

Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Mr. JAMES STEWART

Mr. James Stewart was born in Perth in November 1858. Completing his education in Perth he studied dentistry at Edinburgh University and joined his father in his dental practice at 19 Princes Street. Members of PSNS were saddened to learn of his death in September 1926 at his home Crianan, Kinnoull.

Mr. Stewart was a prominent member of the Society having joined in 1882. He frequently gave talks to the Society and wrote short articles for the Journal.

About two weeks before his death he had a mishap while driving but he recovered from the slight shock and had been out walking on Kinnoull Hill after a few days of recovery. His condition was not considered serious and his sudden death in September was unexpected.

Mr. Stewart had retired from business but was devoting some leisure time to laboratory and bacteriological work at Perth Royal Infirmary. He was a keen sportsman and a member of King James VI Golf Club. He had held the office of Deacon and Boxmaster of the Hammerman Incorporation.

James Stewart's father John Stewart was born in Perth in 1836. After studying dentistry at Edinburgh he set up practice in South Street moving to St. John Street and eventually to 19 Princes Street. He was one of the founder members of the Society and was present at the preliminary meeting in March 1867 when a company of fourteen met and a decision was made to form a Natural Science Society.

Mr. James Stewart was survived by his widow who was a daughter of Dr. Carl Hempel, Professor of Music. Mr. Stewart's brother was Dr. Charles Parker Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for Perth while his other two brothers, William and Robert, followed the dental profession practising in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively. Mr. Stewart's sister was the wife of Mr. Roger, curator of the Moncreiffe Memorial Natural History Museum.

Mr. Stewart was a very active member of the Society attending meetings and excursions. He served on the Council of the Society several times as Vice-President. During the early years of the Society there was a Microscopical Section and Mr. Stewart was Convenor of the Physiological and Pathological Section. Although interested in all branches of the Society's work his own bias was towards Zoology and Comparative Anatomy.