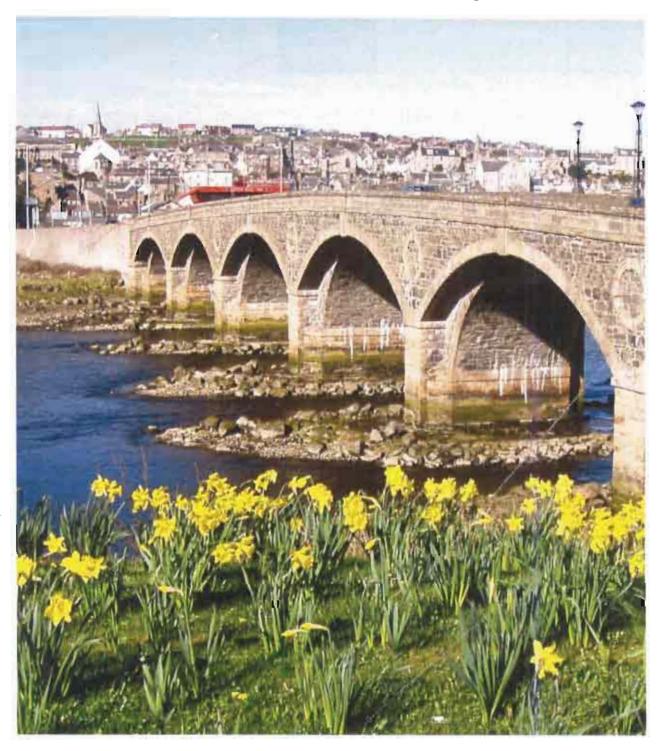
Banff Through the Years

An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh. Volume $2 - 18^{th}$ Century.



STANLEY BRUCE

BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

♦ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.♦

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An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh

Volume 2 – 18th Century.

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Banff Through the Years

An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh

Volume 2 – 18th Century.

By Stanley Bruce

Published by **Stanley A. Bruce**

♦ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.◆

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Preface

I wrote this book 7-years ago, back in 2014, and it was due to be published by the Banffshire Maritime & Heritage Association once the sales of Volume 1 were enough to publish this one. However, due to the sad loss of many of the committee members the Association was wound up.

It was fortunate that I had printed out a copy of the book, as the WORD file was lost due to a hard drive failure. In 2021, I digitally scanned the book with a view to put in on the internet as a free downloadable pdf.

Volume 1 - Up to 1699 of this series was published in 2013 and a small number of copies printed locally.

Stanley. A. Bruce.

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I have endeavoured to make the book as complete as possible, however there is bound to be things I have over-looked, and the book is written in such a fashion, that in the future it can be easily added to and re-published, simply by slotting-in any new information should it arise.

Dates written in **bold**, have separate entries of their own in one of the four volumes.



Banff Chair.



John Wesley.

The Wesley Chair gifted to John Wesley by Lady Banff of Forglen originally kept in the Methodist Church, Seafield Street, Banff is now kept in the Methodist Church, Crown Terrace, Aberdeen, and is known as the 'Banff Chair'.

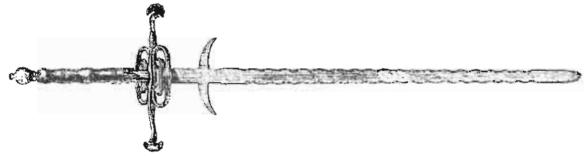
Introduction

Firstly, I apologise regarding the repetition of some text regarding the Duff family to those who have also bought the Macduff Through the Years book. In order to make the books stand-alone it was necessary to write them in this way. The 18th century started off dramatically with the capture and hanging of James Macpherson the Highland Freebooter, who Burns our national Bard wrote a poem about when he visited Banff in 1787. 1707 saw Lord Banff and the Earl of Seafield vote for the Union of the Parliaments, but by 1713 the Earl saw this wasn't such a good deal for Scotland and moved for its repeal. In 1710, James Ferguson famous astronomer was born near Rothiemay. In 1713, Lord Banff was murdered in his home, Inchdrewer Castle. 1735-39 saw the magnificent Duff House built, and the townsfolk of the day must have been in awe due to its grandeur. Many other significant buildings were built in the town, mainly around Low Street and High Street. In 1746, the Duke of Cumberland passed through Banff on his way to Culloden and his men burned the Episcopal Church to the ground, and Alexander Kinnaird of Culvie and Mr. Innes of Banff were both unjustly hanged as spies. Post Culloden, army regiments were stationed in Banff for several decades. 1749-52 saw Banff Castle Mansion house built (as we see it today). In 1759 William Duff was created 1st Earl Fife. 1765 saw the first bridge built over the Deveron, only for it to be swept away during heavy flooding in 1768. 1770-75 civil engineer John Smeaton made improvements to Banff Harbour, and between 1775 and 1780 built the Banff Bridge we see today (Although widened since). During the 1790's poet Lord Byron spent his childhood holidays in Banff living with his granny. Quite an eclectic history, I sincerely hope you find the book interesting and useful for many years as a good reference book.

Stanley A. Bruce, BSc; I.Eng; I.MarEng., MIMarEST. Life Member, Banff Preservation and Heritage Society. Member of the Heraldry Society of Scotland.

Banff Through The Years

- 1700 Robert Sanders was elected as Provost, a position he held until **1701**. **See 1705**, **1707**, and **1708**.
- 1700 10th September James Macpherson (b.**c1675**), James Gordon, Peter and Donald Brown were all apprehended at St. Ruffus Fair (Summers Eve Fair) in Keith by Alexander Duff (1652 to 1705) laird of Braco.
- 7th November James Macpherson (b.c1675) the Highland Freebooter and James Gordon were both found guilty by a jury after a three day trial of being Egyptians, vagabonds, and thieves. The Deputy Sherriff Nicolas Dunbar of Castlefield ordered that: "They be hanged by the neck to the death on the 16th November between the hours of 2pm and 3pm". (The Annals of Banff state that Macpherson's skull and bones were sometime later dug up at the Gallow Hill and the skull kept in Banff Museum, but it is not there now).



A sketch of James Macpherson's large two-handed Mediaeval Sword, (Perhaps of German origin).

(From the Domestic Annals of Scotland by Robert Chambers 1874).

1700 16th November – James Macpherson (b.c1675) the Highland Freebooter was hanged in Banff. It is not clear whether he was hanged at the Mercat Cross or at the Gallow Hill, however it is more likely that it was at the Mercat Cross. He was the last person executed in Scotland under heritable jurisdiction. James Gordon who was imprisoned at the same time is thought to have received a pardon.

Legend tells that Alexander Duff (1652 to 1705) laird of Braco had heard that a reprieve for Macpherson was on its way so he had the church clock put forward to ensure he was hanged. Legend also tells us that James Macpherson wrote a tune while in his cell and played it on his fiddle to the crowd while standing on the gallows. He then offered his fiddle to the crowd but with no takers, he kissed it, and then broke it over his knee. James Macpherson's father was a highland laird and his mother was a gypsy. James Macpherson had a huge two-handed mediaeval sword which was five feet long with a blade 3' 3-3/4" long and 2-1/2" wide. It was in the possession of the Duke of Fife, and last heard of in Duff House, but its whearabouts is currently unknown. The broken fiddle was picked up by Donald Macpherson and can be seen today in the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore. When Robert Burns visited Banff in 1787 and heard the story, he wrote his own poem of the original 'Macpherson's Lament'. See 1695, and 1985.



James Macpherson's hanging as depicted on a mural inside the Broken Fiddle Café, Strait Path, Banff. Painted in 1985 by John Stewart of Portsoy. (The mural has the faces of prominent people of the time e.g. Isla St. Clair, Margaret Thatcher, Billy Connolly, Alex Salmond, etc.).

c1700 No. 6 Back Path was built. Category B listed.

18th C Built into the wall, above the door of a house at No. 14 Stuart Street, is a small stone carving approximately 400mm square, this depicts three nude figures, two female and one male. This carving is not of local origin and may have been brought back to Banff from someone travelling to India perhaps. It is thought to be very old perhaps even of mediaeval origin.



Stone carving at No. 14 Stuart Street. (A. Bruce).

- 1701 21st February Peter and Donald Brown both captured with James Macpherson on the 10th September 1700, were both sentenced to be hanged at the Gallow Hill on the 2nd April 1701. Whether they were actually hanged is a matter of dispute, records state they were given a reprieve until the second Wednesday of June, however others reported that they escaped, which is perhaps more likely.
- 1701 Alexander Leslie (b.c1666) of Kininvie was elected as Provost of Banff for a third time, a position he held until 1704. See 1690, and 1695. In 1690 he married Penelope Sharp a daughter of Banff born Archbishop James Sharp (1618 to 1679).
- 1701 The Earl of Seafield peerage was created for James Ogilvie (1663 to 1730). **See Appendix D.**
- 1702 21st November– James Ogilvie (1663 to 1730) the 4th Earl of Findlater and 1st Earl of Seafield was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Scotland by Queen Anne (1665 to 1714).
- 1703 First mention on record of a Freemason's lodge in Banff.
- 1703 Date of a marriage stone (lintel) on the gable of No. 40 High Street, with the names WILLIAM BROWN ELIZ FYFF. This stone pre-dates this part of the building. This

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building was originally a single storey building but was heightened early 20thC. Top right - the stone also bears the monogram of initials 'TH', perhaps those of the mason.



1703 marriage stone, No. 40 High Street, Banff.

1704 Banff Brewery in North
Castle Street was built.
With its three storeys and
courtyard it was the
largest building in Banff.
It was later used as the
district laundry. Sangs
soft drinks manufacturer
used the premises from
1930 until 1976 when
they moved to a new
purpose built factory in
Macduff. Currently the



The former Banff Brewery, North Castle Street. (S. Bruce).

building is used by several small retail outlets and Deveron FM radio station. Category B listed. See 1746, 1858, and 1930.

- 1704 The Hammermen, Wrights, and Tailors petitioned to erect a loft in St. Marys Old Kirk.
- 1705 Robert Saunders was elected as Provost. See 1700, 1707, and 1708.
- c1705 William Gordon was born. According to his headstone he bravely served his country for over forty years and rose to the position of Vice Admiral. He built Carmelite House, No. 30 Low Street in 1753 and played a major part in the establishment of the first bank in Banff. He died 12th April 1769 and is commemorated by a large

pyramid-like monument in St. Marys Old Kirkyard. The marble inscription was restored in 2006 with a tougher Carrera marble. See **1764-7**.

1706 John Mark was elected as Provost. See 1708 and 1714.

James Ogilvie (1663 to 1730) the 1st Earl of Seafield voted for the Union of the Scottish and English parliaments known as the 'Acts of Union'. This act established a single united kingdom of Great Britain. Lord Banff is recorded as receiving £11-2/- and James Ogilvie (c1663 to 1730) 1st Earl of Seafield received £490. The Acts of the Union took effect 1st May 1707 making the parliament of Great Britain. By 1713 the view of James Ogilvie the 1st Earl of Seafield regarding the Union had changed and he moved for its repeal.

1707 Following the Union of the Parliaments of Scotland and England a set of standard weights and measures were made for the town. These can be seen in Banff Museum.

1707 Robert Saunders was elected as Provost. See 1700, 1705, and 1708.

1708 Robert Saunders was elected as Provost. See 1700, 1705, and 1707.

1708 John Mark was elected as Provost. A position he held until 1712. See 1706, and 1714.



Shoemakers Plaque, No. 45 to 47 High Street. (S. Bruce).

1710 Date on the upper plaque of No's 45 to 47 High Street which reads 'IM This house was dedicated by John Murray some time Convener in Banff for Charitable ends 1710'. The lower stone reads 'Rebuilt by the Incorporation of Shoemakers 1787'.

'IM' – John Murray.

The building was restored in **1975** by the Banff Preservation Society. Category B listed.

1710 25th April – James Ferguson was born at Core of Mayen, near Rothiemay. He taught himself to read and write, and he became a leading astronomer of his time. He was also a fine artist and did many miniature paintings simply to

some earn money. He died in 1776. Some examples of his work as paintings, and apparatus charts, are in the possession of Banff Museum. See 1697, 1723, and 1731. James Ferguson featured in a book titled 'Biography of Self Taught Men' published in 1855.



James Ferguson apparatus. (Banff Museum).

- 1712 George Leslie (d.1740) sold Eden Castle to a member of the Duff family. Category B listed. Grid Ref: NJ697587.
- 1712 The Tolbooth was built on Low Street at the bottom of the Strait Path, on the site where the Tolbooth Hotel now stands. The Tolbooth had seven windows all 5' x 2' 10" wide. The main door was only 5' 6" high. It had four other small doors and a gilded weathercock on the roof. It had an external stair which led to the cells. It also had a bell dated 1770 (See photograph below), which is currently in Banff Museum. Inscribed 'Burgh of Banff'. Note the weld repair which is very noticeable at the front of the bell. See 1802.

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1713 Date of a charter in Banff Museum by the given Provost, Magistrates, Council of Banff in favour of Walter Ogilvie. It was found in a curiosity shop in London. On the the charter are coats of arms of the following:

Ogilvie de Hallyeards. Elphinston de Elphinstoun. Ogilvie de Dallochie. Heleburton de Pittcurr.

November - Date of the 1713 tragic death of Sir George Ogilvie (b.1649) 3rd Lord Sir George Ogilvie Banff. lived in Inchdrewer Castle Various (Built c1500). accounts are given for his death, one is that he is thought to have been murdered on his return from Ireland by his thieving



Banff Tolbooth Bell of 1770. (Banff Museum).

Meldrum de Seggy. Comes de Dumfrife. Martin de Cambo. Gairdn de Gairdn.



Inchdrewer Castle. (S. Bruce).

domestics, who are thought to have stolen from him while he was away. They then set fire to the castle to try to conceal their crime. Another is that the deed was done by members of a family who whose honour he had soiled. A third is that it was simply an accident. Was this justice for the Lord selling Scotland to the English in 1707?

- 1713 Inchdrewer Castle for a while was partly used as an academy; the young James Duff (1776 to 1857) 4th Earl Fife and his younger brother later (1838) General Sir Alexander Duff (1777 to 1853) are both known to have attended school here. George Chapman is recorded in the register of marriages as the Master of Inchdrewer Academy in 1784. Inchdrewer Castle is currently unoccupied and is owned by the estate of the late Baron Count Robin Ian Evelyn Stuart de la Lanne Mirrlees who formerly resided in the west coast island of Great Bernera. See c1500, and 1557. Category A listed. Grid Ref: NJ656607.
- 1714 George Gairdn was elected as Provost.
- 1714 15th October John Mark was elected as Provost. See **1706**, and **1708**.
- 1715 Robert Stewart was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1716. See 1718, & 1721.
- 1715 A teapot of this date,
- which can be seen in 20 Banff Museum, is one of the oldest surviving silver teapots in Scotland, and one of the largest surviving of pieces Banff silver. For 200 years silversmiths practised in Banff (1680's to 1880's),



Silver teapot of Banff. (Made 1715 to 1720). (Banff Museum).

- and they produced quality silverware similar to that made in Edinburgh. This teapot featured in the BBC's 'A History of the World' in 2010. See **1688**.
- 1718 New bells for St. Marys Church were funded by a loan from the Guildry.
- 1718 Robert Stewart was elected as Provost. See 1715 & 1721.

- 1718 Jacobite King James VIII of Scotland & James III of England (James Francis Edward Stuart (1688 to 1766) aka the Old Pretender) was solemnly proclaimed at Banff Mercat Cross.
- William Scott was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1720. See **1724**.
- William Duff (1697 to 1763) the son of William Duff (1653 to 1722) of Dipple married Lady Janet Ogilvie (1695 to 1720), daughter of James Ogilvie (1663 to 1730) the 4th Earl of Findlater.
- 1720 Lady Janet Ogilvie 1st wife of William Duff (1697 to 1763) of Braco died.
- 1721 Robert Stewart was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1724. See 1715, & 1718.
- 1720-30 No. 5 High Street was built. It was the town house of Sir Alexander Ogilvie (d.1771) 7th Lord Banff. Its Victorian porch was added in the 19th Century. Category B listed. See **1764**.
- William Baird (d.1750) of Auchmedden resigned the heritable Sherriff-ship of Banffshire to James Ogilvie (1663 to 1730) 4th Earl of Findlater, who was the last heritable Sherriff of Banff.
- 1722 June A judicial sale was held before the Lords of Session of the lands including Banff Castle mortgaged by Leslie of Kininvie to Lord Forglen, and Banff Castle was purchased by Mr. Andrew Hay of Montblairy. Hay sold the castle in 1723.
- 1722 Banff's first Episcopal Chapel was built in High Street by the Incorporated Trades of Banff. It was burned down in 1746 by Prince William (1721 to 1765) Duke of Cumberland, the remains were demolished to make way for the new St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in 1833.
- William Duff (1697 to 1763) of Braco later to become the 1st Earl Fife acquired the lands of Pluscarden Priory in Moray. The priory was founded in 1230 by King

Alexander II.

William Duff (1697 to 1723 1763) of Braco later to become the 1st Earl Fife married his second wife Jean Grant (1705 to 1788). She was the daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart (1679 to 1747). Together thev had fourteen children, seven boys, and seven girls. The drawing shown of Jean Grant was drawn by James Ferguson (1710 to **1776**) the Astronomer. did He many fine drawings like this simply to earn some money.



Miniature painting of Jean Grant by James Ferguson. (Banff Museum).

Banff Museum have several exhibits of his work. See **1720.**

- 1723 27th June James Ogilvie (1714 to 1770) Lord Deskford, (later 5th Earl of Findlater & 2nd Earl of Seafield) bought the ancient Banff Castle from Andrew Hay of Montblairy. See **1749-52**.
- 1724 William Scott was elected as Provost. See 1718, & 1726.
- 1726 William Scott was elected as Provost. See 1718, & 1724.
- 1727 William Duff (1697 to 1763) was elected MP for the County of Banff. He held the seat until 1734. See 1697, 1733, 1735, and 1759.
- 1727 Improvements were made to Banff Harbour.
- 1727 George Gairdn was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1728. See 1714.
- 1729 29th September James Duff was born. In **1763**, he became the 2nd Earl Fife. He died in **1809**.

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- 1728 (Possibly 1726) date of two marriage stones at rear of 29 to 35 High Street, one is inscribed 'JM ♥ VF', and the other reads: '17 James M('arr) Violete Fraser 26'. Restored c1985.



Marriage date stone, at the rear of No. 29 to 35 High Street, Banff. (S. Bruce).



Marriage date stone inscribed 'JM ♥ VF', at the rear of No. 29 to 35 High Street, Banff. (S. Bruce).

- James Shand was elected Provost, a position he held until **1732**.
- 1730 R. Cooper under the instruction of architect William Adam (1689 to 1748) drew the plans showing the proposed arrangement for Duff House with wings.



Architectural drawing of the proposed Duff House and wings 1730. (Vitruvius Scoticus, plate 148, published 1812).

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- James Ogilvie (b.1663) the 4th Earl of Findlater died. He was succeeded by his son James Ogilvie (1688 to 1764) who became the 5th Earl of Findlater.
- c1730 Shore House No. 21 High Shore was built. Category C(S) listed. See **1790's**.
- 1731 October The last 'Riding of the Marches' (Inspection of the common lands and town boundary) took place by the Provost, bailies, councillors, and some of the town's folk. This common riding was a necessity in the 13th and 14th centuries to ensure the town boundary was protected. This ritual was resurrected by the Banff Preservation and Heritage Society in **2008**.
- April 1731 18th Alexander Duff was In **1879** he born. became the 3rd Earl He was the Fife. younger brother of James Duff (1729 to **1809**) the 2nd Earl, and son of William Duff (1697 to 1763) 1st the Earl. Alexander Duff died 17th April 1811. The original of this miniature portrait drawing by James Ferguson (1710 to 1776) can be seen in Banff Museum.



Alexander Duff (1731 to 1811) miniature painting by James Ferguson. (Banff Museum).

Date on a date-stone on the wall of the Seafield Hotel, Sandyhill Road. This stone is thought to have come from an earlier building which was a Stagecoach Inn. Judging by the size of this stone and the positioning of the date, it

- is more than likely 1732 other that some carvings above the date were once on this these could stone; possibly have been marriage initials that have been filled-in. building was This converted mid 19th C.
- 1732 William Duff (1697 to 1763) was elected as the Provost of Banff, a position he held until 1735.
- William Duff (1697 to 1763) of Dipple and Braco purchased the lands of Doune. (Created 1st Earl Fife and Viscount Macduff in 1759).



Seafield Hotel, Sandyhill Road. (S. Bruce).



1732 date-stone Seafield Hotel, Sandyhill Road. (S. Bruce).

- 1735 28th July William Duff (**1697** to **1763**) was created Baron Braco of Kilbryde; an Irish Peerage. See **1759**.
- 1735 Alexander Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1738. He was elected provost 4 more times i.e. 1741, 1748, 1753, and 1759.



Elaborately mantled arms of William Duff of Braco, south face (front) of Duff House. (S. Bruce).

1735-39

11th 1735 **June** The foundation stone was for Duff House was laid. was built to a design by architect William Adam 1748) (1689)to of Edinburgh for William Duff (1697 to 1763) 1st Lord Braco. Due to a dispute with the architect, William Duff never lived in the house and is said to have dropped the blinds on his carriage whenever passed by. The house is considered to be one of the finest Georgian buildings in the United Kingdom. The roof was fitted in 1739; however, it was not lived in until James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife took possession after his father's During death. construction, a canal was built from the shore to the site in order to transport stonework to the the house, hence the name Park Banff. Canal in Category A listed. See c1767, 1770's, 1777, c1800, 1829, 1836, 1824, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1913, 1922, 1940, 1923, 1928, 1939, 1952, and 1995.



Duff House. (S. Bruce).



William Adam. (By William Aikman 1727).



Duff House statue. (S. Bruce).

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Arms of William Duff of Braco, at the front of Duff House. (S. Bruce).



Impaled arms of William Duff of Braco & his wife Jean Grant, at the rear of Duff House. (S. Bruce).

1735-49

Fife Gates at entrance to Wrack Woods were erected William Duff (1697 to 1763) Baron Braco of Kilbryde. The gate piers are a polished pair of octagonal ashlar with finely carved stone urns, which depict swags of fruits



Fife Gates, Wrack Woods. (S. Bruce).

and flowers. The carved stone urns are possibly dated from an earlier period. The gates and pillars were restored in 1994. Category B listed.

The Turrets with its crow-stepped gables on the High Street was built as the home of Sir John Ogilvie (1717 to 1738) 5th Lord Banff. It was later the home of Lady Abercrombie.

The house was demolished c1900 to make way for Banff Museum which opened in **1902** and now occupies this site.

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The Turrets, High Street. (c1900 postcard).

1737 Date the on carved heraldic stone which was once located above the doorway of No. 31 Carmelite Street (Demolished in

the 1920's – ATS



1737 date-stone. (Banff Museum).

currently stands on the site). 'RL' represents Robert Leslie (d. 1755) and 'HB' for Helen Brokie (1690 to 1772) of Cullen who married in Banff in 1719. The central band with three buckles represents the Leslie coat of arms. Robert Leslie was a merchant captain working for the Dundee Shipping Company; and in 1723 is recorded as the captain of the 'Margaret' of Banff which sailed out of Portsoy to Portsmouth, Rotterdam, and the Spey. Robert Leslie was a direct descendent of Alexander Leslie (b.c1666) of Kininvie who bought Banff Castle in 1683.

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1738 29th July – Sir John Ogilvie (b.1717) 5th Lord Banff died, he drowned while swimming in the sea at Cullen aged only twenty-one. He was succeeded by his younger brother Captain Sir Alexander Ogilvie (1718 to 1746) who became the 6th Lord Banff.

1738 Patrick Forbes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1741.

1739 January – The ferry boat across the River Deveron was lost. Two men and two women died. One woman from Doune (Macduff) survived.

Back Path was laid 1739 out with a focus on the Black Bull Inn in Low Street, which in 1843-5 was replaced with Fife House. No. 8 Back Path a harled crowstepped house has an inscribed stone panel, which reads 'George Maisie, Elspet Morison 1739 God's Providence is our inheritance'. On its south west corner is an old sundial. The house is currently converted to flats. Category B listed.



No. 8 Back Path. (S. Bruce).



1739 panel, No. 8 Back Path. (S. Bruce).



Sundial, No. 8 Back Path. (S. Bruce).

Boyndie House, No. 9 1740 Boyndie Street was built. External features of the house are the Dutch gable and the elaborately carved marriage stone of 1740 with initials 'IG and MS'. It was fashionable in the 18th century to have carved stone panels fitted to houses to celebrate the marriage of those who built the house. Category B listed. See 1973.



1740 carved marriage date stone 'IG MS' Boyndie House, No. 9 Boyndie Street. (S. Bruce).



Boyndie House, No. 9 Boyndie Street. (S. Bruce).



BPS Plaque.

No. 3 High Shore was built for Thomas Forbes a Banff Goldsmith who is known to have practised from at least 1747 to 1750. Initials TF and ES on the door lintel above the grotesque mask with the date 1740, are likely to stand for him and his wife. Category B listed.

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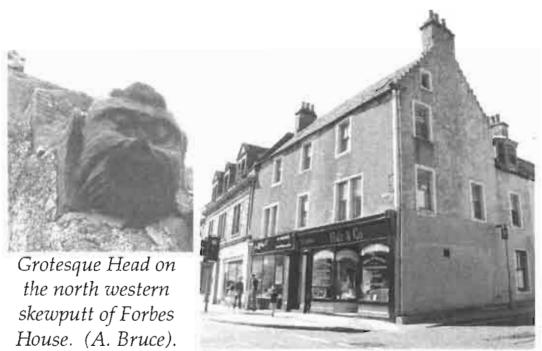


Grotesque Mask, No. 3 High Shore. (S. Bruce).



No. 3 High Shore. (S. Bruce).

1741 Forbes House, No. 77 to 81 High Street was built as the town house of the Forbes' of Boyndie. At the rear of the building at the bottom of the crow-stepped gable is a grotesque head. Category B listed.



Forbes House, No. 77 to 81 High Street. (S. Bruce).

William Adam (1689 to 1748) while building Duff House initiated legal proceedings due to unpaid fees against

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William Duff (1696 to 1763) Baron Braco of Kilbryde. The two had no formal contract, and the two disagreed on the costs for the elaborately carved stone-work. The court ruled in Adam's favour, but Braco did his utmost to drag out the proceedings, and it was not fully resolved until just before Adam's death in 1748.

- 1741 Alexander Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1744. He was elected Provost five times; see 1735, 1748, 1753, and 1759.
- William Duff (1697 to 1763) Baron Braco raised a lawsuit against architect William Adam for over-charging during the building of Duff House.
- fishing Temple 1743 was built by William Duff (1697 to 1763) the 1st Earl Fife on an island in the River near the Deveron east bank, upstream Macduff from The Distillery. circular building has two stories, each one with a small room with a fireplace. The first floor is accessed by a double stairway made to a similar style to that of Duff House. The architect is thought to have



Earl Fife's Fishing Temple, on an island in the River Deveron.
(S. Bruce).

been William Adam (1689 to 1748). Currently the temple is roofless and the flooring on the first floor is gone. No windows or doors remain and the staircase is now in a dangerous condition. Access is by stepping stones over

a narrow stretch of water a little upstream. William Adam also built Duff House 1735 – 1739, and the Temple of Venus on Doune Hill around the same time. Category B listed. Grid Ref: NJ691628.

1744 No. 11 Deveronside was built. Its rear stair tower has a dated lintel which reads 'James Philip Janet Michie 1744'. Category B listed.

1740's The Temple of Venus on the Hill o' Doune was built by William Duff (1697 to 1763) Baron Braco (Later the 1st Earl Fife) as a feature improve the skyline. was built to the design of architect William Adam to 1748) of(1689)Edinburgh. In the days of sail, it became a noted landmark for seafarers.



Temple of Venus, Doune Hill. (S. Bruce).

It is said to have contained a statue of the Goddess Venus but today it stands empty. In the late 1930's prior to WW2 it was struck by lightning and badly damaged, however it was rebuilt after WW2. Restored 1985-6. Category B listed. Grid Ref: NJ698638.

- 1744 James Innes was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1748. See 1750.
- 1745 Date on stone above dormer window of No's 15 to 17 Low Street. (Built by William Robinson). Category B listed.



1745 date stone No's 15 to 17 Low Street. (S. Bruce).

- ◆ Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.
- 1745 The Black Bull Inn, Low Street was built by Mr. William Robinson great-uncle of Provost G. G. Robinson. The Inn was demolished and the Fife Arms Hotel was built on this site 1843-5.
- 1745 29th October James Stuart (1688 to 1766) the 'Old Pretender' was proclaimed king at Banff by Lord Lewis Gordon (1725 to.1754) Jacobite son of Alexander Gordon 2nd Duke of Gordon, he is said to have collected taxes for the Stuart king.
- 1746 10th April Prince William Agustus the Duke of Cumberland (1721 to 1765) and his strong army of 7,500 men encamped at Banff at Duff House and in the Brewery buildings on



Lord Lewis Gordon. (John Alexander 1738).

their way to Culloden. During their visit they burned the Episcopal Chapel, High Street to the ground, and two suspected spies Alexander Kinnaird of Culvie and Mr. Innes of Banff were hanged unjustly. The Duke was later known as the 'Butcher of Cumberland'. See 1704, & 1752.

After the battle of Culloden the Scots who survived fled. The Jacobite leaders were fugitives and were hunted down by the English. James Johnstone (1719 to c1800) known as the Chevalier de Johnstone' was Bonnie Prince Charlie's aide-de-camp, and therefore a wanted man. His brother-in-law Mr. Rollo lived in Banff and worked as a government inspector of merchant ships. After the battle Johnstone made his way to Banff seeking assistance from his bother-in-law to escape to France by sea. Rollo didn't give him assistance because he feared the English. Johnstone dressed as a tramp and escaped to London and then onto France.

- ♦ Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.♦
- 1746 Alexander Ogilvie 6th Lord Banff died aged only 28. He was succeeded by his cousin Sir Alexander Ogilvie (d.1771) of Forglen, 2nd Baron of Forglen.
- Heritable jurisdictions were abolished, and James Ogilvie (1714 to 1770) 3rd Lord Deskford and 5th Earl of Findlater gave up the sherrifdom of Banff. See **1700**, and **1722**.
- Alexander Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1750. See 1735, 1741, 1753, and 1759.
- 1748-59 James Duff (1729 to 1809) later the 2nd Earl Fife (1763) finished off the interior of Duff House. See c1767.
- 1749 The Masonic lodge of St. Andrew No. 52 was consecrated. See **1767**.
- 1749-52 The new Banff Castle Mansion and two gate lodges were built for James Ogilvie (1714 to 1770) 3rd Lord Deskford and 5th Earl of Findlater to the design of architect John Adam (1721 to 1792) of Edinburgh on the site of the medieval castle of Banff, which a wall and part of the moat remain. The two pavilions and house at the gate were built at a later date. The castle is category A listed, and the gate lodges are category B listed. See 1723.



Banff Castle. (S. Bruce).

1750 Castle Street was laid out to suit the new policies of Banff Castle.

◆ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.◆

The Sandyhill Doo-cot was built by William Duff (1697 to c1750 1763) Laird Braco. The doo-cot is hexagonal on the outside, but unusually it has a central column which supports the slabbed roof. Inside it has 196 nest boxes. The shaft of the Mercat Cross stood on top of the doo-cot from 1767 to 1900, it was placed here by James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife. Unusual for a doo-cot it doesn't have a rat-ledge below the entrance for the birds. It has 490 nesting boxes. Doo-cots were popular in the 17th and 18th centuries because cattle were herded south for the winter and the birds were an alternate valuable source of meat. The pigeons also scavenged for their own food so were very easy to keep. The castellated top of the doocot is thought to have come from Banff's original Mercat Cross, which stood where the Biggar Fountain now stands in Low Street. Category B listed. NJ368863. Currently on the Buildings At Risk Register.



Sandyhill Doo-cot. (S. Bruce).

- c1750 No.10 Deveronside was built, a plaque on the wall erected by BP&HS records that Thomas Edward (1814 to 1886) lived here. Category C(S) listed.
- 1750 James Innes was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1753. See 1744.
- 1751 9th June General James Wolfe (1727 to 1759) the 'Hero of Quebec' during his stay in Banff wrote an eleven page letter to Captain William Rickson of the 47th Regiment of Foot. The letter is kept in a Museum in Edinburgh.
- 1751 Six Banff women married six soldiers of the 47th Regiment of foot. The soldiers were stationed in Banff under the command of Hon. Lieutenant-General Pulteney¹. See 1755, and 1761.
- 1752 Kings College, Aberdeen sold the lands of the Banff Carmelite Monastery to William Duff (1697 to 1763) laird Braco and later the 1st Earl Fife (1759). See 1321, 1324, and 1559.
- 1752 The second St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was built on High Street. It was used as a 'Qualified Chapel'. At this time no-one ordained by a Scottish Bishop was allowed to take a service. So the ordaining of young Scottish ministers took place in England. It was hence known as the 'English Chapel'. See 1745, and 1833-4.
- 1753 Lead water pipes were laid from the 'Kings Well' at the top of Strait Path to take water to the well at the Mercat Cross of Banff.
- 1753 Alexander Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1756. See 1735, 1741, 1748, and 1759.
- 1753 Carmelite House No. 30 Low Street was built for Admiral William Gordon (c1705 to 1769) by architect John Adam (1721 to 1792). The name is derived from the Carmelite Monastery which once stood on this site 1321 / 1324. The stones from Banff Palace (The Towers) were used to build this house. The building is now known as the Carmelite Hotel. Category B listed. See 1559, 1574, and 1764.

♦ Banff Through the Years - Volume 2 - 18th Century. ♦



Carmelite Hotel, No. 30 Low Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1754 James Duff (1729 to 1809)
 later the 2nd Earl Fife
 (1763) was elected MP for
 the County of Banff. A
 seat he held for thirty
 years.
- 1755 Date-stone dug up in a garden, presumably from a former building in Banff. (See photograph).



1755 date stone. (BP&HS).

- 1755 September / October Six Banff women married six soldiers who were stationed in Banff¹. See 1751, and 1761.
- 1756 Path House on the Water Path was built. Marriage initials 'CP' and 'EF', and date 1756 are on the gable end of the house. Category B listed. It is thought that Path Cottage which faces onto Old Castlegate was built earlier than the house.





Path House carved stones. (S. Bruce).

- 1756 James Bartlett was elected Provost, a position he held until 1759.
- 5th October According 1757 in Naval 'Studies by Histories' Iohn Laughton French Privateer Francois Thurot anchored two French ships off Banff. These were the 'Chauvelin' and the 'Belle Isle', he states that the 'Chauvelin' "parted her cables and drifted out to sea leaving her anchors behind". See 1765.
- 1759 No. 14 Old Castle Gate was built. On the north gable there is a date stone with this date. Category B listed.
- 26th April William Duff 1759 (1697 to 1763) Lord Braco of Killbryde was created Viscount Macduff and the 1st Earl Fife. The ancient tile Earl of Fife was revived as an Irish peerage, so it is written as 'Earl Fife' not 'Earl of The original title Fife'. dates back to before the 13th century when Scotland was split into



Path House, Water Path. (S. Bruce).



1759 date stone, No. 14 Old Castle Gate. (S. Bruce).



Early 18th century heraldic panel of William Duff and his wife Jean Grant at Canal Park. (S. Bruce).

seven provinces – one of them being 'Fibh' or 'Fiv' today's Fife. The first possessor of the title was Duncan Macduff. The title ceased in 1346 when the 12th Earl also Duncan was captured at the 'Battle of Durham' and later executed. See **1735.**

1759 Alexander Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until **1761**. See **1735**, **1741**, **1748**, and **1753**.

1759 4th June – James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife married Lady Dorothea (Dolly) Sinclair (1739 to 1818) daughter of Alexander Sinclair (1685 to 1765) the 9th Earl of Caithness.

The marriage was an unhappy one because Dolly bore him no children. It is said that Dolly got so depressed at one point she pulled a pistol on the Earl.



Lady Dorothea (Wife of James Duff 2nd Earl Fife). (Cosmo Alexander).

James Duff is known to have had three illegitimate children all to Margaret Adam of Keith prior to his marriage to Dolly, and they were: Jean Duff, General Sir James Duff (1755 to 1839), and Major William Duff (1756 to 1795).

1760-4 The two large houses
No's 1 and 3 High Street
were built. No 5 was built
in 1720-30 as the town
house of Lord Banff. All
of these houses are
Category B listed



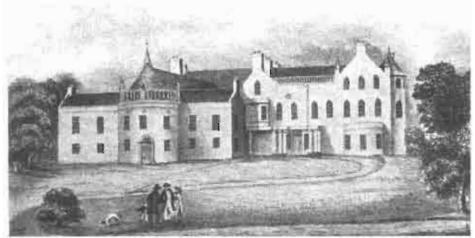
Date stone No. 1 High Street. (S. Bruce).

♦ Banff Through the Years - Volume 2 - 18th Century. ♦



No's 1 to 5 High Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1761 19th December The steeple, with its bells and clock of St. Mary's Old Kirk were taken down due to it being in a dangerous state. See **1471**, and **1557**.
- 1761 John Vanhovan Quake-doctor died`1.
- James Shand was elected Provost, a position he held until 1764. See 1729, 1770, and 1782.
- 1761 Six Banff women married six soldiers of the Scot's Lowlanders and the 71st Regiment who were stationed in Banff¹. See **1751**, and **1755**.
- 1763 Part of the Argyllshire Fencibles were stationed in Banff.
- 30th September William Duff (b.**1697**) the 1st Earl Fife and Viscount Macduff died in Rothiemay Castle. His son James Duff (**1729** to **1809**) succeeded him as the 2nd Earl Fife. See **1759**.



Drawing of Rothiemay Castle. (Adapted from Lord Fife and his Factor).

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1764 Operative St. John's Lodge No. 92 was founded. The members were real stone masons and in 1775 the Bretheren marched in full procession to ceremoniously lay the foundation stone of the 2nd Banff Bridge. Under the bridge at the east end several Masonic symbols can be seen.

1st February - George 1764 Duff was born in High Shore, Banff, the son of Banff Sheriff-clerk James Duff (1729 to 1804) and Helen Skene (1734 to 1764). At the age of 13 George joined the Navy. George became a British naval officer (promoted to captain in 1793) and fought in the 'American War of Independence', 'French the Revolutionary Wars' and the 'Napoleonic Wars'. serving While under Lord Nelson



St. John's Masonic Hall, Braeheads. (S. Bruce).



One of the many Masonic symbols at Banff Bridge. (S. Bruce).



Captain George Duff. (Artist unknown).

(1758 to 1805) he lost his life at the 'Battle of Trafalgar' (21st October 1805) when he was killed by a cannon ball from the enemy ship the 'Fougueux'. The 1st Earl Fife was his great-grandfather. See 1791, and 2005.

- ♦ Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.◆
- 1764 8th June John Wesley (1703 to 1791) the great Methodist visited Banff, but had to cancel his address due to inclement weather. Between 1742 and 1791 Wesley travelled all over Great Britain on horseback. See 1766, 1776, and 1784.
- 1764 Date stone on the northeast skewputt of No. 4 Carmelite Street. The house is В Category listed (Jointly with No. 6).



1764 date-stone, No. 4 Carmelite Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1764 Patrick Duff was elected Provost, a position he held until 1767. Re-elected in 1773.
- The hundred feet high steeple 1764-7 in Low Street was built as a free-standing tower. It was built to the design of architect John Adam (1721 to 1792) by master mason John Marr. William Gordon Admiral (c1705 to 1769) the owner of the Carmelite House next raised door his concerns regarding the structure worried that it would fall over onto his house which was built in 1753. Category A listed. See 1796.



Town Hall Steeple, Low Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1765 The Regiment of Foot commanded by Lord Cornwallis was stationed at Banff.
- 1765 The first bridge over the River Deveron was built. The foundation stone was laid June 1765. Prior to the

erection of the bridge the river could be crossed using the ferryboat or by using the 'Kings Ford' at low tide which was located upstream of the bridge due east of Duff House. Further upstream above the tide level the 'Scurry Ford' was also used. It is said that worry over attack from French Privateers played a major part in the building of the bridge. See 1757, and 1768.

- 1766 The Regiment of Foot commanded by the Right Hon. Marquis of Lorn was stationed at Banff.
- John Wesley (1703 to 1791) the great preacher of the Methodist Evangelical revival visited Banff, and preached to a large congregation in Low Street in front of the steeple. See 1699, and 1764.
- 1767 St. Andrew's Hotel No. 1 Old Market Place was built for the St. Andrew's Lodge Freemasons. of and became favourite hotel with travelling entertainers.

Now converted to a private house.



Former St. Andrew's Hotel, No. 1 Old Market Place. (S. Bruce).

Category B listed. See 1852-3.

- c1767 James Duff (1729 to 1809) 2nd Earl Fife commissioned James Wolf to finish the exterior of Duff House; exterior meaning the gardens and grounds.
- 1767 Alexander Dirom was elected provost, a position he held until 1770. Re-elected 1776.
- 1767-8 James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife erected the Mercat Cross shaft and finial on top of the doo-cot at Sandyhill Road. The doo-cot was erected c1750. It is believed the castellated top of the original cross structure

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was added to the doo-cot when the cross was moved here. If you look at the stone of the castellation it is dressed sandstone, the rest of the doo-cot is made of rubble. The cross was moved because it had a rather large base (Fifty feet in circumference) which was restricting the movement of traffic in Low Street. The cross shaft and finial returned to Low Street in 1900.

- September 1768 16thThe Banff Bridge over River Deveron built 1765 was washed away during heavy flooding. After 36 hours of rainfall the river was 14 feet above its usual level, much higher than the flood of 1829. arches of the bridge were almost completely choked with straw, branches, and debris.
- c1768 The town markets, which were originally held at the Mercat Cross in Low Street were relocated to Market Place.



Vice-Admiral William Gordon's tombstone, St. Marys Old Kirkyard. (S. Bruce).

- 1769 Vice-Admiral William Gordon of Banff (b.c1705) died. See 1764-7.
- 1770 The Regiment of Foot commanded by General Hudson was stationed at Banff.
- 1770 James Shand was elected Provost, a position he held until 1773. See 1729, 1761, and 1782.
- 1770 Bridge Street opened in 1770 The Royal Oak Hotel No. 10 Bridge Street (Currently known as Barclay's Hotel) has the initials 'I.D. E.S.' (John Dick and Elizabeth Stewart) and the date 1770 on the building, above the Bridge Street

doorway. However, the current building on this site was built in 1896. Category C(S) listed. No. 36 Bridge St. although a modern building has are-set 1770 date stone.



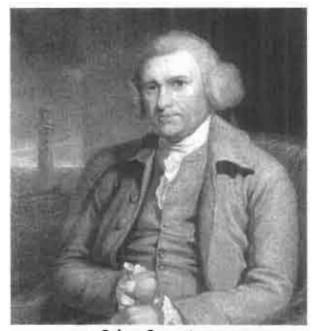
1770 date stone. (S. Bruce).



ID.ES 1770 date stone Barclay's Hotel, Bridge Street. (S. Bruce).

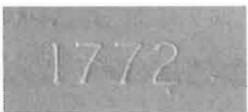
1770 3rd November – James Ogilvie (b.1714) 3rd Earl of Seafield and 6th Earl of Findlater committed suicide and his wife Lady Mary Murray (1720 to 1795) Dowager Countess of Seafield moved into Banff Castle and became Banff's 1st Lady. (They were married in 1749).

1770- John Smeaton (1724 to F.R.S. 75 1792) made major improvements to Banff Harbour, (Established in 1625) which were completed 28th October 1775. 1775-80, he also built Banff Bridge. **John** Smeaton was famous in Great Britain for other projects such as Eddystone the Lighthouse. See 1764, and 1775-80.



John Smeaton. (Artist unknown).

- ♦ Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.♦
- 1771 Sir Alexander Ogilvie 7th Lord Banff died. He was succeeded by his son William Ogilvie (d.1803) who became 8th Lord Banff.
- 1771 10th April William Robinson of Low Street, Banff was murdered by a drunken redcoat who ran him through with a sword. The redcoat had been fooling around with Robinson's pretty young nursery-maid, which Robinson took exception to. Two redcoats Lieutenant Gibbon and Thorn were arrested on a charge of murder, but they were never prosecuted. See **1745**.
- 1772 Date stone on the mantel of the fireplace of the Broken Fiddle Café, Strait Path, Banff.
- 1772 A new gateway was erected at St. Marys Old Kirkyard.



1772 date stone, Broken Fiddle Café, Strait Path. (S. Bruce).

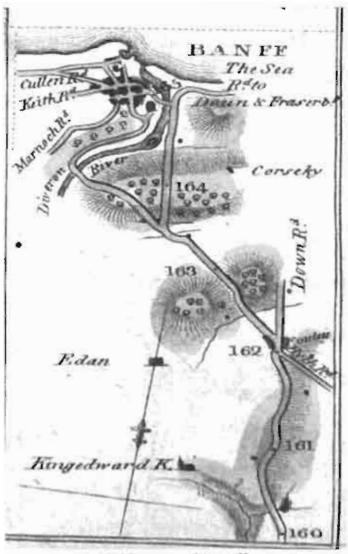
Heraldic panels of Janet Abercrombie (d.**1667**) from Banff Castle, Alexander Douglas and others were re-erected on the new gateway. See **1667**.

1772



Bridge of Alvah looking from the south. (S. Bruce).

The forty foot high 1772 single span bridge the River over Deveron at Alvah was built by James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife. The Duff family owned both Duff House and Montcoffer House, and with the Banff Bridge collapsing 1768 there in wasn't a bridge to cross the river to travel between the two houses, the only crossings were 'Kings Ford' the which could only be safely crossed at low tide, or further upstream above the level tide the



1792 map of Banff. Note the spelling 'Diveron', (Deveron), and 'Doun', which is now Macduff.

'Scurry Ford'. So the Alvah Bridge was built to firstly to accommodate the Duff's. Looking at its height there was no chance of it suffering the same fate as the 1765 Banff Bridge. Inside the western side of the bridge is a small house for the toll keeper, the Earl wanted some return on his investment. The toll-keepers room has a doorway on the north side of the bridge and a window to the south. As a result of the building of the bridge this route became the favoured route to Banff at least until Banff Bridge was rebuilt in 1779. Category A listed. Grid Ref: NJ680611.

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of Duff House estate on the A97 Banff to Huntly road were built by James Duff (1729 to 1809) 2nd Earl Fife. The name implies that carvings of eagles may have once stood on the gate piers. Grid Ref: NJ672616. Category C(S) listed. Crossing which is now the A97 was a bridge, which has since been demolished, although today you can still see where the bridge once stood.



Former bridge, Eagle's Gate. (Rae & Son, Banff).

The Town and County Club, No. 11 Boyndie Street was built. It is one of the largest provincial town houses in Scotland and was home of the George Robinson (c1743 to 1827). The Robinson family were Provosts of Banff for the most of 1784 to 1831 (less 6 years). It was converted to a club in 1881. The building was also at one time used as a boarding school. The building is currently category A listed. (According to the clubs centenary booklet the English rose and Scottish thistle on the chimneypiece inside are not by any Adam architect).

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Town and County Club No. 11 Boyndie Street, viewed from Kingswell Lane. (S. Bruce).

25th August – Dr. Samuel 1773 Johnson (1709 to 1784) and his younger assistant James Boswell (1740 to 1795) visited Banff during their tour Scotland and stayed one night in the Black Bull Inn, Low Street. Johnson later unkindly remarked about Banff when he said "I could remember nothing that particularly claimed my attention".



Dr. Samuel Johnson by Joshua Reynolds (1723–1792).

- 1773 The Deveron ferry boat sank after being carried out to sea seven lives were lost, most of them from the village of Doune (Renamed Macduff in 1783).
- 1773 Patrick Duff was elected Provost, a position he held until 1776. See 1764.
- 1775 28th October Civil engineer John Smeaton (1724 to 1792) completed improvements to Banff Harbour.

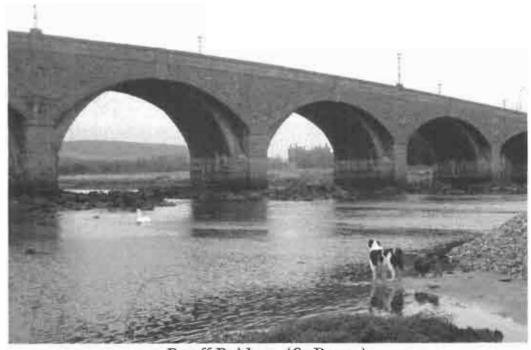
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1775 The 410 foot (125 m)
-80 long x 20 foot (6.44m)
wide Banff Bridge
over the Deveron with
its seven arches was
built by John Smeaton
(1724 to 1792) at a cost
of £10,000, which was
met by Parliament.
The bridge is made of

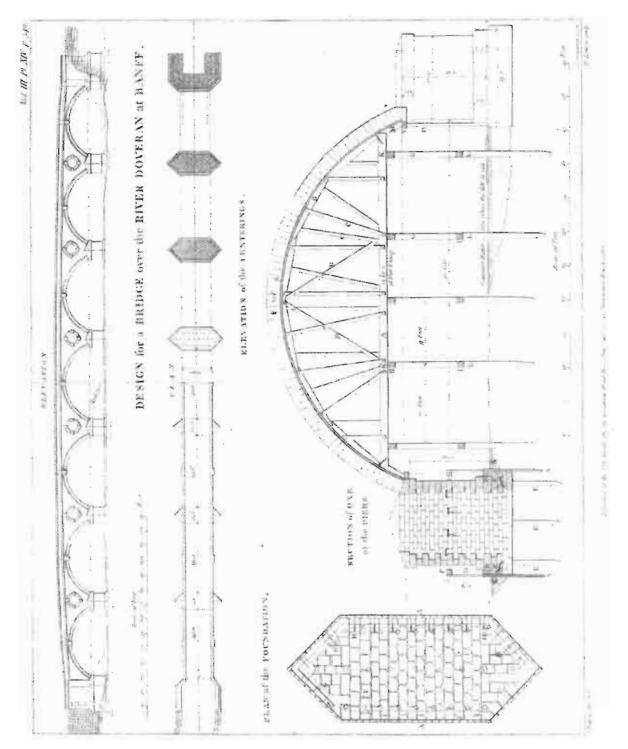


met by Parliament. '1778 GR III' date-stone. (S. Bruce).

Moray sandstone. It is recorded in the Banff Register of Marriages that James Kyle was the Construction Overseer (The father of Bishop Kyle). James Robertson master of St. John's Operative Lodge at the time is said to have been the foreman. It came into use on the 17th June 1780. A date-stone inscribed with 1778 and George III is located on the north side of the bridge above the central arch. Category A listed. See also 1770-75 and 1764. The bridge was widened to 7.92m by engineer John Willet (1815 to 1891) of Aberdeen in 1880.



Banff Bridge. (S. Bruce).



Pre-1775 plans of Banff Bridge.

- 1776 May John Wesley (1703 to 1791) visited Banff and delivered a sermon at the Battery Green. A house in Strait Path was named in his honour. See 1764, 1766, and 1784.
- 1776 Alexander Dirom was elected Provost, a position he held until 1779. See 1767.

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1776 6th October – James Duff was born. He in **1811** became the 4th Earl Fife. He died 9th March **1857**.

17th 1776 November Tames Ferguson (b.**1710**) died. During his childhood he taught himself to read and write. He was famous his life during as an astronomer and artist. During lean times, he drew miniature portraits to earn some money. Some of his paintings and astronomical works can be seen in Banff Museum.

Ferguson's principal publications are as follows:



A self-portrait of James Ferguson. (Banff Museum).

- Astronomical Tables (1763).
- Lectures on Select Subjects (1st edition, 1761). Later edited by Sir David Brewster in 1805.
- Astronomy explained upon Sir Isaac Newton's Principles (1756). Later edited by Sir David Brewster in 1811.
- Select Mechanical Exercises, with a Short Account of the Life of the Author (1773).

His autobiography is included in a *Life* by E. Henderson, LL.D. (1st edition, 1867; 2nd edition 1870), which also contains a full description of Ferguson's principal inventions, accompanied with illustrations. See also *The Story of the Peasant-Boy Philosopher*, by Henry Mayhew (1857). He was born in Rothiemay, but also lived for a period as a guest at Durn House, Portsoy, Edinburgh, Inverness, and London. See **1723**, and **1731**.

1777 The two gate lodges and house at the east entrance to Duff

House were built by James Duff (1729 to 1809) 2nd Earl Fife at the west end of Banff Bridge over the River Deveron. Referred to by some as the Eagle Gates, you can just make out the eagles in the postcard below.



Duff House east gates and gatehouse c1910. (Valentines).

- 1777 Part of the 1st and 3rd Regiments were stationed at Banff.
- 1777 18th November The bath-house was built west of Banff Harbour. It had two separate places and two dressing rooms, presumably separate places for men and women. The building is said to have been built under the supervision of architect Mr. Kyle. See 1794.
- 1777 A Methodist Wesleyan Chapel was established in Banff. See **1820-30**, and **1879**.
- 1778 Robert Kilgour Bishop of Aberdeen established an Episcopalian chapel at No. 8 to 9 Braeheads, Banff. When Charles Edward Stuart (1720 to 1788) Bonnie Prince Charlie (Known as King Charles III to his supporters) died in 1788 the Braeheads chapel closed, and the congregation moved to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, High Street, Banff.
- 1778 The County Hotel, No. 32 High Street was built as Moray House by architect George Robertson for Provost George

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Garden Robinson (1756 to 1844). It is similar in design to other work of the architects of the Adam's family. It is a two storey house with two single storey wings. In **1830**, a striking regency pilastered porch with a spreading fan light was added. The building was converted to a hotel in 1977. Category B listed.



County Hotel, No. 32 High Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1779 The Ross-shire Militia was stationed at Banff.
- 1779 John Innes was elected Provost, a position he held until 1782. He was re-elected in 1787.
- 1780 Date on a carved stone plaque armorial embellished with The plaque gilding. was originally sited on a wall of Castle Panton once the town house of James Imlach (1775 to of Muiryfold. 1863) The plaque is currently on the east wall of the Crown Court housing development at Old



Plaque to John Innes Provost of Banff (1779 to 1782). (S. Bruce).

Market Place. The plaque shows the monogram 'JJ', and also the motto "ORNATUR RADIX FRONDE" which means 'The root is adorned with foliage'. This is the motto of the Innes family. The plaque probably relates to John Innes (1721 to 1790), 8th of Edingight, Provost of Banff (1779 to 1782, and 1787 to 1790) who lived at Castle Panton, Old Market Place, Banff.

1780 The Town Council built the grammar school at No. 9 Old Market Place. It was originally a single storey building with a bell-cote. It was used until **1838**, when the new school was opened. The master mason was John Mitchell. The bell-cote was later re-erected on the meal house / smiddy directly across the street when No. 9 was heightened. See **1805**, and **1845**.

The banking office of Mr. James Imlach in Low Street during the night was burgled; a shutter was forced open and a large pane of glass removed to allow the robber access. A desk was broken into and a pocket-book of notes taken, however the safe was untouched. The captain of the local volunteers offered his services and pursued the culprit towards Keith, then onwards to the Woods of Knockando where he was found. The robber was apprehended and marched to Keith and afterwards tried in Aberdeen, where he was found guilty and hanged. See 1700 and 1746.

1781 The Guild Hall was built in Low Street.

1781



Former Banff Brewery and the Battery Green. (S. Bruce).

- 1781 The Battery Green was appropriated under Head Court order "To provide facilities for walking and exercising of the inhabitants". See 1858.
- James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife petitioned the Lords Commissioners to His Majesty's Treasury to erect the town and lands of Doune into a Free Burgh of Barony. See 1783.
- 1781 26th June The brig 'Anne' of Banff and three sloops were captured by a French privateer off Troup Head. The four boats were taken into Gamrie Bay and stripped of all valuables.
- 1782 The population of the municipal Burgh of Banff was 2,380.
- 1782 James Shand was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1784. See 1729, 1761, & 1770.
- 1783 31st January The village of Doune at the request of James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife was created a royal burgh of barony by King George III at the Palace of St. James and renamed Macduff. Almost immediately after receiving the burgh status an influx of tradesmen came to the town as it began to prosper.
- 1784 John Wesley (1703 to 1791) the great Methodist visited Banff, and lodged in a house at the bottom of the Strait Path which bears his name today. See **1699**.
- 1784 George Robinson was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1787. See 1790, 1796, 1802, 1808, 1814, 1820, and 1826.
- 1785-6 August 1785 to March 1786, nineteen children of Banff all under four years old died of the smallpox. Nine died in November 1785.
- 1787 8th September The poet Robert Burns (1759 to 1796) visited Banff accompanied by his friend William Nicol (Head of the High School Edinburgh). George Imlach (1775 to 1863) aged 12 was asked by Burns, what was his favourite poem. George replied that it was 'The Cottar's Saturday Night' but it made him greet (cry) when his father read it. Burns replied that it made him greet when

he wrote it. During this visit Burns heard the story of James Macpherson the Highland Freebooter (c1675 to 1700) and wrote his version of Macpherson's Rant titled 'Macpherson's Farewell'.

1787

Shoemaker The building Incorporation No's 45 to 47 High Street The house was rebuilt. bears an elaborate plaque with the date 1710 thought from an be earlier building. To become a member of the Incorporation the shoemakers had to do a trade test which meant they had to make a pair of shoes or boots. completed work was then checked by two other shoemakers who were already members of the incorporation. If quality was good enough the applicant was allowed to join.



Robert Burns. (S. Bruce).



No. 45 to 47 High Street.

(S. Bruce).

(The plaque was re-painted in 2000).

As a member of the trade incorporation you were entitled to assistance when sick or in old age. Help was also given to widows and orphans. Limited assistance was also given to travelling tradesmen.

It is thought that John Murray was the local representative

♦ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.♦

for the leather workers in the area and the building was once used as a Trade Hall.



No's 45 to 47 High Street. (S. Bruce).

- 1787 John Innes was elected as Provost, a position he held until 1790. See 1779.
- 1789 St. Marys, Banff Parish - 90 Church was built without a spire, to the design of architect Andrew Wilson. The church can accommodate up to 1200 people and has been referred to as Banffshire's most polished church. The church is built on a site which was known as 'Muckle fill a cup'. The



St. Marys Banff Parish Church, High Street. (S.Bruce).

- spire was added in 1849, and an Apse and Chancel was added in 1927-9.
- 1790 19th February James Duff (**1729** to **1809**) 2nd Earl Fife was made Baron Fife.
- 1790 St. Brandon's House, High Street was built as the town house of Sir George Abercrombie (1750 to 1831) 4th Baronet of Birkenbog. Colonel J. Dickson extended it in 1867 by adding the front dominant tower, his monogram is carved on the front above the dormer window.

A fireplace inside is said to have been designed by one of the Adam's architects of The building Edinburgh. for a long time appeared ruinous however in 1970 I.I. Meldrum architect restored it, and converted it into four flats. It is thought that part of the building dates back to the 17th century. Category B listed. It was in this house that an 8-year old Lord "butted" Miss Byron Abercromby like a ram and threatened to throw her over the balcony. A story young George about (Byron) well-Gordon known in Banff tells us about when he fell from a plum tree in the garden of the old manse (bottom of Water Path) while trying to get to a pear on a large pear tree. The minsters wife told



St. Brandon's House, High St. (A. Bruce).



Colonel Dickson's Monogram, St. Brandon's House, High Street. (S. Bruce).

his mother about the fall and the doctor was summoned. The red-nosed doctor proceeded to bleed him, but stopped when a screaming Byron threatened to pull his nose if he did. (It is said the old manse garden was formerly the Abbots garden in the Carmelite monastery).

c1790 A Customs House was established at Harbour Place, Banff, this was the only one between Aberdeen and Inverness. Originally 2 storey, raised to 3 storey c1800. Category C(S) listed.

◆ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.

1790 George Robinson was elected as Provost, a position he held until **1793**. See **1784**, **1796**, **1802**, **1808**, **1814**, **1820**, & **1826**.

1790's The poet George Gordon (1788 to 1824) later known as Lord Byron (6th Baron Byron) spent his youth in Banff during some of his holidays, living with his grandmother Margaret Duff 'Lady Gight' (d.c1801) house whose 'Little Fillacup' stood at No. 15 Low Street where the Sherriff Court now stands (Demolished in c1870). In Banff at the aged nine he met Mary Duff (1788 to 1858) also aged nine, and she is said to have been his childhood sweetheart (She lived at No's 49 to 53 High Street). The two were half third cousins. Byron later revealed that some of his works early were addressed to Mary Duff in of her beauty. praise Despite Byron's affection Mary married Robert



Former Little Fillacup, No. 15 Low Street.



Lord George Gordon Byron from 'Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great, (Volume 5 of 14), by Elbert Hubbard.

Cockburn a wine merchant of Leith, Edinburgh in 1805. George was the son of John (Mad Jack) Byron and Katherine Gordon heiress of Gight near Fyvie. A large statue of Byron takes pride of place at the front centre of Aberdeen Grammar School which he attended in his youth between 1794 and 1798. Mary Duff's House

formerly stood where the Co-op now stands. It was demolished in the 1960's. It was the demolition of this house that led to the establishment of Banff Preservation Society. Byron inherited Shore House No. 21 High Shore built **c1730**'s from his great-aunt Elizabeth Gordon of Gight, however he quickly sold it to a cousin.



Former home of Mary Duff, No's 49 to 53 High Street, Banff. (Rae, Banff).

1790- The Gothic styled Duff Mausoleum in Wrack Woods 91 was built by James Duff (1729 to 1809) the 2nd Earl Fife, possibly on the site of Banff's first Carmelite Monastery built in the 14th century. The Earls intention was to have of his family buried all together and he had the remains of his father William Duff (1697 to 1763) the 1st Earl and his mother Jean Grant (1705 to 1788) moved to here. It originally had statues of 'Faith' and 'Hope' guarding



Duff Mausoleum Door, Wrack Woods. (S. Bruce).

its entrance. The memorial at the rear is to Dr. Alexander Douglas (d.1658), it was taken from St. Marys Kirkyard in Banff. The 1790 inscription above the memorial reads: 'This mausoleum is erected on the place where stood a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin by King Robert the Bruce MCCCXXIV. The adjacent grounds were also.. ('gifted).. by his Royal Charter for the building and support of a monastery of the holy brethren of Mount Carmel' This covered the original 9th October, 1663 inscription which slipped down in 1997. The roof was originally made of stone but it leaked and was replaced with the tiled roof in the 19th century. The cast iron entrance door is particularly fine and incorporates an Earl's crown and an elaborate 'F' for Fife. Some have said it may have been made in Banff Foundry, but this is unlikely since the foundry was not established until 1820. There is said to be 21 members of the Duff family interred here. Scheduled Ancient Monument. Category A listed. Grid Ref: NJ368863. Restored late 20th century. See c600.



Duff Mausoleum, Wrack Woods. (S. Bruce).

1791 George Duff (1764 to 1805) married Sophia Dirom daughter of Banff Provost Alexander Dirom (1725 to 1788).

- Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.
- 1792 Alvah Kirk was built. It replaced an earlier kirk. The earliest reference to a kirk at Alvah is 1314 in a charter where Margory widow of the Earl of Athol donates the kirk and lands to the Abbot of Cupar.
- 1793 George McKilligin was elected Provost of Banff, a position he held until **1796.**
- 1793 The granite mansion house of Dunlugas was built by Hans George Leslie. The earlier house built by George Ogilvie in 1680 adjoins at an irregular angle to rear. The estate later passed to the Urquhart's of Craigston. Currently a



Dunlugas House. (Gammie of Turriff).

private residence. Category A listed. Grid Ref: NJ696555.

1793-6 The Meal-house was built in Old Market Place. This was built as a store for holding payments of rent in kind. The bell-cote is thought to have once been the bell-cote of Banff Grammar School No. 9 Old Market Place built in 1780. In 1805 the bell-cote was taken down from the Grammar 1902, In School. it was converted to a smiddy shop). Banff (blacksmiths Preservation & Heritage Society



Smiddy Bell-cote, Old Market Place. (S. Bruce).

have plans to convert it into a small museum / office. Category B listed.

1794 17th March - James Duff, 2nd Earl Fife was appointed as the first Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire. See Appendix C.

- ♦ Banff Through the Years Volume 2 18th Century.◆
- 1794 The Town Council recognised that the Bath House (Built 1777) was useless for its intended purpose, and therefore had no objection to it being sold.
- 1795 Lady Mary Ogilvie, Dowager Countess of Findlater died. She was the wife of James Ogilvie (1714 to 1770) 6th Earl of Findlater, and after her husband's death she lived the rest of her life at Banff Castle.
- 1796 George Robinson was elected as Provost, a position he held until **1799.**

See **1784**, **1790**, **1802**, **1808**, **1814**, **1820**, & **1826**.

Low Street was built to the design of architect James Reid. When built it had several purposes and these were the county hall, the Sherriff Court, the Jail, Council Chambers, drawing room, and also as a museum. The building is said to have been built on the site of Lord Banff's Palace which



Town House, No. 34 Low Street and the Biggar Fountain. (S. Bruce).

was also known as the 'Towers'. The jail was in use up to 1836. Currently the building is used solely as council offices. Category A listed. See **1844**.

Marys Old Kirk 1797 St. Carmelite Street was demolished, leaving only the vaulted south aisle, which is the burial vault of the Ogilvie family. This aisle was erected 1580. St. Marys Old in Kirkyard is category A listed. See 1471, and 1557.

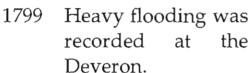


Ogilvie Aisle, St. Marys Old Kirkyard, Carmelite Street. (S. Bruce).

◆ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.◆

1798 Members of the Catholic Church met in 'Chapel House' in Coldhome Street where an oratory was erected. Adjacent was a school opened by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which later became a skirt-making factory. The chapel was replaced by a new chapel built in Sandyhill Road in 1870.

The Masonic Hall of 1798 Lodge St. John Operative No. 92 built in was Braeheads. The lodge only allowed working members up until 1800. Category C(S)listed. See 1764.





St. Johns Masonic Hall, Braeheads. (S. Bruce).

1799 The Ross-shire Militia were stationed at Banff.

Late The 18th C building

currently
known as
the Railway
Inn No. 96
North
Castle Street
was built.
The railway
arrived in
Banff in
1857.

Category B listed.



Railway Inn, No. 96 North Castle Street. (S. Bruce).

♦ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.♦

Late The Ship Inn No. 8 18th C Deveronside was built. This pub was used during filming of 'Local Hero' which was released in 1983. Category C(S) listed along with No. 7.

1799 George Garden Robinson was elected Provost, a position he held until 1802.

Late The walls of Duff House walled 18th C garden and vinery were built. The bricks probably came from the Blackpots Brick and Tile works, Whitehills.



Ship Inn sign. No. 8 Deveronside. (S. Bruce).

Acknowledgements

- Andrew Bruce (BMHA committee) for his help taking photographs.
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- Banff Museum.

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Appendix A - Banff 18th Century Listed Buildings - Category A.

The following tables have been compiled from the Historic Scotland database.

Listing categories

Buildings are assigned to one of three categories according to their relative importance. All listed buildings receive equal legal protection, and protection applies equally to the interior and exterior of all listed buildings regardless of category.

Category A - Buildings of national or international importance, either architectural or historic, or fine little-altered examples of some particular period, style or building type. (Approximately 8% of the total).

Catagory A listed building description	Date	Date	
Category A listed building description	Built	Listed	
Duff House.	1735-40	22-Feb-72	
Banff Castle, Castle Street c/w flanking	1749-52	22-Feb-72	
pavilions, well, and old castle walls.	1747 52	22 1 00 72	
Tolbooth Steeple, Low Street.	1764-7	22-Feb-72	
No. 11 Boyndie Street, Town and Country	c1772	22-Feb-72	
Club, and enclosing walls.	C1772	22-1-60-72	
Bridge of Banff over the River Deveron.	1779	22-Feb-72	
Fife Mausoleum, Wrack Woods.	1790	22-Feb-72	
Grid Ref: NJ368863.		22-1.60-72	
Townhouse, No. 34 Low Street.	1796	22-Feb-72	

Appendix B – Banff 18th Century Listed Buildings – Category B. Category B - Buildings of regional or more than local importance, or major examples of some particular period, style or building type which may have been altered. (Approximately 51% of the total).

\blacklozenge Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century. \blacklozenge

Category B listed building description	Date Built	Date Listed
No. 6 Back Path and garden walls.	c1700	22-Feb-72
No's 29 and 31 High Street.	c1700	22-Feb-72
No. 5 High Street.	1720-30	22-Feb-72
No's 33, and 35 High Street.	Early 18th C	22-Feb-72
No. 3 Water Path.	Early 18th C	22-Feb-72
High Street, St. Brandon's Close.	Early to mid 18 th C	22-Feb-72
No. 39 High Street.	Early to mid 18 th C	22-Feb-72
Fife Gates, Duff House.	1735-49	15-Mar-95
No. 8 Back Path.	1739	22-Feb-72
Boyndie House, No. 9 Boyndie Street.	1740	22-Feb-72
No. 3 High Shore.	1740	22-Feb-72
No's 77, 79, and 81 High Street, Forbes House.	1741	22-Feb-72
No. 11 Deveronside.	1744	22-Feb-72
No's 15, 17, and 17 Low Street. (Built by William Robinson).		22-Feb-72
Banff Castle, Castle Street, with enclosing walls.	1749-52	15 Mar 95
Banff Castle Gate Lodges, Gate Piers and Gates.	1750	22-Feb-72
No. 5 High Shore – Market Arms.	18 th C	22-Feb-72
No. 2 Old Castlegate and rear garden wall.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
Fernlee, No. 9 High Shore, and garden walls.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
No. 13 Boyndie Street.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
No. 4 Water Path.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
Old Brewery Buildings, No. 83 North Castle Street.	Mid 18 th C	22-Feb-72
No. 2 Low Shore.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
No's 9, 11, and 13 Low Shore.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
Lower Inchdrewer. Grid Ref: NJ662615.	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72

Category B listed building description	Date Built	Date Listed
No. 3 High Street	Mid 18th C	22-Feb-72
Carmelite House and front garden wall, No. 30 Low Street.	c1753	22-Feb-72
Path House and garden walls, Water Path. (Cottage may date from earlier).	1756	22-Feb-72
No. 14 Old Castlegate, and garden walls.	1759	22-Feb-72
No. 6 Castle Street.	c1760	22-Feb-72
No's 4, & 6 Carmelite Street.	1764	15-Mar-95
No. 1 High Street.	1764	22-Feb-72
No's 36, and 38 Low Street, and No. 2 Carmelite Street.	1764-7	22-Feb-72
No. 7 Back Path.	1766	22-Feb-72
Sandyhills Doo-cot (Dove-cot). Grid Ref: NJ368863.	Pre 1767	07-Nov-85
No's 8, and 10 Castle Street.	c1770	22-Feb-72
No. 36 Bridge Street. (Collapsed and new building erected).	1770	15-Feb-82
No. 11 High Shore	Mid to late 18 th C	22-Feb-72
No's 5, 7, and 7A Boyndie Street.	Mid to late 18 th C	22-Feb-72
County Hotel, No. 32 High Street.	1778	22-Feb-72
No. 9 Old Market Place.	1780 / 1805	22-Feb-72
No's 41, 43, 45, and 47 High Street, and rear garden walls.	1787	22-Feb-72
St. Brandon's and garden walls, High St.	1790	22-Feb-72
St. Mary's, Church of Scotland, High St.	17 90	22-Feb-72
Former Meal Store and Smithy, Old Market Place.	1793-6	15-Mar-95
No's 51, and 53 Bridge Street.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
Gordon's Granaries, High Shore / Deveronside.	Late 18 th C	22-Feb-72
No. 1 Institution Terrace.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72

♦ Banff Through the Years – Volume 2 – 18th Century.♦

Category B listed building description	Date Built	Date Listed
No. 2 Institution Terrace.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
No. 77 Castle Street.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
Panton House, No. 2 Old Market Place.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
No's 4, and 4A Low Street.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
No. 12 Deveronside and garden walls.	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72
Bridge Gate House, Bridge Street.	Late 18th C	15-Feb-82
Duff House walled garden, including turret, bothy, and vinery.	Late 18th C	15-Mar-95
No. 32 High Street, (County Hotel, Drawing Room Wing).	Late 18th C	22-Feb-72

Category C(S) – Buildings of local importance, lesser examples of any period, style, or building type, as originally constructed or moderately altered; and simple traditional buildings which group well with others in categories A and B. (Approximately 41% of the total). There are far too many category C(S) listed buildings in Banff to list them all in this book.

Appendix C - Earls Fife.

A peerage of Ireland created in 1759.

	Name	Born	Died	Earl dates	Succeeded by
1st	William Duff.	1697	1763	1759 - 1763	His son.
2 nd	James Duff.	1729	1809	1763 - 1809	His younger
					brother.
3rd	Alexander Duff.	1731	1811	1809 - 1811	His son.
4 th	James Duff.	1776	1857	1811 - 1857	His nephew.
5 th	James Duff.	1814	1879	1857 - 1879	His son.
6 th	Alexander Duff.	1849	1912	1879 - 1889	Became 1st
					Duke of Fife.

The 6th Earl, Alexander Duff was raised to the British peerage title of Duke in 1889. Prior to this the title was an Irish one, so written Earl Fife, not 'of' as used in the British peerage.

Appendix D - Earls of Seafield.

A peerage of Scotland created in 1701.

	Name	Born	Died	Earl dates	Succeeded by
1st	James Ogilvie.	1663	1730	1701 - 1730	His son.
2nd	James Ogilvie.	1688	1764	1730 - 1764	His son.
3rd	James Ogilvie.	1714	1 <i>77</i> 0	1764 - 1770	His son.
4 th	James Ogilvie.	1747	1811	1770 - 1811	His second cousin.
5 th	Sir Lewis Ogilvie- Grant.	1767	1840	1811 - 1840	His Brother.
6 th	Colonel Sir Francis William Ogilvie- Grant.	1778	1853	1840- 1853	His son.
7 th	Sir John Charles Ogilvie-Grant.	1815	1881	1853 - 1881	His son.
8 th	Sir Ian Charles Ogilvie-Grant.	1851	1884	1881 - 1884	His uncle.
9 th	Lt-Col Sir James Ogilvie-Grant.	1817	1888	1884 - 1888	His son.
10 th	Sir Francis William Ogilvie-Grant.	1847	1888	1888 - 1888	His son.
11 th	Sir James Ogilvie- Grant.	1876	1915	1888 - 1915	His daughter.
12 th	Nina Caroline Ogilvie-Grant.	1906	1969	1915 - 1969	Her son.
13 th	Ian Derek Francis Studley.	1939	-	1969 -	Still alive.

The Seafield Mausoleum adjacent to Duthil Kirk, near Grantown on Spey was built in 1839. This mausoleum was closed to burials after the death of Caroline Stuart (1830 to 1911) Dowager Countess of Seafield, widow of Sir John Charles Ogilvie-Grant (1815 to 1881) 7th Earl of Seafield, however there is a second replica mausoleum on the other side of the cemetery wall used for family burials after her death.

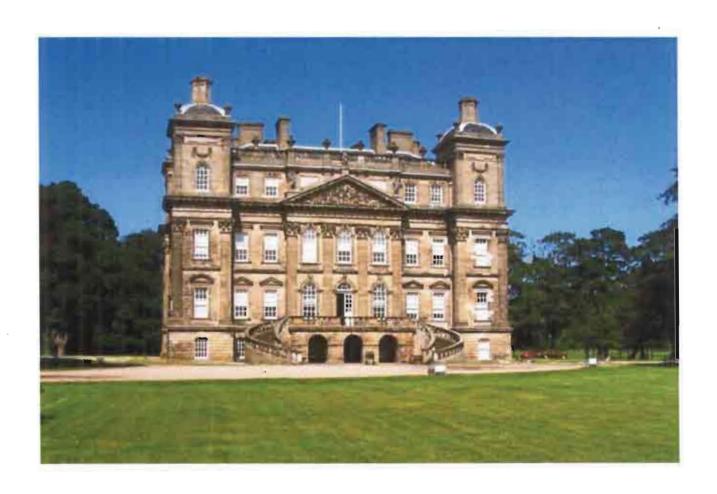
For information regarding the Ogilvie's of Boyne see our book 'Whitehills Through the Years'.

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Banff Through the Years is the 4th book in the 'Through the Years' series. As the title implies it is read on a timeline giving the reader all the important aspects of the history of the Royal Burgh of Banff. This part looks at the 18th century, which was a time of expansion for the town which led to the building of many grand houses including the wonderful Duff House. There are three other volumes for Banff covering Up to 1699, the 19th century, and the 20th century.



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