

Agriculture and farming resources in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL013

**The Wolfson Reading Room
Special Collections Centre**
The Sir Duncan Rice Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA

Introduction

Many individuals and institutions have deposited their papers with the University; as a result it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material not solely relating to the history and culture of the north-east of Scotland but also of national and international importance.

Agricultural education in the University dates back to 1790 when a bequest founded a lectureship in 'Agriculture in connection with Chemistry and Natural History'. However, it was not until 1840 that the first Fordyce Lectureship, John Shier, was appointed. This was strengthened by the merger in 1963 of the University and the North of Scotland College of Agriculture (founded in 1904) to form the School of Agriculture.

Archival collections

University institutional papers

Faculty of Education in agriculture papers: 1892 – 1906 (UNIVERSITY 888).

The Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health was founded in 1913 when an Institute for Research in Animal Nutrition was established under the supervision of a joint committee appointed by the University of Aberdeen and the North of Scotland College of Agriculture. The Institute played a major role in establishing the link between diet and health in the first half of the 20th Century (notably the Carnegie Dietary Research Survey) and it continues to work on major diet-related health and food security issues: 1913 – current (UNIVERSITY 1451).

Family and estate papers

The deposit of papers by local families has led to the University being in possession of an unrivalled collection of archival material relating to Scotland's rural past. These archives are fantastically rich for the study of estate management and improvement and also contain large series of tenants' records, for example in the collections of Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott (MS 2764) and the Earls of Fife (Duff House) (MS 3175). The sources include writs, letter books, rentals, tacks, accounts, correspondence

(between owner and tenant), building specifications, maps and plans.

Organisation papers

Banchory Farmer Friendly Society:
1776 – 1866 (MS 3244/7).

Gordon's Mill Farming Club, Aberdeen:
1758-1764 (MS 49).

New Deer Agricultural Association:
1837 – 1845 (MS 3387).

Woodside Oldgroves Farmers Friendly Society:
1792 – 1832 (MS 2769/II/123).

Parish summaries of Scottish agricultural returns (copy): 1955 (MS 2337).

Business papers

Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Board:
1932 – 1992 (MS 3636).

George Bruce and Co., seed-merchants, Aberdeen:
c. 1870 – c. 1973 (MS 2816).

George Jamieson & Son Ltd, builders and timber merchants: 1913 – 1919 (MS 2769/I/166 and MS 2769/II/73).

Robert Lawson & Sons (Dyce) Ltd, bacon curers, Parkhill Farm, Dyce: 1955 – 1957 (MS 3732).

Philorth Steam Cultivation & Traction Co Ltd: 1872 – 1888 (MS 3004/433, MS 3004/V30, MS 3004/V74 & MS 3004/V78).

Riddoch of Rothiemay Ltd., timber merchants, Elgin: 1869 – 1974 (MS 3261).

George Ross of Clochcan, merchant, Aberdeen:
1679 – 1705 (MS 3346/12).

Personal papers

Anderson, Dr. James, agriculturist and author; see Seton of Mounie papers: 1765 – 1804 (MS 2787/4 and MS 3523).

Bruce, William, farmer, Leochel Cushnie:
1850 (MS 3058).

Cooke, George William, Chief Scientific Officer, Agricultural Research Council:
1939 – 1988 (MS 3514).

Hendrick, Professor James, Professor of Agriculture: 1902 – 1908 (MS 3603).

Keith, Dr. Alexander, writer: (MS 2148, MS 3017).

Mackie, Dr Maitland, farmer and Chairman of the Board of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture: family letters: 1941 – 1968 (MS 3905).

Mathieson, Andrew, farmer, Kemnay:
1878 – 1908 (MS 3778).

Runciman, William, farmer, Dyce:
1826 – 1844 (MS 2527).

Scott, Andrew, farmer, memoirs: 1914 (MS 2897).

Sutherland family photograph album of farm life at
Nether Angus: 1920s (MS 3370).

Watson, George, farmer, Foveran:
1771 – 1780 (MS 2098).

Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via the Reading Room, contains relevant printed material such as estate sales brochures and publications by the Aberdeenshire Agricultural Association, Macauley Institute, North of Scotland College of Agriculture, Rowett Institute and University School of Agriculture.

There are numerous other printed collections that contain material of particular relevance, such as County agricultural histories, farm 'pattern' books and publications from societies such as the Highland Society of Scotland.

There are also named collections of relevance:

Alford Mutual Improvement Association Library

Alexander Keith Collection, and also the library formerly held by the **Rowett Institute** which were the libraries of Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk and others.

Access

Materials are available upon request for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items.

Further reading

For further reading please also see the studies of a number of manuscripts, printed books and collections in the journals *Aberdeen University Library Bulletin*, *Aberdeen University Review* and *Northern Scotland*.