

James Buist (1850-1907) Superintendent of Perth City Police Force

By His Distant Second Cousin, Michael T. Tracy

“Perth Officer Dead. Ex-Superintendent Buist of Police Force. A Native of Fife. It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of ex-Superintendent James Buist, of the Perth City Police Force, which took place at his residence, Gowrie Cottage, Bridgend, Perth about seven o’clock this morning. The late Superintendent was one of the best known and one of the most popular officials in Perth.”¹



Fig.1. James Buist, Superintendent of Perth City Police Force, Photograph Courtesy of *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper*, 12 July 1907

Early years

The future Superintendent of the Perth City Police Force was born on Thursday, 3 September 1850 in Strathmiglo Parish, Fife.² He was the seventh and last son of David Buist, a hand loom weaver of Strathmiglo Parish, Fife and Helen Mitchell. According to the 1851 Scotland Census for Strathmiglo, Strathmiglo Parish, Fife, James Buist was listed as being 6 months old.³ By 1861, young James Buist is listed in the 1861 Scotland Census for Strathmiglo, Strathmiglo Parish, Fife as being 10 years of age and a scholar.⁴

¹ *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

² Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³ 1851 Scotland Census for Strathmiglo, Strathmiglo Parish, Fife; Enumeration District Number 6, Page 22

⁴ 1861 Scotland Census for Strathmiglo, Strathmiglo Parish, Fife; Enumeration District Number 1, Page 2

Page 2		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Parish of Strathmiglo		Civil Survey Parish of		Parliamentary Borough of		Royal Borough of		In the County of Fife		Village of Strathmiglo with	
No. of Houses	House No.	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Sex	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	When Born	When Married	When Settled
2	East End	James Anderson	Head	Mar.	64	M	Scrimymer Weaver	Perthshire Strathmiglo			
		Anna	Wife	Mar.	60	F	"	"			
		Robert	Boys	Un.	20	M	Handloom Linn Weaver	Kinrosshire Perth			
3		Christian	Boys	Un.	17	M	"	"			
		William Lawson	Head	Mar.	26	M	Bleacher	Fifehire Strathmiglo			
		Sarah	Wife	Mar.	27	F	"	Perthshire Strathmiglo			
		James Lawson	Boys	Un.	5	M	Scholar	"			
		Isabella Lawson	Boys	Un.	11	F	"	"			
4		Thomas Jameson	Head	Widow	51	M	Ag. Lab.	Kinrosshire Fifehire			
5		Rachel Buist	Head	Un.	42	F	Knifemaker	Fifehire Strathmiglo			
6		David Jameson	Head	Mar.	54	M	Handloom Linn Weaver	"			
		James	Wife	Mar.	50	F	"	"			
		John	Boys	Un.	24	M	Domestic Servant	"			
		Samuel	Boys	Un.	16	M	Bleacher	"			
		John	Boys	Un.	9	M	"	"			
		David Buist	Grandson	Un.	28	M	"	"			
7		David Buist	Head	Mar.	54	M	Handloom Linn Weaver	"			
		Helen	Wife	Mar.	55	F	"	"			
		Henry	Boys	Un.	18	M	Handloom Linn Weaver	"			
		James	Boys	Un.	16	M	"	"			
		William	Boys	Un.	5	M	Scholar	"			
8		John Jameson	Head	Mar.	52	M	Handloom Linn Weaver	"			
		Samuel	Wife	Mar.	58	F	"	Fifehire Perth			
		George	Boys	Un.	12	M	Scholar	Fifehire Strathmiglo			
Total of Houses		Total of Males and Females		Total of School Children and Windowed Booms							
57		1175		6						6	

Fig.2. 1861 Scotland Census for Strathmiglo, Strathmiglo Parish, Fife (James Buist is fifth entry from bottom) © National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

A Fife Man

After his schooling, James Buist began working on various farms in Strathmiglo Parish, Fife as a ploughman.⁵ He enlisted in the Calvary Regiment of the Scots Greys, in about 1870. According to *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper* for Thursday, 11 July 1907: "On his retiral from the Army, Mr. Buist carried with him the best wishes of his officers, and was made the recipient of a handsome testimonial from them."⁶

Marriage & Family Life

A month after joining the Perth City Police Force, James Buist married Eleanor Stewart Lee Deuchars on Tuesday, 30 April 1872 at Perth, Perthshire.⁷

⁵ *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

⁶ *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

⁷ Marriage Record of James Buist, 30 April 1872, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Marriages 387/00 0055

Page 28.

1872 MARRIAGES in the District of *Perth* In the County of *Perth*

No.	(1) When, Where, and How Married.	(2) Signature of Parties. Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).	(3) Age.	(4) Usual Residence.	(5) Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	(6) If a regular Marriage, Signature of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If Irregular, Date of Completion, Name of Minister, or Sheriff's Warrant.	(7) When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
55	1872 on the 30th day of April at Perth after having read the Statute in presence of the Minister & witnesses	(Signed) James Buist Labourer (Bachelor)	27	Perth	David Buist Labourer Perth Margaret Buist Maiden Surname Perth	(Signed) John Anderson Minister Perth	1872 May 1 at Perth
56	1872 on the 30th day of May at Perth after having read the Statute in presence of the Minister & witnesses	(Signed) Robert Buist Labourer (Bachelor)	25	Perth	William Buist Labourer Perth Mary Buist Maiden Surname Perth	(Signed) John Anderson Minister Perth	1872 May 11 at Perth

J. M. G. 11/1/24
Registrar

Fig.3. Marriage Record of James Buist, 30 April 1872 © National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

They had seven children who were all born in the City of Perth. They were:

- Margaret born on Thursday, 2 January 1873⁸ and died on Tuesday, 14 October 1919;⁹
- Helen born on Wednesday, 3 June 1874¹⁰ and died on Saturday, 11 November 1933;¹¹
- David born in 1876¹² and died on Friday, 7 November 1947;¹³
- Marjory Deuchars born in 1878¹⁴ and died on Tuesday, 27 June 1882;¹⁵
- James born on Thursday, 4 May 1882;¹⁶
- Rachel born in 1887¹⁷ and died on Saturday, 28 October 1961;¹⁸
- William born in 1888¹⁹ and died on Wednesday, 11 February 1959.²⁰

The Buist family is listed in the 1881 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire. James Buist is listed as being 31 years of age and is a Police Sergeant. His wife, Eleanor Buist is listed as being 33 years of age and the following children: Margaret age 8; Helen age 7; David age 5 and Marjory age 2.²¹

⁸ Birth Record of Margaret Buist, 2 January 1873, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births, National Records of Scotland

⁹ Death Record of Margaret Buist Stratton, 14 October 1919, Glasgow Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 644/12/1065

¹⁰ Birth Record of Helen Buist, 3 June 1874, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births, National Records of Scotland

¹¹ Death Record Helen Buist Mitchell, 11 November 1933, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00 0568

¹² Birth Record of David Buist, 1876, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births 387/00 0408

¹³ Death Record of David Buist, 7 November 1947, Perth Scotland Newspaper Index Cards, 1809-1990. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007

¹⁴ Birth Record of Marjory Deuchars Buist, 1878, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births, National Records of Scotland

¹⁵ Death Record of Marjory Deuchars Buist, 27 June 1882, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00 0357

¹⁶ Birth Record of James Buist, 4 May 1882, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births 387/00 0379

¹⁷ Birth Record of Rachel Buist, 1887, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births 387/00 0231

¹⁸ Death Record of Rachel Buist Young, 28 October 1961, Elie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 427/00 0019

¹⁹ Birth Record of William Buist, 1888, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Births 387/00 0763

²⁰ Death Record of William Buist, 11 February 1959, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00 0080

²¹ 1881 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 34, Page 14

Page 14 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	Hamlet of		
Perth			Perth	Perth						
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in habitable (a) or (b)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birthday) Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or idiot 4. Lunatic	Rooms with One or more Windows
88	5 Annie St.	1	James Buist	Head	Mar	42	Police Sergeant	Perth Perth		2
	do do		Eleanor Do Buist	Wife	do	44	do wife	Perth Perth		
	do do		Margaret do	Daughter	do	18	Scholar	do Perth		
	do do		Helen do	do	do	16	do	do do		
	do do		David do	Son	do	14	do	do do		
	do do		Margaret do	Daughter	do	4	do	do do		
89	do do	1	John Cameron	Head	Mar	42	Apprentice	do do		4
	do do		James do	Brother	Mar	44	Apprentice	do do		
	do do		Charles do	do	Mar	46	do	do do		
	do do		James do	Nephew	do	3	do	do do		
90	do do	1	Jonathan Leake	Head	Mar	40	Boat Maker	do do		4
	do do		Elizabeth do	Wife	do	44	do wife	do Perth		
	do do		Margaret do	Daughter	Mar	20	Wash-house woman	do Perth		
	do do		Isabella do	do	do	12	Scholar	do do		
91	do do	1	George Miller	Head	Mar	30	Carrier	Perth Perth		4
	do do		Jessie do	Wife	do	33	do wife	Perth Perth		
	do do		William do	Son	do	4	do	do do		
	do do		Isabel do	Daughter	do	3	do	do do		
	do do		Mary do	do	do	1 1/2	do	do do		
92	do do	1	James Jackson	Head	Mar	42	Clock	do Seane		4
	do do		Isabel do	Wife	do	44	do wife	do Perth		
	do do		Isabella do	Daughter	do	11 1/2	do	do Perth		
93	do do	1	John & Margaret	Head	Mar	42	Shipping Clerk	do do		2
	do do		John do	do	do	44	do	do do		
	do do		Isabella do	do	do	8 1/2	do	do do		
6	Total of Houses...	6	Total of Males and Females...			10	15	Total of Windowed Rooms...		20

Scot.—Sheet C.] NOTE.—Draw the pen through stch of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Fig.4. 1881 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire (James Buist & Family are listed beginning at line 1) © National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

James Buist and family are listed in the 1891 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire. According to the census James Buist is 42 years of age and an Inspector of Police. His wife, Eleanor Buist is listed as being 44 years of age and the following children: Margaret age 18 and a dress maker; Helen age 16 and a pupil teacher; David age 14 and an apprentice grocer; James age 8; Rachel age 4 and William age 2.²²

The Buist family is listed in the 1901 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire. James Buist is listed as being 51 years of age and is Superintendent of Police. His second wife, Jessie Buist is listed as being 49 years of age and the following children: James age 19 and a joiner; Rachel age 14; and William age 12.²³

Eleanor Buist died on Wednesday, 30 September 1891 at Annat Lodge Cottage in Perth, Perthshire at the age of 44.²⁴ She was buried in Jeanfield Cemetery in Perth on Saturday, 3 October 1891.

James Buist later married Jessie Daw Fernie on Friday, 10 March 1893 in Strathmiglo Parish, Fife.²⁵

²² 1891 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 36, Page 8

²³ 1901 Scotland Census for Perth, Perthshire, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 39, Page 17

²⁴ Death Record of Eleanor Stewart Lee Buist, 30 September 1891, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00 0420

²⁵ Marriage Record of James Buist, 10 March 1893, Strathmiglo Parish Records, Statutory Marriages 457/00 0001

Perth City Police Force

On Tuesday, 19 March 1872 James Buist joined the Perth City Police Force at the age of 21.²⁶ He rose quickly up the ranks beginning on Thursday, 13 March 1873 he was promoted to 2nd Class Constable.²⁷ According to his police personnel files, James Buist was described as being 5 feet, 9 ½ inches tall; brown hair; eyes grey and had a fresh complexion.²⁸ He was promoted on Thursday, 1 January 1874 to 1st Class Constable and by Thursday, 9 March 1876 was again promoted to Detective.²⁹ Four years later on Thursday, 19 August 1880 James Buist was promoted to Sergeant.³⁰

According to the *Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper* on Thursday, 11 July 1907: "It was about twenty-five years ago that was known as the 'Militia Riot' took place at Princess Street Railway Station, Perth, in which Superintendent Buist played such a prominent part. The affair occurred on a Saturday evening during the Dundee holidays, a crowd of militiamen becoming so outrageous that the police had to be summoned, and were obliged to draw their batons, a regular riot following. Mr. Buist was in the thick of the fight, and helped to restore a sword to an officer at the barracks, who, while endeavouring to keep order, was badly mauled. After a gallant and fierce struggle the police were reinforced, and the ringleaders of the militia were identified and dealt with later on."³¹

Another interesting case Sergeant Buist was involved in occurred on Monday, 22 March 1880 and was recorded in *The Analyst*, a monthly publication. *The Analyst* stated: Selling Butterine. On May 18th, before Sheriff Barclay, James King, grocer, 124 High Street, and residing at York Place, Perth, was charged with selling on 22nd March last, to Sergeant Buist, city police, a pound of a compound of fat, in place of a pound of salted butter, which compound was not of the nature, substance, and quality of that demanded and paid for."³²

On Thursday, 11 March 1886 Buist was appointed Inspector.³³ According to the *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper* dated Friday, 19 March 1886: "Inspector McDonald having had to relinquish his position in the city police force on account of failing health, Mr. James Buist, who has been sergeant in the force for the last six years, has been appointed to succeed him."³⁴

The pay rate for a 2nd Class Sergeant as James Buist was in 1884, was 1 pound, 6 shillings per week.³⁵ With his recent promotion to Inspector in 1886 his weekly pay was 1 pound, 10 shillings.³⁶ Inspector Buist held this rank for the next seven years.

According to Perth City Police Records, Inspector Buist was promoted to Superintendent on Thursday, 21 December 1893.³⁷ He was now the head of the entire Perth City Police Force at the age of 43.

²⁶ *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

²⁷ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

²⁸ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

²⁹ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³⁰ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³¹ *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

³² *The Analyst*. Wigner, G.W. London: Messrs. Barlliere, Tindall & Cox. Volume VI. 1881. Page 104

³³ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³⁴ *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper* 19 March 1886, Page 2

³⁵ Perth City Police Pay Books 1884-1891 (POL1/29/5) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³⁶ Perth City Police Pay Books 1884-1891 (POL1/29/5) Perth & Kinross City Archive

A major incident occurred in his career while he was Perth Police Superintendent. According to the *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper* dated Friday, 12 July 1907: "The late Superintendent also played a conspicuous part in the fatal fire in Princess Street a little more than a dozen years ago, when he dashed into the burning building and made an effort to reach a helpless inmate. Three times did he essay to break through the columns of raging flames, and as often did he fail, the smoke being so dense and the fire so fierce as to imperil his own life."³⁸

Superintendent Buist in 1894 was paid 2 pounds, 2 shillings and 6 pence per week according to the Perth City Police Records.³⁹

He was also involved in a big haul of illegal liquor in June of 1899. According to the *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper* dated Thursday, 13 July 1899: "Alleged Shebeening at Perth...On 24 June 1899 the premises, consisting of a dwelling house and shop attached and communicating with the house at Castle Gable, occupied and used by William Aimes, labourer and confectioner, the premises not being licensed and Aimes not having a license for the sale of excisable liquors, were searched by James Buist, Superintendent city police, acting under a warrant dated 24 June 1899."⁴⁰

There was an incident of misconduct recorded in Buist's personnel file which was recorded on Wednesday, 17 May 1905, for which he was fined 20 pounds: "In a case of murder pending against James Murray, Superintendent Buist allowed himself to be interviewed by a reporter and gave evidence to the press which should only have been given to the Procurator Fiscal."⁴¹

Perth Police Force Drill Instructor

In his earlier days, Buist learned how to ride a horse while serving in the Calvary Regiment of the Royal Scots Greys. He put his military knowledge to good use while with the Perth Police Force. According to the *Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper* for Thursday, 11 July 1907: "For about a quarter of a century Mr. Buist acted as a drill instructor to the police, and on all-occasions where a mounted officer was required it was Superintendent Buist who acted in that capacity."⁴²

The Second Boer War Volunteer

With the Second Boer War still ongoing by 1900, Superintendent James Buist decided to volunteer for military duty. According to the *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper* dated Wednesday, 24 January 1900: "Mr. James Buist, Superintendent of Perth City Police, has volunteered to serve in any regiment during the present war. Superintendent Buist, who is fifty years of age, served for three years in the Royal Scots Greys, purchasing his discharge in March, 1872. At that time he joined the Perth City Police as a constable, and, passing through all the grades of the force, he was promoted to his present position, as superintendent some six years ago. Superintendent Buist also acted as drill instructor to the police for the past 17 or 18 years."⁴³ Due to his age, he was not accepted into military service.

³⁷ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1894-1904 (POL1/28/1) Perth & Kinross City Archive

³⁸ *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper*, 12 July 1907, Page 4

³⁹ Perth City Police Pay Books 1891-1900 (POL1/29/6) Perth & Kinross City Archive

⁴⁰ *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper*, 13 July 1899, Page 6

⁴¹ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1905-1921 (POL1/28/2) Perth & Kinross City Archive

⁴² *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

⁴³ *Dundee Courier & Argus Newspaper*, 24 January 1900, Page 5

Annat Lodge Cottage, Perth, Perthshire

Annat Lodge is described in the Perthshire Ordinance Name Book for 1859-1862 as being: "A neat built villa and offices, the residence and property of Mrs. Kenneth Stuart, a few chains south of Muirhall Road."⁴⁴

City of Perth No. 21 Sheet 98.6.6 Trace 1

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Broompark	Broompark	D. Stewart occupier D. Casson ^{indicates} _{Muirhall Road}	On the North side of Muirhall Road	A farm house & Offices occup ^d by D. Stewart and the Property of the Earl of Stirling
Annat Lodge	Annat Lodge	D. Stewart ^{indicates} _{Muirhall Road} D. Casson Mrs Stuart, proprietress	A few chains South of Muirhall Road	A neat built villa and Offices the residence & property of Mrs. Kenneth Stuart

Fig.5. 1859-1862 Ordinance Survey for Annat Lodge, Perth, Perthshire © Scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

James Buist most likely began renting Annat Lodge Cottage shortly after his marriage in 1872. All of the Buist children were born there circa 1873-1888.

⁴⁴ Ordinance Survey Name Books, Perthshire Ordinance Survey Name Books, 1859-1862, Volume 65 (OS1/25/65/49) Scotlandsplaces.gov.uk



Fig.6. Annat Lodge Cottage was on far side of the hedge in what is now the garden of Rosebank Lodge, Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor

Annat Lodge was listed in the 1885 Valuation Rolls for Kinnoull Parish, Perth. James Buist of the City Police was listed as the proprietor and his yearly rent was 7 pounds.⁴⁵

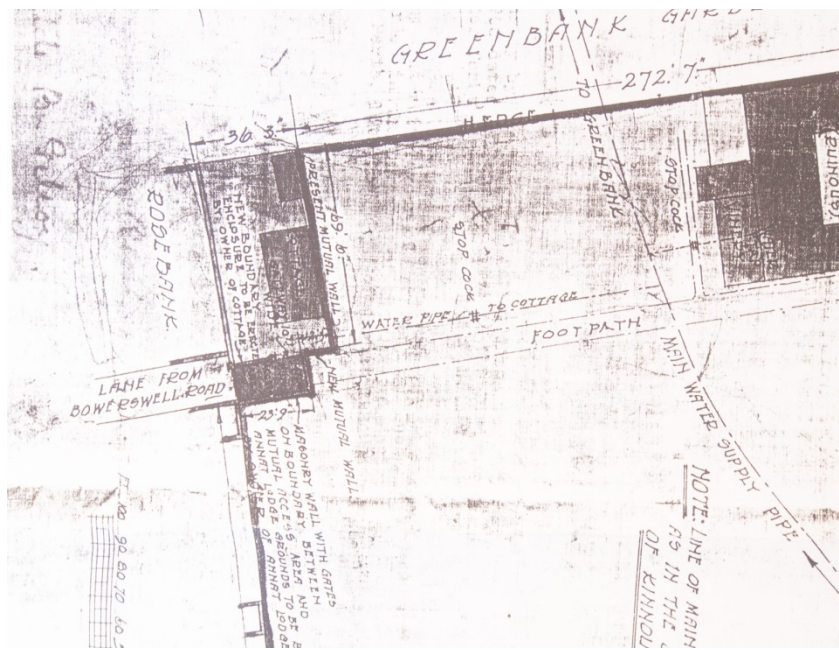


Fig.7. Annat Lodge Cottage on Survey Plan (Top left), Photograph Courtesy of Dr. Terry Myers, Perth Community Councillor

⁴⁵ 1885 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge, Kinnoull Parish, Perth (VR68/31/514) National Records of Scotland

According to the 1895 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge listed James Buist, Police Inspector as the proprietor and his yearly rent was 7 pounds.⁴⁶

1895 BUIST, JAMES (Valuation Rolls VR68 / 41 / 496)

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Page 496		VALUATION ROLL for the Burgh of PERTH, for the YEAR 1895-96.				Kinnoull Parish.			
No.	Description and Extent of Hereditament	No.	Proprietor	Tenant	Occupier	Disbursed Occupier	Per. Duty or Property Taxes	Yearly Rent or Value	Observations
			<i>Murkall Road (cont)</i>						
1									
2	Annat Lodge, Office & Garden		Mrs Mary Julia White, w.	Proprietor	Proprietor		2 7	70	
3	Home & Garden			James Buist, Police Inspector	James Buist			5	
4									
5									
6									
7	Stables & Office, with 1/2 acre of Ground		John Buchanan, W.S.	Proprietor	Proprietor			55	
8								35	
9									
10									
11									
12	Residence & Office		Andr ^s Cook	Proprietor	Proprietor			100	
13	Ground							20	
14	Lodge					John White, Surveyor			
15									
16									
17									
18	Manifold & Garden Office & Home		John Miller Miller	Proprietor	Proprietor			65	
19									
20									
21									
22	Trigill & Garden & Office		Mrs Mary Campbell & Mrs J. C. Maudslayi Sons, Plasterers, of Perth & Dundee, S.W.	David R. S. Maudslayi, Resident	David Maudslayi		17 4	75	
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28	Trigill & Office & Ground		Robert Hope Maudslayi, W.S. & R. H. Maudslayi & Co. Ltd.	Proprietor	Proprietor			70	
29								6	
30									
31									
32									
33									
34									
35									

Fig. 8. 1895 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge (Line 3) © National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

Superintendent Buist was listed in the 1905 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge, showing him as the Police Superintendent and proprietor with a yearly rent of 5 pounds.⁴⁷



Fig. 9. View looking up Bowerswell Lane (Cottage would have been just to the left at the end of the lane), Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor

⁴⁶ 1895 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge, Kinnoull Parish, Perth (VR68/41/496) National Records of Scotland

⁴⁷ 1905 Valuation Roll for Annat Lodge, Kinnoull Parish, Perth (VR68/48/159) National Records of Scotland



Fig.10. View looking down Bowerswell Lane to its junction with Bowerswell Road, Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor

Annat Lodge Cottage is no longer in existence. According to Dr. Terry Myers, Perth Community Councillor it was still in existence in 1931 when it was sold by the Annat Lodge estate, but was eventually demolished to extend the garden of Rosebank Lodge.⁴⁸ Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor stated: “from the location, the cottage must have been quite small. It is a very quiet location, and must have been even more so then, although it is just a short walk into the centre of Perth. We think the easier access into Perth might have been down via Bowerswell Lane rather than up a path to Muirhall Road. Bowerswell Lane itself probably hasn’t changed much since 1900.”⁴⁹



Fig.11. View across Perth Bridge. Superintendent Buist would have walked over this Bridge and then turned left to reach the Police Office on Tay Street, Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor

⁴⁸ Email Communication of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor to Mr. Michael T. Tracy, 28 August 2014

⁴⁹ Email Communication of Mr. Rob Burke, Perth Community Councillor to Mr. Michael T. Tracy, 28 August 2014

Retirement & Death of Superintendent James Buist

After 35 years of service to the Perth City Police Force, James Buist resigned as Superintendent due to ill health on Thursday, 31 January 1907.⁵⁰ Less than six months later, James Buist died on Thursday, 11 July 1907 at the age of 56 of a cerebral hemorrhage.⁵¹ According to the *Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper* dated Thursday, 11 July 1907: "At the close of business at Perth Police Court today Bailie Young, who presided, made a touching reference to the memory of the late Superintendent. 'Superintendent Buist,' he said, 'was connected with the City Police Force for nearly thirty-two years, and only in February last retired in the hope that that he might be able to enjoy a well-earned rest. Unfortunately it was only two days after a presentation had been made to him in that same room that he was stricken with illness, and had been confined to bed more or less ever since, and passed away early this morning. It was only fitting that reference should be made to one who was so long connected with that Court, and one who was held in high respect not only by the Magistrates, but by the community generally.'"⁵²

On Saturday, 13 July 1907 James Buist was buried next to his first wife and children at Jeanfield Cemetery in Perth.



Fig.12. Graves of Superintendent James Buist & Family, Jeanfield Cemetery, Perth, Perthshire, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2014 Michael T. Tracy

⁵⁰ Perth City Police Registers of Police & Defaulters 1905-1921 (POL1.28/2) Perth & Kinross City Archive

⁵¹ Death Record of James Buist, 11 July 1907, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00 0356

⁵² *The Evening Telegraph & Post Newspaper*, 11 July 1907, Page 2

Working as a policeman in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was not an easy profession especially in a major city like Perth, and James Buist stands out as one of the best policemen of his generation. His exceptional ability enabled him to advance through the ranks of the Perth City Police Force and later become Superintendent of the entire force. He served honorably and with distinction for 35 years, and Fife can be very proud of one of its own, James Buist of Strathmiglo Parish, a man of humble beginnings and a passion for enforcing the law and helping the community of Perth. He is commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant second 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 Mrs. Lorna Westwater, Senior Archives Assistant of the Perth & Kinross Archive in Perth, who kindly helped me with researching Superintendent Buist's personnel, promotions and salary files; the kind staff at the Perth & Kinross Area Police Command Center in Perth; Mr. Graham Fleming, Chairman of the Perth & Kinross Community Council as well as two other outstanding Community Councillors: Dr. Terry Myers & Mr. Rob Burke who so graciously took various photographs of where Annat Lodge Cottage once stood in Perth; and finally this work is lovingly dedicated to the memory of my first cousin, retired Sergeant John (Jack) Kane (1927-2003), Chicago Police Department, Vice Control Section, whose interest in his Scottish ancestry for many years gave me inspiration in the research and final writing of this work. It is to these people that this work is today acknowledged.

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