The gravel pathway was lined on both sides with small box hedges about a foot high, which were trimmed by hand annually. In my day, I was born in 1932, on the North side of the South wall there were raspberries grown along both sides of the South Rose Garden. At the West end on the North side of the South wall there was a very fine red gooseberry bush which grew up the wall. Again, on the North side of the East half of the South wall there were two cherry trees and I seem to remember that on the South side of that wall there were another two cherry trees.



Apart from the cherries there were plums and pears grown up both sides of the walls of various varieties. The main entrance to the garden was from the West and both inside and outside the main fence were a line of Holly trees of different varieties. The main path led to the fruit room and on the left of it was bed of roses all the way along for a distance of perhaps eighty yards.

To the left of that was an area of lawn and to the left of that was another herbaceous border backed by a tall Yew hedge behind which were a couple of grass banks about ten feet high with a sort of platform between the two and at the foot of the bank was a tennis court with two grass courts and a Bowling Green on the end.

On the right of this main path was another rose bed with paving stones between the plants which stretched for the first twenty yards or so. After a short gap there was a Yew hedge on the right and then along the front of the buildings there was a privet hedge.

About twenty-five yards to the West of the main gateway was the sort of Tradesman's entrance to the garden, which had a double wooden gate on it. Inside that, on the left, was another block of glasshouses which were heated by a boiler fuelled with sawdust from the Estate Sawmill. As far as I know it is the only sawdust boiler in this part of the country, although it is no longer used now. Within that range of Greenhouses in my day were grown tomatoes, cucumbers and carnations. Many of the bedding plants were also started off within that block. In front of those Glass Houses were cold frames in which a great variety of plants were grown. There was a broad pathway, perhaps eight feet wide, leading from the Tradesman's entrance to the tool shed, on either side of that were beds covering perhaps a quarter of an acre where more vegetables were grown. To the West of the West wall was an area of about three quarters of an acre known as the Orchard, although I personally don't remember any fruit being grown in that area, other than strawberries and raspberries.

Outside the South wall there was another pathway bordered by box hedges and to the South side of that was a long line of gooseberry bushes of various sorts. Along the length of the South side of the garden there is also a beech hedge. Behind the East wall of the garden there were various beds including a bed of Azaleas and across the path from them were what was known as the children's gardens. In my day my three sisters and I each had a little patch of our own to tend and grow things in.

To the East of the main garden, there was another area of fully four acres, perhaps more, of shrubbery where there was a variety of Azaleas and Rhododendrons grown, some primulas in damp patches and a collection of very fine trees, particularly a Douglas Fir and Silver Firs mixed with Scots Pine and European Larch.

*The main gates to the gardens. The gardens were fenced against rabbits and roe deer and surrounded by a beech hedge.*



William and Robin Stirling at the Main Gate to the Garden.

*These are entered from a northerly direction. On the right you would pass the carnation house and 3 other greenhouses with boiler room attached. There were also cold frames in this part of the garden for bringing on plants.*

December 1913, Fairburn Carnation House to be built by George Urquhart, Hot-House Builder, 82 Castle St, Inverness.





Robin Stirling and a Gardener with the Carnation Houses and boiler house in the background.



The borders from the main gate to the walled garden, box hedges bordered the paths.





Kythe Stirling and her sister-in-law, Charlotte Stirling with large bunches of carnations.



Robin Stirling and the magnificent stone seat.





Roddy Mackay, the last Head Gardener at Fairburn beside *lilium martagon*. The bulbs were marketed.



Looking towards the north wall of the walled garden.

*On reaching the north wall of the walled garden, the garden offices comprising of the fruit room, bedroom, kitchen and boiler room, potting sheds and garage were built to the right. This is where Roddy Mackay would carefully pack lily bulbs in moss before despatch.*

**Taken from Kythe Stirling's Garden Guide,  
given to visitors in the 1950's.**

Garden – our biggest crop by three times in value and more in volume is daffodils, mainly marketed through Covent Garden. Next in order of value, strawberries, followed by bedding plants, lily bulbs and the double-white pheasant's eye narcissus, just coming into flower (10 days later than usual) scattered through the grass near the house and drives. Then lettuces, and cucumbers, close behind them tulips, chrysanthemums and carnations. In lucky years, raspberries and black currants also are counters. We have a new planting of the latter on another site coming into bearing this season, but fear the ravages of the wood-pigeons – which is the reason why so many young vegetables are netted. To ensure full development of bulbs, seed pods must not be allowed to form, otherwise visitors might have seen quite a show of rather faded colour from Crown Imperials, which have only just been dead-headed, and which are among the other items we market. We must emphasise that we sell only to trade.

An interesting feature in the heating system of the group of houses near the main gate, which is by sawdust dripping through hoppers into a furnace with a saddle-back boiler. It is home-designed and largely home-made. Thermostatically-controlled electric heating is installed by only for standby-by use.

*(1930's - The Sawdust Burner for Greenhouses – designed and constructed by Donald Grant, Factor and Mr Andrew Mackenzie, Joiner)*

**1962.**

Sir John Stirling purchased a Trusty Steed tractor on pneumatic wheels fitted with a drawbar ad implement lift and a semi-digger plough. A tractor bogie has been constructed – it became known as 'The Fairburn Flyer'.



*Walking through the door in the north wall you passed between the greenhouses, conservatory and vineries.*



Iona Stirling flanked by two servicemen.

*The greenhouses contained figs, peaches, apricots, nectarines, grapes.  
Amongst the paving outside alpine strawberries grew. Boxes of fruit would be  
packed and sent by rail to relatives.*



Looking towards the centre of the walled garden.





John Stirling in the centre of the walled garden with Marjorie, Moll and Jock.



Moll - Jock – Marjorie under the rose trellis.





Some of the Herbaceous border, looking east.

*The door leading out of the east wall led to The Shrubbery. An area of woodlands with bamboo, shrubs and paths running through it. A small house complete with a separate outside loo was built for Robin Stirling.*





The Shrubbery was completely fenced with 2 gated entrances. Scented azaleas grew at the entrance on to the Orrin Drive.



Outside the south wall – Roddy Mackay, pictured outside the garden walls where leeks are being grown. Latterly Kythe Stirling grew daffodils here commercially which were sold to Covent Garden. The garden waste was dumped down the hill on this side of the garden.

If you were on daffodil picking duty you were in the garden by 5am and Kythe Stirling insisted there was no talking while picking.

# An example of a sales catalogue produced by Kythe Stirling.

**SPRING LIST, 1939.**

**FAIRBURN GARDENS, MUIR OF ORD, ROSS-SHIRE.**

MRS STIRLING begs to apologise to all her Customers because A.R.P. work has absorbed her time and this Catalogue could not be issued at the proper season. In spite of neglect, many species appear to have wintered exceptionally well and it is anticipated that those still dormant will prove equally satisfactory as climatic conditions have been favourable.

March 20th, 1939.

**TERMS:**

5d for Packing and Postage charged on Orders under 10/- on Value.  
10/- and over—Carriage Free.  
Questions per 100 supplied on request. 1/6 each.  
Provisions—All 7/6 per dozen, except where otherwise mentioned.

**HEIGHTS** shown are the approximate average heights attained here.  
**NOTES** shown are the approximate dates when flowers open here.

**NOTE.**—We do not deal in seeds but are always happy to give packets of any variety and we may have to apologise for living abroad.

**MECONOPSIS.**

**BETONICIFOLIA**—var. *Betty*—2½ ft. End May-July. The well-known Himalayan Blue Poppy. A true perennial; except in unsuitable climates or when the plants have been grown on too quickly. 10/6 per dozen. Spotted plants.

**CAJIBERICA**—var. *caerulea* (White Poppy)—18 in. May-August. Type-plant of the genus and the only European species. A cheerful little herbaceous plant which establishes itself anywhere from damp woods to dry walls. We stock the orange-flowered variety. Insects so quickly that we quote for single plants. 1d each.

**DIOWHII**—2-3 ft. May-June. Yellow flowers and white petals, but the plant is in every way smaller. Very frost-proof leaves with dark spots at the base of the leaves which give the variety a purplish effect. We find it hard to winter this species in the open and the stocks planted out last autumn have not grown to flowering size but look sturdy little plants which should come on well. 1/1 each.

**GRANDIS**—2-3 ft. End May-June. The Nepal form; its large purple flowers have a lovely satiny sheen and, unlike its *Sikkima* cousin, it sets seed readily. Quite hardy in half-shade with a cold exposure and perennial. 1/6 each.

**ROBICULATA**—var. *Prattii*—1½ ft. June. Glorious foliage and spikes of a purplish shade on hard leaves and flowering spikes up which cluster numerous blossoms, usually of a steady blue set off by black stamens and a white eye. Perennials in a more arid situation than most *Meconopsis*, and is effective and unusual when the plants are grouped together at 8 in. or 10 in. apart. 10/6 per dozen.

**INTEGRIFOLIA**—2-3 ft. May-June. The big perennial-margined flowers (4 in. to 6 in. across) have slightly crinkled petals and are borne singly on long stout stems, dense foliage, handsome. Lovers a cool site with moisture and good drainage. *Russica*, but very easily raised from seed if protection against winter-crown rot be taken. 10/6 per dozen. Spotted plants.

**NAPAULENSIS**—  
**FUSCA-PUDICA** = **NEPALENSIS**  
**WALLICHII**  
**PANICULATA**

Exceptionally, these three *Meconopsis* do not look very satisfactory at present, and as we have a lot in the ground for wintering them, we will not offer them till autumn, when the price will be 10/6 per dozen; extra large, 12/6.

**QUINTUPLEXIFOLIA**—1 ft. June-July. Father's Handful Poppy. Has lavender-blue pendant bells borne singly on graceful stems arising from the basal leaves. Perennial and divides well. Is easy with good drainage can light gritty soil provided that the roots be kept out from the protection of low shrubs or stones for the roots to creep under. 10/6 per dozen.

**SUPERBA**—We have not flowered this species here yet, but as it usually blooms at the same time as *M. Regis* and is nearly as gigantic, we anticipate July-flowering and a height of 5 ft. (Height attained 4 ft. 7 in. interest to gardeners, winter-crown rot and beautiful big white flowers with golden centers. Show-growing, may take several years to bloom, but should be established in flowering-size (in well-drained woodland) when young.

A few 1937 seedlings—3/6 each.

**PRIMULAS.**

**Auricula Section.**

This is a European section, and as conditions here seem to make more congenial to the Auricula Primulas we make no attempt to cultivate its members beyond keeping up a stock of Hybrids of the old—  
**DURTY MILLAR**—Mixed, from good strains.

**Candelabra Section.**

Suitable for big garden, woodland walks or shrub borders with northern aspect. The easiest section in cultivation. Flowers better in a succession of whorls up stems.

**ANTHODORA**—18 in., July to autumn. Small variety dark crimson flowers, interesting as being the darkest of all, but not showy. The thick mass of shiny leaves do not die down, making the plant useful for edging and keeping back weeds. Long flowering season.

**AURANTIACA**—8-10 in., June-August. From a rosette of dark green leaves with reddish ribs rise crimson-tipped stems with umbels of orange flowers in various colours. Delightful but difficult to keep true, so propagate by division. 1/1 each.

**BEESIANA**—18 in., Mid-June. Egyptian-green leaves; neat whorls of blue flowers on stout stems.

**BULLEYANA**—18 in., Mid-June. Golden-rod buds opening to orange flowers.

**BEESIANA X BULLEYANA**—18 in., Mid-June. We again offer these hybrids which range through all shades of pink, mauve, red and orange. 6/- per dozen.

**BURMANICA**—20 in., Mid-June-July. Line-purple with a yellow eye. Resembles *Beesiana* but has leaves of a deeper shade of green.

**CHUNGCHING**—9-12 in., End May-June. Clear yellow above light green below. Most attractive.

**COCKBURNIANA**—9-12 in., End of May. Very distinct. Very orange on mostly stems and very attractive and suitable also for rock parts of the rock-garden. If not allowed to seed, will bloom twice in one season, but cannot be relied on to live for more than two seasons' flowering. Easily raised from seed.

**HELODORA** (Glossy of the Bury)—2 ft., June-August. Rich golden yellow, very vigorous and free-flowering over a long season. Loose whorls on long stems. Though plants look shabby with changing leaves in late autumn and spring they have a delightfully fresh, green appearance during the greater part of the winter.

**JAPONICA**—1½ ft. to 3 ft., June. Raggedly red. For a shabby damp position nothing looks a mass of this old favorite.

**JAPONICA ALBA**—1½ to 2 ft., June. Buds open bluish-pink changing to clear white flowers. In *Beesiana* and vigorous in the type.

**JAPONICA**, var. *Stella's Crimson*. Another good one.

**POISSONII**—FAIRBURN VARIETY—2-3 feet, July-Autumn. Four or five whorls of deep maroon flowers on long stems. Slightly aromatic leaves like *meconopsis*, and like it in habit but larger and more decorative. Handsome and striking when massed. *Fair*.—This is what we used to call *Fairburn Hybrid*, but the R.H.S. says now that it is a botanically indistinguishable form of *Prinnia*. It has not, however, the aggressive rosette seen in that species.

**PULVERULENTA**—2½ ft., Mid-May-June. Buds red. Grows on in cluster mostly stems and very effective against a green background, but clusters with other reds and pinks. Establishes itself anywhere without trouble.

**RED HUGH** (Hybrid of *Cockburniana* and *pulverulenta*)—18 in., End of May-June. Another red, very free-flowering and almost as happy in conditions as a shade. Strains of this popular variety vary in shade and we are inclined to think that climate and soil conditions also affect the colour. We know our strain to be an excellent one and endeavour to secure success by sending out only plants propagated by division.

**SMITHIANA**—2½ ft., June-July. We think this inferior to *Heiodora*, which is much more like, but many consider it to be a more reliable species. *Fairburn's* *Heiodora*.

**Capitata Section.**

All the species are very similar in appearance with dense rounded heads of purple flowers. Though all like moist soil, good drainage is desirable and shelter from cutting winds in early spring is necessary. They will flourish in suitable sites in the rock-garden. Care is required after frost as roots, produced at the base of the leaves, are inclined to come out of the ground.

**CAPITATA**—5 in., July-Oct. Dark blue-purple, silvery underlines to leaves, very nearly stems and flower heads. 10/6 per dozen.

**Cortusoides Section.**

A Section of easy cultivation but lacking interest owing to the poor colour of many of the species. Two of the best are—

**GERANIIFOLIA**—8 in., early June and September. A rare and charming species with drooping heads borne singly on graceful stems arising from the basal leaves. Does best in shade and rather poor soil as otherwise foliage becomes too luxuriant. Stems set out with a lot of flowers twice a year and is very perennial.

**VEITCHII**—9 in., End of May-June. Foliage velvety and reminiscent of a serrated geranium. Flowers rose-purple with yellow eyes. Though a harsh colour in sunlight it looks—dyes—very well in shady woodlands as a foreground to shrubs, etc. Lasts long in flower.

**Denticulata Section.**

Any good heavy soil suits this well-known Section, which is one of the earliest to flower.

**DENTICULATA**—1 ft., March-May. Type plant of Section. Globular heads of blue flowers on strong upright stems.

**Farinacea Section.**

A widely distributed Section whose members are scattered over Europe, China and Japan. They are not supposed to enjoy our changeable winter climate, but we find no difficulty with any of the four very different species we offer.

**CHRYSOPEA**—12-15 in., June-Aug. We consider this to be a delightful species and are guided to account for the lack of demand we receive for it. Flowers blue with a distinct yellow eye are profusely produced in some whorls after the manner of *Sikkimensis*. The foliage is like that of its better-known cousin, *P. nemoralis*. It profits a well-drained position in half shade in rich, gritty soil, and is so tolerant that it will exhaust itself if care be not taken to cut off the heads as soon as they are over.

**FIORDORA**—8 in., April-May. From the Balkans. Typical of the section, larger than *P. farinacea* and much more. Stem, pretty little plants, mostly, and with silvery underlines to foliage; flowers, rose-like, suitable for rock-garden, etc.

**INVOLUCRATA**—3 in., June to autumn. Himalayas. Dark green shiny leaves make a neat carpet and the white flowers (a rare colour among *Primulas*) appear over a long period. Plants with no live for many years without increasing unduly.

**LONGIFLORA**—5 in., May-June. A twin Alpine, presumably happy without lime as plants live long here. Has a corolla three times as long as the calyx otherwise much like *farinacea*. Mass culture then beautiful.

**Muscoides Section.**

Small flowers packed closely together up the stem. Half-shade and perfect drainage essential. Soil-mixture of loam and leaf-mould with sand added where loam is heavy or sticky. Plants near really frost and cold young ones may be detached, but undivided plants cannot be depended upon to flower for more than two years.

**APOLITA**—12 in., June-July. Stouter than *Muscoides* and a deep anthocyanous. A special characteristic is the downy appearance on flowers, stems and leaves. Seldom seen but well worth growing.

**MUSCABIDES**—8-14 in., May-June. Perennial as to the correct nomenclature of three almost identical species, we consult the R. Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and the expert's country-cousins to say that the strain of plants we used to send out as *Crocus* is really the true *Muscoides*. We apologise to our customers for inconsiderate, but as the only apparent difference is that *P. Muscoides* is the larger and better plant of the two, we hope for forgiveness. Minute lateral *abdomens* being of little interest to gardeners, we do not intend to list *P. Crocus* or *P. Lepus* again. Flowers are deep blue in sunny sites and are very much admired here, especially when planted in conjunction with *Meconopsis integrifolia*.

**LITTONIANA**—15 in., 2 ft. End July-August. Unique, like a miniature red-hot poker; the purple-violet flowers open gradually from the bottom of the spike in striking contrast to the glowing red colour of the unopened buds above. The great drawback to this species is that it does not show above ground until after the middle of May. 12/6 per dozen.

**Nevalis Section.**

Contains many beautiful species and we do not find it hard to cultivate. Good flower loam in a cool, well-drained position is recommended, but we find a sandy soil with good and half-mould adequate if the moisture can be conserved. Dried *foxy* seeds are sold to make the plants liable to rot at the base unless care is taken to place round when planting, but we have never experienced this. The leaves remain on for most of the year and the plants appear to grow more slowly than most sections, so that frequent division is not so necessary.

**CHIONANTHA**—12-15 in., March-June. Beautiful ivory-white flowers in loose umbels, delicately fragrant. Smooth, pale green foliage. One of the most desirable of *primulas*.

**MELANOPUS**—9 in., April-May. The narrow-lanceolate leaves are dark blue-green coated on the under-sides with white wool; flowers Roman purple with a distinct black eye. 1/1 each.

**LEUCOCINOA**—9 in., April-May. Dark green sword-shaped leaves; purplish flowers. 1/1 each.

**SINOPHYLLA**—9-15 in., March-June. Light green leaves coated with yellow wool; lovely purple-white flowers on loose branches. Our plants this year are superb. 12/6 per dozen.

**Petiolares Section.**

The fact that the seed is shed in a green state and becomes dried out before reaching Europe, is said to account for the being badly represented in this country.

**WINTERI**—4 in. The earliest *primula* to flower. In favoured climates it may begin to bloom at Xmas; here it commences in February or March. Charming *primula* like *Meconopsis* of a delicate lavender, heavily powdered. We suspect that much of the alleged difficulty of cultivation is due to over-coddling. One winter, for convenience in lifting, we kept some in a frame; they got frost-boned but were protected from snow and heavy rain. Certainly, they began to flower earlier, but we did not consider that the plants were any better than those growing in sheltered situations in the open. Direct exposure to heavy rain and heavy soils are probably the worst enemies; attention to the later and planting on a slope or beneath the partial shelter of a rock or a shrub should ensure success. 2/- each; 21/- per dozen.

**Sikkimensis Section.**

Another section of easy cultivation, happy wherever there is moisture, reasonable drainage and partial shade. All have more or less fragrant flowers in drooping umbels.

**FLORINDAE** (The Giant Cowslip), 3-4 ft., end June-sept. Massive heads of velvety purple flowers, held, glossy leaves. The most robust *primula*. Its appearance by the waterside or in woodlands is well known but, in our opinion, as possibilities for the *Sikkimensis* species are generally overlooked. In a northern or western border, a bed in partial shade or in any cold corner, a mass of *Florindae* will succeed admirably and scent the air around and if the full height be not attained in a direct soil, a larger number of flowers appear seems to be the consequence of the better tillage of the garden proper. Frequent division essential in all situations.

**MICRODONTA ALPICA**—2-3 ft., June-July (some yellow). Very graceful. We consider it the most effective fall for *Meconopsis* *Bellini* and the same conditions are very suitable.

**MICRODONTA VIOLACEA**—2-3 ft., June-July. A most lovely plant in its best form, which are of a soft violet shade. Hard to keep true to colour from seed, but all the shades are attractive. Even more fragrant than *Florindae* in its best form.

**SIKKIMENSIS** (Himalayan Cowslip) 1½ ft., June-July (purple-yellow). The type plant of the section and hard to beat. Less trouble than *Florindae* as it does not require such frequent division, but it does not naturalise itself so freely.

**Soldanelloides Section.**

For members of this section in Britain.

**SUTANS**—9 in., end June-July. A neat little *Primula* with soft hairy foliage and large drooping bell-shaped lavender-blue flowers in loose heads lightly coated with wool. Plant on a gentle slope in a light rich soil in semi-shade in a cool spot. Requires perfect drainage and moisture during the growing season. 2/- each; 21/- per dozen.

**Vernalis Section.**

The Section of the *Primulas*.

**LEUCOPHYLLA**—4-6 in., March-May. A charming early flowerer which we find reliable, as it is second only to *Winteri* in usefulness of flowering in our woodland garden and because it thrives there on a somewhat wet bank under a big holly tree without any more attention than an annual mulch of leaf-mould. 10/6 per dozen.



*The door leading out of the west wall led to the Orchard where apple trees, blackcurrants, raspberries and rhubarb grew.*



George Simpson in front of Gardener's Cottage.



From the orchard it was a short walk to the Head Gardener's house.



*North of here a dam was created to supply water to the gardens which became known as the 'black dam'.*



Roderick – Majorie (Marj) – Iona (Onie) – John (Jock) – Marian (Moll)  
1932 in front of 'the black dam'



John Stirling helping to rake up leaves c1898.

**Presentation of 30 Year Service Medals.  
1925**



Mrs M.K. Stirling – John Stirling

Robert Burns, Gamekeeper

L-R Kenneth Urquhart, estate Labourer – Roy Mackenzie – Donald Gollan, Mason – D. Duff, Farm Labourer – William Mackenzie (Clachuile) estate Roadman – Donald Smith estate Labourer – Hugh Grant, Gamekeeper – Duncan Maclean, Gardener

L-R William Mackenzie (Coul Croft), Labourer – Hector Robertson, Farm Servant – Joseph Jackson, Coachman/Chauffeur – Miss M.O. Stirling – Mrs C.E. Stirling – Miss M.C. Stirling – Roderick Forbes, Fishing Ghillie – Johnny Mackenzie – Donald Mackenzie – Murdo Russell, estate Labourer

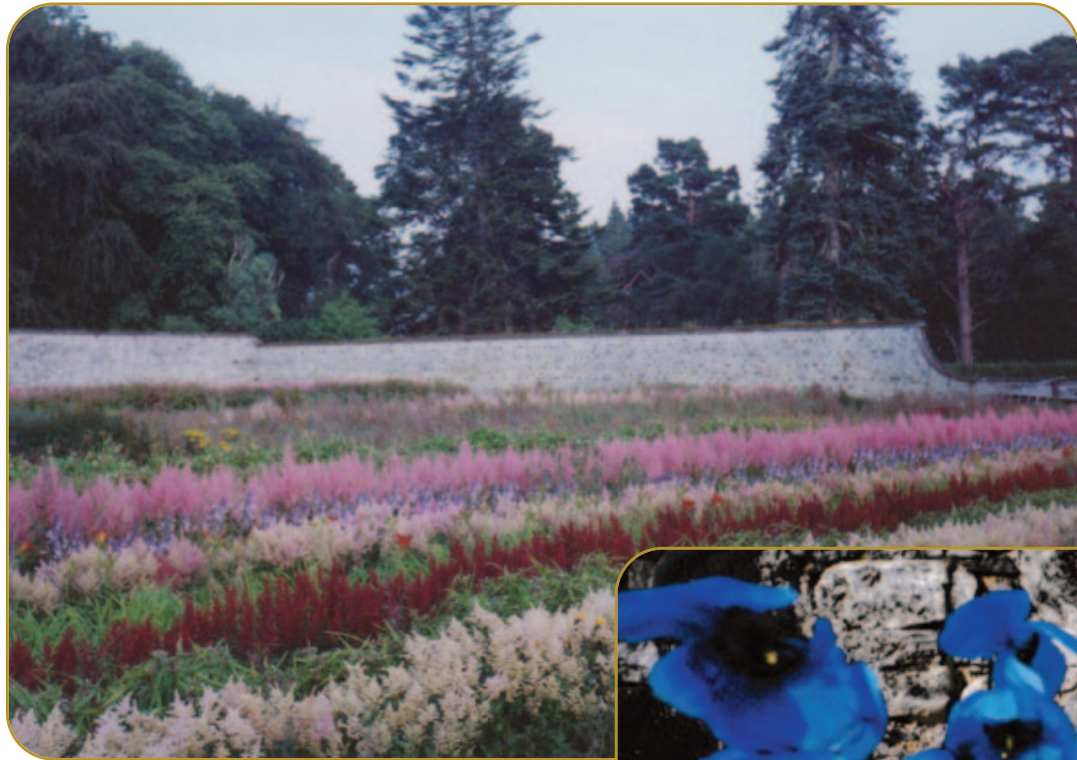
In August 1909 Major Stirling opened the gardens to visitors, admission 1/-, proceeds going to The County Nurses Home, Cononbridge.

Saturday 10th August 1918 a garden fete with sports and side shows was held on behalf of the Red Cross.

In 1931 a garden fete was held at Fairburn which included a rifle range.

In 1982 Fairburn house and garden were sold to the Davison family from Ballymena, Northern Ireland.





The walled garden was completely ploughed up and the gardens let to Highland Lilliums, Kiltarlity owned by the Macritchie family for the commercial growing of herbaceous plants.

This arrangement ceased in 2003.

## Head Gardeners.

### Muirton House.

**George Sutherland, 1876**

**George MacGregor, 1877**

### Fairburn House.

**James Stenning, 1878-91;** born 1832 Henfield, Sussex, was working as gardener by 19. Moved to Bridekirk, Cumberland by 1861. Won 23 prizes at the Workington Flower and Fruit Show in 1862. Won 9 awards at The Carlisle and Cumberland Horticultural Society's Autumnal show of Flowers, Fruit and Garden vegetables, 1866.

**G.H. McCulloch, 1891 - February 1893**

**Charles Ferguson, March 1893 – 1897**

**George Simpson, 1897-1926.**

Was born in 1856 in Elgin, Morayshire, one of six children of Andrew and Margaret Simpson. He married on 27 December 1877 Margaret Greig, a linen factory worker from West Wemyss, Fife and had 10 children. He started his career as a journeyman (apprentice) at the gardens in West Wemyss Castle, Fife. In 1881 he was working at Gattonside House Lodge, Melrose and by 1891 at Brahan Castle, Ross shire. He created the floral display at the Ross shire County Ball, held at the Strathpeffer Pavilion in 1899.

**William Somerville, 1913-1918**

**Murdo Mackay, 1918 -1939**

**Roderick Mackay, 1949-1982**



## **Obituary – RODERICK MACKAY, Kiltarlity.**

Roderick was born on 30 July 1917, in Bruaich, Kiltarlity. His father, Allan Mackay from Leys, Inverness, was formerly the farm grieve at Skelbo, Dornoch, and had recently arrived as farm grieve to the Lovat Estates.

Allan Mackay married Catherine Mackenzie and set up home at Birchwood, Bunchrew. Roddy was from a family of 12 two dying in infancy. He had five brothers and four sisters. He attended the local school in Bunchrew, before commencing a horticultural career on Newton Estate and thereafter on the Fairburn Estate.

Prior to the onset of the war in 1939, Roddy was with the Territorial Army. On being called up he joined C Troop of the Lovat Scouts, his employer promising him employment following war service.

The Lovat Scouts, a family regiment, principally recruited from ghillies, stalkers and estate workers from the North Counties and Islands, were mounted troops and assembled at Fanellan, Kiltarlity. Camp was made in the steadings at Fanellan many new and good friends were made, whilst tending to the ponies and horses, which also were recruited from estates throughout the North and Western Isles.

The troops competed with rats in their new accommodation. Roddy recalled well visiting his parents in Bunchrew, where his mother packed him fresh sandwiches. He placed them under his straw pillow, back at camp, only to find the rats had left little by the morning. Throughout his war service he was affectionately known within the ranks as Roddy “Romach”.

For the winter, C Troop was billeted in Strathpeffer, before being sent south to Nottinghamshire, where the ponies were sold and the Scouts became a dismounted regiment. Because of his military bearing, Roddy was appointed batman to Major Michael Lesley Melville, a post he held until the troop was sent into action in Italy.

Early in the war the Germans invaded Norway and Denmark. The Queen of Denmark beseeched Churchill to garrison the Faroes and thus the Scouts were sent to the Faroes and saw active service guarding Skaalefjord and Thorshavn. After two years they bade farewell to Thorshavn arriving at Invergordon then moved on to Nairn before being sent north to Halkirk.

They were camped at Braal Castle, Halkirk, from where they were often sent on forced marches along the North coast as far as Tongue. Thereafter they were sent to Balmoral and took up guard duty of the Royal Family. It was here that Roddy first met Amelia Macgregor, who was to become his wife. They were to meet up after the war at Fyvie Castle.

The Scouts at first trained in the Grampians and Cairngorms and then moved to North Wales to learn rock climbing. Further training in ski mountaineering took place at Jasper, in the Canadian Rockies. Thereafter the Scouts saw service in Italy.

Within three weeks they were in action in the Appenine Mountains, north of Florence, as part of the 4th Indian Division, along with the a Ghurkha regiment. It was near Rome, whilst on patrol, that Roddy was injured.

Their patrol had been captured by the Germans, but as Roddy and Ian Gunn, from Lairg, tried to escape, they were shot. They fell into a roadside ditch and were found by their colleagues the following morning, both having been badly injured.

Roddy was hospitalised and then discharged back into the front line.

In 1945, as war ceased, the Lovat Scouts were sent home from Greece to be demobbed from camp in England.

Roddy would always be remembered for his irrepressible humour, his radiant smile and his never-ending repertoire of practical jokes.

He resumed employment at Fairburn Estate he was however restless and tried for the police but failed admission because of his war injuries.

He went, after a short period, to new pastures at Fyvie Estates. It was here, whilst attending a gardener's training course, that he met up again with Amelia Macgregor. They were married on 30th June 1949.

His former employer one day sent him a telegram inviting him to return to Fairburn. He went for an interview and told them he would require 7 a week, a 2 increase on his wage at Fyvie.

Roddy and his wife took up residence at Gardener's Cottage, Fairburn, and this was to remain his home, with his dogs, until retirement in 1982. In November 1951, their son, Roddy (Roallan) was born. Roddy soon became head gardener, and in the early days he had seven of a staff.

His interests were many and varied beekeeping, clay pigeon shooting and judging at the local flower and vegetable shows throughout Inverness and Ross and Cromarty. He participated in many a bonspiel and became an honorary member of the Royal Caledonian Curling in recognition of 50 years' attendance and service.

He was an ardent supporter of Caberfeidh Shinty Club.

In 1983, the family went to America for a holiday, to visit Amelia's sister, Catherine.

Roddy, in humour, as declining health overtook him in this last year, recalled how he found himself in hospital some years ago following a stroke. His brothers and sisters used to visit him and called him the "weakest link". He was to survive them all.

Following retirement Roddy and Millie moved to Orrin Lodge, and this was to remain their home until Millie died in January 2003. Roddy remained on and looked after himself with the assistance of visiting family and carers.



He delighted in his many visitors and outings, none more so than with his surviving Lovat Scouts, Roddy Campbell of Tollie Brahan, Willie Munro, Lairg, and Addie Mackenzie of Kiltarlity.

Until spring this year Roddy enjoyed lunch outings to Lairg, reminiscing with Willie Munro and Addie Mackenzie about their experiences in Kiltarlity, Faroes, Wales, Jasper and Italy. In July this year he held a 93rd birthday party in the Lovat Arms Hotel (former officers' mess of the Lovat Scouts) in Beauly, attended by family and friends.

With failing eyesight and following a fall at home in October this year, Roddy was admitted to the County Hospital, Invergordon, for assessment. On Armistice Day last month, he met for the last time his fellow Lovat Scouts for lunch in the hospital and spent the afternoon exchanging memories. He was blessed with a wonderful memory and had perfect recall back to his earliest years.

It had been decided he was unable to return home on his own and a fortnight ago he moved to Strathallan House. Strathpeffer was a place which had so many memories of early Lovat Scout days.

“Is sealbhach sinne aig an robh deagh eolas air cuid de shar bhuill na linne ud. Teagamh gum faic sinn an leithid gu brath tuilleadh mar latha fhin” “We who knew well some of the outstanding members of that generation are indeed fortunate. For we shall not see their like again.”

A large turnout of friends at Urray (West) Church of Scotland, supported his son Roddy (Roallan) and wife Sylvia and daughter Julia; Roddy's nieces, Catherine Grant and husband Victor (Alness), Sheila Shaw (Whiteface), and Anne Simpson and husband Dennis (Inverness), Betty Rutherford (Prancy, Dornoch), Pamela Gordon (Brora), Marion Dear (Inverness) and nephews Michael (Edinburgh) and Rob (Crieff) Lyall in a celebration of Roderick's full life.

The service was led by the Rev. Scott Polwarth. Interment took place at the family grave in Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, and in accordance with Lovat Scout tradition a lone piper played the lament The Flowers of the Forest.

Thereafter family and friends met for soup and sandwiches at The Old North Inn, Inchmore. A collection was taken for the Fairburn Memorial Hall.

Iain Fraser.

*Taken from The Northern Times, 2010.*

## People who worked in the Gardens and Grounds

1878-1983

2 boys unnamed for June, August  
September 1890

2 boys unnamed for July, August  
1891

2 lasses unnamed, gathering fruit  
October 1887-September 1888

3 women unnamed, gathering fruit  
October 1886-September 1887

Extra women, unnamed, gathering  
fruit October 1888-September 1889

Hugh, boy, 1933  
Murdoch, boy, 1928, 1933

James Adams, October 1892-  
October 1893

Duncan Baddon, October 1917-  
September 1918

Fanny Baddon, October 1917-  
September 1918, cleaning bothy  
October 1918–October 1925

Sam Bassingham, May 1911

Kenneth Beaton, September 1903,  
October 1903-September 1904

David Bowden, November 1913-  
February 1914

Mr Brinklow, 1960-61

George Broadfoot, October 1902-  
September 1903

Duncan Brown, November 1897-  
October 1898, November 1898-  
January 1899

Hugh Brown, 1916, Apprentice  
Gardener November 1924–October  
1928

Andrew Burnett, October 1896-  
October 1898

James Burns, October 1890, also  
killing rats November 1893-  
October 1897

Alexander/Alick Cameron, electric  
light October 1902-September 1905

Malcolm Cameron, October 1880-  
September 1881

William Cameron, carting coals  
November 1891-October 1893

Andrew Campbell, 1878-79

John Campbell, 1878-79

Roderick Campbell, 1878-79

James Chalmers, October 1880-  
September 1881

Joseph Chalmers, October 1880-  
September 1881

Donald Chisholm, 1878-79, carting  
coals October 1883-September 1884

Duncan Chisholm, 1878-79, carter  
of coals October 1882-September  
1883

John Chisholm, March-October  
1898, November 1898

Frank Cumming, May-September  
1913, October 1913-August 1916



Alexander Dingwall Snr, October 1883-September 1888

Alex Dingwall Jnr, October 1884-September 1889

Mary Drummond, April-August 1919

William Duncan, (from Edinburgh) November 1895-October 1897

James Ferguson, killing rats October 1895-October 1897

Robert Ferguson, killing rats only November 1893-September 1894, rat killer October 1896-October 1897

Thomas Ferguson, March-October 1905

Ian Findlayson, son 15 yrs November 1937-October 1939

John/Johnnie Findlayson, boy November 1933 (over 18 November 1935-October 1936)-September 1939, 1943-53

Cathie Finlayson/Kay Macleod, 1949-67

Colin Finlayson, 1878-79

Donald Finlayson, 1878-79, October 1884-September 1885

John Finlayson, October 1880-September 1884

Kenneth Finlayson, boy October 1882-September 1883

Murdo Finlayson, November 1881-September 1882

Duncan Fleming, November 1893-July 1895

David Forbes, November 1917-September 1918, Apprentice Gardener October 1918-October 1920

Duncan Forbes, April 1907-September 1911

Roderick Forbes, October 1896-March 1902, November 1926-October 1928

John Forsyth, December 1910-March 1911

Alex Fraser, 1878-81

Alex Fraser, October 1896-October 1897

Donald Fraser, February-April 1902

John Fraser, 1878-79, October 1882-September 1883

John Fraser, 1878-79, November 1881-September 1884

Kenneth Fraser, October 1892-(also assisted Gamekeeper October 1907-September 1908)-February 1917

Alexander Gollan, October 1902-September 1903

Donald Gollan, 1878-79

Ewan Grant, Carter October 1909-September 1910

James Grant, November 1897-November 1898

Roderick Grant, October 1883-September 1885, October 1888-September 1889

Thomas Grierson, Molecatcher October 1882-September 1883, Molecatcher from Tain October 1886-September 1890

Arthur Hadden, November 1891-  
October 1893

John Halkerstone, also killing rats  
November 1893-October 1895

Duncan Kennedy, October 1886-  
September 1889

John Lawrence, October 1880-  
September 1881, November 1881-  
September 1882

Donald Leitch, October 1880-  
September 1881, November 1881-  
September 1882

John Lennox, March-October 1901

Mr Leslie, 1964-67

Anderson Lowden, March-August  
1914

John McCulloch, May 1901-  
September 1903

Kenneth MacDonald, mole catcher  
1878-79

Peter MacDonald, 1878-September  
1883

Roderick MacDonald, 1878-79

Alex McDonald, 1878-79

Ann McDonald, October 1883-  
September 1886

Arthur McDonald, boy October  
1882-September 1883

Duncan McDonald, (Monar)  
October 1888-September 1889

John McDonald, 1878-79

John McDonald, November 1898-  
October 1899

Hugh McDonald, October 1880-  
September 1881

Peter McDonald, October 1883-  
September 1885

Roderick McDonald, carting coals  
November 1893, (Arcan) carting  
coals October 1894-September  
1895, September 1906

Ronald McDonald, carting coals  
October 1906-September 1908

William McDonald, October 1880-  
September 1883

William McGillavary, November  
1898-February 1901

John McHever, 1878-79

Charles McIver, May 1903-  
September 1908

Huisdean Mackintosh, 1957-59

Murdo Mackintosh, May 1935-  
October 1939, 1943-1969

Alexander McIntosh, October 1886-  
September 1887

J. McIntosh, 1878-79

Alex McKay, 1878-81

Donald Mackay, 1916

Donald Mackay, 1929

Roderick Mackay, November 1935-  
September 1939 returned to  
Fairburn after WW2

Duncan McKay, November 1881-  
September 1883

Hugh Mackay, Carter November  
1919-October 1920



John McKay, October 1886-  
September 1887

M Mackay, 1916

Roderick McKay, 1878-79

William McKay, 1878-79, October  
1892-October 1893

Donald Mackenzie, 1878-79

Donald Mackenzie, October 1908-  
September 1909

George Mackenzie, 1878-79

Hector Mackenzie, October 1880-  
September 1881

Hector Mackenzie, 1954-69

John Mackenzie, 1878-79, October  
1882-September 1883

Roderick Mackenzie, 1878-79

William Mackenzie, 1878-79

Alex McKenzie, 1878-September  
1890

Alex McKenzie, October 3-  
September 1886

Alexander McKenzie, October  
1888-September 1894

Alexander McKenzie Jnr, November  
1891-September 1900

Alexander/Alex McKenzie,  
February-October 1913

Alexander J. McKenzie, November  
1891-September 1892

Dan McKenzie, October 1909-  
September 1910

Donald McKenzie, October 1887-  
September 1888, November 1891-  
September 1892

Donald McKenzie, Labourer,  
November 1899-also assisted  
Gamekeeper October 1904-  
September 1906, also assisted  
Gamekeeper October 1907-  
September 1908, -October 1934,  
January 1935

Harry McKenzie, October 1912-  
September 1913, October 1913-  
August 1914

Hector Mackenzie, garden boy  
1916, November 1920-,  
Journeyman November 1924 –  
October 1925, -October 1938

James/Jamie Mackenzie, garden boy,  
November 1920-, Journeyman  
November 1924 – October 1925-  
June 1932

John McKenzie, Carter, October  
1880-September 1884, carting coals  
October 1887-September 1888

John McKenzie, October 1883- also  
assisted Gamekeeper October 1904-  
September 1905, also assisted  
Gamekeeper October 1905-1907,  
Foreman Gardener October 1918 –  
October 1926

Keith McKenzie, lad in garden  
October 1880-September 1883

Kenneth McKenzie, October 1883-  
September 1887

Kenneth McKenzie, October-  
December 1910

Murdo McKenzie, April 1902-June  
1903

Roderick McKenzie, Mole Catcher,  
October 1880-1883, October 1889-  
September 1890

Roderick McKenzie, (Monar)  
October 1888-September 1889

Roderick McKenzie, October 1890-  
October 1893, carting coals October  
1896-October 1897

Roderick McKenzie, October 1892-  
October 1901

Ronald McKenzie, November 1891-  
, also assisted Gamekeeper October  
1905-September 1906, -December  
1910

Sheila Mackenzie, 1975

William McKenzie, November  
1881-September 1884

William McKenzie, November 1901

William McKenzie, October 1910-  
August 1914

Willy Mackenzie, 1963-65

Donald McKinnon, 1878-79,  
November 1881-September 1882

James McLaren, April-September  
1915

James MacLean, 1878-79, October  
1880- September 1881

Jane Maclean, November 1891-  
October 1897

Kenneth MacLean, carting coals  
November 1893-September 1894

Kenneth Maclean, Apprentice  
October 1918 – October 1919,  
November 1919-October 1920,  
November 1920-October 1921,  
November 1921-October 1922,

Journeyman November 1922 –  
October 1923

Charles McLean, 1878-79

Colin McLean, 1878-79

Don McLean, October 1880-  
September 1881, sweeping  
chimneys October 1883-September  
1884

Donald McLean, October 1880-  
September 1881, October 1883-  
September 1884

Duncan McLean, November 1881-  
September 1885

Duncan McLean, November 1891,  
also assisted Gamekeeper - October  
1904-September 1905 also assisted  
Gamekeeper October 1907-  
September 1908, Harvest work  
Achederson October, November  
1916-September 1917, Carter &  
Labourer October 1918 – October  
1919, -October 1933

Mrs Duncan McLean, October  
1896-October 1897

James McLean, old man, November  
1881-, carting pipes from Cornhill  
to Fountain Head October 1886-  
September 1887, -September 1889

James McLean, June-February 1913

Jean McLean, December 1885-  
September 1892

John McLean, 1878-79

Kenneth McLean, October 1887-,  
carting coals November 1891-  
September 1917, April-September  
1918



William McLean, carting tiles  
November 1891- September 1892,  
October 1892-April 1897

Donald MacLennan, 1878-79

George McLennan, 1878-79

John MacLennan, 1878-79

Kenneth McLennan, October 1888-  
September 1892

Mrs McLean, November 1897-  
October 1898

Murdo McLennan, 1878-79

Mrs Catherine McLeod see Kathy  
Finlayson

Donald McPhail, October 1886-  
September 1892

Sinclair Macpherson, November  
1901-January 1902

Tom/Thomas Macpherson,  
Journeyman November 1924-  
October 1929

Duncan MacRae, 1878-79

Roderick MacRae, 1878-September  
1881

John McRae, October 1880-  
September 1881, carting coals  
October 1883-September 1885

Alex Matheson, carting coals  
October 1883-September 1888

Finlay Matheson, Apprentice  
Gardener November 1928-October  
1935

John Matheson, September-  
November 1914

Roderick Matheson, November  
1881-September 1882, carting coals  
December 1885-, carting coals and  
gravel November 1891-September  
1892

William Matheson, carting coal  
October 1888-September 1889

George Miller, January-April 1903

Mr Monaghan, 1949-50

Alex Munro, (in woods) October  
1880- September 1881

Donald Munro, October 1880-  
September 1881

James Munro, October 1914-,  
Journeyman October 1918-October  
1925, Garden Foreman from  
December November 1925-  
December 1936

John Munro, 1954-56

William Munro, November 1881-  
September 1882

Alex Murchison carting coals,  
November 1893-September 1909

Bryan Pounder, 1969

Alex Ramsay, October 1880-  
September 1892

Alexander Ramsay, Carter October  
1882-September 1883, October  
1888-September 1889

Evan Ramsay, October 1880-, also  
assisted Gamekeeper October 1907-  
September 1908, Labourer October  
1918-October 1920

Hugh Ramsay, October 1883-  
September 1887

Alex Robertson, October 1888-  
September 1892

Alexander Robertson, October  
1890-September 1894

Charles Robertson, March-  
November 1900

Hector Robertson, Apprentice  
Gardener November 1928-March  
1933

George Ross, November 1914-  
September 1915

Hugh Ross, October 1909-May  
1910

John Ross, April 1895-September  
1896

Thomas Russell, 1878-September  
1882

Dan Scott, also assisted  
Gamekeeper November 1907-  
September 1908, October 1908-  
September 1909

Robert Scrivner, 1878-79

William Shaw, December 1885-, in  
Mansion House October 1889-  
September 1890, Labourer & House  
Oddman October 1918 – October  
1919, House Oddman November  
1919-October 1925

William Shaw, boy November 1919-  
October 1920

Alexander Simpson, June-December  
1906

William Simpson, April 1906-  
September 1907

Mrs Simpson, cleaning bothy  
November 1897-May 1906

Peter Sinclair, Carter November  
1919-October 1920, November  
1920-October 1921

John Smaillie, (from Edinburgh)  
November 1895-March 1897

Donald Smith, Labourer November  
1922-October 1939

Murdoch Smith, boy October 1882-  
September 1884

J.L.Somerville, October 1914-  
September 1915, October 1915,  
March-August 1917

Edward Stenning, (killed rats)  
October 1880- September 1881,  
November 1881-September 1882

Edward A. Stenning, October 1886-  
September 1888

William Stewart, October 1908-  
December 1910

William Stewart, Foreman Gardener  
from March November 1936-  
October 1937

Thomas Sutherland, June 1905-,  
also assisted Gamekeeper October  
1907-September 1908, -August  
1914

Thomas/Tom Sutherland,  
November 1933-October 1939,  
1943-52

Mrs Sutherland, 1963

William Thompson, May 1902-April  
1903

Bella Tolmie, October 1883-  
September 1884

John Tuach, October 1880-  
September 1881



James Tulloch, October 1887-  
September 1888

Peter Tulloch, June 1908-January  
1912

Mrs Tulloch, cleaning bothy June  
1906-November 1914

Kenneth Urquhart, Labourer  
November 1922–October 1924

David Wallace, November 1893-  
September 1894

Alex Wanless, November 1898-  
February 1900

Crawford Watt, August - October  
1895

John Weatherall, June-November  
1934

John Weatherall, boy November  
1932-October 1937

Arthur Weatherill, 1951

D Wilkie, 1962-63

William Wilkie, June 1911-January  
1912

Robert Wilson, 1960

Willy 'Winks', 1963

Mr Wolwerks, 1966

John Wymes, October 1880-  
September 1881

William Wyness, April-October  
1901

**Our thanks goes to**

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**Fiona Towgood, New Zealand and Margaret Bradley, Glasgow.**

**For their assistance in putting this document together.**