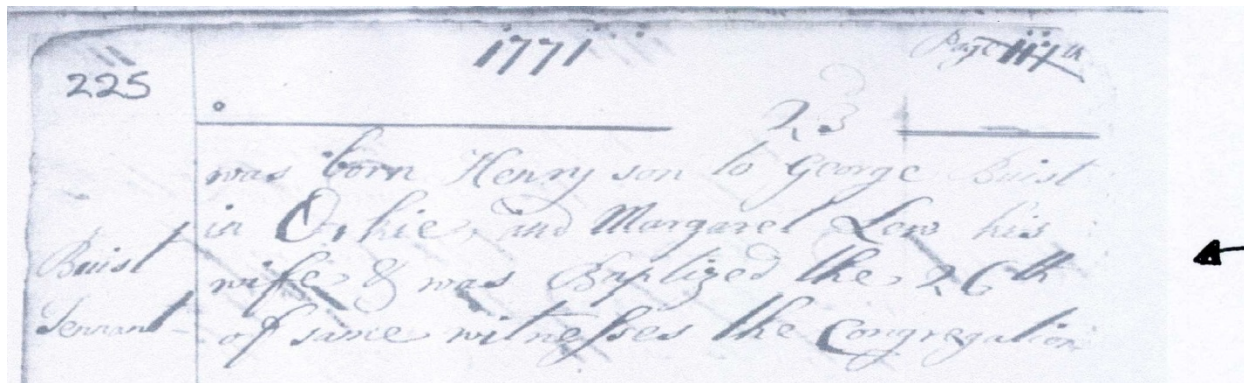


Henry Buist: A Nobleman & Gentleman of Fife

The Fife Journal reported on the passing of a prominent Fife farmer, Henry Buist, Esquire of Berryhill on Thursday, 16 November 1865. It stated:

"In last week's obituary we recorded the death of Henry Buist, Esquire, of Berryhill, at the advanced age of almost ninety-five years. He was cut off after a very short illness. His health throughout his life was excellent, and he retained the use of his faculties to the last, his memory being as vigorous as ever. Having been all his life engaged in agricultural pursuits, he was from the lengthened experience able to recount many changes in the modes of culture. He remembered the commencement of draining of Fife. Lime however was largely applied to the soil before his time. Five or six acres of turnips were reckoned a large extent for a large farm. He remembered the introduction of the thrashing mill, and how crowds went far to see the novel application. He remembered when the most respectable farmers in the county wore the broad blue bonnet, and it was only on the Sabbath that the most aspiring of them exchanged it for the beaver hat. One incident in his history will suffice to show how far tradition may go back; in his boyhood he walked from his father's house near Kettle to Pitlessie, with his grandfather, who was born in 1690. Another such link would carry us back to the days long before the Reformation, and long era of James the First died of a broken heart in Falkland. At one period of his life, he took a part in the Justice of Peace Courts of this district; for domestic life he retained many of the courtesies of the olden time. He was upright and honorable in all his transactions, and many benevolent and charitable institutions will miss the contributions which he afforded them. He was buried in the family burial ground in Abdie Old Church on Monday last."¹

Henry Buist was born on Friday, 24 May 1771 at Orkie, Kettle Parish, Fife. The first born son of George Buist, feuar and Margaret Low, he later inherited most of his father's vast estates upon his father's death in 1797. He was baptized at Kettle Parish in Kingskettle on Sunday, 26 May 1771.²



Henry Buist Baptismal Record, 26 May 1771, Kettle Parish Records, Fife Scotland, Crown Copyright

He was described as being of middle height and spare build, with fair hair and skin, well defined facial features and bright blue eyes in later years.

¹ Fife Journal Newspaper, Thursday, 16 November 1865, Page 2

² Baptismal Record of Henry Buist, 26 May 1771, Kettle Parish Records, Old Parish Records 435/0020 0230, National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

Early Years

Henry Buist took over the tenancy of Orkie after the death of his father George Buist and later relocated to Weddersbie which is in the Parish of Collessie but near Auchtermuchty. During this same time, he was listed in the 1797-98 Farm Horse Tax, residing at Braeside in Abdie Parish.³ According to the tax records he was listed as having six horses, five of which were held liable to the tax of ten shillings. Furthermore he was also listed as being taxed at Orkie in Kettle Parish.⁴ Henry Buist is also listed in the Survey of the Duty on Clocks and Watches in Kettle Parish.⁵ According to the record, he had a total of one clock at the estate of Orkie and one watch which was silver or metal.

Page 6th Survey of the Duty on Clocks and Watches in the County of Fife continued

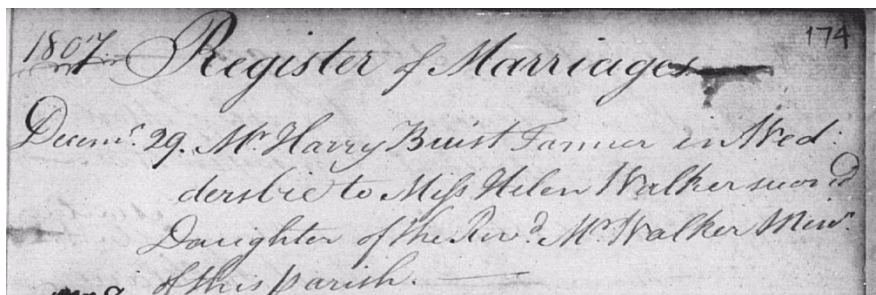
Page 10 Survey of the Duty on Clocks and Watches in the County of Fife continued

Date of Affirmment.	Masters and Mistresses Names and Designations.	Actual N ^o . of Clocks and Watches.	Clocks.	Gold Watches.	Silver or Metal Watches.	DUTY.	Date of Affirmment.	Masters and Mistresses Names and Designations.	Actual N ^o . of Clocks and Watches.	Clocks.	Gold Watches.	Silver or Metal Watches.	DUTY.
1797 th August 25 th	Parish of Kettle						1797 th August 27 th	Parish of Kinglassie					
	David Lehning Forthar	2	1	-	1	5		M ^r . Reid Minister	2	1	-	1	5 7 ⁴
	M ^r . Ballingale Balmalcolm	1	1	-	-	3		John Black Bankhead	2	1	-	1	5 7 ⁴
	John Thomson Orky millr	2	1	-	1	5		M ^r . Inglis Kinimment	1	1	-	-	3 9
	M ^r . Jo. King J. M. Kettle	1	1	-	-	3		Roger Aylor Esq. Inchdarnie	2	1	1	-	11 3
	Thomas Simpson D ^o	1	1	-	-	3			7	4	1	2	1 6 3
	James Lallo D ^o	1	1	-	-	3		Parish of Leslie					
	Jas. Blyth Lumphkins	2	1	-	1	5		George Geig Leslie	1	1	-	-	3 9
	M ^r . Johnston Lathris	3	-	2	1	16		Colonel Douglas Strathendry	4	1	1	2	15 -
	Henry Buist Orky	2	1	-	1	5		M ^r . Brodie Esq. Leslie House	12	1	1	10	1 10 -
	Captain Arthur	2	1	-	1	5		M ^r . Willis Minister	2	1	-	1	5 7 ⁴
	M ^r . Bogley Minister	2	-	2	-	15			19	4	2	13	2 14 4
	M ^r . Low Amfied	2	-	2	-	15		Parish of Markinch					
	M ^r . Scrymgeour Carnornay	2	-	2	-	15		M ^r . Paterson New Inn	3	1	-	2	7 6
		23	10	6	7	4 15							

Survey of the Duty on Clocks and Watches, County of Fife, Kettle Parish

As owner of Orkie, Henry Buist on 25 August 1797 was listed in the Window Tax for Kettle Parish. In the Survey of old Window Duty, Orkie shows a total of eleven houses on the estate showing seven windows that were taxed four pounds.⁶

Henry Buist married Helen Walker on Tuesday, 29 December 1807 at Collessie Parish, Fife at the age of 36.⁷



Henry Buist Marriage Record, 29 December 1807, National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

³ Farm Horse Tax Rolls 1797-98, Volume 2, National Records of Scotland (E326/10)

⁴ Farm Horse Tax Rolls 1797-98, Volume 2, National Records of Scotland (E326/10)

⁵ Clock and Watch Tax Rolls 1797-98, Volume 2, National Records of Scotland (E326/10)

⁶ Window Tax Rolls 1797-98, Volume 49, National Records of Scotland (E326/1/49/135)

⁷ Marriage Record of Henry Buist, 29 December 1807, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010/0347

Helen Walker was the daughter of the Reverend Andrew Walker, Minister of Collessie. They had five children: George Buist born on Tuesday, 21 March 1809 at Weddersbrae, Collessie⁸ and died on Monday, 29 April 1889⁹; Sophia Duddingstone Buist born on Friday, 5 April 1811 at Weddersbrae, Collessie¹⁰ and died on Thursday, 2 January 1902¹¹; Margaret Low Buist born on Wednesday, 11 August 1813 at Weddersbrae, Collessie¹² and died on Thursday, 17 March 1898¹³; Andrew Walker Buist born on Saturday, 31 August 1816 in Abdie¹⁴ and died on Tuesday, 1 May 1877¹⁵; and Henry Buist born on Tuesday, 18 January 1820 at Berryhill, Abdie¹⁶ and died on Friday, 24 November 1854¹⁷

Henry Buist inherited from his father the Abbey of Lindores. Lindores Abbey lies on the outskirts of Newburgh. Now a much reduced and overgrown ruin, it stands on the southern banks of the River Tay about one mile north of the village of Lindores. This abbey was founded as a daughter house of Kelso Abbey about 1191 by David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of William the Lion. Later monarchs who visited this abbey include Edward I of England, John Balliol, David II and James II. The earliest record of scotch whisky is the 1494 commission from King James IV to Friar John Cor of Lindores Abbey to make about 580 kg of aquavita. The abbey was sacked by a mob from Dundee in 1543 and again by John Knox and his supporters in 1559. In the following years the abbey buildings were quarried as a source of stone for buildings in Newburgh. All that remains of the abbey are one of the gateways leading into the monastic enclosure; the groin vaulted slype, leading from the cloister garth to the exterior of the abbey and parts of the chancel walls and western tower of the church.



Lindores Abbey, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy, October 2003 © Michael T. Tracy 2010

⁸ Baptismal Record of George Buist, 18 April 1809, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010 0270

⁹ Death Record of George Buist, 29 April 1889, Edinburgh, St. Andrew Parish Records, Statutory Deaths

¹⁰ Baptismal Record of Sophia Duddingstone Buist, 29 April 1811, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010 0282

¹¹ Death Record of Sophia D. Mitchell, 2 January 1902, Craig Parish Records, Statutory Deaths

¹² Baptismal Record of Margaret Low Buist, 26 August 1813, Collessie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 416/0010 0298

¹³ Death Record of Margaret Low Johnstone, 17 March 1898, Edinburgh, St. George Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 685/01 0317

¹⁴ Baptismal Record of Andrew Walker Buist, 17 September 1816, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0020 0050

¹⁵ Death Record of Andrew Walker Buist, 1 May 1877, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/00 0009

¹⁶ Baptismal Record of Henry Buist, 28 January 1820, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0007

¹⁷ Preston Chronicle & Lancashire Advertiser Newspaper, Saturday, 25 November 1854, Page 5

Weddersbrae

It is not known when Henry Buist purchased Weddersbrae however early records indicate that he was a tenant there as early as 22 February 1797 when he ratified his father's Trust Disposition.¹⁸ Most of Henry and Helen Buist's children were born at Weddersbrae while the couple lived there. According to the Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper for Friday, 20 October 1809 it listed him as having obtained a general game certificate on Friday, 13 October 1809.¹⁹ Henry Buist in 1813 decided to sell Weddersbrae. According again to the Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper for Tuesday, 2 November 1813 it stated, "Weddersbrae, as presently possessed by Mr. Buist, consisting of 184 acres, or thereby, allarable."²⁰



Weddersbrae, Collessie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

¹⁸ Falkland Deeds 1783-98. National Records of Scotland (B25.4.1. Pages 424-426)

¹⁹ Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, Friday, 20 October 1809, Page 2

²⁰ Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, Tuesday, 2 November 1813, Page 2

The Grange of Lindores and Lindores Abbey

The Grange of Lindores is a hamlet to the west of Lindores Loch in north Fife. Early records indicate that Henry's father, George Buist was a tenant in the Grange of Lindores well before 1784. Upon the death of his father, Henry Buist also inherited these lands as well as Lindores Abbey. By 1806 he officially acquired the rights to these lands.²¹ On 24 June 1809 he decided to sell part of Lindores Abbey.²² This action of selling land by auction in Scotland is called a roup. According to the Land Tax Rolls of 1 January 1820 for Newburgh Parish, Fife it listed, "Henry Buist's part of the Abbey of Lindores per deed of 8 January 1807, taxed 404 pounds."²³



Lindores Abbey, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

²¹ Henry Buist Sasine, 21 July 1806, National Records of Scotland (G.R. 759.141)

²² Henry Buist Articles of Roup of Abbey of Lindores, 24 June 1809, National Records of Scotland (SC20/33/16)

²³ Land Tax Rolls 1645-1831, Land Tax Rolls for Fife, Volume 5, Abbey of Lindores, Newburgh Parish, National Records of Scotland (E106/15/5/50)

Berryhill (Berryhole)

Of all the Buist family's estates owned in Fife, this is the most fascinating and the one farm estate with probably the most history as it concerns the Buist family. The actual manse dates back easily to March 1558. I believe it goes back much further to the early 1400s. The Baronial dynasty of the Spens family later called the Spence family held title to these lands. The First record of Berryhole is dated in 1425. I did find a charter by John Abbot of Lindores and convent letting the feudal farm to Andrew Earl of Rothes, the lands of Grange of Lindores, Berryhole and Woodhead, with the half of their south woods. The charter further enumerates the woods of the park called Lindores, with their churchyards, and yard called the East Yard, and yard called the Hive Yard, lying near the monastery of Lindores. The charter was dated 2 March 1558²⁴

From before 1687 until after 1706 William Buist (1664-1730) was the tenant of Berryhill in the Parish of Abdie, Fife. Originally known as Berriehoill and owned by the Benedictine Abbey of Lindores at Newburgh, until the 16th century, together with other nearby holdings such as Ormiston, Hattonhill and Lumquhat, it was one of the constituent units of the monks' grange. In 1690 Berryhill was the property of Alexander Spens whose wife was Katherine Arnot, a member of a long established local Fife family with whom the Buists were linked through blood and marriage.

The first available land record (Sasine) of Berryhole that I was able to find was of Henry Buist, Esquire. The deed states that on Saturday, 4 October 1817 Henry Buist, Esquire acquired the estate. It reads: "Henry Buist, late tenant, Weddersbrae, Seised, 4 October 1817, in the lands of Berryhole (excepting the Grange of Lindores and Inch); 8 oxgates, 8 oxgates and 8 oxgates of the lands of Grange called Berryhole, 8 oxgates of land or fourth part of Berryhole, and Manor place of Berryhole, parish of Abdie; and parts of Mairsland of Auchtermuchty, parish of Auchermuchty; and Teinds; on Ch. Resign. G.S., to the Trustees of John Arnot of Lumquhat, 2 June 1814; and Disp. & Assig. By them, 27 September and 2 October 1807 (1817).²⁵

The Estate of Berryhill is located in the Parish of Abdie, on the west side of Lindores Loch. The lands surrounding the old manse of the Buist family are quite extensive. The manse is very large with many fireplaces in each room including the kitchen. I imagined Henry Buist sitting in the wooden drawing room reading about farming. According to the inventory of his personal effects he had at Berryhill, it listed this front bedroom as having one chair, 4 pictures, a small mirror and night stool, a store closet and in the closet was a fur wardrobe. Also in the room was a furniture table, one rug, a writing desk and bookcase, and a barometer.

The old house of Berryhill had a total of seventeen rooms in all. There were five bedrooms and at the time of his death and included in the inventory, gives us a glimpse of what was in the Manse or Manor House at Berryhill in December 1865.²⁶ The main lobby had an eight day clock, four chairs, two tables, an umbrella stand and three rugs. The dining room had an old table, a dining table that was sixty feet long, six chairs, a piano and a stool in front of the piano, a fifteen foot easy chair, a fifteen foot sofa, two engravings hanging above the fireplace, with a carpet and rugs at various places in the room. The drawing room had a thirty foot carpet and rug, a sofa and cover on it, ten chairs and two foot stools, a chest of drawers and bookcase and a twenty-five foot window seat near the window. The front west

²⁴ Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 1874

²⁵ Henry Buist Sasine, National Records of Scotland (P.R. 101.48)

²⁶ Inventory of Henry Buist, Esquire Estate, 19 December 1865, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/37)

bedroom had an old bed in it, cotton curtains, six chairs, a chest of drawers, one small mirror, a fireplace, and a wash stand and ware. The north bedroom had one old lint bed, a fireplace, small mirror and table, three chairs, a wash stand, a mahogany closet, pot stand. The northeast bedroom had a bed and curtains, a fireplace, mirror and furniture table, wash stand and ware, chest of drawers, three chairs, pot stand and bell pull and carpet. The south bedroom had an old bed and curtains, fireplace, carpet and two chairs, mirror and table, lamp, wash stand and ware, a small screen in front of fireplace and a bell pull. In the garret room were seven old chairs, four dozen bottles, two flower stand, two trunks and three chairs. The low room of the house had two beds, firewood, two chairs, an old dresser, clothes screen, two tubs, two meal stands, old side saddle and a dog cart with harness. The dairy room had fifteen milk cans, raisins, two churns of butter, two old tubs, a cookery press, three cans and other sundries. The laundry room had a mangle table, with a regular table and three chairs. The kitchen had a fireplace, an oven, a table, an old sink, four chairs and a stool, a Batchelor oven, saw, bellows and clever, four irons, fifteen pots, fifteen kettles, fifteen frying pans, fifteen coffee pots, fifteen jelly pans, three candlesticks, four dish covers, eleven tea trays, two pitchers, a waiter stand and other sundries. The cutlery room had twenty-two table knives, twenty-two forks, eleven covers, nine breakfast knives. The cookery room had twenty-four tumblers, eighteen wine glasses, five ale glasses, three water carafes, thirty-one blue bottle cases, four bottles and one hundred fifty volumes of books, seventeen plated forks, seventeen fish knives and four candlesticks. The bed and table linen room had fourteen tablecloths, three covers, eighteen pillowslips, twenty-one straw pillowcases, three servant pillow cases, thirteen sheets, eight pillows, eighty and one half ounces of silver plates, fifty-one pieces of body cloths and an old silver watch. This inventory, which was conducted on Tuesday, 19 December 1865, captures a moment frozen in time of what the Manse held and the personal effects of Henry Buist, Esquire. The value of just the personal effects of Henry Buist, Esquire was 1,117 pounds and 19 shillings, which in present day U.S. dollars is \$1,817.44. During that time the value was much more, maybe 50 times more in present day values.



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

On Tuesday, 15 September 1846 according to the old Sasine, the Edinburgh and Northern Railway Company acquired the rights to lay track for their route to Newburgh from Colleslie.²⁷ The railway had to go through part of the Buist lands. Another Sasine, dated Tuesday, 27 April 1846 indicated that the same company acquired from Henry Buist, Esquire an acre of ground, which included parts of the North Hill of Grange.²⁸ On these dates, Henry Buist, Esquire sold various parcels of his lands at Berryhill for the successful completion of the railway. The Edinburgh and Northern Railway was a Scottish railway company and started in 1845. The company operated cross-country services between Burntisland, on the Firth of Forth, to Perth and Tayport on the Tay estuary. It became part of the North British Railway in July of 1862. The railway tracks were laid through parcels of the lands of Berryhill shortly after 27 April 1846. There was one more mention of this railway company in the Sasines of the lands of Berryhill. On Thursday, 21 June 1849, the company acquired the last piece of parcel of land from Henry Buist, Esquire, that being an acre of land also located at the part of North Hill of Grange.²⁹ Henry Buist, Esquire had large amounts of stock in the old railway company up to his death.



Old Railway Embankment near Berryhill, Abdie, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010
Michael T. Tracy

²⁷ Henry Buist Sasine, 15 September 1846, National Records of Scotland (G.R. 2343.166)

²⁸ Henry Buist Sasine, 27 April 1846, National Records of Scotland (G.R. 2370.56)

²⁹ Henry Buist Sasine, 21 June 1849, National Records of Scotland (G.R. 2459.66)

Upon Henry Buist's death in 1865, the estate of Berryhill was passed to his son, Andrew Walker Buist. He and his family continued to reside and farm on the property. Like his father, Andrew Walker Buist was a farmer. The estate of Berryhill passed from the Buist family in about 1922. The 1915 Scotland Valuation Roll for the estate gives one a good idea of the massive size of the estate even in that year.³⁰

VALUATION ROLL—COUNTY OF FIFE—Parish of ABDIE *Continued*—Year 1915-1916.

No.	DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT OF SUBJECT	PROPRIETOR	TENANT	OCCUPIER	INDEMNITY OCCUPIER NOT RATED ON YEAR 1915, ss. 3 and 6	Annual Value of Building (Less Government (Overland) Act, 1906, or For Feudal or Ground Annuals of other Subjects)	YEARLY RENT OR VALUE	No.
62	House, Lindores	National Bank of Scotland, Ltd.—Contd.	John Waterston	Same		£1 0 0	62	
3	House and Land, do.	do.	Barbara Robertson	Same		2 0 0	3	
4	House and Garden, do.	do.	John Waterston, gardener	Same		2 10 0	4	
5	Farm of Grange and Hattohill, do.	do.	John Webster, farmer	Same		503 17 0	5	
6	House, do.	Grange of Lindores	do.	William Crichton, ploughman		5 0 0	6	
7	do. do.	do.	do.	James M-Laren, do.		5 0 0	7	
8	do. do.	do.	do.	Empty		5 0 0	8	
9	do. do.	do.	do.	Thomas Ford, shepherd		6 0 0	9	
70	House, Joiner's Shop, and Garden, Hattohill	do.	Miss Turpie	Proprietor		7 0 0	70	
1	House, do.	do.	do.	Uxlet		2 0 0	1	
2	House and Garden, do.	do.	do.	John Linnanen, labourer		3 10 0	2	
3	Shootings, do.	do.	do.	Proprietor		5 0 0	3	
4	Farm and Shootings of Lindores, &c., Grange and Hattohill	Reps. of late William Guild of Lindores, per Russell & Dunlop, W.S., 20 Castle Street, Edinburgh	do.	Proprietor		17 9 3	4	
5	House, do.	Lindores Farm	David Goodwillie, farm griev	do.		5 10 0	5	
6	do. do.	do.	Empty	do.		5 0 0	6	
7	do. do.	do.	John Robertson, ploughman	do.		5 0 0	7	
8	do. do.	do.	John Graham, shepherd	do.		5 0 0	8	
9	do. do.	do.	Allan Ferriday, organman	do.		5 0 0	9	
80	do. do.	do.	John Douglas, cattleman	do.		5 0 0	80	
1	do. do.	Lindores	Miss Elizabeth M-Watters	Same		3 0 0	1	
2	do. do.	do.	Mrs Jane Gull or Gillespie	Same		2 0 0	2	
3	do. do.	do.	William M-Laren, cattleman	Same		4 0 0	3	
4	do. do.	do.	Wm. W. Baillie, railway surfaceman	Same		14 0 0	4	
5	do. do.	do.	Mrs Catherine Pirnie or Keil	Same		2 4 1	5	
6	do. do.	do.	John Graham	Same		7 0 0	6	
7	do. do.	do.	Annie Haxton, grocer	Same		6 0 0	7	
8	do. do.	do.	William Gillespie, labourer	Same		3 0 0	8	
9	do. do.	do.	James Kemp	Same		3 0 0	9	
20	do. do.	do.	Mrs Bethia Robertson or M-Kay	Same		5 0 0	20	
1	do. do.	do.	James Mitchell, railway surfaceman	Same		6 0 0	1	
2	do. do.	do.	Alexander Dall, roadman	Same		3 0 0	2	
3	do. do.	do.	John Kidd, railway surfaceman	Same		0 0 0	3	
4	do. do.	do.	Uxlet	Same		160 0 0	4	
5	Whinotone Quarry, do.	Colonel James Taylor Cathcart of Pitcovie	James Fyfe, farmer	Proprietor		0 18 5	5	
6	Part of Farm of do.	do.	do.	Proprietor		0 7 1	6	
7	Grass Parks, Farm of Carleton Hill	do.	George Dowie	Same		22 0 0	7	
8	Land, Caldwell Field	do.	do.	Proprietor		5 0 0	8	
9	Woodlands, do.	do.	do.	Proprietor		0 4 9	9	
100	Shootings, Grange, &c.	Mrs Milbank Leslie Melville, Melville House, by Ladybank, per Pagan & Osborne, writers, Cupar	John Christie, farmer	Same		*To Mart. *From Mart.	100	
1	Farm of Whitefield	do.	H. & J. Lister, Back-ld of Pitcain, Leslie	Same		*52 13 3	1	
2	do. do.	do.	do.	Proprietor		5 14 8	2	
3	Dillivary Knoll Plantation	do.	do.	Said Mrs Isa. S. Buist		45 0 0	3	
4	Berryhill House and Garden	Mrs Isabella Scott Easton or Buist, Eberestry, per Geo. Bennett Clark, W.S., 118a George Street, Edinburgh	Thomson Scott, farmer	Same		350 0 0	4	
5	Farm, Shootings, and House, do.	Troices of late Andrew Walker Buist, per Geo. Bennett Clark, W.S., 118a George Street, Edinburgh	do.	do.		3 0 0	5	
6	House, do.	do.	do.	do.		3 0 0	6	
7	do. do.	do.	do.	do.		3 0 0	7	
8	do. do.	do.	do.	do.		6 0 0	8	
9	do. do.	do.	do.	do.		361 10 0	9	
110	Woodlands, do.	Tre. of late John Todd, Ormiston, per Jarroson & Mackay, solicitors, Perth	Archibald Goodall, farmer	Proprietors		3 0 0	110	
1	Farm and Shootings, Ormiston	do.	do.	Same		3 0 0	1	
2	House, do.	do.	do.	do.		3 0 0	2	
3	do. do.	do.	do.	do.		3 0 0	3	
4	do. do.	do.	do.	do.		3 0 0	4	
5	Farm and Mill of Donnayne	Matthaeus Speidie, Newburgh, per Pinkerton & Sneddon, solicitors, Newburgh	Wm. M. Kiddie, 49 Murraygate, Dundee	Proprietor		165 0 0	5	
6	House, do.	do.	Mrs Stewart	Same		2 0 0	6	
7	do. do.	do.	do.	Same		4 0 0	7	
8	do. do.	do.	Mrs Bett	Same		0 11 3	8	
9	Farm of North Grange and Hattohill	do.	Andrew Millar, ploughman	Proprietor		85 0 0	9	
120	House, do.	North Grange	do.	Same		2 0 0	120	
	do. do.	Glenburnie	do.	Empty		8 0 0		

1915 Scotland Valuation Roll, Berryhill, Abdie, Fife, National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

³⁰ 1915 Scotland Valuation Roll, Berryhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, National Records of Scotland

Memberships and Appointments

Living an active life Henry Buist, Esquire was a member of many society's and organizations around Fife. In his youth he was an active member of "The Noblemen and Gentlemen of Fife" until the day he died. The members of this organization would usually meet in Cupar. According to the Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper for Tuesday, 5 March 1816 it listed him as being in favor of continuing the property tax.³¹ The Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper reported on another meeting of "The Noblemen and Gentlemen of Fife" held on Friday, 24 March 1820 that, "the group sent a condolence to the King upon the death of King George III and sent a message of congratulations to the present King George IV."³²

Henry Buist was also a member of "The Freeholders of Fife Society." The Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper reported on Tuesday, 24 August 1819 that, "Henry Buist, Esquire of Berryhill joined the organization on Tuesday, 5 October 1819."³³

In the year 1836 by an act of Parliament, Henry Buist, Esquire was appointed a Land Tax Commissioner for Fife.³⁴ He was also appointed as a Justice of Peace for the county of Fife sometime in the 1830s. A Justice of Peace is a lay person who hears cases involving theft, assault and breach of peace offenses in the local circuit courts. According to the Reports of Cases before the High Court and Circuit Courts of Justiciary there is a record of Henry Buist, Esquire serving as a Justice of Peace in the case of Yeaman v. Tod in which Henry Buist, Esquire on 7 March 1836 rendered a guilty verdict upon one Alexander Yeaman and sentenced him to pay a fine of twenty pounds.³⁵

Family

Helen Buist, his wife of forty years died on Saturday, 25 December 1847 at the age of 63 at Berryhill. According to the Fife Herald Newspaper dated 6 January 1848, "At Berryhill, on the 25th ult., Helen Walker, daughter of the late Reverend Andrew Walker, minister of Collessie, and wife of Henry Buist, Esquire of Berryhill."³⁶ She was buried at Abdie Churchyard in Abdie Parish, Fife.

According to the 1851 Census for Grange, Abdie Parish, Fife, Henry Buist was listed as being 79 years of age, a landed proprietor and farmer of 300 acres employing twelve agricultural laborers.³⁷

His youngest son, Henry Buist would not survive him. He died on 24 November 1854 at Hattonhill, Abdie Parish at the age of 34.³⁸ His son, Andrew Walker Buist would eventually succeed him as owner of the Berryhill estate.

³¹ Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, 5 March 1816, Page 2

³² Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, 24 March 1820, Page 2

³³ Edinburgh Advertiser Newspaper, 24 August 1819, Page 2

³⁴ Collection of the General Public Statutes, passed in the Sixth & Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty, King William the Fourth. 1836. London: George Eyre and Andrew Spottiswoodie, Printers to the King

³⁵ Reports of Cases before the High Court and Circuit Courts of Justiciary in Scotland from November 1835 to December 1837. Volume 1. Swinton, Archibald, Esquire. Clark, Thomas. Edinburgh, 1838, Page 249

³⁶ Fife Herald Newspaper, 6 January 1848, Page 418

³⁷ 1851 Scotland Census for Grange, Abdie, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 107, Page Number 16

³⁸ Preston Chronicle & Lancashire Advertiser Newspaper, 25 November 1854, Page 5

Henry Buist is also listed in the 1861 Census for Abdie, Fife as being 89 years of age, a farmer and employing eighteen agricultural laborers at Berryhill.³⁹

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											[Page 9]	
Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Royal Burgh of		Town of		Village of		
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c. and No. or Name of House.	No. of Inhabitants (Males & Females)	Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Where Born.	Whether married to a Person in this Enumeration.	Whether married to a Person in a previous Enumeration.	
						Males	Females					
2	42 Abdie Cottages	1	James Beckett	Head	Wid	25		Molecatcher	England		1	
			George Do	son	Un	25		Do	Fife Abdie			
			William Do	Do	Un	21		Sailor	Do Do			
			Agnes Do	Daughter	Un	18		Do	Do			
			James Do	son	Un	16		Draper (Apprentice)	Do Do			
			Robert Do	son	Un	14		Scholar	Do Do			
2	43 Abdie Mansie	1	John Duncan	Head	Mar	47		Minister of the Parish of Abdie	Perthshire Carleton		2	
			Margaret Do	Wife	Mar	37		Do	Perth			
			James Do	son	Un	17		Do	Fife Monimusk			
			Euphemia Do	Daughter	Un	16		Do	Abdie			
			James Do	Do	Do	8		Do	Do			
			Agnes Do	Do	Do	5		Do	Do			
			Eliza Do	Do	Do	2		Do	Do			
			Mary Gallaway	Servant	Un	22		Domestic Servant	Perthshire Faltipaul			
			Margaret Stebbin	Do	Un	21		Do	Perthshire			
1	44 Wickby	1	Thomas Clew	Head	Un	62		Domestic servant	Perthshire Perth			
1	45 Berryhill Farm	1	Henry Buist	Head	Wid	89		Farmer employing 11 men & 1 boy & 2 horses	Perthshire Perth		6	
			Ellen Mitchell	Granddaughter	Un	22		500 Acres	Midlothian Leamington			
			James Walker	Servant	Un	26			Fife Collieston			
			Eliza Mc Donald	Servant	Un	22		Domestic servant	Perthshire Perth			
			John Buist	Head	Wid	44		Proprietor of a shop	Perthshire Perth			
			John Low	Servant	Un	35		Domestic servant	Perthshire Perth			
2		3										
Total of Houses...		5	Total of Males and Females...			10	2	Total of School Children and Windowed Rooms...			3	3

1861 Scotland Census for Berryhill, Abdie, Fife, Scotland, National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

A Gentleman Farmer

Henry Buist was engaged in agricultural pursuits. Having many other farm estates in Fife he encouraged his sons to follow him in agriculture. Amongst owning Berryhill, he also owned and operated the following: North Hill of Grange, Ormiston, Grange, Whitepark and Hattonhill.

He was also an avid reader of farming books and publications of his time. He would pay what was known as subscriber's fees to be notified to assist the publication of an upcoming book or publication on farming. He would also on occasion, wrote articles on farming. One in particular was reported by the Sussex Advertiser Newspaper on 5 November 1838. The newspaper reported:

"I state that during last winter the ring pigeon (Columba Patumbus) not only eat the leaves but also scooped holes in the sides of the bulbs; and in a note you ask, if I am sure of this, and state that the fact is new to you. Having repeatedly observed them thus employed, I had no doubt of it when I wrote to you, and I have since had it confirmed. In an entomological excursion which I lately took to the west of Fife, I happened to pass through the town of Auchtermuchty, on the day on which the great annual fair was held. I there met with five or six farmers, some of them extensive turnip growers, and thought this an admirable opportunity of ascertaining if it was known to them that the ring pigeon eats the bulbs of the turnips. On the question being proposed, they all agree that it does so; and the following facts

³⁹ 1861 Scotland Census for Abdie, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 9, Page Number 9

were ascertained: that the ring pigeon eats the leaves of the turnip first; that it eats the bulbs; that it eats the bulbs even although the winter is not very severe; that it prefers the bulb of the Swedish turnip to any other; next the yellow turnip, and when neither of these can be procured, it takes the white; that when these holes are made, the frost causes the turnip to rot, and thus great quantities of them are destroyed. I have since inquired of several other farmers on the same subject. They are all with the exception of one, who said the bulbs were hollowed out by the crows, of the same opinion. I should therefore think that there is no doubt that the ring pigeon is very destructive to turnips by eating the bulbs as well as the leaves.”⁴⁰

In the Evening of Life

Henry Buist made out his Last Will and Testament on Friday, 11 January 1856.⁴¹ In the will, he conveyed to his eldest son, George Buist all lands in the North Hill of Grange, the estate of Ormiston, the farm at Grange, the lands of Whitepark, Hattonhill and various other lands. To his other surviving son, Andrew Walker Buist he conveyed all lands of Berryhill including the farming implements on the lands and all household furniture, silver plates, bed and table linen with the mansion house of Berryhill. To his two daughters Sophia and Margaret he gave each one half of the lands of Hattonhill. Furthermore, on Wednesday, 14 June 1865 he made a codicil to his will stating that his daughters were to be given each the lands of Ormiston and lands called Wood and Park of Lindores and Whitepark.

Henry Buist contracted bronchitis a few weeks prior to his death. He was in good health considering his age of 94. Henry Buist died on Tuesday, 7 November 1865 at Berryhill of bronchitis.⁴² The Caledonia Mercury Newspaper for Thursday, 9 November 1865 stated, “At Berryhill, on the 7th inst., Henry Buist, Esquire of Berryhill in his 95th year.”⁴³ He was buried in the Abdie Churchyard, Abdie Parish, Fife on Monday, 13 November 1865. The Buist family gravestone still stands presently and reads: “1852. Sacred to the Memory of Margaret Walker, wife of Henry Buist of Berryhill and daughter of the Rev. Andrew Walker, minister of Collessie, who died 25 December 1847 aged 64 years. Also of her grandson, William Johnstone, son of the Rev. Robert Johnstone, minister of Logie, who died on the 4th Jan 1847 aged 9 years. Also of Henry Buist of Hattonhill, son of Henry Buist of Berryhill, who died on 24 Nov 1854 aged 36 years. Also of Mary Campbell, daughter of the late Captain Colin Campbell, 67th Regiment, and wife of Andrew Walker Buist, who died on 16 June 1855 aged 36 years. Also of Henry Buist of Berryhill who died 7 Nov 1865 at the advanced age of 94 years. Also to the Memory of Andrew Walker Buist of Berryhill, son of the above Henry Buist of Berryhill who died 1 May 1877 in the 61st year of his age. Also of George, eldest son of Henry Buist of Berryhill, born 20 March 1806, died 29 April 1889. In loving Memory of Mrs. Buist of Berryhill and her sister Miss Easton, this inscription is placed by their great niece, Lette Orlebar.”

⁴⁰ Sussex Advertiser Newspaper, 5 November 1838, Page Number 2

⁴¹ Henry Buist, Last Will & Testament, 11 January 1856, Cupar Sheriff Court, National Records of Scotland (SC20/50/37)

⁴² Death Record of Henry Buist, 7 November 1865, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/00 0015

⁴³ Caledonia Mercury Newspaper, 9 November 1865, Page 3



Henry Buist & Family Gravesites, Abdie Churchyard, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010
Michael T. Tracy

Henry Buist had a long and distinguished life. He served his community as a Justice of Peace, a Freeholder of Fife and a Noblemen and Gentlemen of Fife. He was a gentleman farmer having been engaged in agriculture all of his life. He retained many of the courtesies of the old times. He like the rest of his family contributed to the many benevolent and charitable institutions of his day, and he is commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his 4th great nephew.

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