

Resources relating to Banffshire, Morayshire and Nairnshire in Special Collections

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QG HCOL045

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
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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.

The Banffshire parishes are Aberlour, Alvah, Banff, Boharm, Botriphnie, Boyndie, Cabrach, Cullen, Deskford, Grange, Ineravon, Inverkeithney, Keith, Fordyce, Forglen, Gamrie, Kirkmichael, Marnoch, Mortlach, Ordiquhill, Rathven and Rothiemay.

The Morayshire parishes are: Alves, Bellie, Birnie, Cromdale, Inverallan and Advie, Dallas, Drainie, Duffus, Dyke and Moy, Edinkillie, Elgin, Forres, Kinloss, Knockando, Rafford, Rothes, Speymouth, Spynie, St Andrews-Lhanbryd and Urquhart.

The Nairnshire parishes are Ardclach, Auldearn, Cawdor, Croy and Dalcross and Nairn.

Archival collections

Family and estate papers

Duff of Braco and Wharton-Duff of Orton: 17th century – 19th century: (MS 2727).

Duff, Earls of Fife (Duff House): 13th century – 20th century (MS 3175).

For Brodie estate (see papers of Duff, Earls of Fife below): 18th century (MS 3175/M) section E39-95).

For more related material relating to the Duffs, see the main Earls of Fife catalogue (MS 3175) above.

Fraser of Philorth: list of Leaders of Horse in Banff, commanded by the Laird of Philorth: c.1660 – 1669 (MS 2024).

Gordon of Cluny, relating to properties in Banffshire and Nairnshire: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3600).

Gordon of Letterfourie: 1508 – 1819 (MS 3745).

Innes and Walker of Craignetherty: 18th century – 19th century (MS 2531).

Taylor of Rothiemay: 19th century – 20th century (MS 3356).

Organisations' papers

Alvah Heritors minute book: 1899 – 1921 (MS 3175/V/1014).

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, Keith Branch: 1918 – 1968 (MS 2676).

Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers (Aberdeen District, Keith Branch and Turriff Branch): 1868 – 1961 (MS 2652).

Banffshire, various Baronies: Cullen, Fortry, Montbleatton, Kirk of Alvah, and Doune (Macduff): 1775 – 1831 (MS 3175/V/755).

Banffshire Commissioners of Supply, various papers amongst the Earls of Fife papers: 18th century – 19th century (MS 3175).

Down (Macduff) Barony court book: 1770 – 1782 (MS 3175/V/754).

Dyke Friendly Society: 1800 – 1834 (MS 3881).

Local Labour Party branch records 1920s – 1960s (Banffshire and Keith) (MS 2891 and MS 2892).

Morayshire, various Baronies including Innes, Coxtown, Garmouth and Pluscarden: 1776 – 1798 (MS 3174V/1159).

Morayshire Commissioners of Supply, various papers amongst the Earl of Fife papers: 18th century – 19th century (MS 3175).

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. Also relating to individual churches at Buckie, Cullen, Dufftown and Portsoy: 18th century – 20th century (MS 3320).

Business papers

Flett and Sutherland, fish salesmen of Findochty, Banffshire: 1899 – 1921 (MS 3229).

Edward Mortimer, solicitor, Banff: c.1786 – 1860 (MS 3249).

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

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 including, Robert Garland of Cowhythe, Portsoy (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18th century – 20th century. Includes papers from various families and estates. (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 see the separate factsheet.

Some collections are particularly useful for local history research:

Cheyne, James Davidson, teacher, records of the parish of Alves, Morayshire: c.1920 (MS 2349).

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).

Walker family and Craignetherty farm papers: 1754 – 1896 (MS 2531).

Other relevant collections

Scottish Catholic Archives

There are numerous sources within the records of the Scottish Catholic Church. This extensive collection relates 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 of Scotland. Of particular interest is the series: Preshome Letters: Northern District Vicariate: 1641 – 1933 (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. Relevant collections include Bilbohall Hospital Elgin, Campbell Hospital Portsoy, Chalmers Hospital Banff, County Hospital Dufftown, Fleming Hospital Aberlour, Dr Gray's Hospital Elgin, Joint Smallpox Hospital Elgin, Ladysbridge Hospital

Banff, Leancoil Hospital Forres, Maryhill Maternity Hospital Elgin, Portgordon and Rathven Western District Nursing Association, Rose-Innes Cottage Hospital Aberchirder, Seafield Hospital Buckie, Spynie Hospital Elgin, Stephen Hospital Dufftown, Turner Memorial Hospital Keith, Banffshire Hospitals Board of Management, Banffshire Insurance Committee, Banff and Buchan Local Health Council, Lower Banffshire Hospitals Board of Management, Moray Hospitals Board of Management, Moray Local Health Council and Upper Banffshire Hospitals Board of Management (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 in profound ways. 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 the Banffshire Year Book And County Directory and publications from the Banffshire 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)