

George Buist (1809-1889): Tenant Farmer and Proprietor of Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife
By His Distant First Cousin, Michael T. Tracy

He was said to have “had the heart to feel and the hand to give.”¹ George Buist was known for his many acts of benevolence throughout his 80 years of life. He was born at Weddersbie, Collessie Parish and at an early age spent the rest of his childhood at Berryhill, Abdie Parish. He was granted the use of his father’s farm of Ormiston in Abdie Parish where he was a tenant farmer until his father’s death in 1865 when he received proprietorship of its lands. However, three years later tragedy would befall him as the dwelling house would be destroyed by fire. Only by Buist’s own persistence and efforts was his dwelling house at Ormiston rebuilt in a short period of time. George Buist never married and with advancing age, he decided to sell the property during the summer of 1877.² He would later move to Edinburgh and finally settled at 25 Broughton Place where he lived for the rest of his life. This then is the narrative of the life and times of George Buist.

Early years

George Buist was born on Tuesday, 21 March 1809 at Weddersbie, Collessie Parish, Fife.³ He was the first child of Henry Buist (1771-1865), a proprietor of farms, and Helen Walker. He was baptized on Tuesday, 18 April 1809 at Collessie Parish Church.⁴

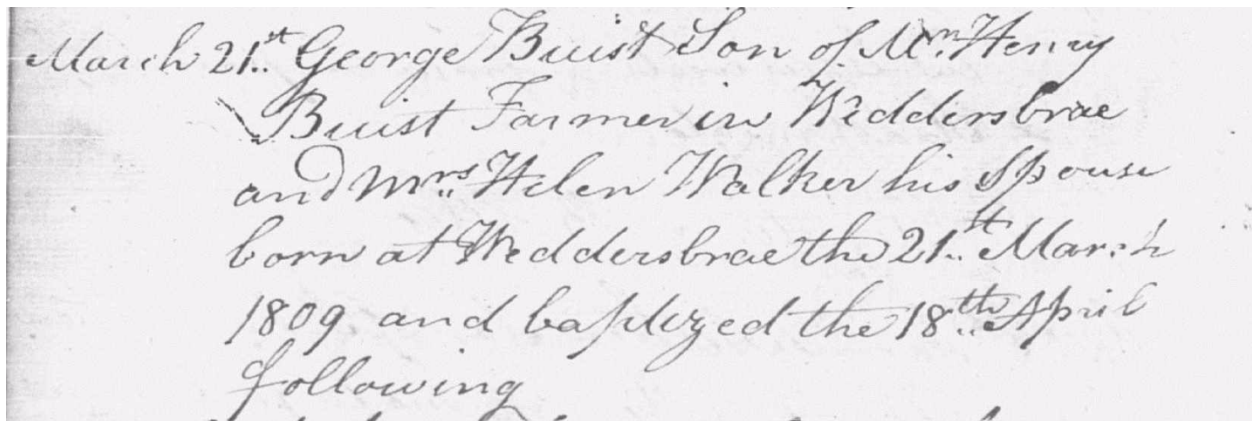


Fig.1. Baptismal Record of George Buist, 18 April 1809, Collessie Parish Records, Crown Copyright

¹ *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 2 May 1889, p. 3

² *Aberdeen Press and Journal Newspaper*, 7 August 1877, p. 3

³ Baptismal Record of George Buist, 18 April 1809, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010 0270

⁴ Baptismal Record of George Buist, 18 April 1809, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010 0270



Fig.2. Collessie Parish Church, Collessie, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy



Fig.3. Heading into Collessie, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

Weddersbie is located “about 1 ½ miles northeast by east of the town of Auchtermuchty [and is described as being] a small farmhouse with offices and thrashing machine all in good repair; there is a garden and a farm of about 140 acres of arable land attached.”⁵

⁵ Ordnance Survey Name Books, *Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 51, OS1/13/51/56*

Parish of Collessie No. 21. Par. 9. 6. Auction Tower 58

List of Names to be corrected if necessary	Orthography as recommended to be used in the new Plans	Other modes of Spelling the same Name	Authority for these other modes of Spelling when known	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Weddersbie	Weddersbie	Weddersbie G ^o Weddersbrae Weddersbie - G ^o - - G ^o -	James Thomson Farmer John Lawson Farmer John McCall Robinson's G ^o Map Registers of G ^o votes Lindsay's Hist. of Stat. Scot. 1845 Pub. Act. 1845	About 13 miles N.W. by E of the Town of Dunfermline.	A small farm house with all its garden and a farm of about 140 acres. It is the property of William Stewart.

12000 9-50

Fig.4. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Weddersbie, Collessie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk



Fig.5. Weddersbie, Collessie Parish, Fife, Birthplace of George Buist, Photograph Courtesy of Dr. Iain Macintyre



Fig.6. Ordnance Survey Map showing Weddersbie, Collessie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

It is not known exactly when Henry Buist was a tenant farmer there; however, early records indicated that he was at Weddersbie as early as Wednesday, 22 February 1797 when he ratified his father's Trust Disposition.⁶ The tenant lease for Weddersbie expired at the end of 1813 and Henry decided not to renew the lease and relocated to Berryhill in Abdie Parish.⁷

⁶ Trust Disposition and Deed Settlement of George Buist, 6 December 1796, Register of Deeds, Burgh of Falkland, 1738-1798, University of St. Andrews Special Collections, (B25/4/1), p.p. 407-426

⁷ *Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper*, 2 November 1813, p. 2

CAPITAL FARMS IN COLLESSIE PARISH, parts of the **ESTATE of LATHRISK**, lying in the parish of Collessie, are to be let for 19 years, and entered to at Martinmas 1814.

WEDDERSBIE, as presently possessed by Mr Buist, consisting of 184 acres, or thereby, all arable.

HUTTON and CALDWELLS, as presently possessed by Mr Patrick, consisting of 244 acres, or thereby, likewise all arable.

The **HILLS** of **WEDDERSBIE** and **CALDWELLS**, consisting of about 228 acres, presently in the proprietor's possession, excepting a small quantity of cottar land, in the occupation of the present tenant.

All these lands lie contiguous to each other, and there are an excellent Dwelling-house and stead- ing of offices, upon each of the farms of Wedders- bie, and Hutton, and Caldwell's, besides several detached cottar houses.

The arable lands lie, chiefly to a fine south ex- posure, and are adapted to carry the best crops, which, in general are very early produced.

The turnpike road from Cupar to Kinross by Auchtermuchty, runs through both farms, and they are within 6 miles of the sea port of New- burgh, and the county town of Cupar, where there is a weekly market, less than a mile from Auch- termuchty and Collesie, and about two miles from Falkland, to all of which places, there are excel- lent roads. Lime is to be had at the distance of three miles, and coal at the distance of six miles, and there is abundance of marle very near the lands.

An incoming tenant will enter to the arable lands, under the following very advantageous cir- cumstances. The tenant of Weddersbie is bound to have 2 inclosures in grass two years old, 1 inclo- sure in 1 year old grass, and the proprietor or in- coming tenant is intimated to sow grass seeds with the last crop in two inclosures. The tenant of Hutton and Caldwell's is bound to leave from 50 to 80 acres of the lands fronting the south in grass, and the remainder of the farm in such herbage and condition that the proprietor or incoming tenant may sow the whole with grass seeds along with the last crop.

The two Farms of Weddersbie and Hutton and Caldwell's, are completely subdivided and enclosed with stone dykes, hedges, and ditches; and the hills have lately been much improved by the Proprietor at a great expence, having been surround- ed with a substantial stone wall, completely drain- ed, the marches straightened, and the mass of whins which formerly covered them, totally eradicated. As the Hills were lately planted, the entry to them cannot be earlier than Whitsunday 1816, by which time the plants will be removed.

The whole lands of Weddersbie and Hutton and Caldwell's, and likewise the Hills, will be let in one farm, or Weddersbie separately, and Hutton and Caldwell's and the Hills together as another farm. Offers in writing will be received by Mr James Lyon, Writer, Broughton Place, New- burgh, until Monday the 10th of December next, and the lands will be let in whole, or in part, as above, upon Saturday the 18th of Decr next, at Lathrisk, to a tenant or tenants of said lands, if the offers suit the Proprietor, and be equal to the value of the farms.

Mr William Ramsay, Overseer at Lathrisk, will show the lands.

Fig.7. Notice of Weddersbie and Other Farms to Lease in Collessie Parish, Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, 2 November 1813, Page 2



Fig.8. Weddersbie Farm Steadings, Collessie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Dr. Iain Macintyre

Henry Buist would eventually acquire Berryhill on Saturday, 4 October 1817.⁸ Here, young George spent the remainder of his childhood.



Fig.9. Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Dr. Iain Macintyre

⁸ Sasine of Henry Buist, 4 October 1817, National Records of Scotland, P.R. 101.48

Berryhill is located “about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southwest by south of the village of Lindores [and is described as being] a large and well-built farmhouse with office houses all in good repair attached to it is a large farm of good ground, the property of Mr. Buist and occupied by the proprietor.”⁹

Parish of Abdie No. 21. Plan of B. Area No. 3 39

List of Names to be corrected if necessary	Orthography, as recommended to be used in the new Plans	Other modes of Spelling the same Name	Authority for these other modes of Spelling when known	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Berryhill	Berryhill	Berryhill B. B. Beryhill Beryhill Bery Hill Beryhill Beryhill	Mr. Buist Parish of Abdie Rev. Mr. Symon John Buist Mr. Buist Huntley's Map Old Stat. Acct. Light's Hist. of Fife, vol. 2, p. 181 Rev. Mr. Dunbar's Map of Fife Rev. Mr. Dunbar's Map of Fife	About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile W by S. of the village of Lindores	A Large and well-built farm with office houses all in good repair attached to it is a large farm of ground the property of Mr. Buist and occupied by the Proprietor
Golden Hill	Golden Hill	Golden Hill	Mr. Buist Mr. Buist	About one mile S of Lindores	A small hill of oval shape on the farm of Berryhill its surface consists of arable and rock-works ground.

Fig.10. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk

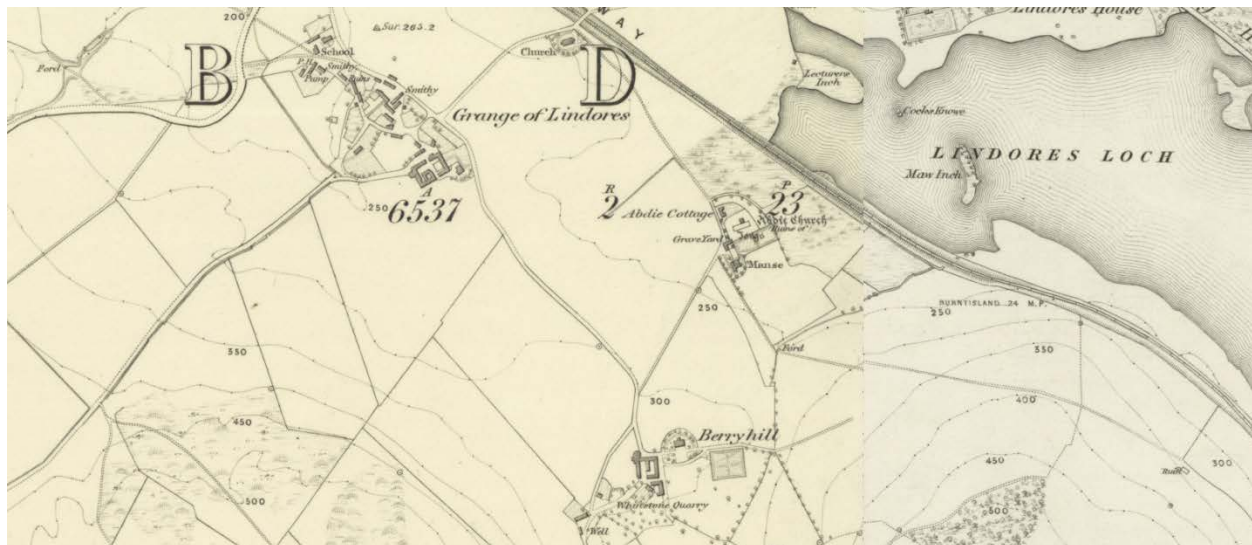


Fig.11. Ordnance Survey Map showing Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

⁹ Ordnance Survey Name Books, Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 49, OS1/13/49/39

Ormiston, Abdie Parish

Ormiston is located "about 1 ¼ miles west of the village of Lindores and is [described as being] a small farmhouse and office houses all in good repair, attached to it is a small farm of ground, the property of Mr. Buist of Berryhill and occupied by him as an out farm."¹⁰

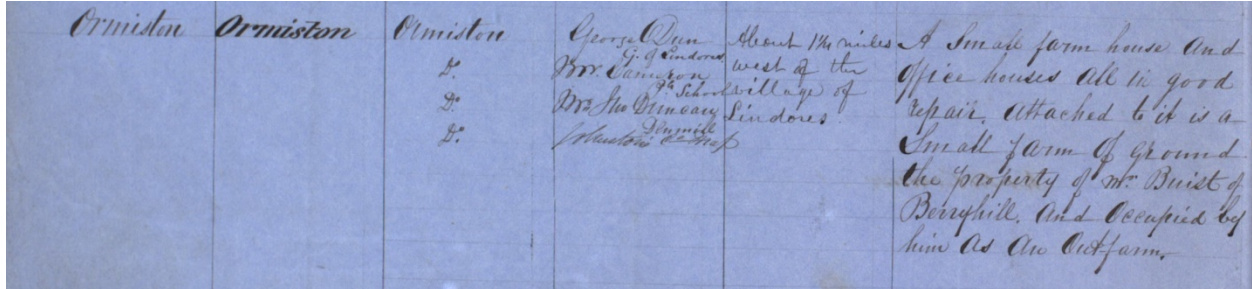


Fig.12. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk



Fig.13. Ormiston Front Gates, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

¹⁰ Ordnance Survey Name Books, *Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 49, OS1/13/49/36*



Fig.14. Ordnance Survey Map showing Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

Ormiston dates back to at least 1496 when William Bonkil was noted as a vicar of Ormiston (Ormistoun).¹¹ Later “Henry Cheape owned Ormiston until he passed the estate to his son and heir, James Cheape (1641-1701) 1st laird of Rossie. An eminent advocate in Edinburgh during the reign of Charles II, James Cheape of Ormiston acquired the lands and barony of Rossie in 1668 from Dame Mary Scott.”¹²

¹¹ Records of the Burgh of St. Andrews, Notarial Instrument, granting St. Andrews tenement to Trinity Hospital, Edinburgh, 21 May 1496, University of St. Andrews Special Collections Call Number B65/23/145c

¹² Papers of the Cheape Family, 1454-1778, University of St. Andrews Special Collections Call Number ms36929



Fig.15. Lands of Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

It is unclear as to when exactly his father, Henry, turned over the tenancy of Ormiston to his son, George to farm. It was not until Wednesday, 16 July 1834 that Henry Buist acquired these lands of Ormiston.¹³

¹³ Sasine of Henry Buist, 31 July 1834, National Records of Scotland, G.R. 1771.186

vicarage of the said lands included as
also all and whole these lands called
the Wood and Park of Lindsore and
the Lands called Whitepark with the
hail parts pendicles and pertinents ther
of and Linds of the same included
lying within the Regality of Lindsore
and Sheriffdom of Life and Lickelike
all and whole the Lands of Hatton
hill and Muririggs with the manor
place houses beggings yards tofts crofts
as also the Lands parsonage and vicarage
of the foresaid lands of Hattonhill
and Muririggs and also all and whole
the lands of Stonghatton with two dals
of Land lying betwixt the Lands of
Grange and Hattonhill Together with
the hail acres of Land called the
crofts which are proper parts and
pertinents of the said two Sloughs
of the Lands of Grange of Lindsore
called Ormiston as also the Lands par
sonage and vicarage of the said lands
lying within the Regality of Lindsore
and Sheriffdom foresaid Excepting and
Reserving nevertheless the meadow lying
at the church of Abdie formerly possessed
by William Laing and afterwards by
Mr. Alexander Balfour minister of
Abdie with the Linds of the same

Fig.16. Sasine of Henry Buist, 31 July 1834, Page 188, Photograph Courtesy of the National Archives of Scotland Ref G.R. 1771.186

The earliest record of George Buist as a tenant farmer of Ormiston was in the year of 1832 when he registered to vote.¹⁴

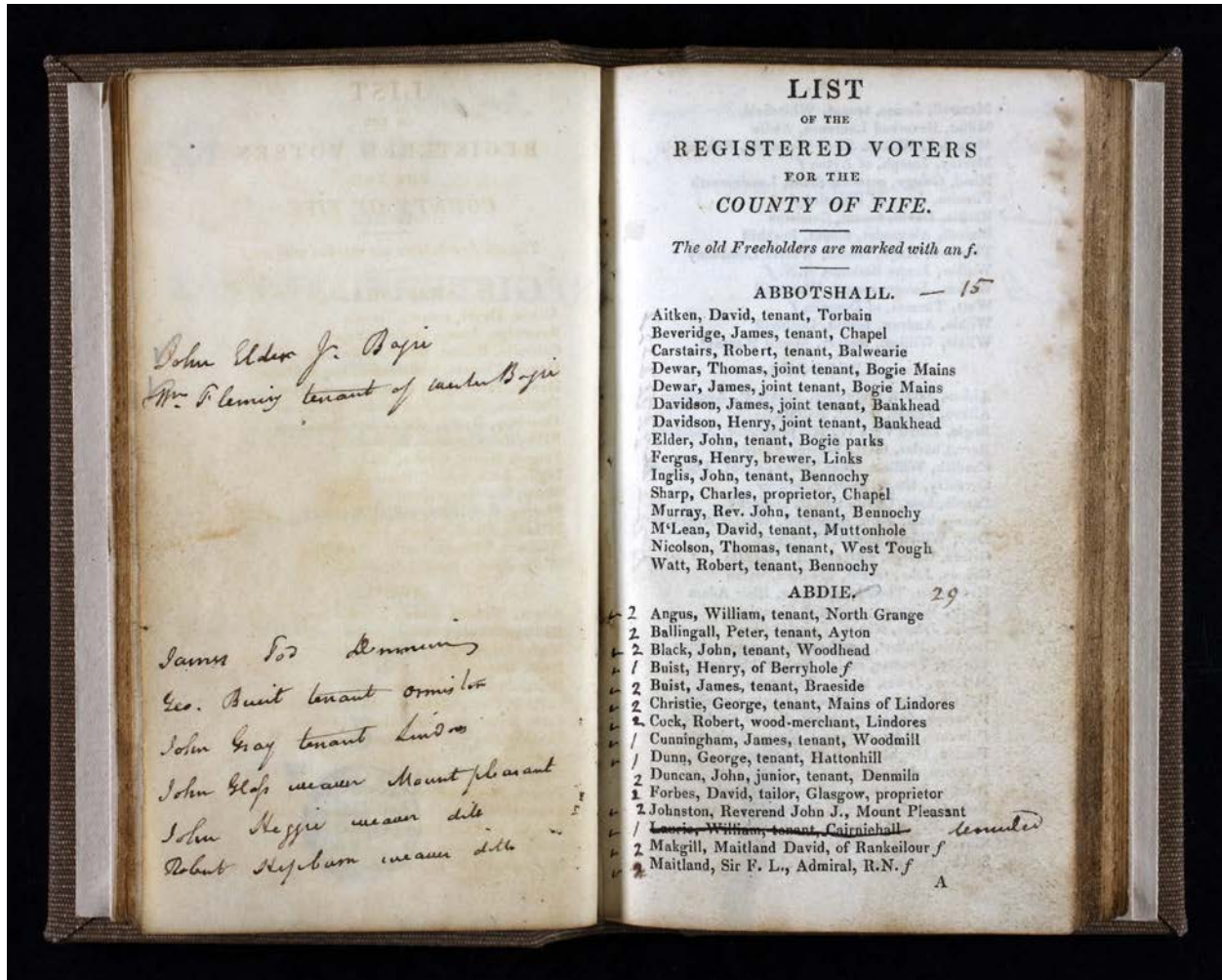


Fig.17. List of the Registered Voters for the County of Fife, 1832, showing George Buist as a tenant of Ormiston, Abdie Parish (Left side, fourth entry)

He is recorded as receiving an honor from the Auchtermuchty Agricultural Society in 1842 for having the best ten calves.¹⁵ In 1846 he is shown once again as a registered voter of Fife.¹⁶

¹⁴ Fife, Scotland, Voters Lists, 1832-1894. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010
¹⁵ Fife Herald Newspaper, 6 October 1842, p. 3
¹⁶ Fife, Scotland, Voters Lists, 1832-1894. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

ABDIE.

Angus, William, farmer, tenant farm and lands, North Grange.—21st September 1832.
 Black, John, farmer, tenant farm, Woodhead.—21st September 1832.
 Buist, Henry, proprietor lands, Berryhole.—21st September 1832.
 (Removed to the parish of Cupar, the county town, by order of the Sheriff, dated 28th October 1837.) F.
 Buist, James, farmer, tenant lands, Braeside.—21st September 1832.
 Buist, George, tenant farm, Ormiston.—20th August 1835.

Fig.18. List of the Registered Voters for the County of Fife, 1846, showing George Buist (Last Entry)

Buist was also listed in the 1843 *Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats, Villages in Scotland* which is reproduced below.¹⁷

B U R				153
<i>Occupants, &c.</i>	<i>Villages, Seats, &c.</i>	<i>Post-Town.</i>	<i>County.</i>	
Buchanan, Alexander	Slatefield	Glasgow	Lanark	
Buchanan, Andrew	Auchintorlie	Glasgow	Dumbarton	
Buchanan, Andrew	Mount Vernon	<i>Shettleston</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, Duncan	Colasnacone	Appin	Argyle	
Buchanan, George	Arden	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	
Buchanan, James	Dowan Hill	<i>Partick</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, James	Aitkenhead	<i>Cathcart</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, Capt. J. G.	Bridgeton	<i>St Cyrus</i>	Kincardine	
Buchanan, James Gray	Eastfield House	<i>Rutherglen</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, John	Carbeth	<i>Killearn</i>	Stirling	
Buchanan, John	Finnich	<i>Drymen</i>	Stirling	
Buchanan, John	Glenlora	<i>Lochwinnoch</i>	Renfrew	
Buchanan, John	Ardmare	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	
Buchanan, Robert	Knoxland	Dumbarton	Dumbarton	
Buchanan, Prof. Robert	Ardfillane	Dunoon	Argyle	
Buchanan, Thomas	Wellshot	<i>Cambuslang</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, Rev. Thos.	Methven Manse	<i>Methven</i>	Perth	
Buchanan, Thomas	Gartacharn Cottage	<i>Drymen</i>	Stirling	
Buchanan, Thos. Bruce	Boquha	<i>Balfron</i>	Stirling	
Buchanan, Rev. Peter	Stitchel	Kelso	Roxburgh	
Buchanan, Mrs	Drumpillar	<i>Coatbridge</i>	Lanark	
Buchanan, Mrs A.	Auchmar Cottage	<i>Roseneath</i>	Dumbarton	
Buchanan, Mrs	Catrine Bank	<i>Catrine</i>	Ayr	
Buchanan, Mrs S.	Cuninghamehead	Irvine	Ayr	
Buchanan, Miss	Bellfield	Kilmarnock	Ayr	
Buchanan, Miss	Craignat	<i>Killearn</i>	Stirling	
Buckingham & Chandos, Duke of	Auchlyne House	<i>Killin</i>	Perth	
Buist, Rev. Alexander	Arngask Manse	<i>Damhead</i>	Fife	
Buist, George	Ormiston	Newburgh	Fife	

Fig.19. 1843 *Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats, Villages in Scotland* listing George Buist (Last Entry), Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

¹⁷ *Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats, Villages in Scotland*. Edinburgh: W.P. Kennedy, 1843, p. 153

George Buist would never marry and according to the 1851 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish he was listed as residing at Ormiston, unmarried, 42 years of age, working as a farmer of 300 acres and employing 6 male agricultural labourers and 3 females.¹⁸

Parish of <i>Abdie</i>		Quondam Parish of		Within the limits of the Parliamentary Burgh of		Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of		Town or Village of	
Household No.	Name of Street, Place, or Tiesel, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, Deaf, or Lame
					Male	Female			
11	<i>Yetholton</i>	<i>Walter Williamson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>Agri. Lab.</i>	<i>Fife, Monimail</i>	
		<i>Margaret Do.</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>18</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Fife, Fife</i>	
		<i>George Do.</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>8</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Fife, Monimail</i>	
		<i>Alexander Do.</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>6</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Fife, Monimail</i>	
		<i>Janet Do.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Fife, Monimail</i>	
		<i>Robert Do.</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>18m</i>			<i>Fife, Abdie</i>	
12	<i>Wimston</i>	<i>George Buist</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>42</i>		<i>Farmer, 300 acres, emp. 6 ag. lab. male, 3 female</i>	<i>Fife, Collieston</i>	
		<i>Eliza Kidd</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>24</i>		<i>Household Servant</i>	<i>Fife, Leven</i>	

Fig.20. 1851 Scotland Census for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Buist (Last Entry)

The Valuation Rolls of Ormiston

The Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act of 1854 established a uniform valuation of landed property throughout Scotland, which was collected annually for each parish in each county and burgh. These records record the name of each proprietor, the occupier of the property and the annual rateable value of the property. The first Valuation Roll that George Buist was listed in was in the year of 1855 and showed the yearly rent or value of the property as 270 pounds.¹⁹

VALUATION				ROLL.		
County of Fife.				Abdie Parish.		
Number	DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF SUBJECT.	PROPRIETOR.	TENANT.	OCCUPIER.	YEARLY RENT OR VALUE.	
					As Estimated by Assessor.	As Adjusted on Application or Appeal.
1	<i>Stirling's Manseion House of Yetholton</i>	<i>David Wilson Esq. Leuchry</i>		<i>David Wilson</i>	<i>90 -</i>	<i>90 -</i>
2	<i>Home farm of Leuchry & Plantation</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>300 10</i>	<i>300 10</i>
3	<i>Farm of Cairnburgh</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>George Cunningham Cairnburgh</i>	<i>and George Cunningham</i>	<i>287 3</i>	<i>287 8</i>
4	<i>Farm of Woodmill</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>David King, Woodmill</i>	<i>and David King</i>	<i>314 16</i>	<i>314 16</i>
5	<i>Farm of Braehead</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Peter & John Dingwall Braehead</i>	<i>John Dingwall Braehead</i>	<i>225 4</i>	<i>225 15</i>
6	<i>Farm of Woodhead</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>John Black, Woodhead</i>	<i>and John Black</i>	<i>152 16</i>	<i>152 16</i>
7	<i>Farm of Woodmill Green</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>George Cunningham Woodmill Green</i>	<i>and George Cunningham</i>	<i>158 10</i>	<i>158 6</i>
8	<i>Lands called Kirk Style & Cottage</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>James Ruskell</i>	<i>James Ruskell</i>	<i>20 12</i>	<i>20 12</i>
9	<i>Cottage</i>	<i>Do</i>			<i>5 -</i>	<i>5 -</i>
10	<i>Farm of Parkhill - November</i>	<i>The Right Honble the Earl of Fife and Dalmead</i>	<i>Andrew Russell, Parkhill</i>	<i>and Andrew Russell</i>	<i>1146 8</i>	<i>1146 8</i>
11	<i>Landed Parks</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Thos. Russell, Parkhill</i>	<i>and Thomas Russell</i>	<i>90 7</i>	<i>90 7</i>
12	<i>Lands of Blankbony</i>	<i>J. H. Baskin Esq. of Anne</i>	<i>David Landale Leuchry</i>	<i>and David Landale</i>	<i>576 15</i>	<i>576 15</i>
13	<i>Kinnaird Manseion House</i>	<i>John Pitcairn Esq. Kinnaird</i>		<i>and John Pitcairn</i>	<i>20 -</i>	<i>20 -</i>
14	<i>Lands of Kinnaird</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>John Pitcairn Junr. Kinnaird</i>	<i>and John Pitcairn Jr.</i>	<i>450 -</i>	<i>450 -</i>
15	<i>Part of Capthill annexed to Leuchry, Dec. Murray Esq., Leuchry, Braehead</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>John Pitt, Leuchry</i>	<i>and John Pitt</i>	<i>100 -</i>	<i>100 -</i>
16	<i>Part of Capthill</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>John Smith, Leuchry, Capthill</i>	<i>7 5</i>	<i>7 5</i>
17	<i>Farm of Capthill</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>George Kirkcaldy, Capthill</i>	<i>and George Kirkcaldy</i>	<i>698 11</i>	<i>698 11</i>
18	<i>Farm of Leuchry Plantation</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>and Joseph Murray</i>	<i>6 4</i>	<i>6 4</i>
19	<i>Farm of Pennington</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>James Tod, Pennington</i>	<i>and James Tod</i>	<i>673 18</i>	<i>673 18</i>
20	<i>Kinnaird Manseion House</i>	<i>Mary Buist Esq. Kinnaird</i>		<i>and Mary Buist</i>	<i>10 -</i>	<i>10 -</i>
21	<i>Farm of Kinnaird</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>and Henry Buist</i>	<i>467 10</i>	<i>467 10</i>
22	<i>Farm of Wattenhill</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>and Henry Buist</i>	<i>260 -</i>	<i>260 -</i>
23	<i>Farm of Wattenhill</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>and George Buist</i>	<i>270 -</i>	<i>270 -</i>
24	<i>Farm of Wattenhill</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>George Buist</i>			

Fig.21. 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Buist (Last Entry)

¹⁸ 1851 Scotland Census for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife; Enumeration District 2, Page 4, Line 7

¹⁹ 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland VR101/1/1

The 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll showed George Buist as the tenant and occupier of Ormiston, his father being the proprietor of the lands and the yearly rent or value of the property as 290 pounds.²⁰

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VALUATION			ROLL						
County of Fife.			Parish of <i>Abdie</i>						
			For the Year 1865-66.						
DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT.	PROPRIETOR. <small>Including Lessee of Leas and Mortgagee of Lease, but not of Bona Fide Ownership in Fee.</small>	OCCUPIER.	TENANT.		Rate Payable under each Lease.	For Duty on Ground, Annual, etc.	Tax Due to whom payable.	Taxes Due on Value.	
			Under Lease of 21 Years and less than 31 Years.	Under Lease of 31 Years or upwards.				On the Amount of the Rent or Value of the Property.	On the Amount of the Value of the Property.
<i>East house of Spange hill looking west of Highfield</i>	<i>Robert Colbeck Esq do</i>	<i>Said Robert Colbeck James Henry Esq</i>					<i>Brought Forward £</i>	<i>4,290</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>West house of Spange hill looking east of Highfield</i>	<i>Trustees of late Miss Anne Balfour do</i>	<i>John Sloan, Farmer do</i>						<i>36</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>West house of Spange hill looking east of Highfield</i>	<i>Henry Buist Esq of Berrymill do</i>	<i>Said Henry Buist James Walter Buist, Farmer do</i>					<i>1/11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>West house of Spange hill looking east of Highfield</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>					<i>1/11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>West house of Spange hill looking east of Highfield</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>George Buist, Farmer do</i>					<i>2/6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
									<i>290</i>

Fig.22. 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Buist (Last Entry)



Fig.23. Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

²⁰ 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland VR101/11/2

According to the 1875 Scotland Valuation Roll George Buist is shown as the proprietor of Ormiston and the yearly rent or value of the property is 400 pounds.²¹

(CUPAR DISTRICT.)		VALUATION ROLL—COUNTY OF FIFE.—Parish of ABDIE, Year 1875-1876.										1
No.	Description of Subject.	Proprietor.	Occupier.	Not under 10 Years or upwards.	Transit. Under Lease of 10 Years, and less than 20 Years.	Under Lease of 20 Years, or upwards.	Rent payable under such Lease.	Fen Duty or Ground Annual, &c.	Fen Duties, To whom Payable.	Yearly Rent or Value.	No.	
1	Farm of Dummuir,	Joseph Murray Esq., Broomfield House, Haats,	James Tod, farmer,	same			£28 13 3	Crown,	£611 18 2	1		
2	do. Aytoun,	do.	James Meldrum, farmer,	same					630 1 6	2		
3	House, Suitby, and Garden, Aytoun,	do.	William Robertson, smith,	same					8 0 0	3		
4	Part of Carpathie Lands,	do.	John Bell, farmer,	same					123 12 0	4		
5	House, Byre, and Land,	do.	John Smith, forester,	same					9 6 0	5		
6	Woodlands,	do.	Said Joseph Murray,	same					8 0 0	6		
7	Farm of Binkbonny,	John Inglis Esq., St Andrews,	James Tod, farmer,	same					550 0 0	7		
8	Kinnaird House and Garden,	Trustees of late Hope Pitcairn Esq.,	Mrs Isabella Pitcairn,	same					30 0 0	8		
9	Farm of Kinnaird,	do.	Said Trustees,	same					440 0 0	9		
10	Farm of Parkhill,	The Right Hon. Lawrence Earl of Zetland, Aske,	Andrew Walker Russell, farmer,	same					1032 12 0	10		
1	Lochend Park,	do. [Richmond, Yorkshire,	John Ballingal, farmer, Dunbeig,	same					70 0 0	1		
2	Woodlands,	do.	Said Earl of Zetland,	same					7 6 0	2		
3	Salmon Fishings in the Tay,	do.	George Dunn, salmon fisher, Newburgh,	same					228 0 0	3		
4	House, Offices, and Garden of Inchrye,	Trustees of late David Wilson Esq.,	Robert Lockhart Esq.,	same			0 11 0	A. A. Watt Esq.,	80 0 0	4		
5	Home Farm of Inchrye,	do.	John Pitcairn Esq.,	same			4 2 2	Crown,	190 0 0	5		
6	Woodlands,	do.	Said Trustees,	same			0 3 10	Lord Leven,	82 0 0	6		
7	Farm of Cairneyhill, Lochend, and Mains of Wood-	do.	George Cunningham Miller, farmer,	same					422 14 0	7		
8	Farm of Woodmill, [null],	do.	Reps. of late George Davidson, farmer,	same					331 14 6	8		
9	do. Drasside,	do.	William Robb, farmer,	same					227 1 10	9		
20	do. Woodhead,	do.	William Younger, farmer,	same					155 0 0	20		
1	Cottage, Garden, and Land, Kirkistyle,	do.	James Birker,	same					29 15 8	1		
2	Cottage and Garden, do.	do.	Rev. John Thomson,	same					4 0 0	2		
3	Lindores House, Offices, and Garden,	Admiral Lewis Maitland, Windsor Cottage, For-	Robert Williamson,	same			2 14 11	Duke of Portland,	60 0 0	3		
4	Woodlands and Meadow,	do.	William Guild Esq.,	same					8 10 0	4		
5	Farm of Lindores,	do.	do.	same					83 9 2	5		
6	Farm and Garden, Lindores,	do.	Said Admiral Maitland,	same					13 0 0	6		
7	Land, do.	do.	Thomas Henderson, labourer,	same					9 3 4	7		
8	House, Byre, and Garden, do.	do.	Henry Smith, builder,	same					9 3 6	8		
9	Houses and Gardens, under £4, do.	do.	do.	same					3 0 0	9		
20	Farm of Lindores,	William Guild Esq.,	Said William Guild,	same			21 13 0	Crown,	630 0 0	20		
1	House, Land, &c. Lindores,	do.	Alexander Kellock, wright,	same			15 12 7	Duke of Portland,	40 0 0	1		
2	Sawmill and House, Stable, &c. Den of Lindores,	do.	Andrew Kirkcaldy, sawmiller,	same			2 4 5	E. P. B. Hay, Esq.,	24 0 0	2		
3	House, Shop, and Garden, Lindores,	do.	Robert Lockhart, grocer,	same					7 0 0	3		
4	do. and Garden, do.	do.	Thomas Dall, tailor,	same					6 0 0	4		
5	Houses and Gardens, under £4, do.	do.	do.	same					11 15 2	5		
6	House and Garden, do.	do.	Alexander Pirnie	same					6 0 0	6		
7	Quarry, do.	do.	Road Trustees, Cupar District,	same					8 0 0	7		
8	Part of Farm of Grange,	Robert Cathcart Esq.,	Reps. of late George Dun, farmer,	same			0 18 5	Crown,	86 7 0	8		
9	Farm of Grangehill,	do.	do.	same					87 8 0	9		
20	Part of Hattonhill,	do.	do.	same					24 4 0	20		
1	do.	do.	George Storrar, farmer, Easter Lun-	same			0 7 1	do.	210 7 9	1		
2	House and Garden, Purlichall,	do.	do. [benny],	same					2 0 0	2		
3	Woodlands,	do.	Said Robert Cathcart,	same			2 12 0	do.	40 0 0	3		
4	Part of Farm of Grange,	Trustees of late Miss Ann Balfour,	Reps. of late George Dun, farmer,	same			0 4 9	do.	541 2 10	4		
5	Part of Hattonhill,	do.	do.	same					184 0 6	5		
6	Farm of Whitefield,	do.	Reps. of late John Main, farmer,	same					80 0 0	6		
7	Dillitary Knoll Plantation,	do.	do.	same					9 8 0	7		
8	Berryhill House and Garden,	Andrew Walker Buist Esq.,	Said A. W. Buist,	same			2 17 0	ditto £1 17s. Castle Rent £1.	45 0 0	8		
9	Farm of Berryhill,	do.	do.	same			2 2 0	E. P. B. Hay Esq.,	452 10 0	9		
20	do. Ormiston,	George Buist Esq.,	Said George Buist,	same					100 0 0	20		
		do.	John White, farmer,	same					115 0 0	1		

Fig.24. 1875 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Buist (Last Entry)

The Proprietor of Ormiston

Upon the death of his father, Henry Buist, on Tuesday, 7 November 1865 George inherited Ormiston.²² This is reflected in the 1872-73 Owners of Lands and Heritages Return which listed him as the proprietor of Ormiston.²³

²¹ 1875 Scotland Valuation Roll for Ormiston, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland VR101/21/16

²² Trust Disposition and Settlement of Henry Buist, 19 December 1865, Cupar Sheriff Court SC20/50/37

²³ Scotland, Owners of Lands and Heritages, 1872-73 Return. Edinburgh: Murray and Gibb, 1874, p. 76

Name of Owner.	Address of Owner.	Estimated Acres of Property.	Gross Annual Value.
		Acres.	£ s.
Brown, Mrs. Catherine . .	Damside, Cupar . .	15	105 -
Brown, Mrs. John, and Robert Kellock . . .	Lundin Mill, Largo . .	8	8 -
Brown, Heirs of Mrs. Margaret	New Grange, St. Andrews	120	308 -
Brown, Mrs. Mary . . .	Crossford, Dunfermline .	2	21 16
Brown, Mrs. Mary B. . .	Tayport	1	15 11
Bruce, George	St. Andrews	2	598 5
Bruce, Rev. John	24 Saxe-Coburg Place, Edinburgh	197	228 10
Do. do.	Do. (Minerals)	-	61 -
Bruce, Peter	Cairneyhill, Dunfermline	1	11 10
Bruce, Hon. Robert Pres- ton, of Spencerfield . .	Broomhall, Dunfermline	3,243	3,853 7
Bruce, Thomas, of Arnot	Kingsdale, Kennoway . .	21	25 -
Bruce, Lieut.-Col. W. H. Tyndall, of Falkland . .	Falkland House, Falk- land	7,058	9,992 7
Do. do.	Do. (Minerals)	-	100 -
Bruce, William	Cairneyhill, Dunfermline	5	16 15
Brunton, Alexander . . .	Inverkeithing	12	57 8
Brunton, Richard	Chance Inn, Cupar	1	2 15
Bryce, Alexander	Peattie Muir, Dunferm- line	2	9 -
Bryden, Rev. Mark T. . .	Manse, Kirkcaldy	6	85 10
Brymer, Ann	Milesmark, Dunfermline	2	11 10
Buccleuch and Queens- berry, Duke of	Dalkeith Palace	60	15 -
Buist, Andrew Walker, of Berryhill	Berryhill, Newburgh . . .	372	497 10
Buist, George, of Ormiston	Ormiston, Newburgh . . .	395	300 -

Fig.25. 1872-73 Owners of Lands and Heritages Return listing George Buist of Ormiston (Last Entry), Page 76

A Destructive Fire

On Thursday, 23 April 1868 the *Fife Herald Newspaper* published an account of the destructive fire that ravaged and destroyed the dwelling-house of George Buist at Ormiston. The account reads "Between one and two o'clock on Sunday morning, the dwelling house of George Buist, Esq., of Ormiston, was discovered by the housekeeper to be on fire. The inmates the house were all asleep in bed when the housekeeper was awakened by the smell of fire. She got out of bed, and ongoing to the attic stair saw the flames at the top of the stair, and the east attic in a complete sheet [of] flame. She gave the alarm to her neighbour in the kitchen, also to her master, who was sleeping in the east room below the burning, then to the ploughmen on the farm. By this time the fire had got a complete hold of the upper flat, and the roof being all thatch, all hopes of saving the building were abandoned, and only a few articles of furniture and clothing were got out by the window of the west room on the ground fiat. Here great praise is due to James Dewar, foreman on the farm, for his heroism entering this room and saving, most of his master's papers and clothing, and continuing throwing articles out till the fire was falling down about him, and just as he was coming out at the window a quantity of rifle shot that was in the room went off with a tremendous crack, which sent, the burning wood spinning in the air. It was fortunate that the wind was blowing from the south, at the time, as the house stands close to the north side of the farm-steading; had it been from the north, the whole steading and stack could not have escaped destruction. By three o'clock there was nothing of the house standing except the blackened walls. Mr. Buist has lost a great many valuable articles, among which are articles of antiquity and pictures of great value, besides damage done to his property, which [we] understand, is but partially insured. Much sympathy is also felt for his housekeeper, whose chest, with all her valuable clothing and a number of pounds were all consumed, leaving her with only the scanty clothing which she escaped in. The cause of the fire is supposed to originate from some wood the vent having taken fire."²⁴

²⁴ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 23 April 1868, p. 3

Buist would eventually rebuild his dwelling house and continue to reside there. According to the 1871 Scotland Census, he is listed as being 62 years of age and working as a farmer of 370 acres of which 210 acres are arable and is employing 5 labourers.²⁵

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 1
Civil Parish of	Parish of	Parliamentary Burgh of	Royal Burgh of	Police Burgh of	Town of	Village or Hamlet of				
ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES. Inhabited (A), or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CON- DITION.	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Dead and Buried, 2. Blind, 3. Imbecile or Idiot, 4. Lunatic.	Number of Children from 5 to 15 attend- ing Schools or being educated at Home.	Rooms with One or more Win- dows.
Abdie	1	James Younger	Head	Man	48	Labourer	Speyburn, Speyburn			2
		Margaret	Wife	Widow	60		Speyburn			
		John	Son	Man	18	Assistant Granger	Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	14		Speyburn			
		Margaret	Daughter	Widow	77		Speyburn			
Ormistoun	1	George Buist	Head	Man	62	Farmer of 370 Acres of which 210 are arable employing 5 labourers	Ballinland, Speyburn			10
		Isabella	Wife	Widow	60		Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	29		Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	26		Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	20		Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	14	Schooler	Speyburn			
		James	Son	Man	12		Speyburn			
		George	Son	Man	7		Perthshire			1
		John	Son	Man	7		Perth			
Ormistoun	1	George Buist	Head	Man	62	Farmer of 370 Acres of which 210 are arable employing 5 labourers	Speyburn			14
		Isabella Smith	Servant	Widow	31	General Servant	Speyburn			

Fig.26. 1871 Scotland Census for Ormistoun, Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Buist (Last Entry)



Fig.27. Ormistoun House, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

²⁵ 1871 Scotland Census for Ormistoun, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 2, Page 1, Line 15

For many years during the 1870s George Buist sponsored the annual race market held at Newburgh. One such race market event was covered by the *Dundee Courier Newspaper* and is reproduced below.²⁶

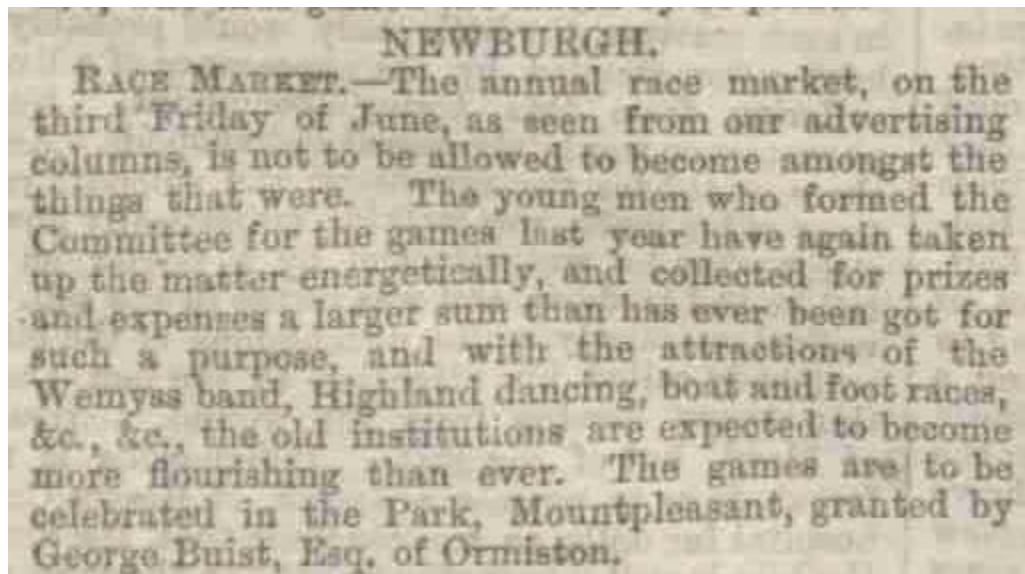


Fig.28. Newburgh Race Market Event, *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 16 June 1873, Page 4

Furthermore, George Buist was a Turnpike Road Trustee in 1870.²⁷ These were bodies set up by acts of Parliament with powers to collect road tolls for maintaining the principal roads throughout Scotland and Britain.

The Sale of Ormiston and Retirement to Edinburgh

In 1877 the 68-year-old proprietor of Ormiston decided after the death of his brother, Andrew, who was the proprietor of nearby Berryhill to sell his estate. The *Aberdeen Press and Journal Newspaper* published the following "Sale of an Estate Near Newburgh. The small estate of Ormiston, belonging to and presently tenanted by Mr. George Buist, is sold, the purchaser being Mr. Archibald A. Watt of Denmill."²⁸

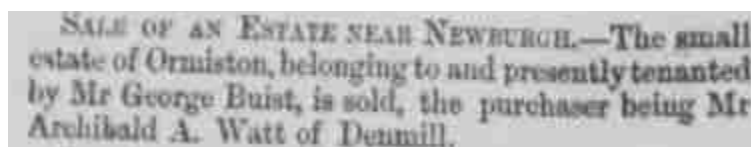


Fig.29. Sale of Ormiston, *Aberdeen Press and Journal Newspaper*, 7 August 1877, Page 3

²⁶ *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 16 June 1873, p. 4

²⁷ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 7 April 1870, p. 2

²⁸ *Aberdeen Press and Journal Newspaper*, 7 August 1877, p. 3

Buist first moved to 15 Falshaw Street and later moved to 25 Broughton Place in Edinburgh where he spent the remainder of his years.



Fig.30. Residence of George Buist, 25 Broughton Place, Edinburgh, Photograph Courtesy of DMD Law Group, LLP

Buist is listed in the 1881 Scotland Census for Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's as being 72 years of age and a retired farmer.²⁹

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of		School Board District of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Royal Burgh of		Police Burgh of		Town of		Village or Hamlet of	
ROAD, STREET, Acc. and No. or NAME of HOUSE.		HOUSES. In-cluded. (1-1)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birth day) Males. Females.	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.		Whether 1. Dead and Bunch. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.		Rooms with One or more Windows.			
54	111/1	1	Colonel George Robertson	Son	Married	32	Drafter.	Midlothian	Edinburgh						
			William Do	Son	Unmarried	21	Drafter.	Do	Do						
			Isabella Do	Daughter	Do	18	Saladwoman	Do	Do						
			Josephine Do	Do	Do	14	Scholar.	Do	Do						
			Maggie Do	Do	Do	12	Do	Do	Do						
			David Do	Son	Do	10	Do	Do	Do						
			David Do	Grandson	Do	1	Do	Do	Do						
			Maryann Do	Servant	Do	22	General servant (Domestic)	Do	Do						
58	2	1	Alexander Edington	Head	Married	47	General servant (Domestic)	Do	Do						
			Margaret E. H. Do	Wife	Do	52	Richard Fishmonger	Haddingtonshire	No. Berwick			6			
59	3	1	Maria Brown	Head	Unmarried	29	Annuitant	Midlothian	Edinburgh						
			Kilamin Ford Brown	Widged son	Do	2		England				8			
60	4	1	George Buist	Head	Do	72	Retired Farmer	Lincolnshire	Gloucest.						
			Barbara Ross	Servant	Do	46	General servant (Domestic)	Hampshire	Colchester			6			
61	5	1	Archibald M. Brownell	Son	Do	23	General servant (Domestic)	Do	Falkland						

Fig.31. 1881 Scotland Census for Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's, Midlothian listing George Buist (Line 13)

²⁹ 1881 Scotland Census for Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's, Midlothian, Scotland; Enumeration District 79, Page 15, Line 13

He is listed in the 1887-88 *Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory* and is reproduced below.³⁰

BUC	GENERAL DIRECTORY.	BUR	37
Buchanan, Mrs, 10 Moray place		Burgh Surveyor's Office of Streets and Buildings, etc., 31 Charlotte street, Leith	
Buchanan, Mrs, 51 Lauriston place		Burke, Mrs, 62 Hanover street	
Buchanan, Mrs, apartments, 24 Rutland square		Burke, Miss, 7 Caledonian road	
Buchanan, Mrs, 126 George street		Burkert, C. H., pork butcher and sausage maker, 8 St Patrick square, and 12 Kirkgate	
Buchanan, Miss, dressmaker, 186 Morrison st.		Burley, William, chemist, 137 George street ; house, 33 Lauriston gardens	
Buchanan, Miss, 6 Albert terrace		Burlison, Robert, cabinetmaker and upholsterer, 133 Rose street ; house, 10 W. Catherine pl.	
Buchanan, Miss (of Auchentorlie), 18 Lansdowne crescent		Burn & Baillie, plumbers, brassfounders, and gasfitters, 63 and 65 Hanover street, and 34 Alva street	
Buchanan, Miss, 3 Chalmers street		Burn, George, & Son, wholesale provision merchants, 5 India buildings	
Buchanan, Miss, dairy, 5 Union street		Burn, Arch. (<i>B. & Baillie</i>), 60 Frederick street	
Buchanan, Miss, 2 Baxter's place		Burn, C. M. P., Prestonfield house	
Bucher, F., & Co., wine and brandy merchants, 123 Constitution street		Burn, George, jun. (<i>G. B. & Son</i>), Park road	
Bucher, Francis, 8 Summerside place		Burn, George (<i>G. B. & Son</i>), 5 Fingal place	
Buckham, Miss, 15 Lonsdale terrace		Burn, John C., smith, 64 Buccleuch street ; house, 52 Bristo street	
Buckle, John, 9 St James' place		Burn, John, commission agent, 35 and 36 Quality street ; house, 58 Blacket place	
Buckle, William, 26 Rankeillor street		Burn, John, coachman, 11 Downfield place	
Buckle, Mrs, 12 Duncan street		Burn, William, 16 Roseneath place	
Buddie, James, 6 Tait place		Burn, Mrs, 30 West Maitland street	
BUDGE, JAMES, joiner and cabinetmaker, Duke street lane ; house, 19A Duke street.		Burn, Mrs, 3 Summerhall square	
*See <i>Adv. index</i>		Burn, Mrs, 34 Gilmore place	
Budge, John, 15 Iona street		Burn, Miss, 47 Morningside road	
Budge, John, builder, 77 Marchmont road		Burn, Miss, 19 Comiston road	
Budge, William, 40 Carlyle place		Burnell, Miss E. R., stationer, 62 Morningside road	
Budge, Mrs John, 25 Barony street		Burness & Co., printers to Her Majesty, 2 North St Andrew street and 18 Clyde street	
Budge, Mrs, 17 Gladstone terrace		Burness, W. & J., W.S., 6A George street	
Buglass, D., 88 Buccleuch street		Burness, James, W.S., 33 Great King street	
Buglass, D., hardware merchant, 20 St Mary st.		Burness, John A., 32 Regent place	
Building and Loan Association of Toronto ; Fraser, Stodart, & Ballingall, W.S., 16 Castle street, agents			
Buist, James, & Sons, wholesale optician and spirit-level maker, 67 South bridge ; house, 9 Abbotsford crescent			
Buist, Colonel, 26 Chalmers street			
Buist, George, 25 Broughton place			

Fig.32. 1887-88 *Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory* listing George Buist (Left Side, Last Entry)

³⁰ *Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory*. Edinburgh: Post Master General, 1887-1888, p. 37

Curling

Buist had an avid interest in curling at a young age. Curling in Abdie Parish was played on the frozen lochs and ponds well before 1831 when the first recorded match was played and the subsequent founding of the Abdie Curling Club was established. George Buist is considered a Founding Member and was elected the Club's Vice President in 1835³¹ and President in 1850.³²

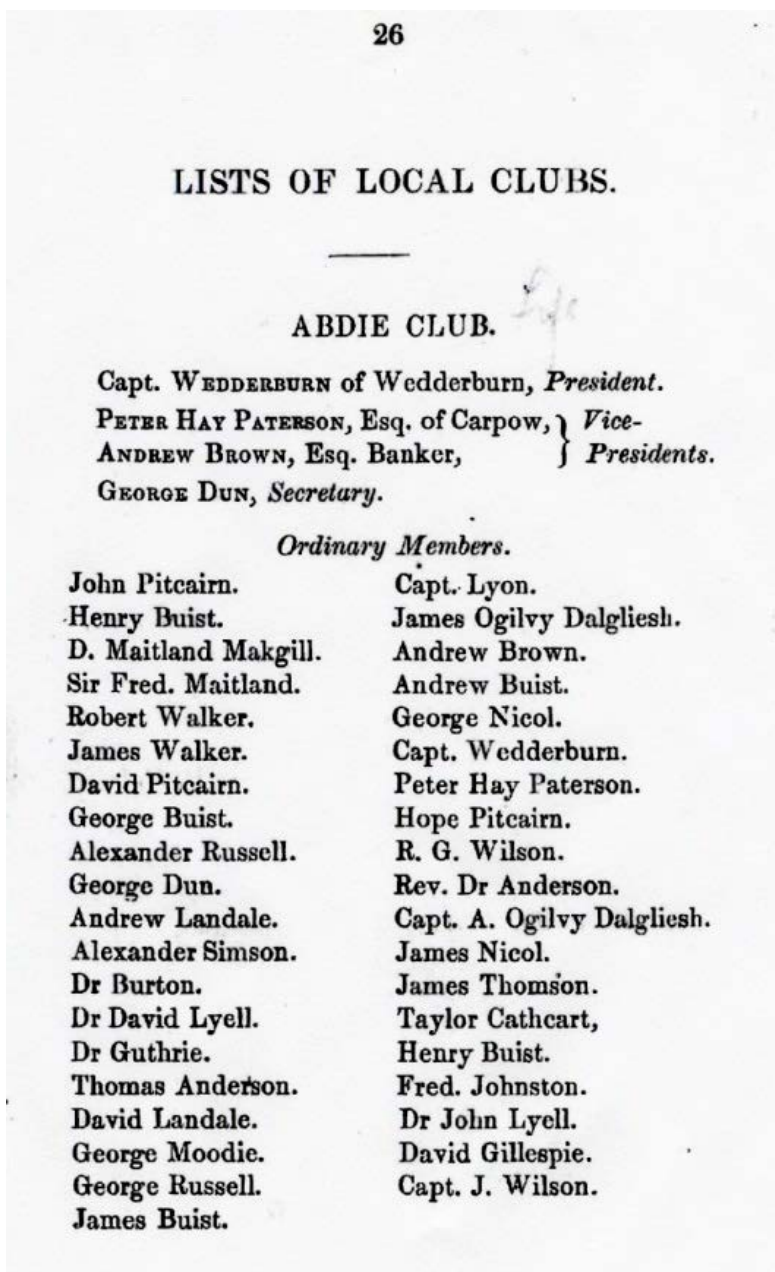


Fig.33. 1839 Annual of the Grand Caledonian Curling Club listing Abdie Curling Club Members including George Buist, Photograph Courtesy of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club © The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

³¹ Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 31 January 1835, p. 19

³² Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 5 February 1850, p. 112



Fig.34. Old Curling Pond at Lindores Loch, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Gerry Watson, Honorary Abdie Curling Club Archivist © 2014 Gerry Watson

LIST OF LOCAL CLUBS.

1.—ABDIE CLUB.
As at 1st November 1850.
County of Fife—Post Town, Newburgh.
Instituted 1831.—Admitted into the Royal Club, 25th July 1838.

GEORGE BUIST, President.
JOSEPH LYELL and JOHN PITCAIRN, Vice-Presidents.
JAMES OGILVY DALGLEISH, Representative Member.
REV. JOHN DUNCAN, Chaplain.
HENRY BUIST, Jun., Treasurer and Secretary.

Committee, or Council of Management
George Buist Joseph Lyell John Pitcairn Henry Buist, jr.

Ordinary Members.
1.—Regular.

George Buist	Hope Pitcairn	J. M. Sharp	J. Williamson
George Dun	James Nicol	Wm. Guild	A. W. Russell
J. O. Dalgleish	H. Buist, jun.	Joseph Lyell	James Storer
Andw. Brown	J. Pitcairn, jr.	Rv. J. Gilchrist	Rev. J. Duncau
A. W. Buist	Rev. J. Murray		David Keay

2.—Occasional.

John Pitcairn	Rev. A. Cairns	James Todd	John Guild
Henry Buist	F. L. Wedder-	John Lyell	Capt. H. Mait-
D. M. M. Crigh-	burn	Dav. Ballingall	land, R.N.
Alexr. Russell	Cap. A. D. Dal-	Robt. Russell	Alexr. Laing
Dr Burton	gliesh	Oliver Russell	Dr Jas. Mackie
Robt. Walker	P. H. Paterson	Pat. M'Isaac	Dr Wm. Martine
James Walker	John Lyell	Dav. Anderson	John Cameron
Thos. Anderson	Taylor Cathcart	Alexr. Rait	John Ballingall
George Moodie	James Wilson	Geo. Thomson	Geo. Ballingall
David Pitcairn	David Gillespie	R. Russell, jr.	Thos. Russell
Alex. Simpson	James Tod	Alex. Meldrum	Wm. Chrystal
David Landale	Fran. Howden	Dr.R.Guthrie,	Thos. Landale
George Russell	James Landale	R.N.	Dr J. Anderson
James Buist	Wm. Dingwall	H. Cumberbatch	Robert Cathcart
Dr. J. Guthrie,	David Martin	John Black	John Honeyman
R. N.	Charles Hill	John Laing	Alex. Anderson
Capt. Lyon	Cap. Jas. Mait-	Alexr. Lyell	Wm. Henderson
	land, R.N.	Wm. Anderson	James Thomson

Fig.35. 1851 Annual of the Grand Caledonian Curling Club listing George Buist as President, Photograph Courtesy of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club © The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

For further information on George Buist's playing days with the Abdie Curling Club please consult this author's publication entitled *The Ancient Scottish Game of My Ancestors of Abdie Parish, Fife*.³³ George Buist was also a member of the Newburgh Curling Club and also had an affiliation with the Ladybank Curling Club. In 1883 Buist presented to the Ladybank Curling Club a silver medal which bears his name.³⁴

Last Will and Testament of George Buist

While residing at 15 Falshaw Street in Edinburgh he made out his Last Will and Testament.³⁵ He appointed Charles Henderson as his executor and left the following persons various sums of money: Andrew Russell of Kenley Green, his cousin, 100 pounds; George Dun of Grange, his cousin, 50 pounds; Mrs. William Buist of St. Andrews, wife of his nephew, 50 pounds; and to Margaret Robertson, formerly his housekeeper at Ormiston, 60 pounds.³⁶ Furthermore, he bequeathed to the deserving poor of the parish of Abdie 100 pounds; to the deserving poor of Newburgh 100 pounds; to the deserving poor of Auchtermuchty 40 pounds; and to the Blind Asylum of Edinburgh 50 pounds; to the Thornton Poorhouse 20 pounds and the remainder of his money to be paid over "for the propagation of Christianity in the Established Churches of Scotland, in the best way that it may be so bestowed."³⁷ As we shall see after his death, the money left to the Established Churches of Scotland will present further legal questions and problems and some newspapers in Scotland labelled his will as eccentric.

The Death of George Buist

George Buist had been ailing for a year before his death.³⁸ He died on Monday, 29 April 1889 at the age of 80 of senile decay at his residence in Edinburgh.³⁹

252	George Buist	1889	11	30	George Buist	Senile Decay		1889
	Henderson	April		1889	Henderson	as test. by	Henry B. Johnston	11th Dec 1889
	Former, Andrew	10th 1/2 St.			George Buist	M.D.	Margaret Robertson	at Edinburgh
	George Buist	25 Margaret St.			Helen Buist		James Henderson	
	George Buist	Newburgh			John Henderson		Randolph Henderson	Registrar

Fig.36. Death Record of George Buist, 29 April 1889, Edinburgh St. Andrew Parish Records, Crown Copyright

³³ Tracy, Michael T. *The Ancient Scottish Game of My Ancestors of Abdie Parish, Fife*. Createspace: San Bernardino, 2015

³⁴ *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 5 January 1885, p. 4

³⁵ Last Will and Testament of George Buist, 18 April 1879, Edinburgh Sheriff Court SC70/4/238

³⁶ Last Will and Testament of George Buist, 18 April 1879, Edinburgh Sheriff Court SC70/4/238

³⁷ Last Will and Testament of George Buist, 18 April 1879, Edinburgh Sheriff Court SC70/4/238

³⁸ Death Record of George Buist, 29 April 1889, Edinburgh St. Andrew Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 685/2 0252

³⁹ Death Record of George Buist, 29 April 1889, Edinburgh St. Andrew Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 685/2 0252

The *Fife Herald Newspaper* published his obituary notice which read “At 25 Broughton Place, Edinburgh, on the 29th ult., George Buist, late of Ormiston, Fifeshire. Friends kindly receive this the only intimation.”⁴⁰ George Buist was buried in the Abdie Parish Churchyard inside of the old church and his gravestone reads “George Buist, son of Henry Buist of Berryhill, 20th [sic] of March 1809-20th [sic] of April 1889.”

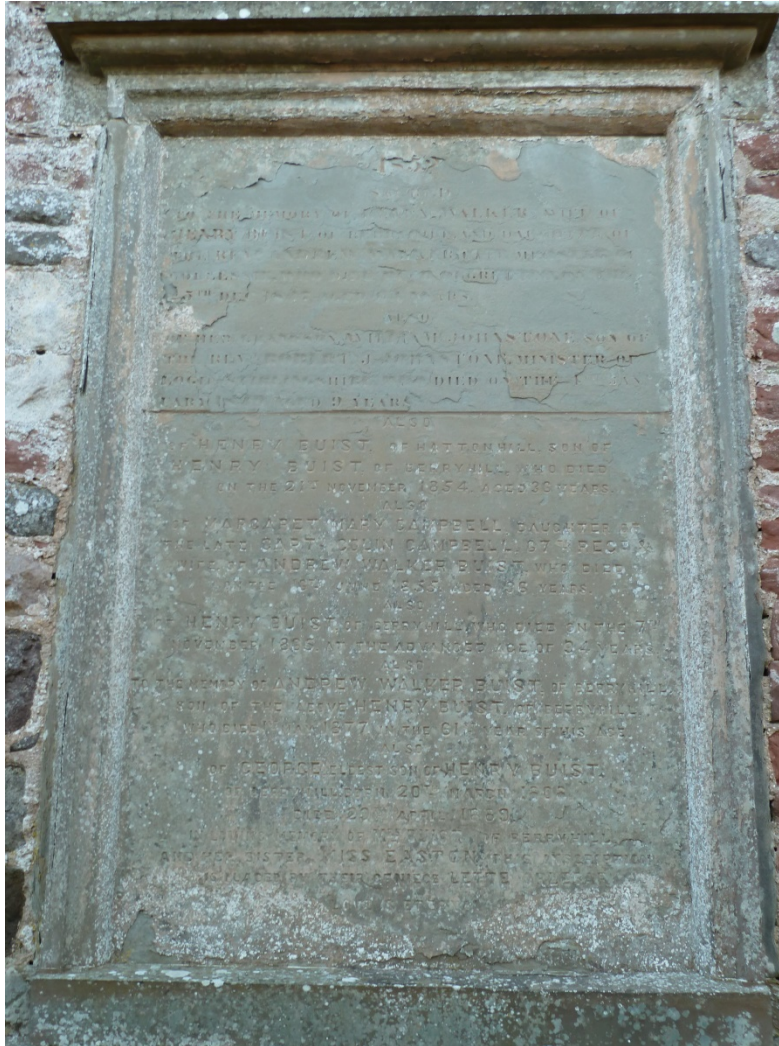


Fig.37. Grave of George Buist, Abdie Parish Churchyard, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

⁴⁰ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 1 May 1889, p. 5

Legal Matters of the Will of George Buist

Buist, after executing his Last Will and Testament in 1879, had cut out a portion of will and left a handwritten note in pencil, containing memoranda, however, it was not signed, dated, or initialled. As a result, the matter was brought before the Court of Session. The *Edinburgh Evening News* published the following account which appears below.⁴¹

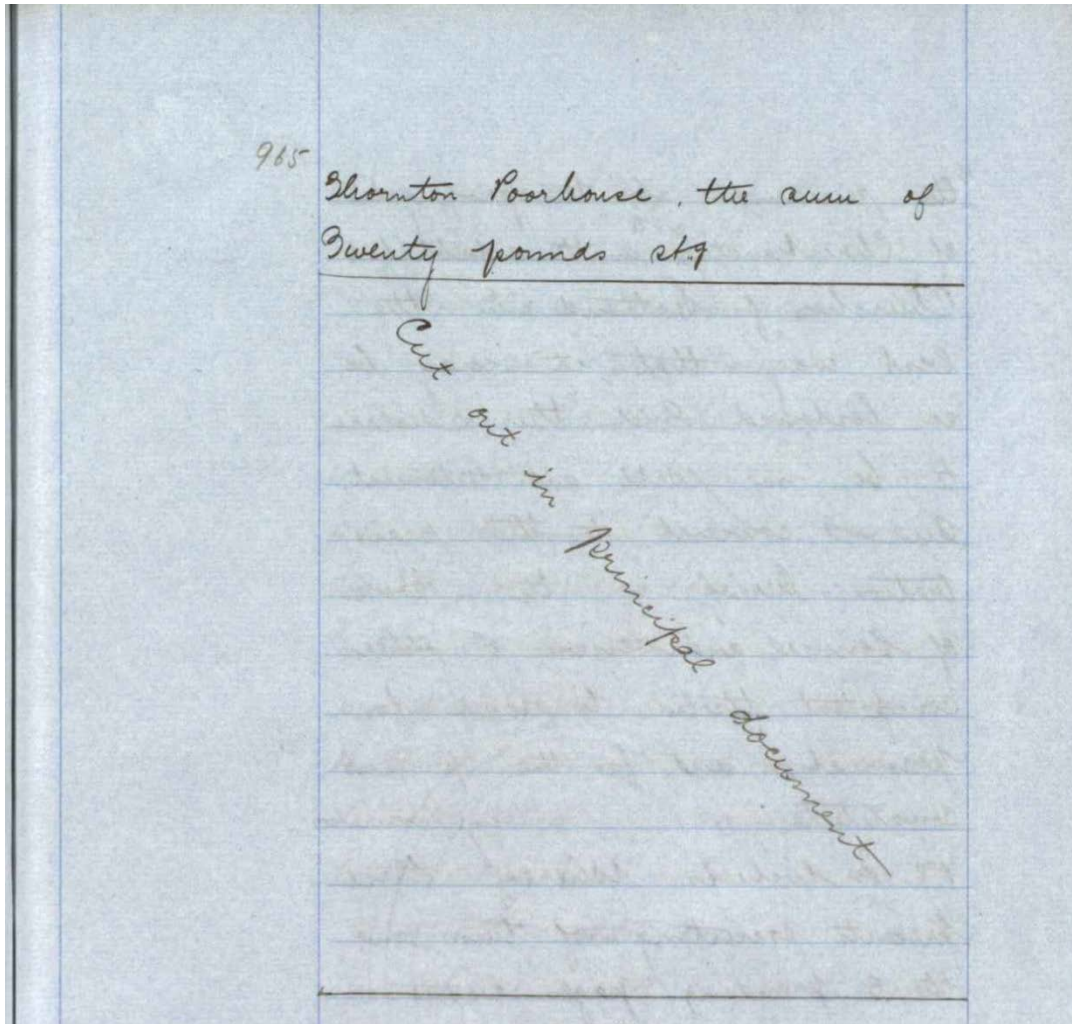


Fig.38. Original Will of George Buist, 18 April 1879 showing portion that was removed, Edinburgh Sheriff Court SC70/4/238

⁴¹ *Edinburgh Evening News*, 22 January 1890, p. 2

AN ECCENTRIC EDINBURGH WILL.

"PROPAGATING CHRISTIANITY IN THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND."

Lord Kyllachy, in the Court of Session to-day, closed the record in a process of multiplepointing raised by Thomas Bennet Clark, C.A., Edinburgh, as judicial factor of the late George Buist of Ormiston, Fifeshire, against George Dun, Ormiston, and others, including the ministers and inspectors of poor of several parishes, the Church of Scotland, and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. George Buist died at No. 25 Broughton Place, Edinburgh, on 29th April last. After his death there was found in his repositories, enclosed in an addressed envelope, a will or deed, written in book form, and on one side of the paper only. Near the middle a portion had been cut out. Enclosed in the same envelope was a paper written in pencil, containing memoranda, but unauthenticated by either signature or initials. Both documents were in Mr Buist's handwriting. By the will he appointed Charles Henderson, 4 York Place, Edinburgh, his sole executor, and directed him to pay a number of legacies, among which were the following: For the deserving poor of the parishes of Abdie and Newbury, £100; and of Auchtermuchty, £40; the Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, £50; and Perth Infirmary, £50. The residue he directed to be paid over "for the propagation of Christianity in the Established Churches of Scotland, in the best way that it may be so bestowed." The will did not nominate trustees, nor did it make provision in the event of Mr Henderson failing to take up the trust. Mr Henderson died before Mr Buist, and Mr Clark was appointed judicial factor on the estate. The residue is claimed by the Church of Scotland, but the judicial factor is doubtful if the bequest is valid, and if it be not, the residue will fall to the next of kin; George Dun, Andrew L. Dun, The Den, Perth; David Dun, Otago; and James Dun, Elie, cousins of the testator. When Buist died all his relatives believed him to be a bachelor, but claims have been lodged by two persons residing in Edinburgh, who allege that they are his legitimate children. The estate amounts to £3994 17s 10d. The pencil memorandum contains 19 names, with sums opposite them amounting to £1860. The persons whose names appear on the document claim the sums opposite to their names, alleging that Buist intended to bequeath to them the sums stated, and they maintain that the residue should be reduced by the amount left to them. The Church of Scotland claims the whole of the residue after paying the specific legacies which are mentioned in the will, and excluding the persons mentioned in the memorandum. (The holders of specific legacies claim the sums left to them.—Counsel, Mr W. C. Smith, Mr Sym, Mr Orr, and Mr Martin.)

Fig.39. Edinburgh Evening News, 22 January 1890, Page 2

More than a month later the Court of Session sustained the claim of the Church of Scotland thus releasing the appropriated money to them.⁴²

George Buist, the eldest son of Henry Buist of Berryhill will be remembered as a well-respected farmer of Ormiston and of his many acts of benevolence toward the poor of the area. He was a keen curler of the Abdie and Newburgh Curling Clubs for many years in his younger days. He never married but applied himself to the work at hand, the farming of Ormiston. Shortly after his death, the *Dundee Courier Newspaper* published a most fitting obituary of the life of George Buist which is reproduced below.⁴³

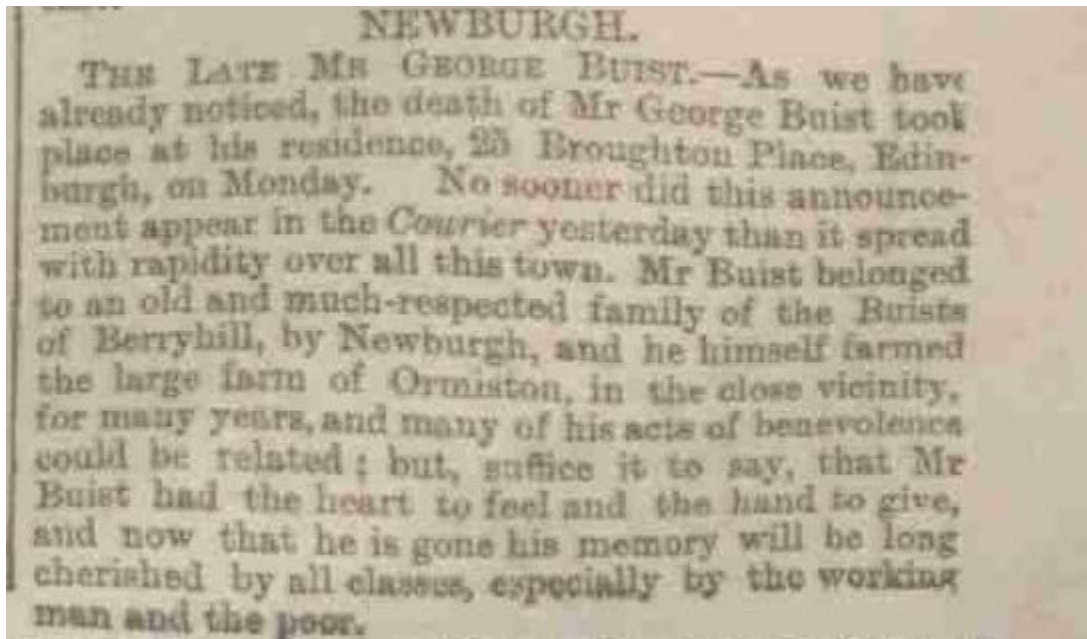


Fig.40. Obituary Notice of George Buist, 2 May 1889, *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, Page 3

George Buist is warmly commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant first cousin, Michael T. Tracy. This work is dedicated to the Memory of George Buist.

Memoratus in aeternum (Forever Remembered)

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⁴² *Glasgow Herald Newspaper*, 19 February 1890, p. 5

⁴³ *Dundee Courier Newspaper*, 2 May 1889, p. 3