

The Last Buist of Berryhill, Abdie Parish: The Life and Times of a Fife Gentleman, Andrew Walker Buist
(1816-1877)

By His Distant Cousin, Michael T. Tracy

“Andrew Walker Buist of Berryhill, Abdie, Fifeshire, elected a Fellow of the Society [Society of Antiquaries of Scotland] in 1857, died on 1 May 1877, in the 61st year of his age. In early life he devoted his attention to natural history, and chiefly to the study of the native reptilia. He succeeded to the estate of Berryhill on the death of his father in 1865. It is worthy of being placed on the record that his father, when a boy walked four miles to and from his father’s residence with his grandfather, who was born in 1690. The traditional recollections, therefore, of these two lives extended to nearly one hundred and seventy years.”¹ Thus the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland reported the passing of a prominent Fife Gentleman and farmer of Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife.



Fig.1. Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

Early years

Andrew Walker Buist was born on Saturday, 31 August 1816 at Berryhill, Abdie Parish Fife to Henry Buist and Helen Walker, and was the fourth child of five. He was baptized on Tuesday, 17 September 1816 at Abdie Parish, Fife.² A prominent family of Fife, the Buist’s owned large amounts of land in Abdie Parish, Fife.

¹ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Volume 12. Edinburgh: Neill and Company 1878 , p.366

² Baptismal Record of Andrew Walker Buist, 17 September 1816, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0020 0050

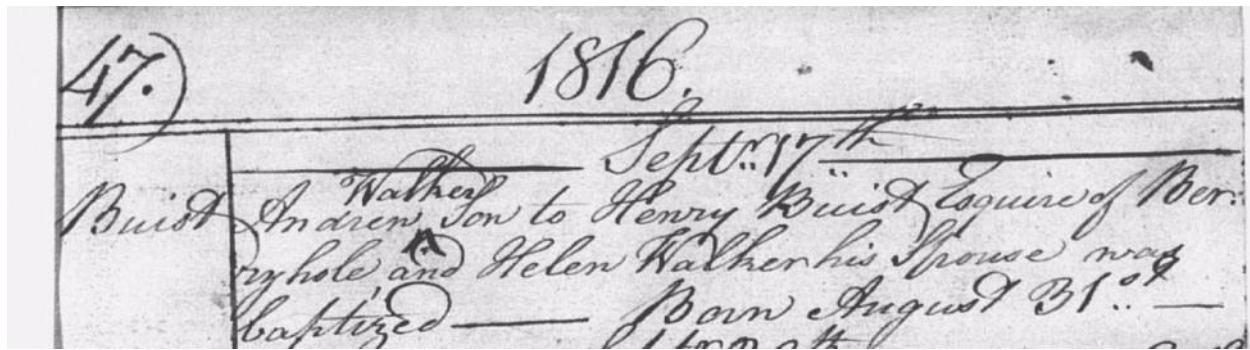


Fig.2. Baptismal Record of Andrew Walker Buist, 17 September 1816, Abdie Parish, Fife, Crown Copyright

Abdie Curling Club

Like his father and brothers, Andrew W. Buist loved the game of curling on Lindores Loch. The first recorded curling match that he played in was on Saturday, 20 January 1838 at the age of 22.³ He would be elected as a member of the Abdie Curling Club on Friday, 16 February 1838 until his death in 1877.⁴

Lists
OF
THE LOCAL CLUBS,
As at 16th October 1868.
See LIST OF CLUBS, SECRETARIES, ETC.

1—ABDIE CLUB.

A. WALKER BUIST, President.
JOHN LAWRIE and ROBERT DUN, Vice-Presidents.
J. O. DALGLEISH and A. W. RUSSELL, Representative Members.
Rev. JOHN DUNCAN, Chaplain.
JOHN PITCAIRN, Treasurer and Secretary.

Committee or Council of Management.

A. W. Buist	J. O. Dalgleish	John Pitcairn
John Laurie	A. W. Russell	George Dun
Robert Dun	Rev. John Duncan	John Lyell

Ordinary Members.

1—Regular.

George Dun	Rev. J. Murray	John Ballingall	Robert Dun
A. W. Buist	William Guild	John Lawrie	Rev. R. Edgar
John Pitcairn	J. Williamson	George Dun, j	Thomas Storer
John Lyell	Robert Cathcart	A. L. Dun	Wm. Wilson
Rev. J. Duncan	A. W. Russell	John Wilson	

2—Occasional.

Dr Burton	Andrew Brown	John Cameron,	A. H. Barclay
James Buist	F. L. S. Wedder-	1	Dr R. Peters
Colonel Lyon	burn	T. S. Anderson	Chas. Anderson
Rev. J. Gilchrist	Hope Pitcairn	Rev. J. Young	Rev. J. P. Edgar
J. Lyell, M.D.	Alex. Laing	John Bell	Alex. Anderson
Wm. Dingwall	David Dun	William Gall	George Martine
John Laing	D. Edmeston	Dr W. Martine	John Dun
J. O. Dalgleish	G. Ballingall	John Cameron,	James Dun
David Pitcairn	Wm. Henderson	2	James Duncan

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Fig.3. Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club 1869, listing A.W. Buist as President © The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

³ Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 20 January 1838, p.25

⁴ Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 16 February 1838, p.26

The Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society

Andrew W. Buist's early life was devoted to natural history and to the study of the native reptilia. He joined the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society well before 1838. According to the *Fife Herald Newspaper* dated 9 August 1838: "At a quarterly meeting of the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society, held here on Thursday last, present were... Andrew W. Buist...The following is a list of contributions received by the conservators of the museum since the last meeting... A.W. Buist a suit of geological specimens of various sorts of Fifeshire rocks."⁵

Buist studied native Reptilia during his early life and wrote an essay for the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society dated Tuesday, 6 August 1839 entitled: "On the tenacity of life in Reptiles and Insects" which was published in two parts by the *Preston Chronicle Newspaper* of Saturday, 9 October 1841 and Saturday, 23 October 1841.⁶ In this essay Buist wrote: "It is no uncommon thing for people, especially the ignorant and even those who are more enlightened, to scoff and laugh at those who are following any scientific pursuit, such as the history of insects, or reptiles, or any branch of natural history. But to those who do so, I would ask, in the words of an able periodical, 'Is anything that comes from the hands of the Great Creator too insignificant for man to investigate.' A moment's reflection will apprise us that the most-minute insect must necessarily be as fully perfected in its structure, in its system of circulation, as the largest, and according to its rank in nature, the most gigantic animal which possesses over it an infinite superiority of muscular strength... In the reptile tribes there are two very extraordinary and peculiar circumstances which are not unworthy of notice: the first is, the great tenacity of life they possess: and the second is, the surprising degree of reproductive power that prevails in a few of them."⁷

Buist also conducted various experiments on his farm potatoes. According to the *Northern Whig Newspaper* of Thursday, 19 November 1840: "At the annual meeting of the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society, Mr. A. W. Buist laid before the meeting the result of some experiments on potato starch. The paper began with an enumeration of the substances producing starch, the mode of obtaining it, and the application of the substance when once obtained. In extracting starch from the potato, Mr. Buist found, that certain kinds of potatoes yield more or less, according to their state of ripeness and compactness of the tuber that potatoes, in all states, yielded starch, and that frosted potatoes, generally thrown on the dunghill, yielded it equally nutritious, though not in equal quantities, with sound roots, that farmers might, by proper attention, bring to utility, what was so often thrown away, as of no advantage. Observe, that potatoes, when not frosted, to a certain extent, were capable of being rendered good enough for the table. By protecting them from the light, and by thawing, at a low and slowly increasing temperature, the saccharine principle was not permitted to be developed, being that alone which renders the frosted potato so nauseous to the taste of the eater."⁸

Andrew W. Buist wrote another paper entitled: "On the Natural History of the Parish of Abdie, County of Fife," which was read before the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society on Tuesday, 7 June 1842 and published in the *Preston Chronicle Newspaper* on Saturday, 24 September 1842.⁹ "In giving a description of the geology of this parish, allow me to say that this paper has no

⁵ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 9 August 1838, p.3

⁶ *Preston Chronicle Newspaper*, 9 October 1841, p.4

⁷ *Preston Chronicle Newspaper*, 9 October 1841, p.4

⁸ *Northern Whig Newspaper*, 19 November 1840, p.4

⁹ *Preston Chronicle Newspaper*, 24 September 1842, p.4

pretensions to scientific arrangement or technical precision in its details, it was written solely for my own use and amusement, during the long dull evenings of last winter; therefore, I trust you will overlook all imperfections that may occur in it. I shall begin by describing a few of the most important trap hills in the parish, and I deem them not unworthy of the notice of the naturalist, whether he be of the geological or botanical order of beings..."¹⁰ He was just 26 years old at the time he wrote this and unmarried.

Buist would also write letters to the editors of newspapers across Scotland and England. Once such letter to the editor appeared in the *Preston Chronicle Newspaper* dated Saturday, 17 June 1848: "To the Editor of the *Preston Chronicle*, Sir, Being convinced of the truth of the proverb which says 'As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country,' I take, therefore, the agreeable opportunity of making known to my friends in 'Merry England,' through the medium of your valuable paper, the propitious appearance of the crops in Fife, at present, which I trust, will not be uninteresting to some of your readers, at least to those of them who take an interest in the success of agricultural pursuits... The sun beams gladly on the woods and fields that smile back to him in return. Never did the landscape look more attractive than now... The sowing of barley was conducted in the very best condition... Hay promises to be an excellent crop, and, should the weather continue favourable, will be early... Potatoes are also of great promise, both in the field and garden, appearing beautiful in the rows, as of old... Our woods, groves, and shrubberies appear in all loveliness... The spread of blossom on the fruit trees in our gardens was uncommonly profuse, and vast numbers of trees already show that they have disclosed their blossoms in vain, the pears and apples being well set. Yours faithfully, A.W. Buist, 14 June 1848, Berryhill, Newburgh."¹¹

Another interesting letter to the Editor written by Buist appeared in the *Fife Herald Newspaper* regarding the Fifehire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society which was published on Thursday, 21 November 1861: "Sir, Being a member of this once far-famed Society, as well as a contributor of its museum, and anxious to know what the state of preservation the latter was in, after the lapse of several years, I lately paid a visit to its now deserted walls... On entering, what was my astonishment to find 'chaos' reigning supreme, everything lying about in the greatest disorder, and actually covered with a thick coating of dust, the specimens of birds, which are enclosed in a handsome large glass case, fast going to decay; the long beautiful table in the middle of the room, and which would do honour to any museum, has its glass broken in several places, and so covered with dust that it is impossible to see what is underneath. On opening the box containing specimens of entomology, legs, wings, and headless trunks of insects were lying scattered in every direction. Well may it be exclaimed, 'Ichabod, its glory has departed!'... This Society which used to number amongst its members many of the literati of the county, like many of its brethren, is now defunct. The chief originator, and one of its most enterprising members, the late Dr. Buist of Bombay, took a great interest in getting it formed; and had it not been for his exertions, the Society never would have been... But although the Society is, alas now no more, why should the museum, which contains many objects of interest, be left to waste its sweetness on the desert air! Why not rather send every article of value either to the museum of St. Andrews or Edinburgh..."¹²

¹⁰ *Preston Chronicle Newspaper*, 24 September 1842, p.4

¹¹ *Preston Chronicle Newspaper*, 17 June 1848, p.6

¹² *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 21 November 1861, p.3

Family Life

Andrew Walker Buist married Margaret Mary Campbell on Friday, 26 January 1849 in Abdie Parish, Fife.¹³

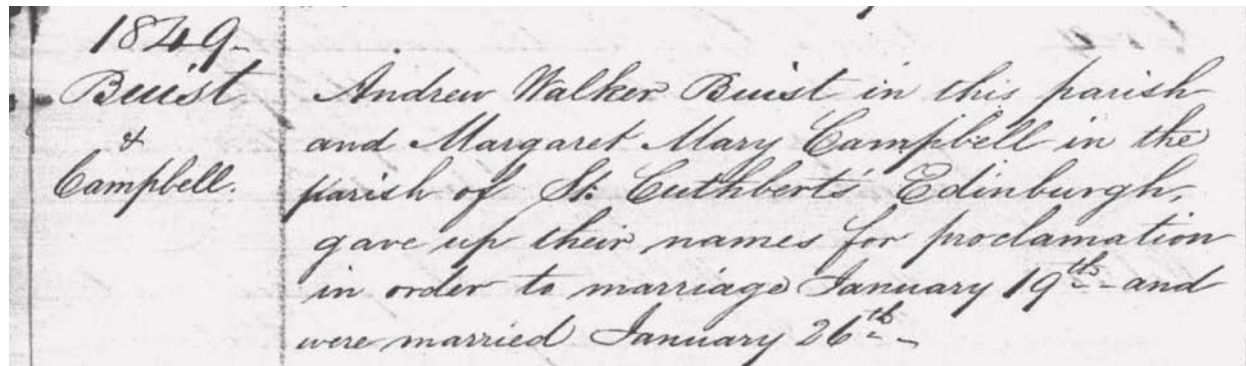


Fig.4. Marriage Record of Andrew W. Buist, 26 January 1849, Abdie Parish Records, Crown Copyright

The couple resided at Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife. They had three children: Margaret Mary Campbell Buist born on Friday, 5 July 1850¹⁴ and died on Saturday, 23 February 1924;¹⁵ Stillborn female Buist on Sunday, 10 August 1851;¹⁶ Stillborn male Buist on Saturday, 17 April 1852.¹⁷

Margaret Mary Campbell Buist died on Saturday, 16 June 1855 of a heart condition at Berryhill at the age of 36.¹⁸ Given her young age at death the most likely cause was rheumatic valvular disease, following an attack of rheumatic fever in childhood which was common at that time. She was buried in the Abdie Parish Churchyard.

Advancing in age and no longer able to manage and operate his estate at Berryhill, Andrew's father Henry Buist transferred ownership to him on Friday, 11 January 1856.¹⁹

The Census Records

The Buist family is listed in the 1851 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife. Andrew W. Buist is listed as being 36 years of age and a farmer along with his wife Margaret Buist age 31 and their daughter Margaret age 8 months.²⁰

¹³ Marriage Record of Andrew W. Buist, 26 January 1849, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0139

¹⁴ Baptismal Record of Margaret Mary Campbell Buist, 21 July 1850, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0059

¹⁵ Death Record of Margaret Mary Campbell Buist Loudon, 23 February 1924, Lasswade Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 691/00 0027

¹⁶ *Caledonian Mercury Newspaper*, 14 August 1851, p.3

¹⁷ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 17 April 1852, p.3

¹⁸ Death Record of Margaret Mary Campbell Buist, 16 June 1855, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/00 0024

¹⁹ Will of Henry Buist, 11 January 1856, Wills & Testaments (SC20/50/37) Cupar Sheriff Court, Scotlandspeople.gov.uk

²⁰ 1851 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 4, Page 17

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Parish of <i>Abdie</i>		Enumeration District No. 3			Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of <i>Berryhill</i>		Town or Village of <i>Berryhill</i>	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1861	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf or Dumb
				Males	Females			
62 <i>Berryhill Farm</i>	<i>Andrew W. Buist</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>44</i>		<i>Farmer's son</i>	<i>Fife: Abdie</i>	
	<i>Margaret W. Bu</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>21</i>		<i>Burgab, India</i>	
	<i>Margaret W. Bu</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>8</i>		<i>Fife: Abdie</i>	
	<i>Margaret Abrahams</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>22</i>	<i>House servant</i>	<i>Per: Perth</i>	
63 <i>Berryhill</i>	<i>Alban Hough</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>Perth: Perth</i>	
	<i>Isabel W.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>16</i>	<i>Per. W.</i>	<i>Fife: Abdie</i>	
	<i>Catherine W.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>10</i>		<i>Per: Per</i>	
	<i>John W.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Per: Per</i>	
	<i>David W.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Per: Dumfries</i>	
64 <i>Berryhill</i>	<i>Anna Brown</i>	<i>Unm</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>21</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>Per: Abdie</i>	
	<i>Thomas Brown</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>28</i>		<i>Per: Anstruther</i>	
	<i>Christian W.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>7</i>		<i>Per: Per</i>	
65 <i>Berryhill</i>	<i>Christina W.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>7</i>		<i>Perth: Abernethy</i>	
	<i>John Field</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>26</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>Fife: Crivich</i>	
	<i>Wilson W.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>28</i>		<i>Perth: Abernethy</i>	
66 <i>Berryhill</i>	<i>Robert W.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Fife: Huntly</i>	
	<i>Henry Johnston</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>49</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>Perth: Craighead</i>	
	<i>Elizabeth W.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>29</i>		<i>Fife: Abdie</i>	
	<i>Elizabeth W.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>16</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>Per: Per</i>	
67 <i>Berryhill</i>	<i>Andrew W.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>Scholar</i>		
	<i>Andrew W.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unm</i>		<i>12</i>			
				Total of Persons ...		<i>9/11</i>		

Fig.5. 1851 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife (Listing A.W. Buist & Family, Line Entry 1) Crown Copyright

Andrew Buist is listed in the 1861 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife residing with his father Henry. Andrew is shown as being 44 years of age and widowed. His father Henry Buist is shown as being 89 years of age and a farmer.²¹

A distressing and tragic event occurred at Berryhill during this time. According to the *Fife Herald Newspaper* of Thursday, 21 November 1861: "Newburgh at Berryhill. John Dewar, haggman at Mr. A.W. Buist's Berryhill, drowned himself on Friday morning in a well adjacent to his house. The cause of this rash act is said to be some distressing circumstances connected with his family. He was a decent old man, much respected by all who knew him."²²

Andrew Buist married Isabella Scott Easton on Wednesday, 28 March 1866 at Glasgow, Lanarkshire.²³ He was listed as being 49 years of age and Isabella Easton was 29 years of age. They had no children.

²¹ 1861 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife; Enumeration District Number 3, Page 9

²² *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 21 November 1861, p.3

²³ Marriage Record of Andrew W. Buist, 28 March 1866, Glasgow Blythswood Parish Records, Statutory Marriages 644/06 0143

18 *66*. MARRIAGES in the *District* of *Blythswood* in the *Burgh* of *Glasgow*

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signature of Parties. Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).	Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signature of Official Minister and Witnesses, If Irregular, Date of Confection, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
143	<i>1866</i> <i>on the twenty-eight</i> <i>day of March, at</i> <i>11 Blythswoods</i> <i>Square, Glasgow</i>	<i>Signed,</i> <i>A. Walker Buist,</i> <i>Gentleman,</i> <i>Widower,</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Berryhill,</i> <i>Abdie</i> <i>Parish</i>	<i>Henry Buist,</i> <i>Gentleman deceased,</i> <i>and Helen Buist,</i> <i>Ms. Walker</i>	<i>Signed,</i> <i>Alexander Macleod,</i> <i>Deceased</i>	<i>1866</i> <i>28 March 29th</i> <i>At Glasgow</i>
	<i>After Banns given</i> <i>ing in the forms of</i> <i>the United Presby-</i> <i>terian Church</i>	<i>Signed,</i> <i>J. S. Gordon</i> <i>Minister</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Blythswood</i> <i>Square,</i> <i>Glasgow</i>	<i>John Alexander Gordon</i> <i>Deceased</i> <i>M. S. (deceased)</i> <i>and Mary Gordon,</i> <i>Mrs. Ruckie</i>	<i>Signed,</i> <i>John Lyle,</i> <i>Witness</i> <i>A. B. Johnston,</i> <i>Witness</i>	<i>James Buchanan,</i> <i>Registrar</i> <i>Sh.</i>

Fig. 6. Marriage Record of Andrew W. Buist, 28 March 1866, Glasgow Blythswood Parish Records, Crown Copyright

The Buist family is listed in the 1871 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife. Andrew is listed as being 54 years of age and a farmer along with his wife Isabella Buist age 34 and daughter Margaret Mary Campbell Buist age 20.²⁴

According to the 1875 Valuation Roll for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife Andrew W. Buist was listed as being proprietor and the ground annual was 2 pounds and 17 shillings and the yearly rent or value of the property was 45 pounds.²⁵

VALUATION ROLL—COUNTY OF FIFE—Parish of AB DIE, Year 1875-1876.										
No.	Description of Property.	Proprietor.	Occupier.	Area		Rateable Value	Rateable Value	Rateable Value	Rateable Value	Yearly Rent or Value.
				Acres	Sq. Yds.					
1	Part of Duncroft, do.	Joseph Murray Esq., Broadfield House, Hains, do.	James Tod, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	£613 14 3
2	Home, Garden, and Garden, Ayrton, do.	do.	James Matheson, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 0 0
3	Part of Capella Land, do.	do.	William Robertson, smith, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	125 12 0
4	Home, Byre, and Land, do.	do.	John Smith, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	8 0 0
5	Woodlands, do.	do.	Said Joseph Murray, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	8 0 0
6	Part of Blackness, do.	John Inglis Esq., do.	James Tod, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	200 0 0
7	Home and Garden, do.	James Tod, farmer, do.	Ms. Isabella Fraser, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	149 0 0
8	Part of Kinnaird, do.	Thomas of late Hugh Fraser Esq., do.	Said Thomas, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1002 12 0
9	Part of Parkhill, do.	The Right Hon. Laurence Earl of Rothes, Abdie, do.	Andrew Walker Broadfield, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	20 0 0
10	1 Orchard Park, do.	[Blackburn, Yorkshire, do.]	John Ballingal, farmer, Dunlop, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	100 0 0
11	Home, Partings in the Top, do.	Trustees of late David Wilson Esq., do.	Said Trustees, do.	0 11 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	236 0 0
12	Home, Office, and Garden of Inlay, do.	do.	Robert Lockhart Esq., do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	90 0 0
13	Home, Part of Inlay, do.	do.	John Fraser Esq., do.	4 2 2	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	130 0 0
14	Woodlands, do.	do.	George Cunningham Miller, farmer, do.	0 3 10	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	452 14 0
15	Part of Woodhall, do.	do.	Reps. of late George Davidson, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	103 14 0
16	do. Woodhall, do.	do.	William Bell, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	227 1 0
17	Cottage, Garden, and Land, Kirkcaldy, do.	Isabella Fraser, do.	James Richard, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	155 0 0
18	Cottage and Garden, do.	Abraham Lewis Millard, Winchester Cottage, Fife, do.	Robert Williamson, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	90 12 0
19	Woodlands and Meadow, do.	do.	William Greig Esq., do.	2 14 11	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	4 0 0
20	Part of Lindores, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	60 0 0
21	Home and Garden, do.	Lindores, do.	Said Abraham Millard, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	13 0 0
22	Home and Garden, under El, do.	do.	Thomas Henderson, labourer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	9 3 4
23	Home and Garden, under El, do.	do.	Henry Smith, labourer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	5 0 0
24	Home, Land, and Garden, do.	William Greig Esq., do.	Said William Greig, do.	21 12 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	426 0 0
25	Home, Land, and Garden, do.	do.	Alexander Kirkcaldy, wright, do.	11 12 7	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	40 0 0
26	Home, Office, and Garden, do.	do.	Andrew Kirkcaldy, wright, do.	2 4 3	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 0 0
27	Home, Office, and Garden, do.	Lindores, do.	Robert Lockhart, grocer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	6 0 0
28	Home and Garden, under El, do.	do.	Thomas Dill, tailor, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	11 13 2
29	Home and Garden, under El, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	6 0 0
30	Home and Garden, do.	do.	Alexander Pirrie, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	8 0 0
31	Home and Garden, do.	do.	Said Trustees, Cooper District, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	30 2 0
32	Quarry, do.	do.	Reps. of late George Dun, farmer, do.	0 19 3	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 0 0
33	Part of Strathgalloway, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	24 4 0
34	Part of Strathgalloway, do.	do.	George Stewart, farmer, Easter Leuch, do.	0 7 1	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	210 2 0
35	Home and Garden, Partickhill, do.	do.	Said Robert Colvart, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	40 0 0
36	Woodlands, do.	do.	Reps. of late George Dun, farmer, do.	2 12 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	242 2 0
37	Part of Hartwoodhill, do.	do.	do.	0 4 9	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	181 0 0
38	Part of Whitehill, do.	do.	Reps. of late John Muir, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0
39	Home and Garden, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0
40	Home and Garden, do.	do.	Said A. W. Buist, do.	2 17 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	452 16 0
41	Home and Garden, do.	do.	Said George Buist, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	40 0 0
42	Home and Garden, do.	do.	James Watt Esq., Auchland, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	113 0 0
43	Part of Part of Strathgalloway, do.	do.	Reps. of late George Dun, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 18 0
44	do. of Hartwoodhill, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 12 0
45	Home, and Mill of Broadhill, do.	do.	Hales of late John Dunbar, farmer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	122 0 0
46	Part of North Strathgalloway, do.	do.	William and James Angus, farmers, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	140 0 0
47	Original Strathgalloway, do.	do.	William Carr, miller, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 18 0
48	Original Strathgalloway, do.	do.	do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	20 0 0
49	Original Strathgalloway, do.	do.	John Cameron, Newburgh, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 14 0
50	Home and Garden, Group of Lindores, do.	do.	George Bell, labourer, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	4 0 0
51	Home and Garden, under El, do.	do.	David Hyndock Lockhart (James Alford), do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	20 10 0
52	Part of Water Leuchgalloway, do.	do.	Thomas Stewart Anderson, James Kin, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	20 0 0
53	Home and Garden, do.	do.	Robert Taylor, quarryman, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	27 10 0
54	Whitstone Quarry, Public, Byre, &c., Mount Pleasant, do.	High Robertson, builder, do.	Said High Robertson, do.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 0 0

Fig. 7. 1875 Valuation Roll for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife (Andrew W. Buist, 19th Entry from Bottom)

²⁴ 1871 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife; Enumeration District Number 3, Page 16

²⁵ 1875 Valuation Roll for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife (VR101/21/16) National Records of Scotland



Fig.8. Berryhill House and Gardens, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Dr. Iain Macintyre © 2013
Dr. Iain Macintyre

Attendance of the Queen's Birthday Celebrations

Andrew W. Buist had the honour of attending Queen Victoria's birthday celebrations in Edinburgh. The first recorded event was reported by the *Caledonian Mercury Newspaper* dated Friday, 30 May 1856: "yesterday Morning, the Lord High Commissioner held a levee at Holyrood Palace in honour of her Majesty's birthday, and the celebration of peace. Gentlemen attending the levee appeared in full Court costume; and those holding her Majesty's Commission in uniform, displaying the ribbons, badges, collars, and other insignia of rank and office, and renewing in the ancient abbey the Courtly throng of other days. No addresses were presented, it being contrary to etiquette to receive such. The following is a list of the noblemen and gentlemen who attended: ... Mr. A.W. Buist of Berryhill."²⁶

The second recorded event of Andrew W. Buist attending Queen Victoria's birthday celebrations in Edinburgh was reported by the *Dundee Courier Newspaper* dated Thursday, 26 May 1864: "Amongst those presented to the Lord High Commissioner, at the levee in Holyrood House on Tuesday, in honour of the Queen's birthday, were the following: A.W. Buist of Berryhill."²⁷

²⁶ *Caledonian Mercury Newspaper*, 30 May 1856, p.3

²⁷ *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 26 May 1864, p.2

Boards and Commissions

Buist served on various local boards and commissions during his later years. These included: The Fife Commissioners of Supply, The Fifeshire National Security Savings Bank Board of Directors, Commission of Peace for Fife, Newburgh Town Electors and Chairman of Public Health for Abdie Parish, Fife. He was quite interested in becoming involved in local community affairs and events throughout his life and served faithfully on these various Boards and Commissions.

LIST OF PARISHES IN SCOTLAND
 ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED
 WITH THE
CHAIRMENS', INSPECTORS', AND MEDICAL OFFICERS' NAMES.
 1869.

PARISH.	Post Town.	County.	Chairman's Name.	Inspector's Name.	Medical Officers.
Abbey, Paisley	Paisley	Renfrew	Rev. J. Cameron Lees	R. Robertson	J. T. Donald
...	...	...	...	...	James Hutcheson
...	...	...	...	...	Thomas Graham
...	...	...	...	...	Richard Gardner
...	...	...	...	...	Robert Corbett
Abbey, St. Bathans	Dunse	Berwick	Rev. T. Davidson	G. Watson	R. C. MacWatt
Abbotshall	Kirkcaldy	Fife	David Nelson, Esq.	J. G. Muir	Dr. Young
Abdie	Newburgh	Fife	A. W. Buist, Esq.	John Cameron	John and David Lyell
Abercorn	Queensferry	Linlithgow	Rev. David Playfair	A. H. H. Armour	David Greig
Aberdaigie	Perth	Perth	Rev. John Sharp	T. Doig	W. Roy
Aberdeen	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	John Sangster, Esq.	James Wallace	John Christie
...	...	...	...	...	Angus Fraser
...	...	...	...	...	Henry Jackson
...	...	...	...	...	Alexander Duncan
Aberdour	Aberdour	Fife	John Philipps, Esq.	N. Flockhart.	G. L. White
Aberdour	Fraserburgh	Aberdeen	Rev. James Wilson	Jos. Mackenzie	James Collie
Aberfoyle	Aberfoyle	Perth	H. R. B. Peile, Esq.	John M'Beth	J. Marshal
Aberlady	Drem	Haddington	J. Skirving, Esq.	John Congalton	Dr. Howden, jun.
Aberlemno	Forfar	Forfar	Alexander Miller	J. Stewart	C. Hunter
Aberlour	Aberlour	Banff	Rev. Jas. Sellar, D.D.	W. M'Gowan	James Gerrard
Abernethy	Newburgh, Fife	Perth	Thos. Ross, Esq.	M. M. Shepherd	John Lyell
Abernethy	Grantown	Elgin	J. Smith, Esq.	S. Fraser	P. C. Houston
Abernyte	Perth	Perth	Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird	Alex. Tweedie	Dr. Wylie

Fig.9. A.W. Buist, Chairman of Public Health, 1869 Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of The Poor Law Magazine & Journal of Public Health for Scotland, Vol II. N. Adshead: Glasgow 1869, p.650

The Fife Commissioners of Supply was the county body responsible for the collections of the land tax and, crucially for determining electoral qualification. The Commissioners consisted of nobility and the landed gentry. They became an important institution of local government and provided a voice for the views and concerns of landowners. A.W. Buist was appointed to the Commission in circa 1856 until his death in 1877.

On Monday, 1 May 1865 at their regular meeting the Committee of Supply sent a condolence letter on the death of President Abraham Lincoln to the Ambassador in London Charles Francis Adams.

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To His Excellency
Charles Francis Adams Esquire
Minister of the United States of America
London

Sir,

We, the Commissioners of
Supply of the County of Tife (Scotland), in
annual General Meeting assembled, desire
very respectfully to convey through Your Excellency,
to the Government and People of the United
States of America, the horror, indignation and
sorrow, with which we have heard of the atrocious
acts of assassination of which the City of Washington
has recently been the scene, and particularly,
our grief at the lamented death of President
Lincoln, by the hands of an assassin.

In the extremely painful and
trying circumstances into which the Government
and People of the United States have, by such
a sudden and unexpected calamity, been
brought. We beg, in common with the People
of the Country, most warmly to tender them
our profound sympathy and regard.

We beg also respectfully to
request your Excellency, to accept on behalf
of Mr. Lincoln, and the family of the late
lamented President, our heartfelt sympathy
for her and them in the midst of their
deep sufferings; and to express our earnest

Prayer

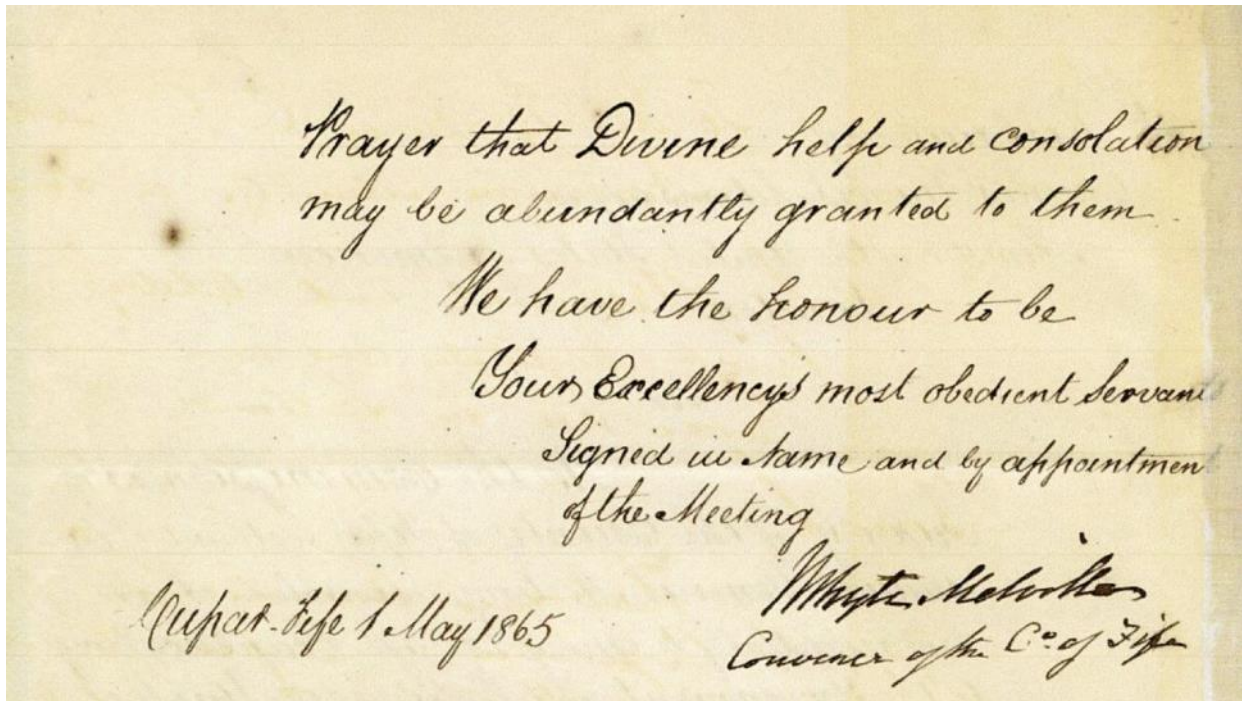


Fig.10. Letter of Sympathy on the Death of U.S. President Lincoln from Commissioners of Supply, 1 May 1865, Photograph Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, Springfield, Illinois (Record Group 59, Entry 177)

A Narrow Escape

A.W. Buist and his family escaped a near tragedy with his carriage while traveling one evening back from Perth to their home at Berryhill. According to the *Fife Herald Newspaper* of Thursday, 11 May 1871: "A.W. Buist, Esq., of Berryhill, and party, had a narrow escape on Monday evening, about seven o'clock, while returning from Perth in a low basket carriage. The shafts of the carriage were rather short, and the point of one had come against one of the fore legs of the horse, and it was coming down the road leading into the town [Newburgh] at the West Toll-bar. The horse took fright and ran off, rushing along the street at full stretch. Mr. Buist, who held the reins firmly, managed, with much coolness, to keep the horse from running into collision with the vehicles on the street, and succeeded in guiding it out the East Road, when it brought up on reaching the Cemetery. The party, which consisted of Mrs. Buist, Miss Buist, and Miss Russell of Parkhill, were not much the worse of the escapade, although considerably shaken with the jolting of the carriage on the street, by which they were nearly thrown out."²⁸

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

On Monday, 9 March 1857, Andrew W. Buist was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a position which he held until his death. According to the *Caledonian Mercury Newspaper* for Wednesday, 11 March 1857: "A meeting of this society was held on Monday afternoon in their Hall in George Street. On a ballot, Alexander Sinclair, Esq., and Andrew Walker Buist, Esq., were elected Fellows."²⁹

²⁸ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 11 May 1871, p.3

²⁹ *Caledonian Mercury Newspaper*, 11 March 1857, p.3

Buist donated many items to the museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland that he either found or collected since his association with the Society. According to the Proceedings of the Society, 11 February 1878: "By A.W. Buist, Esq., F.S.A. Scotland, a Iron Spike, partly enclosed in a concretion of gravel, found at Parkhill, parish of Abdie, Fife."³⁰

Death of Andrew Walker Buist

Buist made out his Last Will and Testament on Tuesday, 21 December 1875 at Cupar.³¹ Andrew Walker Buist died on Tuesday, 1 May 1877 at Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife at the age of 60.³² The cause of death was listed as paralysis.

Andrew Walker Buist	1877	M	60	Heron Road	Paralysis	H. B. Bell	1877
Resident	May	7 years	Leis. & Proprietor	(Deceased)	As last by	Nephew	May 1 st
Landed Proprietor	Buist				Ph. Buist	Widow's House	Abdie
married to	3 rd 30 th A.M.					Deceased	
Isabella Scott				Heron Road	M. B. & C. M.		John Macpherson
formerly to	Berryhill			A. J. Walker			Registrar
Margaret Mary	Abdie			(Deceased)			
Campbell							

Fig.11. Death Record of Andrew Walker Buist, 1 May 1877, Abdie Parish Records, Crown Copyright

According to the *Evening Telegraph Newspaper* dated Wednesday, 2 May 1877: "At Berryhill, Newburgh, Fife, on the 1st inst., Andrew Walker Buist, in the 61st year of his age. Friends will please accept this intimation."³³ He was buried in the Abdie Parish Churchyard.



Fig.12. Grave of Andrew W. Buist, Abdie Parish Churchyard, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

³⁰ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. 11 February 1878, p.569

³¹ Will of Andrew Walker Buist, 21 December 1875, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/50) Scotlandspeople.gov.uk

³² Death Record of Andrew W. Buist, 1 May 1877, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/00 0009

³³ *Evening Telegraph Newspaper*, 2 May 1877, p.3

His wife, Isabella Buist continued to reside at Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife until her death namely with her sister, Mary Easton. Isabella Scott Easton Buist died on Wednesday, 17 May 1922 at Berryhill age the age of 85.³⁴ The cause of death was listed as heart disease and she was buried in the Abdie Parish Churchyard. According to the *Dundee Evening Telegraph Newspaper* dated Wednesday, 17 May 1922: "Newburgh Octogenarian Dead. By the death at Berryhill, Newburgh this morning of Mrs. Buist, relict of Mr. A.W. Buist, in her 86th year, an affable personality has been removed. Deceased was the elder daughter of the late Professor Easton, a distinguished Professor of Materia Medica in Glasgow University, and her step-daughter, who now succeeds to the property, is the wife of Rev. Joseph Loudon, minister of Roslin."³⁵

The Life and Times of Andrew Walker Buist spanned 60 years. Andrew W. Buist was a proprietor of Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife like his father and Buist ancestors who were tenant farmers. He would be the last Buist to occupy Berryhill. "The traditional recollections, therefore, of these two lives [his father Henry Buist] extended to nearly one hundred and seventy years."³⁶

He studied native reptile during his early youth and wrote various essays on the subject for the Fifeshire Literary Scientific and Antiquarian Society. He also served as a Commissioner of Supply for the Kingdom of Fife for many years. His service also included being Chairman of Public Health for Abdie Parish, and serving on the local boards of The Fifeshire National Security Savings Bank, and the Commission of Peace for Fife. In the long winter months he was an active participant and member of the Abdie Curling Club and served as the Club's President in 1868. In addition, Buist was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland since 1857 and donated many items to its museum.

Fife can be very proud of one of its own, Andrew Walker Buist, a Fife gentleman. He is warmly commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant cousin, Michael T. Tracy.

Viva enim mortuorum in memoria vivorum est posita (The life of the dead is retained in the memory of the living)

Acknowledgements

With special thanks and appreciation to Dr. Iain Macintyre whose help with this publication is gratefully acknowledged.

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³⁴ Death Record of Isabella Scott Easton Buist, 17 May 1922, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/00 0004

³⁵ *Dundee Evening Telegraph Newspaper*, 17 May 1922, p.3

³⁶ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Volume 12. Edinburgh: Neill and Company 1878 , p.366