

Resources relating to Aberdeenshire in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL044

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.

Please note that Aberdeen city boundaries have changed over time and the parishes of Peterculter, Dyce, Newhills and the Bridge of Don area of Old Machar parish were incorporated into the City of Aberdeen District in 1974 and thence into Aberdeen City in 1996. For the purposes of this factsheet these parishes will be included here as formerly part of Aberdeenshire.

The Aberdeenshire parishes are Aberdour, Aboyne and Glentinar, Alford, Auchindoir and Kearn, Auchterless, Belhelvie, Birse, Bourtie, Cairnie, Chapel of Garioch, Clatt, Cluny, Coull, Crathie and Braemar, Crimond, Cruden, Culsalmond, Daviot, Drumblade, Drumoak, Dyce, Echt, Ellon, Fintray, Fergie, Foveran, Fraserburgh, Fyvie, Gartly, Glass, Glenbuchat, Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn, Huntly, Inch, Inverurie, Keig, Keithhall and Kinkell, Kemnay, Kennethmont, Kildrummy, Kincardine O'Neill, Kinellar, King Edward, Kintore, Leochel-Cushnie, Leslie, Logie-Buchan, Logie-Coldstone, Longside, Lonmay, Lumphanan, Meldrum, Methlick, Midmar, Monquhitter, Monymusk, New Deer, New Machar, Newhills, Old Deer, Old Machar, Oyne, Peterhead, Peterculter, Pitsligo, Premay, Rathen, Rayne, Rhynie, Skene, Slains, Strathdon, Strichen, St Fergus, Tarland, Tarves, Tough, Towie, Tullynessle and Forbes, Turriff, Tyrie and Udny.

Archival collections

Family and estate papers

Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott: 13th century – 20th century (MS 2764).

Burnett of Leys (Crathes Castle papers): 14th century – 20th century (MS 3361).

Davidson of Kebbaty, Midmar, Aberdeenshire: 1711 – 1878 (MS 4018).

Dingwall Fordyce of Brucklay: 16th century – 19th century (MS 999).

Dunecht Estate Office (Viscounts of Cowdray): 18th century to 20th century (MS 3040).

Duff of Meldrum: 15th century – 19th century (MS 2778).

Erskine of Pittodrie: 17th century – 18th century (MS 2524).

Ferguson of Kinmundy: 16th century – 20th century (MS 3816).

Forbes of Newe: 16th century – 19th century (MS 3402).

Forbes and Hay of Seaton: 18th century – 19th century (MS 2253 and MS 2414).

Forbes-Leith of Whitehaugh: 17th century – 20th century (MS 2308).

Fordyce family of Brucklay Castle: 1844 – 1865 (MS 3220).

Fraser of Castle Fraser and Inverallochy: 16th century – 20th century (MS 3470).

Frasers of Inverallochy: 16th century – 19th century (MS 2701).

Fraser of Philorth: 14th century – 20th century (MS 3004).

Gordon, Dukes of Gordon: 1644 – 1906 (MS 907, MS 908 & MS 909). Please note that the main family papers are held by the National Records of Scotland.

Gordons of Buthlaw and Cairness: 17th century – 20th century (MS 1160 and MS 3193).

Gordon family of Craig Castle and Auchindoir, Aberdeenshire: 1511 – 1730 (copies) (MS 2499).

Gordon of Cluny: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3600).

Gordon family, Earls of Aberdeen, relating to Cromar estate, Aberdeenshire: 19th century – 20th century (MS 3198). Please note that the main collection of papers are still held by the family.

Gordon of Haddo papers relating to the construction of Haddo House: 1732 – 1734 (MS 2520).

Gordon of Pitlurg and Straloch (The Straloch papers: 17th century – 20th century (MS 2223).

Hay family, Erroll Estates papers, estate accounts of Cruden and Slains: 18th century (MS 2110).

Innes of Learney papers: c.1750 – 1920 (MS 3667).

Johnston family of Caskieben, Hilton and Portlethen, Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire: 1709 – 1920s (MS 3338).

Keith of Kintore: 15th century – 20th century (MS 2707, MS 3064 and MS 3538). This also includes some records of Baird of Ury.

Kinharrachie Estate, Ellon: 1603 – 1885 (MS 2621).

King of Tertowie: 16th century – 20th century (MS 2957).

Leith of Glenkindie and Freefield: 17th century – 20th century (MS 2847 and MS 2849).

Leith-Ross of Arnage: 14th century – 20th century (MS 3346).

Leslie of Balquhain: 14th century – 18th century (MS 3043).

Leslie of Warthill: 18th century – 19th century (MS 2580).

Lumsden of Cushnie: 15th century – 20th century (MS 2500).

Ogilvie-Forbes of Boyndlie: 15th century – 20th century (MS 2740).

Russell of Aden: 18th century – 20th century (MS 3634).

Scott family, Achath, near Castle Fraser: papers: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3873).

Seton of Mounie: 16th century – 20th century (MS 2787).

Seaton of Pitmedden: 15th century – 20th century (MS 2463 and MS 3531).

Shand and Milne of Craigellie: 19th century (MS 2619).

Shand of The Burn, Fettercairn and Straloch: 1816 – 1835 (MS 3652).

Turner of Kinharrachie, Ellon: 17th century – 19th century (MS 2621).

Organisations' papers

Please note that some organisations had a geographical remit of the wider north-east of Scotland (such as the Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Board, North East of Scotland Music Festival, Spalding Clubs). Please therefore also see the separate factsheet.

Aberdeen Burgh and Shire, poll book: 1696 (MS 568).

Aberdeenshire valuations: 17th century – 20th century (MS 252, MS 507, MS 1037, MS 1038).

Aberdeenshire Volunteer Rifle Corps (part of Castle Fraser papers): 1814-1865 (MS 3470/20).

Aboyne Circulating Library papers: 1839 – 1855 (MS 3495).

Alford poll book: 19th century (MS 3470/21/44).

Alford Mutual Improvement Association Library papers: 1912 – 1929 (MS 3438).

Alford Turnpike Trust papers: 1822 – 1897 (MS 2769/I/104 and MS 2769/II/117).

Arnage Barony: 1702 – 1748 and Bourtie Barony: 1608-1702, court acts (MS 3346).

Ballater Mutual Improvement Association: 1889 – 1927 (MS 2632).

Buchan Coursing Club: 1854 – 1881: (MS3004/351 and MS 3004/V41).

Buchan Medical Society: 1862 - 1935 (MS 1163/2).

Cairngorm Club papers: 1889 – 1990 (MS 3405).

Castle Fraser School records: 1870 – 1888 (MS 3470/18).

Collegiate Church of Turriff: register: 1548-1558: Also includes notes made in the 20th century (MS 2255).

Countesswells court book: 1620 – 1662 (MS 2308/11).

Crichie Barony, court minutes: 1640 - 1644 (MS 3004/V406).

Deeside Field Club: 1920 – 2006 (MS 3775).

Fintray (Aberdeenshire) Mutual Instruction Class: minute book and notebook of births, marriages and deaths: 1857 – 1884 (MS 3565).

Fraserburgh burgh court book: 1820 – 1826 (MS 3004/V88).

Fraserburgh Heritors minutes: 1837 - 1867 (MS 3004/507).

Fraserburgh Parochial Board: 1862 – 1865 (MS 3004/bundle 277).

Free Master Gardeners of Fintray: 1818 – 1842 (MS 1024).

Garioch and Northern Medical Association: 1854 – 1925 (MS 1163/1).

Keithhall Heritors minute book: 1873 – 1884 (MS 3064).

Kennethmont, Clatt and Leslie Total Abstinence Society: 1878 – 1886 (MS 3630).

Kintore Heritors minute book: 1850 – 1857 (MS 3064).

Kirk session records extracts for Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire: 17th century – 19th century, compiled early 20th century (MS 1083).

Newmachar Parish: kirk session records (part): 1642 – 1649 (MS 2544).

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

Old Machar Parochial Association: 1864 – 1868 (MS 1020).

Philorth Barony and Fraserburgh Regality court books: 1633-1720 (MS 3004/V405).

Philorth Barony court book: 1653 – 1676 (MS 3004/V406).

Philorth Barony and Fraserburgh Regality court book: 1748 – 1765 (MS 3004/V407).

Philorth Barony, Lord Saltoun court book: 1783 – 1826 (MS 3004/V408).

Philorth Barony court book (copy): 1653 – 1676 (MS 2867).

Presbytery of Deer papers: 1884 – 1930 (MS 2300 – 2302).

Rathen Heritors (copies): 1832 – 1853 (MS 3004/587).

Roman Catholic Church, Aquhorthies College papers: 1804 – 1817 (MS 2249).

Roman Catholic Church, Glengairn and Braemar: 1703 – 1845 (MS 536, MS 537, MS 538, MS 918, MS 919 & MS 2005).

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, including many individual churches: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3320).

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Fraserburgh, inventory: 1963 (MS 2450).

United Free Church Maud cash book: 1880 – 1933 (MS 3688).

Whitehaugh lands and barony court book: 1739 – 1745 (MS 2308/8).

Business papers

Aberdeenshire Light Railways Company records: 1889 – 1898 (MS 4020).

William Anderson, grocer and merchant, Clochan, Aberdeenshire: 1854 – 1882 (MS 3204).

Craigenlow Quarries Limited, Dunecht: 1945 – 1986 (MS 3843).

William Cruickshank, blacksmith in the Rothienorman area, register of work: c.1903 – 1914 (MS 3868).

Culter Mills Paper Co. Ltd: 1865 – 1965 (MS 3076).

C. Davidson and Sons Ltd., Paper Manufacturers: 1852 – 1977 (MS 3232).

William Kennedy, joiner, Kinnernie, daybook: 1831 – 1867 (MS 2266).

Adam Mackie, farmer, merchant and innkeeper, Fyvie: 1818 – 1850 (MS 3347).

Alexander George Reid, Builder and Contractor, Kemnay: 1845 – 1937 (MS 3544).

John Rickart of Auchnacant, merchant (The Rickart manuscript): 1690 – 1724 (MS 2305).

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

Peterhead Engineering Company: 1970s - 1990s. (MS 3799).

Philorth Steam Cultivation & Traction Co Ltd: 1872 – 1888 (MS 3004/433, MS 3004/V30, MS3004/V74 & MS 3004/V78).

Alexander Pirie & Sons, paper-manufacturers: 18th century – 20th century (MS 2911).

TOTAL E&P UK: Frigg Transportation System and St Fergus papers: 1972 – current (MS 3801).

There is much relevant material across collections of solicitors and surveyors. For example:

Davidson and Garden, advocates, Aberdeen: 15th century – 20th century. This extensive collection contains records of some 200 families, estates, businesses, trusts and other organisations which the firm represented such as Lewis Chalmers of Fraserburgh (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18th century – 20th century. Includes papers from various families and estates such as Burnett of Elrick (MS 3257, MS 3277, MS 3394, MS 3662, MS 3665 and MS 3713).

F. A. MacDonald and Partners, engineers and surveyors, Aberdeen (incorporating Walker & Duncan, Aberdeen): 18th century – 20th century (papers MS 2626 and maps and plans MS 3860).

Personal papers

For papers relating to individuals from Aberdeen see the separate factsheet.

Some collections are particularly useful for local history research:

Kelly, William, architect and antiquarian: papers, 1805 – 1944 (MS 2380 and MS 3859).

Simpson, William Douglas, historian and archaeologist, papers including collection of archaeological, monumental and architectural plans, 19th century – 20th century (MS 2729, MS 2818 and MS 3759).

Other relevant collections

Scottish Catholic Archives, Historic Archives

The Historic Archives of the Scottish Catholic Archives predominantly relate to the Catholic Church from the 12th century prior to the restoration of the Scottish Catholic Hierarchy in 1878. The

collection contains material of regional, national and international significance and provides evidence of the survival of Catholicism both in Scotland and abroad through the archives of its missions, seminaries and colleges. There are also extensive collections relating to prominent Catholic families many in the north-east of Scotland (SCA).

NHS Grampian Archives

The archive dates from the founding of Aberdeen Infirmary in 1739 and contains substantial material relating to hospital provision, notably general and specialist hospitals, cottage hospitals and asylums across Aberdeenshire (GRHB).

Medico-Chirurgical Society

The Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society was founded in 1789 in response to the perceived lack of medical teaching offered by both King's and Marischal Colleges. Its members contributed to the development of medical teaching and practice in Aberdeen and beyond. For more information see the website but please note that although the catalogue is available via the University, the papers are held by the Medico-Chirurgical Society (AMCS).

Printed collections

The Local Collection of printed material geographically speaking covers the north-east corner of Scotland and is available to consult on open-access in our Reading Room. It contains local area histories, plans and maps and reports of local institutions such as publications by the Buchan Field Club and local schools. Also in The Local Collection you will find a number of local newspapers.

Access

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

Further reading

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

Johnstone, James. *A concise bibliography of the history, topography and institutions of the shires of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine* (Aberdeen, 1914)

Johnstone, James and Robertson, Alexander. *Bibliographia Aberdonensis: being an account of books relating to or printed in the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine or written by natives or residents or by officers, graduates or alumni of the Universities of Aberdeen* (Aberdeen, 1929)

Robertson, Alexander. *Handlist of bibliography of the shires of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine* (Aberdeen, 1893)