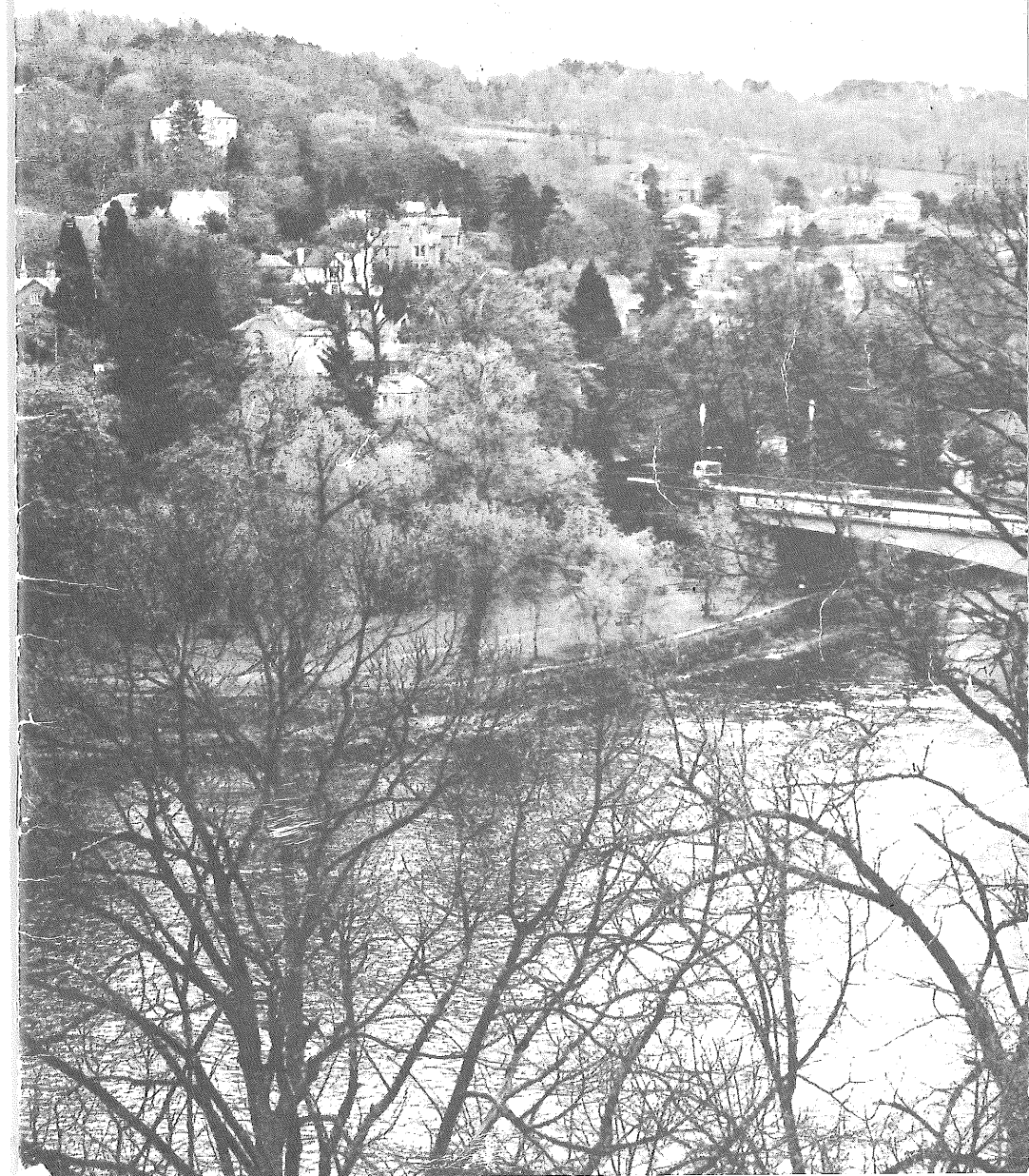


# KINNOULL, BRIDGEND and BARNHILL



*Best Wishes  
Rhode L. Thurgill*

# Kinnoull Bridgend and Barnhill

By

**PUPILS OF PRIMARY VII OF KINNOULL SCHOOL**

**1974**

**Munro & Scott, Ltd., Printers, Skinnergate, Perth.**

## FOREWORD

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This delightful little book was produced with much effort by the children of Kinnoull School under the inspired direction of Miss Fothergill, their teacher. Although to be enjoyed by children, it is by no means only for children, as it is a serious and very accurate report on the history of the area.

Perth Civic Trust gave the Cairncross Award to the children for their effort in 1974 and is having the book printed in aid of its funds. I am sure that a great number of people will have pleasure in reading the book with its simple and delightful illustrations drawn by the children, and that this book will be in production long after they have been passed by history itself.

Perth owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Fothergill and the Primary VII pupils, year 1973-1974, of Kinnoull School.

NOEL HAMILTON,

Chairman, Perth Civic Trust.

April, 1976.

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Perth Bridge.

## PERTH BRIDGES

The visitor to Perth can cross the River Tay from Tay Street by any one of the three bridges. Perth Bridge is the northernmost crossing and from here the visitor can pause to admire the magnificent sweep from the city across the green sward of the North Inch to the hills beyond. The Queen's Bridge and the footpath of the Railway Bridge can also take the visitor to the districts of Bridgend, Barnhill and Kinnoull which are well worth exploring.

These districts have not always been so accessible and throughout the centuries several attempts were made to span the river crossing by a bridge. It is possible that the Romans in the time of Agricola may have constructed some kind of bridge, but there was certainly one bridge before 1210 because record has it that both the castle of Perth and the bridge suffered in the floods. In 1329 King Robert the Bruce ordered the Perth Bridge to be repaired with stones from Kincarrathie quarry. Again in 1589 this bridge was partly destroyed and an effort to make a permanent stone structure across the Tay was finished in 1617. This bridge linked the end of the High Street to Commercial Street, but it too suffered the fate of its predecessors and was swept away in 1621. No bridge spanned the Tay for 150 years and this surely was the heyday of the ferrymen who plied to and fro across the river. They had their houses close to the river, but there were also hovels as Bridgend had at one time been a leper colony and a place for the less desirables from the city of Perth.

It was the Kinnoull family who in the eighteenth century felt strongly the need for a permanent bridge across the Tay. The public subscription list was headed by the 8th Earl of Kinnoull. Perth Bridge, designed by John Smeaton, was built in 1770 and stands still in daily use.

The character of the tiny hamlet now changed and Bridgend identified itself with the city of Perth. Bridgend and Kinnoull was a burgh of barony under the Earl of Kinnoull and entitled to hold a weekly market and four annual fairs. Such markets and fairs were no longer held and it was not long before business men saw the opportunities on the east side of the river. Mr. W. Dickson and Mr. J. Brown opened nurseries on ground adjoining Kinnoull Old Church. It was from the nurseries that the Duke of York, son of George III, obtained ornamental shrubbery for his parklands. The light soil and southern exposure made the area ideal for nursery development. It is interesting to note that at this time there was a tannage and brewery in Bridgend.

The well-to-do sought the peace and pleasant situation of the slopes of Kinnoull for their mansions. Among the first to be built were Rosemount and Potterhill House which was demolished in 1964 for the development of multi-storey flats. The grounds of Potterhill had many fine trees and some remain still for the rooks to roost in. It was in this house that Lady Robertson of Struan lived out the last years of her life.

She, and her family, were Jacobite supporters and were exiled after the '45 Rebellion. The family returned towards the end of the 18th century, living for some time at Gask House and later at Potterhill.

**LOCOMOTIVES AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1878**

**BYE-LAW**

**MADE BY THE  
ROAD AUTHORITY OF THE BURGH OF PERTH AS TO  
LOCOMOTIVES  
PASSING UPON OR OVER  
PERTH BRIDGE**

At Perth the 14th day of July 1879 the road authority of Perth Burgh do hereby under the powers vested in them by the Act 41 and 42 Victoria cap 58 The Locomotives Amendment Act (Scotland) 1878 make the following Bye-Law. Be it enacted that no locomotive shall pass upon or over Perth Bridge between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and that other times the person in charge of such locomotives shall send a man with a red flag to the opposite end of the bridge from that on which he is to enter warning all persons concerned of the approach of the locomotive before it shall go upon the bridge.

(Signed) THOMAS RICHARDSON,  
Lord Provost and Preses.

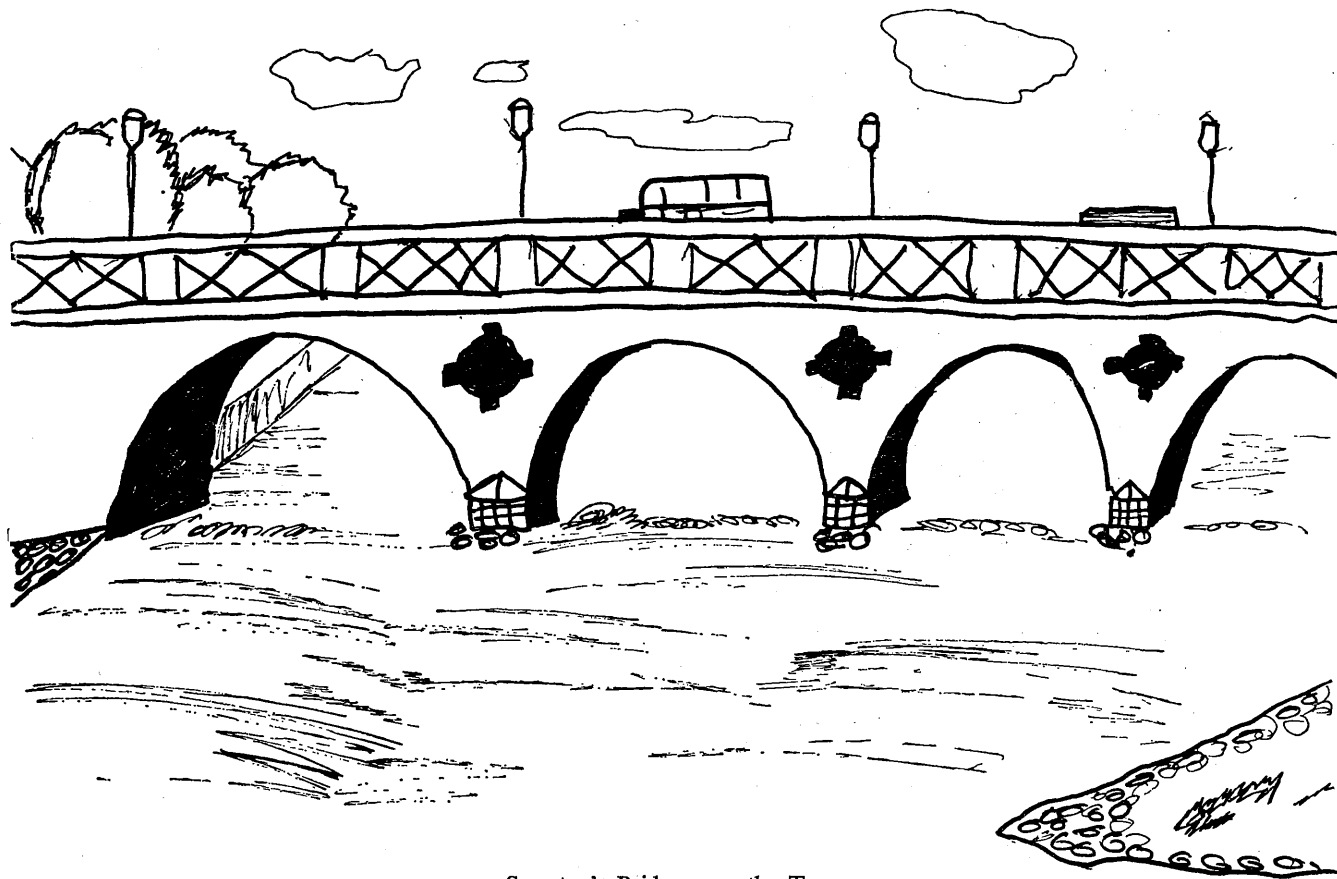
(Signed) R. ASHETON CROSS,  
One of Her Majesty's Secretaries.

Confirmed  
Whitehall  
September 1878.

**The penalty for breach of the above  
By-Law is £5 for each offence.**

**BY ORDER  
JOHN BEGG (Clerk to Road Authority).**

Now that Smeaton's Bridge was in use the traffic streamed across following the low road by the river and the turnpike road to Dundee. Alternatively the coaches climbed the steep slope of Lochy Brae to follow the old Dundee road round the back of Kinnoull Hill. An interesting board at the east end of the bridge explains all regulations for bridge traffic. It is related that when the post horse duty was farmed out a very poor looking gate was erected at the bridge as a convenient



Smeaton's Bridge over the Tay.



place to collect it. The Earl of Kinnoull, by whose efforts mainly the bridge had been erected, was so annoyed at the demeaning of so handsome a structure that he took men armed with tools and tore down the gate.

In 1869 the Perth Bridge was widened. The stone parapet was removed and a new pavement with a metal parapet was made supported by cast iron brackets. This eased traffic congestion in the 19th century. The bridge carried the Perth to Scone tram service which ended in 1929. By the end of the 19th century the need for a second road bridge was becoming increasingly obvious. Many citizens felt that such a bridge would detract from the fine river view. The railway bridge carrying the Dundee line into Perth had been built in 1848-49 and on Saturday, 13th October, 1900, Lady Pullar, wife of Lord Provost Sir Robert Pullar, cut the ribbon across the Victoria Bridge. The bridge had been built right through the centre of Marshall Cottage, the home of Mr. John Rollo, leaving a gable end on each side of the bridge. Mr. Rollo raised objections and claimed £20,000. His objections were overruled in 1898 and he was awarded £3,785.

The Victoria Bridge was taken down and replaced by the present Queen's Bridge which was opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1960 on the 750th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to Perth by William the Lion.

## BRIDGEND WATER SUPPLY

There is no doubt that in earlier years the inhabitants of our district obtained their water supply either from the Tay or from the springs of Kinnoull Hill whichever were nearest. Indeed the springs of Kinnoull Hill were considered as a possible water supply for Perth and these springs were measured in Scots pints per 24 hours. Although Perth was given an adequate water supply by Dr. Adam Anderson, Bridgend did not benefit from this. Bridgend was served by the Bridgend of Perth Water Company Ltd. The works, constructed in 1858, took in water from the Langley Burn. There were sand filters and an underground reservoir from which pipes took water along Strathmore Street and Gowrie Street to Manse Brae, also supplying Keir Street and Commercial Street. A water column connected with this supply stood on the east kerb of Main Street near the Perth Bridge, until the 1930s. It was used by the Cleansing Department for filling street-washing carts, but the old main had to be cut at one or two points to make way for other services and the water column was removed as it was of no further use. Record has it that Bridgend had two outbreaks of cholera in 1849 and 1866. The victims were those who drew water from the Tay. In 1859 the Earl of Kinnoull supplied water to his tenants from Muirhall Quarry. The ruins of his filter house can still be seen in a field on the slopes of Kinnoull Hill. Most of the houses on the lower parts of the hill were supplied but Bowerswell House, now the Perth Memorial Home, had its own well. The house of Wellbank on the lower side of the Dundee Road had two wells. One was a private one for the house but the other was for public use and a flight of steps led down to it.

Murray Royal Hospital had its own well with a pumping engine, and a cistern filled by an underground spring supplied the Sanatorium and the houses in Fairmount Terrace.

About June 1880 water from the Perth city supply was available on the east side of the river. By 1886 shortages of water and restrictions on its use were frequent as the quantity of water obtained from the Moncreiffe Island filter was inadequate to meet increasing demand. Means of augmenting the supply were investigated and an experimental pit was sunk in Stanners Island. A second filter was made in 1888 above Perth Bridge. Muirhall reservoir was constructed in 1900 and water from this reservoir was supplied to Scone.

It is a small point of historical interest to note that Alexander Davidson, Water Manager for 18 years, wrote in the records of the Waterworks under the date 25th March, 1905, "Bellman crying Scone, 'Turning off Water on Monday to make connection at Haddon Road,' 4/-."



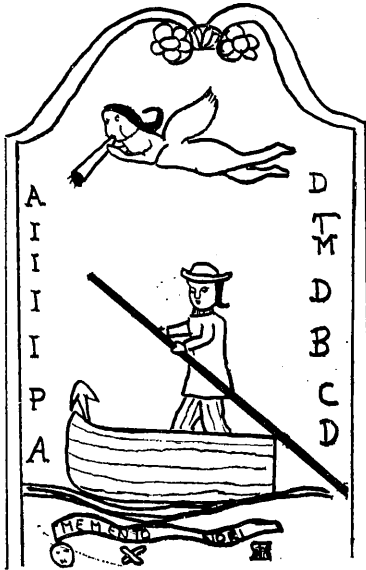
Kinnoull Church.

## KINNOULL CHURCH

The visitor crossing the Queen's Bridge and glancing south can glimpse through the trees on the river bank the ruins of the old church which are all that now remain.

No date is available for the building of the Old Kinnoull Church but Sir Robert Erskine in the reign of David Bruce gave the patronage of Kinnoull Church to the monks of Cambuskenneth. Sir Robert was at that time proprietor of the barony of Kinnoull. The patron saint of the church was St. Constantine, who was Constantine II, King of Scotland, and who in later life became a monk among the Culdees of St. Andrews. It is most certain that the Church of Kinnoull is pre-Reformation.

All that remains to-day is the ruined foundation and the Kinnoull aisle. About 1779 an older church was rebuilt. There is a stone dated 1635 in the aisle.



The Ferryman's Stone in Kinnoull Churchyard.

The churchyard is most interesting with a fine collection of gravestones. The oldest gravestone is dated 1649. Here the visitor can learn of the local inhabitants and their various occupations.

Here, side by side with the painter, mason and cobbler, are buried the more affluent of the district, Mr. Turnbull of Bellwood and Lady Millais, formerly Effie Gray of Bowerswell, whose husband Sir John Everett Millais was the distinguished painter. One gravestone, belonging to a ferryman of Bridgend, bears a sculptured picture of the deceased crossing the Tay in his boat. Here too was the last resting place of the 1st Earl of Kinnoull.

The first Earl of Kinnoull was formerly Sir George Hay and was present with James VI of Scotland at Gowrie House in 1600. He was a witness for the King at the subsequent trial and at that time was given the lands of Nethercliff. In 1625 he was created Viscount Dupplin. In 1622 however, he was given the post of Lord Chancellor of Scotland, following the Earl of Dunfermline in that office. In 1633, one year before his death, he was created Earl of Kinnoull.

The Earl died in London in 1634 and his body was brought by ship from London to Perth. The funeral must have been one of the most magnificent that Perth has ever witnessed. Ferry boats carried the grand, heraldic procession across the Tay near the bridge. Leading the procession were hired mourners, trumpeters and members of the Earl's household. Relatives carried his arms, coronet, spurs, mace and great seal of office. His physician and chaplain were in the procession as was his horse in the trappings of mourning. The Earl's son, accompanied by six earls and three lords, followed the coffin draped in black velvet. After the service in Kinnoull Church the body was interred and in the following year the magnificent monument to the Earl of Kinnoull was erected in the aisle of the church. His funeral must have been one of the most impressive sights to be seen in Old Kinnoull Church.

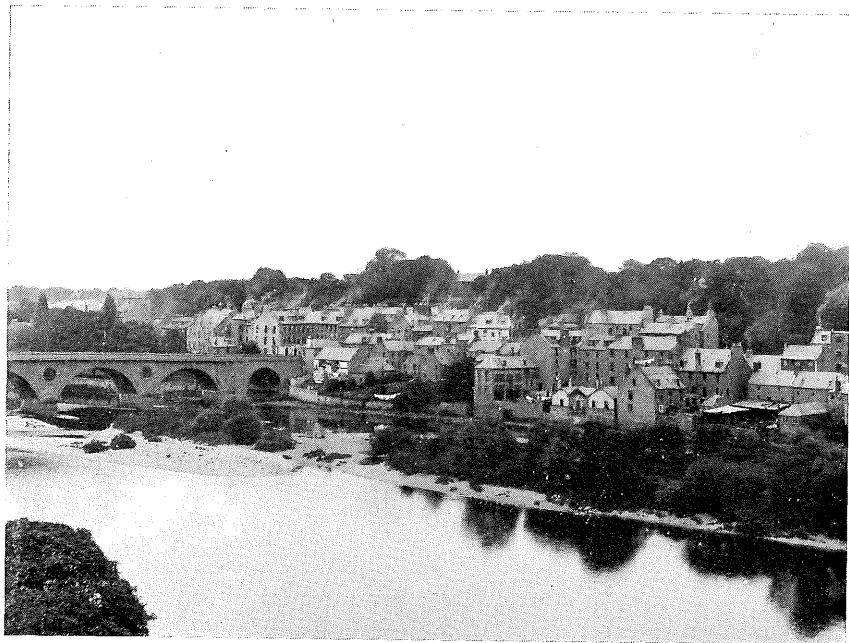


A detail of the Kinnoull Monument.

A little earlier however, in the 16th century, the church had been the scene of the marriage of Archibald, Earl of Angus, to Margaret Tudor, widow of James IV of Scotland.

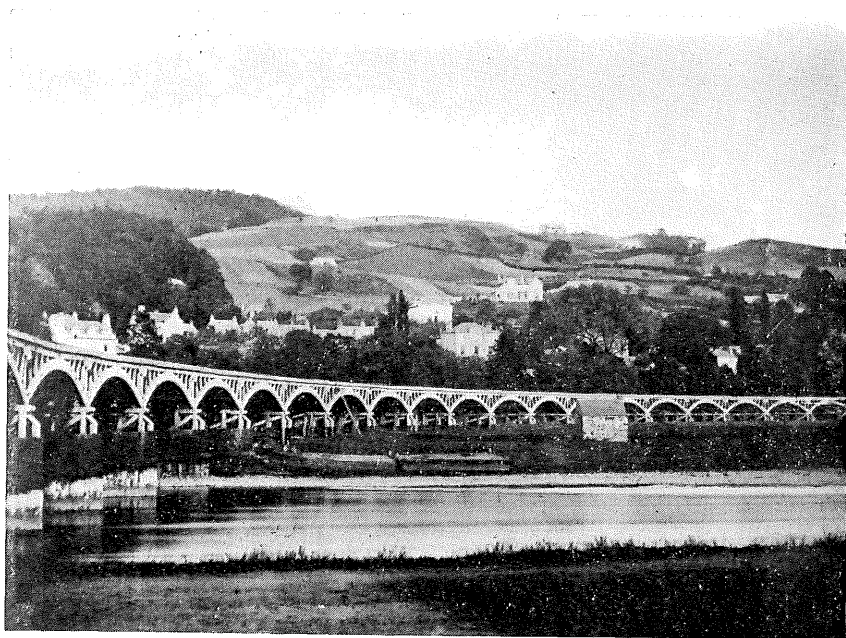
One of the post-Reformation ministers, a gentleman by the name of Mr. William Rhynd who was appointed to Kinnoull Church in 1560, was also chosen as rector of the grammar school of Perth.

The present church of Kinnoull was designed by William Burn, architect, of Edinburgh, and built in 1826. Mr. John Ruskin, art critic and writer spent some of his boyhood years in a house facing the North Inch and later married Effie Gray of Bowerswell. The Rev. Dr. Anderson, minister of Kinnoull from 1865-1898 asked Mr. Ruskin for his opinion of the building and was given the reply—"not a high kind of architecture but perfect of its kind." This may well be said of the building which stands about fifty yards from the bank of the river. The church is built in a cruciform shape and contains two fine stained glass windows—the work of John Strachan in 1930. The west window was the gift to the church of Mr. John Gray of Bowerswell whose son-in-law, Sir John Everett Millais, R.A., designed the fourteen drawings of the parables of our Lord, which is the theme of the window. The pictures are painted on the glass.



Bridgend, Perth.

*By courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.*



Original Railway Bridge over the Tay at Perth.

*By courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.*



Rodney Lodge changed from Marshall's Cottage, 1866.

*By courtesy of Perth Civic Trust.*



The Victoria Bridge and the gable ends of Rodney Lodge.

*By courtesy of Mrs. I. M. H. Wishart.*



The gable end of Rodney Lodge.

*By courtesy of Mrs. I. M. H. Wishart.*



East Bridge Street from Perth Bridge.

*By courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.*





Main Street, Bridgend.

*By courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.*



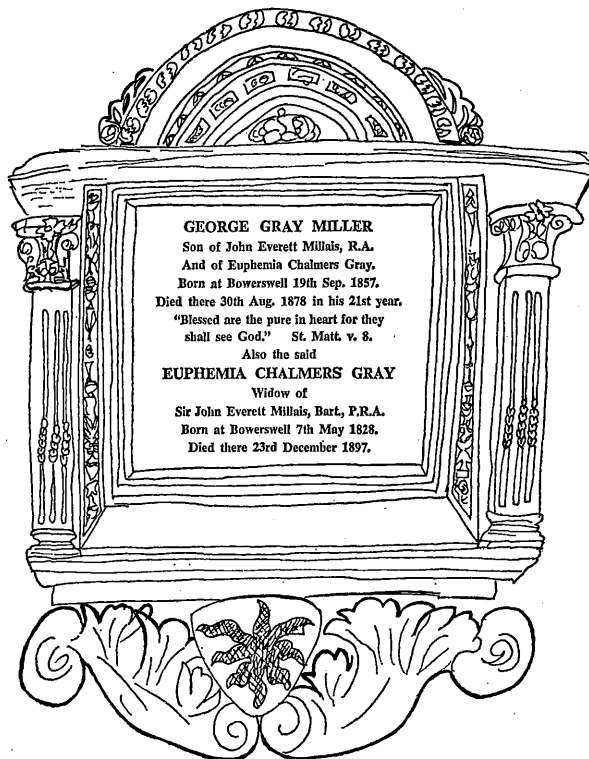
The Monastery, Kinnoull.

*By courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.*



Kinnoull Manse.

The east window is dedicated to Rev. Dr. Anderson who was minister at Kinnoull for 43 years until his death in 1898. Before coming to Kinnoull Dr. Anderson was minister of the East Church of St. John's. He was beloved by his parishioners and it is interesting that he was one of many who spoke out strongly against the second road bridge across the Tay. He was a writer of much verse and prose and many of his works and jottings were published. By the end of the nineteenth century Bridgend was a growing community and the need for a second church was felt by the people. Bridgend Church was opened in September, 1894, but was demolished in recent years and the congregation amalgamated with the Wilson Church and the West Church to form St. Matthew's in Tay Street. Modern flats now stand on the site of the old church in Main Street, Bridgend.



From Kinnoull Burial Ground.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**JAMES THOMSON, ART MASTER**  
**SON OF JAMES THOMSON**

Parochial Schoolmaster, Kinnoull  
Who Died at Wellbank 7th May 1896  
Aged 37 Years.

ALSO THE ABOVE  
**JAMES THOMSON, WELLBANK**  
Schoolmaster of the Parish of Kinnoull  
From 1857 to 1899  
Who Died 26th June 1915

ALSO THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER  
**KATHERINE ELIZA**

Who Died 19th October 1933  
**JANE MARGARET AFFLECK**  
Beloved Wife of **ROBERT GLOAG THOMSON**  
And Grand-daughter of **WILLIAM ROBERTSON**  
Of Kindrochit, Struan  
Died 25th March 1952

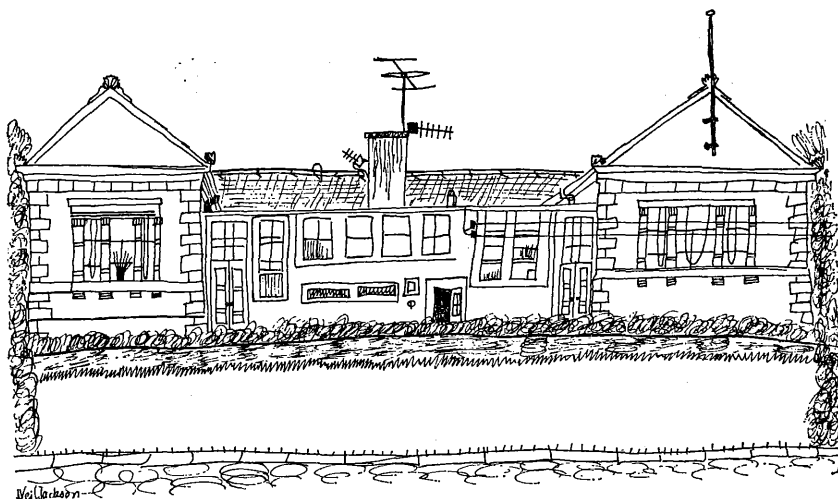
AND THE ABOVE  
**ROBERT GLOAG THOMSON**  
Analytical Chemist, Wellbank  
Younger Son and Last Remaining Member of  
The Family of the Above

**JAMES THOMSON**  
Died 3rd January 1956 Aged 77 Years

From Kinnoull Burial Ground.



The old Kinnoull School.



Kinnoull School, built in 1876.

## KINNOULL SCHOOL

The school of the Parish of Kinnoull would in early times come under the jurisdiction of Kinnoull Church. Before the present school opposite Kinnoull Church was built the pupils were taught in the building further along the Dundee Road now used by Kennaway the baker for garaging vans. Above the doors can still be seen the niche where the bell hung to summon the pupils schoolwards. The schoolmaster lived in the house next door, now the Isle of Skye Hotel. It was to this school that David Douglas, the famous plant hunter, journeyed from Scone to receive his early education.

It was during the headmastership of Mr. James Thomson of Wellbank that a new school was built in Witchhill Quarry. The school was designed by the architect Mr. Andrew Heiton. The school was opened in September, 1876, by the Lord Provost of Perth and one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. Mr. Thomson was headmaster of Kinnoull for 42 years, a unique record in the history of the school. Witchhill Quarry was given this name because legend has it that anyone suspected of witchcraft was rolled down the hill in a barrel into a pool. This was known as ordeal by water.

In the school log book there is a meticulous record of the day-to-day events of the school. Absences of teachers were noted, doctors' reports on the health of the teaching staff and inspectors' reports are all recorded. Special subjects were taught and these included chemistry and magnetism, electricity and physiology, but reading, writing, grammar and arithmetic were of prime importance. Latin and French were tackled by the youthful scholars. In 1883 military drill was taught by a Sergeant Fulton and in 1884 domestic economy and cookery figured in the curriculum.

All was not work however. One entry reads, "Took pupils in earlier to let them out earlier being Perth Races." Each year a Thursday and Friday were given as holidays to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Musical drill was an innovation in 1890 and a cookery room was being built in 1893. In the severe winter of 1896 the River Tay was frozen across.

In Kinnoull School the pupils were given the afternoon off on February 22nd, 1895, because the water pipes were frozen. In March diphtheria struck the school and it was not until April 5th that the pipes thawed and water flowed again.

In the early years of the 20th century the boys of the school enjoyed watching Ned Webb, a blind man who had a fruit shop in Commercial Street, fishing with a long line over the parapet of Perth Bridge. He laughed hoarsely when he felt a bite. The scholars walked long distances to gain the advantages of education. They came from Old Scone, Quarry Mill, Corsie Hill and Walnut Grove. In 1959 an extension was built on to Kinnoull School which then had accommodation for 220 pupils.

## BRIDGEND

One of the busiest parts of the hamlet of Bridgend must surely have been Commercial Street with its close proximity to the quays of the river bank. The old bridges across the Tay would cross from the foot of the High Street to the central part of Commercial Street. Indeed when William the Lion, who granted the charter to Perth in 1210, died in Stirling his body was carried to Arbroath. It is said that the Earl of Huntingdon, brother of William, came from Scone and helped to carry the body of the dead king across the bridge at Perth. A monument stood for many years in Commercial Street recording this event. The line of the bridge continued across Commercial Street to the Back Wynd and then into the old Dundee Road which followed a route round the back of Kinnoull Hill.

The quays at Bridgend were directly opposite the Perth Harbour which was then at the foot of the High Street and must surely have shared the trade and prosperity of the city. One quay was named Gibraltar Quay. It may have been given this name because projecting into the river it was at a narrow part. Also its situation with the Hill of Kinnoull rising behind may have suggested a resemblance to the harbour of Gibraltar backed by its famous Rock.

There were several noted shipbuilders on the Kinnoull side of the river. The family of David Murray, master of Kinnoull School, were shipbuilders in Commercial Street. By the 18th century trade had become slack in the port of Perth but the running of contraband was very common. A boathouse which stood on the site of Kinnoull Church was used for storing smuggled goods. In a large garden behind the house liquor and spirits were hidden and although customs officers often visited the house they failed to find any incriminating evidence. It is said that the smugglers had a rendezvous on Corsie Hill.

The commerce of Bridgend was varied and it is noted that Mr. Dickson exported shrubs and trees from his nursery to London. Also shipped south was the catch of salmon packed in ice, for which purpose two large ice houses were built, on the banks of the river.

Many of the ferrymen lived in Commercial Street and about 1830 a ferry house was built in Commercial Street. The ferries crossing the Tay from North Boat Lane were controlled at this point.

Much traffic must have passed over the stones of Commercial Street as this road continued east as the low road to Dundee. There would be plenty trade for the Cross Keys Hotel, behind which can still be seen the old stable buildings. The crossed keys, which were the emblem of St. Peter, may have given the hotel its name. It may have been a customs house where ships paid dues to Scone Abbey.

Commercial Street can boast of a ghost. In the 18th century it created an awful panic in an old tenement and made an incessant racket. As

buildings crumble and disappear in this old street the charm and homely atmosphere vanish too and a community dies.

Viewed from Tay Street, Bridgend had a pleasing aspect and this was due to the fact that the houses were not regimented in rows but many were built with their gable ends to the riverside. In the present re-development this feature has been retained.

The island lying in the river between Commercial Street and the end of the High Street is known as Stanners Island. It was formed by the stones, or stanes, brought down by the river.

One of the finest and largest buildings situated behind Bridgend on the lower slopes of Kinnoull Hill is Murray Royal Hospital. William Burn of Edinburgh, the architect of Kinnoull Church, also designed this building. William Hope, a merchant in Madras, amassed a considerable fortune. In 1809 Mr. Hope with his wife and family were returning to England on board the ship, "Jane, Duchess of Gordon" when it was sunk in a tempest. His fortune was left to his mother and step-brother James Murray of Perth. In 1814 James Murray decided that his share of the fortune should be devoted to the building of this hospital which was opened in 1827 and had accommodation for 80 patients.

In Georgian times many fine houses were built on the bank of the river. On one of the sites recently the General Accident Insurance Company built its computer department. In Tayfletts Mr. Ian McArthur, M.P. for Perth and East Perthshire, has his home. Yet another riverside mansion, Springlands, was the home of Mrs. Stewart-Sandeman who was a niece of the poetess Baroness Nairne, formerly Caroline Oliphant of Gask. Kincarrathie House, now a private home for the elderly, was at one time the home of Mr. Arthur Bell, the whisky distiller.





Garry Lodge, Barnhill.

## BARNHILL

Barnhill is the most easterly of our three districts. In early times there may have been a Pictish settlement here. In the grounds of Orchard-bank Nursery there was found a Roman statuette of the winged god Mercury which can be seen in Perth museum.

Nearby, during road work, traces of a subterranean earth house were discovered.

Kinnoull Castle was situated a quarter of a mile south of Old Kinnoull Church. Nothing now remains of this except the name of the house on the site—Castlebank. Sir Robert Erskine obtained charter from David II of the lands of Kinnoull. It is said that James I, on a visit to Perth, was received in the castle by Lady Erskine, a venerable lady of over 100 years. She told her king of the exploits of Bruce and Wallace. The exact dates of the castle are unknown but a portion was standing as late as 1796. It was a building of great antiquity in 1440 when Lady Erskine lived there.

The air of Barnhill must have been considered beneficial as it was here on the slopes of the hill that Perth Sanatorium was built. No longer used as such the buildings have been converted to private dwellings.

Also in Barnhill is the large nursing home of Hillside, originally established in 1876. To the west of the hospital building is a fine edifice now used as a nurses' home but erected by the 4th Duke of Atholl as his town house and known as Garry Lodge. This would be the last "town house" built in Perth. The Duke died before the house was occupied.

Branklyn House, with its famous garden, belongs to the National Trust for Scotland. It was the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Renton and was built in 1922. Mrs. Renton, who died in 1966, was a keen gardener and plantswoman and it was she who created the gardens which are open to the general public.

The mansion house of Bellwood was the home of Mr. Archibald Turnbull who prospered in the textile industry in Perth and also combined with Mr. Dickson in the nursery business of Dickson & Turnbull. On the terrace in front of the house sat two small cannons. In 1843 the funeral procession of Lord Lynedoch passed through Perth from Dundee to its burial in the mausoleum in Methven churchyard. As the cortege passed through Perth Mr. Turnbull had the cannon fired as a mark of respect.

The lands of Barnhill belonged to the Moncrieff family who lived in a large white mansion house close by the riverside. This house became the home of Mrs. Threipland of Fingask who was herself a Moncrieff when her husband lost his lands after the Rebellions in which he supported the Jacobite cause in 1715 and '45.

On the main road to Dundee at the foot of Bellwood Park stands a two-storeyed cottage set back from the road. It was here that Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have been entertained during the '45 Rebellion. This must be one of the oldest houses in the area and was the Dower House of the Barnhill (Moncreiffe) Estate.



House visited by Bonnie Prince Charlie during the Jacobite occupation of Perth in 1745.

It was close to the White House of Barnhill that Barnhill Station was built. The line from Dundee to Barnhill was built by the Dundee & Perth Railway Company and commenced in 1847.

For two years the terminus of the line was at Barnhill. Passengers alighted here and either paid one old penny to be transported by horse coach through Bridgend and across the Perth Bridge to Perth Town, or paid a smaller fare to be carried by ferry across the Tay. Some no doubt walked by road to Perth but it is said that there were stepping stones which could be used to get over the river via the island when the tide was exceptionally low.

The railway line was extended to Perth Station in 1849 after the building of a wooden railway bridge. It is interesting to note that the railway bridge had an opening span to allow small vessels to reach the upper harbour of Perth at Canal Street and the quays at Bridgend. The swing bridge fell into disuse as Commercial Street trading dwindled and the present Perth harbour came into use. However when a more sturdy structure of iron was made in 1894 there was still a swinging span.

The bridge at Perth had the honour of being the first railway bridge to span the Tay as the fated Dundee Railway Bridge was not built until 1864.

## KINNOULL and KINNOULL HILL

In earlier times there were many farms on the slopes of Kinnoull but, as Perth expanded, mansion houses were built. One of the biggest was Bowerswell House, the home of Mr. John Gray, whose daughter Effie Gray was married firstly to John Ruskin and later, after divorce, to Sir John Millais. Bowerswell House is now the Memorial Homes for Perth's senior citizens. When married Effie Gray and Millais lived in Annat Lodge. In a house in Kinnoull were spent the early years of Professor Sir Patrick Geddes, the pioneer sociologist and town planner.

Rising quite steeply from the River Tay is Kinnoull Hill. Its height is 729 ft. Kinnoull Hill forms the western tip of the Sidlaw Range. The smaller hill on the west is Corsie Hill and further west still lies Murrays-hall Hill where the Lynedoch Memorial is erected to the memory of Lord Lynedoch, formerly Thomas Graham of Balgowan. He was a commander in the peninsular war and won the battle of Barossa.

Kinnoull Hill was part of the estate of the Earl of Kinnoull. The Binn Hill, which is 555 ft., lying to the east, was on the estate of Lord Gray. These two gentlemen went on holiday to Germany and sailed down the Rhine. They were struck by the similarity of the Rhine and the Tay. Along the Rhine there were the barons' castles on the hilltops from which the barons extorted dues from passing ships. When the gentlemen returned home Lord Gray built a tower on Binn Hill and the Earl of Kinnoull built the ruined tower on Kinnoull to emphasise the likeness.

On Kinnoull Hill there are many gullies and one is known as Windy Ghoull. It is said that if one shouts there the echo can be heard as many as nine times.

On the cliff face, above the Dundee Road, there is a cave known as Dragon's Hole. Here there is supposed to have lived a dragon which was slain by St. Serf in the time of King Brude.

It was King Brude who made a gift of the Islet of Loch Leven to St. Serf where he lived for many years. He is said to have performed many miracles. The slaying of Kinnoull dragon is reputedly one of them.

On 1st May local people gathered at the cave to perform superstitious games and ceremonial rites. These were frowned on by the upholders of the Reformation and in Perth town records of 1580 there are cases of folk being fined and made to do public repentance for taking part in such practices.

The steep cliffs of Kinnoull Hill are extremely dangerous and there have been several fatal accidents on the cliffs. There is a record of a rock fall which struck one woman, left in the house when the menfolk were out in the fields. In a smallholding, Tulliemally, on the hill, very early strawberries were grown. They were usually ready before everyone

else's fruit. This is because of the south facing slopes of the hill which are sheltered from the east and north winds. The views from the road round the back of Kinnoull Hill are extremely fine.

Legend has it that Wallace, the great Scottish hero, sheltered in this cave during his fight for Scottish freedom.

Kinnoull Hill is an extinct volcano and outcrops of lava flow may still be seen. The main rock is blue whinstone with calceolareous veins. There is record of calcite being burnt on the bank of the River Tay below the Old Church of Kinnoull.

The hill of Kinnoull has long been famous for the agates found on the cliffs. Agates are formed by gas bubbles in the rock. These agates were called Kinnoull pebbles.

The hill has many interesting wild flowers including wild wallflower on the rock face, rock roses, geranium sanguineum and the rusty backed fern. The slopes are well wooded. Indeed in the 19th century when wood from the Baltic was in short supply timber from the hill was fetching 3/6 per foot.

On Kinnoull Hill there are two indicators and a stone table which the 9th Earl of Kinnoull set up. The Earl frequently dined there with friends picnic fashion and there is a magnificent panorama all round.

Below the hill stands Kinfauns Castle, formerly the home of the Earl of Moray.

To the east at Balthayock House there is still standing the very old Keep of Balthayock Castle.

The hill, with its panoramic views north, south, east and west, was gifted to Perth by Lord Dewar in 1924.

Corsie Hill, lying to the west of Kinnoull Hill, has a mountain indicator. Until 1936 there was a clachan of about twenty cottages at Corsie village. In that year they were condemned due to the lack of a proper water supply. Record has it that Robert Burns stopped at Corsie Hill in September, 1787, to admire the fine view northwards to Scone Palace.

