

## 1904

Jan 7 **Opening announcement** - Alex Purves opened as a grocer in a new shop at the corner of West Street and West Church Street. (65 West Church Street ). He was also advertising a large stock of china and earthenware.

( In February 1999 this was opened as a shop selling saddles, bridles etc. for the 'horsey' people. They took over from a modern - man clothes outfitter 'Gents' who moved into a shop on the north east quadrant of Cluny Square, opening as both a modern man and miss outfitter - 'Gent-Elle', owned by Malcolm Smith.)

The paper *Weekly News* told of an old custom that was still in vogue in Buckie. It was the custom of a bride on her way to church to be wed presented a shilling to the first person she met on the way. This was supposed to bring luck to the happy couple. A stranger being accosted in such a way was likely to be taken aback though they would be likely to be well informed that all was in order.

Jan 14 Several posties had thank you notices in the paper for the Christmas boxes given by customers. One of the posties was John Wilson, Drybridge.

Names suggested by the Seafield estates for the streets in Portessie were as follows – All the houses from 41 to 99 to be known as Rannas Place apart from those abutting on to the main highway.

Others – Great Eastern Road, Findlater Street, Hope Street, Chancellor Road, Station Road, Craigview (district) Rannas Place (district), Oglivie Street, Chapel Street, Vanity Fair (district), Victoria Street, Stewart Street and Campbell Street.

Jan 21 Charles Bonnyman and Co. Portgordon were holding a Great Removal Sale with a huge advert in the paper. The shop was to move from 3 and 4 Station Road to number 6 either on or before 28 May.

Jan 28 **Opening announcement** - James D. Geddes, Architect and Surveyor, 60 West Church Street.

The following Drapers and Outfitters were all advertising sales – Charles Innes Shearer, The Little Wonder, James Green, , Edward Hillocks, Robert Grant, Leith Esson,

Feb 4 In memory Mr J.G.Macpherson MA page 6 column 1.

Feb 11 The Buckie Lodge of the Good Templars held their 33rd anniversary of their first meeting.

Robert Grant Draper, Baron Street was describing his sale as his **Third Annual Sale**.

James Mackay, Draper, bought over the whole stock of Andrew Milne, General Merchant, and Fochabers at a figure of £500. He was to keep the shop open there until things were sold off.

A 'Working Men's Burns' Club was formed in Buckie and christened the Luath Burns Club after one of the dogs in the poem 'Twa Dugs'. Wm. Stewart was appointed president, J. D Knowles, secretary. The object of the club is the study of Scotch (sic) poetry especially that of Burns. Meetings to be held at regular intervals.

The fifth annual ball took place at Wester Bogs by kind permission of Mr Alex Smith. There were 20 couples present with the dance continuing on until 4.30 am. John Sudding, assisted by John Reid, Easter Bogs and William Hay, Slackend supplied music. The M.C. was James Coull, Portgordon. Miss Leith and Miss Flett prepared and served the tea. The committee was James Coull, William hay, R. Pirrie, Roadside. The secretary was George Grieve, Smerick Cottages.

Feb 18 R.Watson the late manager of the Globe Stores on High Street bought over the business.

The Little Wonder, Outfitters, were declaring that this was their 15<sup>th</sup> annual winter sale.

### **The B .A. had a report of the outbreak of war between Russia and Japan.**

Feb 25 The following Buckie postmen had a combined thank you notice in the paper. They were – J. Paterson, J. Hepburn and A. Morrison.

Buckie Gas Light Company were advertising tar for sale to fishermen and others. Thos requiring same were asked to place their orders at the gas works. Cost for 40 gallons was 8/- with the barrels being charged extra.

Advert – H. A McBain, Undertaker, 33 West Church Street.

The B .A. carried the following notice – Important announcement – re-publication of the Annals of Cullen – Revised and brought up to date by Dr W.Cramond. Esq. LLD,Cullen, to appear shortly in the B .A. in extract form.

**Norwegian invention – fish found by electricity. With this apparatus it is possible to tell whether masses of fish can be found at a particular spot or at what depth. Was this the first ‘Echo Sounder’?**

Macdonald, Engineers, Portsoy were advertising that they could supply machinery with twin propellers to suit zulu boats or with stern propellers to suit fifie built boats with speeds from 4 to 6 knots. They were also advertising steel reversal capstans.

Mar 3 The Clyde Theatre, (Hector’s Park) West Church Street, were to be putting on a performance of “Fighting Mac”

**Opening announcement** – E. J. McKenzie, General Drapery, 15 Marine Place.

The R.N.R. Battery was lost to Buckie with Banff Town Council agreeing to sell land to the Admiralty at the Links.

The town council option to purchase Cluny Harbour was said to expire on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was anticipated that the Cluny Estates Trustees would be agreeable to continue this option if there was a prospect of the harbour being purchased

Mr Hector, farmer at Mill of Buckie was not taking rent for the use of the field at West Church Street on the understanding that the proceeds be given to local charities.

Despite the backward fishing, building work was going on apace, especially in Findochty where Mr Mair, Builder was uncommonly busy.

Mar 10 **Estimates were invited for the erection of a pavilion for Buckie Bowling Club.**

.L.T. McGarth, Ironmonger etc., was advertising the following makes of bicycles – Premiers, Raleighs, Raglans, Towends and Bradburys.

George Webster, Cycle Builder, Cluny Square had a special offer on bikes – a nine guinea roadster for £7.5 net.

Miss Mary Barbour who had been four years a teacher at Enzie Public School left to become headmistress at Auchanicie School (between Keith and Drummuir)

**The drifter ‘Pursuit’ built by George Smith, Main Street, for John, James and Joseph Murray ‘Souter’ was launched the previous Friday. This was the first drifter that he had built.**

The drifter ‘Success’ was launched in Aberdeen for A & W. Smith ‘Doan’ A sister ship to the White Lady.

Mar 17 The rail return fare to Glasgow was 5/-. This was a special train laid on in connection with the football match between Scotland and England.

**Opening announcement** – Thomas D. Yule, Draper, was to open a shop at Seaview Place.

Alex Henderson took over the grocer’s business at 35 New Street, formerly ran by J. Cowie, ‘Carrot’.

Messrs Fraser, Smith and Co. Sailmakers, of Ianstown and Findochty, took over the Buckpool sailmaker’s business of Flett, Sutherland and Co.

At the end of the evening continuation classes at Enzie Public School, Mr Nichol, head teacher, was presented with a silver-mounted walking stick while Miss McPherson received a workbasket.

The members of the town council expressed their disappointment at not getting the R.N.R. battery. They agreed that only one person had stood in the way – the laird of Letterfourie.

Discussion took place regarding those people who still had not paid the subscriptions they had put their name to in connection with the Victoria Bridge. It was suggested that they be asked for double the amount pledged.

**The first instalment of the 'Annals of Cullen' by Dr Cramond, are to be found on page columns 4 and 5.**

Mar 24 William Moore, Portgordon was transferred from Portgordon to the Enzie in place of James Burgess who moved to Buckie.

Mar 31 **Opening announcement** – Alex Ross, Painter and Decorator, 1 new Street.

Notice – The partnership of Reaich and Legge, Joiners and Undertakers was to be dissolved.

**Two drifters were launched at Portgordon on Wednesday 30 March. The Daffodil, BF 1463 by Wm. 'Beal' Geddes and the Balm from P.Grigor and Son.**

*The foundations for the new tennis courts at the Buckie Bowling Green were laid this week.*

The SS Natalla owned by McWilliam, Buckie was to take a cargo of sleepers south.

Apr 7 Mr Hector, Mill of Buckie had the following notice – No allowance for public use will now be given for the park on West Church Street.

James Mackay, 5 East Church Street, Buckie had branches at this time in Portknockie and Fochabers where he had recently bought over the stock of a Mr Milne. As was his practice he kept the shop open until he had sold the stock off.

Football matches were again being advertised as being played on Cluny Park.

**The loss of the naval battery was described as, 'a tragedy' by the town council. A number of letters were printed in the B .A. in connection with this.**

Apr 14 A meeting was to take place to discuss the whole business of the Cluny Harbour and extension.

**Tee name – Smith 'Dean' Portessie.**

Miss Annie Gordon was appointed pupil teacher at Clochan.

A writer in the B .A. spoke of it becoming something of a rare event to see a zulu launched as it the previous week when the 'Dove' was launched for Wm. and James Smith, Portessie. (Surely not so rare since a good number were later launched even though the number of drifters being added to the Buckie fleet continued to grow. )

**A meeting was to take place with the intention of forming a cricket club.**

**The first licensing court was held in Buckie on Tuesday 12 April 1904.**

**The town council offered Cluny Estate trustees £38,000 for the harbour (Cluny) and the land north of the public road between the Watch House and the Burn of Rathven, subject to feus already granted. This price according to the offer was to be payable as £25,000 in cash and £13,000 by postponed bond. The Cluny Estates for their part wanted £38,000 and £8,000 by postponed bond. The town council were hoping that a half-way agreement might be reached**

**Page 7 carries a clear comparison of the cost of purchasing Cluny Harbour together with the required extension as opposed to the Craigenroan scheme.**

**The Cluny Harbour with the cost of extension would incur an annual charge on the rates of £1098 – a farthing in the £. The Craigenroan Scheme would mean an annual payment of £680 – 10d in the £.**

**Many people in Portessie were still not happy and said that they had only agreed to join Buckie on the understanding that the Craigenroan Harbour would go ahead.**

Apr 21 **A hall in Buckie was for sale. This was the meeting place of the Disciples of Christ at the corner of West Church Street and Pringle Street. The sale included all the fittings and furniture.**

Estimates were being invited for the construction of an infant school at Portessie.

James Duncan, 51 West Church Street, was having a cheap sale of wallpaper.

Charles Bonnyman and Co. were holding a big sale at their shop at 2-3 Station Road, prior to moving southwards to number 6 on the same street.

W. R. McIntosh launched two large zulu boats the previous Friday while George Thomson launched one. The McIntosh boats were – 'Loyal', BF 1488 for Alex Smith Portessie and Alex Smith, Iainstown and 'Fidelity', BF 1479 for Joseph, James and David Smith, Portessie. The zulu from Thomson's Boatyard was for George and James Coull, Buckpool.

On Saturday McIntosh launched a zulu, 'Kelravoch Castle' for a Nairn man, from their Iainstown shipyard. On Saturday Thomson launched the 'Cathie', BF 1490 for Wm. Cowie and 'Dougal' for a Barra fisherman. In Aberdeen the drifter 'Ladysmith' was launched. She had the same dimensions as the 'Fruitful' 81x18x9.

**The extensions proposed for Cluny Harbour were – the addition of 2 outer basins enclosed by an extension of the north pier from the Baron Street beach and a new inner pier running north to south. The west most basin is stated to enclose 18 acres.**

**The depth at low water at the harbour entrance to be 15'**

**Fishermen had already criticised the proposed mouth and entrance being directly open to the heaviest seas.**

**Others pointed out the benefit to the mouth of the present Cluny Harbour derived from the recent extension of the north pier.**

**A huge audience was present at the public meeting held on Wednesday April 20 to discuss the Buckie Harbour question.**

**In a vote taken Cluny Harbour and extensions versus the Craigenroan Harbour the majority voted for Cluny Harbour. It would be twice as big as Craigenroan with the proposed extension and would not cost twice as much to build. In addition it was more central.**

Apr 28 G.P.Gibson, Photographic Chemist, Cameras, stand and hand.

May 5 **The tennis courts at the Buckie Bowling Green opened for the first time on Saturday 7 May 1904.**

**The building now known as the 'Church of Christ in 1999, didn't reach the upset price of £500 and was withdrawn.**

May 12 The foundation stone was laid of St James RC chapel and house (now the Monastery Restaurant) mason Messrs A. Milne and Son, Buckie. It was blessed by the Abbot of Fort Augustus and laid by Bishop Chisholm, Aberdeen. The buildings were to cost £2,000 and a gift from Sir Robert Gordon, Letterfourie. It being a condition that a priest shall be maintained there permanently with the monks of Fort Augustus having the charge.

**The town council tried to introduce a speed limit through the town but no agreement was reached. A speed of 7 mph for motor bikes was suggested.**

May 26 **Charles Bonnyman and Co. Portgordon, opened their new shop at 6 Station Road on 23 May 1904.**

John Sudding, Postman, Portgordon left for his new charge of Cullen and Grange.

June 2 John McIntosh, Draper, was holding a Removal Sale with goods offered at 25% below retail prices.

Plans were submitted to the town council for a blacksmith's shop at Harbourhead for Mr John Smith. This was passed.

June 9 The Enzie Pic-nic and Games were advertised for Saturday June 25 in a field near to the railway station at Enzie. The field belonged to Mr Stables, farmer, Cuttlebrae. The Games to be open to contestants from the parishes of Rathven and Bellie only. Medals to be awarded for most points in heavy and light competitions and also in the air gun competition.

The games to start at 2.30 p.m. prompt. A. I. Morrison's String Band to play for the dancing. Admission, adults 9d with children 4d. Tea to be served at 5 p.m. Secretary, C. Stables, Clochan.

William May, Joiner, Cabinet Maker and Funeral Undertaker took over the premises in Cullen recently occupied by the Nicol Bros. on Seafield Street.

“Cluny “ cycles built from the finest material and fully guaranteed for 2 years by George Webster, Cycle Builder, Cluny Square. Stove enamelled from 8/6 to 10/6 per machine.

**Tee name – Reid ‘Cardie’**

Buckie Town Council were still debating the purchase of Cluny Harbour.

**It was proposed to publish on 25 June 1904, the first issue of a new publication entitled “The Cullen Record”. An illustrated weekly journal of 16 pages and cover at a cost of 1d.**

June 16 Drybridge Pic-nic and Highland Games was advertised to take place on Saturday 3 July . Open to all comers and starting at 1.30 p.m. Heavy and Light events, Piping, dancing and air gun competition. A good string band to be in attendance with a new dance platform and large marquee on the ground. Tea to be served at 5 p.m. Admission – Gentlemen, 1/-, ladies, 6d and children 4d. James McCurrach, secretary.

T.D. Yule, Drapery Warehouse, was to move from Seaview Place to more commodious premises at 30 West Church Street.

**Opening announcement** – Charles R .Mitchell, Joiner, Cartwright and Funeral Undertaker, Broadley, Enzie.

The first advert for a long time – H. W.Gunn, Cycle and Motor Agent, 17 West Church Street (In 1999 this shop was called the Candy Box – a sweetie shop etc. belonging to the family of Johnston who had the business next door – Banffshire Advertiser)

The death was announced this week of Peter Thain, Boatbuilder of 99 Main Street, Buckpool, at the age of 55. He was previously a parish councillor and town councillor.

A deputation from the town council was again to meet with representatives of the Cluny Estates to discuss the purchase of the Cluny Harbour.

June 23 Buckie experienced a bad dust storm, elsewhere the gale-force wind toppled trees and tore out bushes, especially. in the Elgin area. In the Enzie it was reported that the gale had blown the top surface off a field requiring Swedish turnips to be re-sown.

A service of praise was held in the Enzie Parish Church on Sunday evening with a collection taken for the Sunday School.

Pinder – Ord circus was to pay a visit to Buckie.

June 30 The same notice that follows had been in the paper for a considerable time. Was this the first meetings of what was to become the Baptist Church?

A meeting will take place in the Volunteer Hall on Sunday first followed by Communion at 11 a.m. The Rev. Hugh McKenzie will preach ‘The Duty of Christian Joy’.

A Gospel Meeting will also take place at 7.45 p.m. when the Rev Hugh McKenzie will speak and sing. Sankey’s Hymns will be sung. All are cordially invited to both meetings.

L.T. McGarth, was much more than just an ironmonger and was the first in Buckie to advertise galvanised iron corrugated roofing.

George Webster who advertised himself as a bicycle builder also had an advert stating that he was open for carving, gilding, and picture frame making. He also had in stock, artists materials.

In another advert, George Webster, Cycle Builder, Cluny Square was advertising the 1904 ‘Cluny Cycle’ made in Buckie.

Webster had another advert praising the Victoria bicycle. Everywhere renowned for their stability, longevity and beauty of design and finish. The cycle of satisfaction at all prices. Call and inspect the various models.

John Esson (Draper) Cyclist Outfitter, Bridge Place His advert also said that he was an agent for motor cycles and had made an arrangement with a firm of skilled mechanics to have all repairs done at especially low charges and with promptitude.

At the local police court what was described as an unusual charge saw Annie Clark, 5 Portessie accused of having allowed her chimney to go on fire. She pled guilty. Mr Mackay, burgh prosecutor said that he was not in the habit of pressing these charges but on this occasion there were a lot of nets hanging outside that were set on fire and burned.

The bailie (Birmie) said this was an unusual charge and they were not in the way of having them brought up there. He was not going to do anything to the accused who was admonished.

Poor weather had an affect on the attendance at the Enzie Pic-nic and Games which took place in a field belonging to Mr Stables, Cuttlebrae, near Enzie Station.

James McCurrach and John Murdoch were the judges of the heavy and light events with George Grigor, James McCurrach and Adam Smith judges of the dancing.

Tea was served at 6 p.m. Dancing continued for several hours after the games were finished to music by Mr Morrison. The V.O.T. to Mr and Mrs Stables was given by Mr John Murdoch.

First in the heavy hammer with a throw of 84'18" was Paterson. Cowie was first in the light hammer with a throw of 100'4". Sudding won the heavy stone with a throw of 37'62 and the light stone with a throw of 38'3". Nicol reached a height of 20 with a throw of the 56 lb. weight with Cowie reaching 36' with the 28lb weight.

A Nicol won the medal in the heavy events for most points

In the high leap James Geddes reached a height of 5'1", John Geddes, 4'10" with W. Quinn third.

James Geddes was first again for vaulting with a jump of 8'6"

In the long leap he came first with a jump of 18'1". John Geddes won the hop step and leap with a jump of 37'2". John Geddes won both the short race and also the long race.

James Geddes won the medal for most points in the light competitions.

The ladies High Schottische was won by Jeannie Stewart with Mary Innes coming second.

In the air gun competition the first three were Murdoch, then Milton followed by Garden.

Other competitors in the heavy events were Stronach and Geddes and in the light, J Fraser, J. Scorgie and W. Imlah.

The winners in the children's sections were - high leap - 11-14 - R. Shand; 7-8 J. Shand. Vaulting - Wm. McKenzie; Long Leap, A.Grieve; Hop Step and Leap - W.Wilson; short race, A. Milton; long race - Wm.Wilson; three legged race Wm. Wilson and Wood.

Girl's short race 11-14 - M.Grant; short race 7-10 - E.Green; long race 11-14 - M.Grant; Three leg race 11-14 - B.Gordon and M.Grant and from 7-10 - E.Green and M.Thomson.

Other child competitors - boys - A.Innes, A.Milton, T.Rodgers, C.Grieve, Brander, Moore, Allan.

Girls - E. McQueen, B.Gordon, W.Conlon, J.Stewart, A.Newlands, M.Moore, L.Paterson and E.Sim.

Committee - Peter Stewart, Robert Sim, George Grigor, James Innes, George Newlands, James Duncan, John Adams, Charles Mitchell and Charles Stables, secretary.

**July 7 The Cluny Estates agreed reluctantly (according to the town council spokesperson) to accept the reduced price for Cluny Harbour of £32,000, the option being open up until March 1905. This would be the complete figure with no postponed bond as had been previously suggested.**

**All members of the town council were not fully convinced though some felt that the offer should be accepted.**

**The provost and town clerk put their names to the option with the Cluny Estates, regarding the purchase of Cluny harbour and lands adjacent to it. This did not mean that they were yet to go ahead with the purchase on the Estate's terms.**

James Mackay, Draper, 5 East Church Street was inviting tenders for shops and dwelling houses he aimed to have built on East Church Street. (Mackay's Buildings at the junction of Shanks Lane and East Church Street)

James Mackay also had a notice in the paper advertising a great number of doors, windows and wooden beams etc. from a building at 26 East Church Street.

Truelove, Hairdresser, Cluny Hotel Buildings, was advertising umbrellas made to order and also repairs to broken ones.

Edward Hillocks, Draper, 20 Main Street, was advertising wall paper.

*John Fraser, labourer, residing at 93 Portknockie travelled from Buckie to Findochty by train without paying his fare. He was fined £2 plus £1.12. 6 expenses with the option of 20 days in jail. He was given a fortnight to pay.*

*It worked out at 30/- per mile.*

Jul 14 A sale was advertised of the stock of boots, shoes and leather and such like goods belonging to the executry estate of the late Mr Andrew Boyne and Messrs A & A Boyne Shoemakers Auchenthalrig.

The seventh annual Highland Games were advertised to take place in Garmouth on Saturday 23 August. The events open to all comers.

Thomas D.Yule, 30 West Church Street, West End Millinery House was advertising a clearing sale. (This shop was later occupied by Munro, Draper, it was also the gas showrooms, among other uses. In March 1999 it was taken over by the shop next door, R. S. Cruickshank, as an extension to his Radio and TV. etc. shop.)

**It was noticeable that two appointees had been made by the Methodist Church locally, A.West for Portessie and Joseph Mace for Portgordon. Buckie wasn't mentioned.**

The Banffshire Advertiser told of receiving some lovely strawberries from Mr A.Ewen, Caretaker, 40 Land Street. By the report it would seem that strawberries weren't grown locally to the same extent as today.

The Luath Burns Club had an excursion to Gordon Castle with 20 members making up the party. They left Cluny Square at 2 p.m. and journeyed to Fochabers where they inspected the castle surroundings and gardens. They had their photograph taken by Mr Knowles before moving on to the Grant Arms where they had tea before returning to Buckie at 9.30p.m.

The town council received plans for a stable and semi-detached house on Baron Street for Mr McConnachie adjacent to the gas works.

Plans were also received from James Mackay for the work he intended to do on East Church Street.

Jul 21 Tenders and estimates were invited for alterations at both Clochan and Portgordon Schools.

Peter Smith and Co. Fish Curers signed the Trust Deed.

Advert – A dance will be held on the Drybridge Pic-nic Ground on Saturday 30 July starting at 4p.m. A string band will be in attendance, Gentlemen 6d with ladies free. Refreshments available on the field at moderate charges. James Geddes, Hon, secretary.

The Banffshire Rifle Volunteers were to be holding their Annual Wapinshaw at Braehead, Keith on Saturday 30 July.

Tenders and estimates were invited for the erection of the caretaker's house at the cemetery on Barhill Road.

It was reported by the burgh surveyor that the bathing shelters had been erected on the beaches for the summer.

The golden wedding took place on Saturday of Mr and Mrs Wm. McCurrach, Woodhead, Enzie. They were married at the farm of Drodland, Glen of Newmill on 22 June 1854.

The Woodhead Picnic, and Games, an annual and much enjoyed event also took place on Saturday when a large attendance fully enjoyed themselves. A collection had been taken with a purse of gold sovereigns being handed over to the couple.

The largest steamer yet built in Britain, the 'Caronia' was launched from the shipyard of John Brown and Co., on the Clyde, this week.

Jul 28 Advert – Miss Hendry, Dressmaker, 25 West Church Street.

**The "Cullen Record and Visitors List" Leading Contents for this week –**

**Her Medical Adviser –(Short Story)**

**Cullen as a Health Resort – Its Golf Courses and Links**

**How Panama Hats are made**

**Does it pay to take a holiday**

**A picnic at Cullen**

**The Round About**

**Things Strange and Wonderful**

**Young Folk's page – illustrated**

**Cullen visitor's list**

**Useful information etc.**

Sold at Mr Seivright, Chemist, Cullen      Mr Inglis, Chemist, Cullen

Mrs Mustard, Castle Terrace; Mr Robertson, Chemist, Portknockie  
Joseph Addison, Merchant, Portknockie; Banffshire Advertiser  
By post penny /ha'penny – 16 pages and cover 1d - Published on Saturday.

Peter Fair 1904 was dry after a dull start. There were between two to three hundred horses forward for sale attracting buyers from all over Scotland. There were very few good horses with the highest figure reached being £60. There were only a few cattle with no sheep.

There were too many people looking for a harvest fee so that wages were greatly in the farmer's favour. The drop in wages was the most severe of any yet recollected being from 20-25/- less than the previous year.

Men to build being offered £6; men to bind £4-£5.15; women £3.10-£4 with boys £2.10.

The dry weather that lasted throughout the summer meant a cut in the straw crop by half but it was likely that the heads would be full of grain. The harvest was likely to be a month earlier in starting this year.

The affection people had for Mr and Mrs McCurrach, Woodhead, Clochan, Enzie, was marked when James Deans, Edinburgh wrote a poem to mark their golden wedding anniversary. The poem is titled **A Golden Wedding**

Hail aged pair a thousand lines  
I hail thee with my heart and soul;  
The long loud clash of wedding chimes  
Ring through the air to here my goal.

The pledges of a bygone youth;  
Well kept vows of a maiden fair;  
Repeated, solemnised by truth  
And guarded by a father's care.

O may it be the love of yore  
Rekindled in a warmer bliss;  
A love to last for ever more  
Tarnished by no Judas kiss.

Tho aged hearts, in care and sorrow,  
Tho aged hearts long since one;  
Longing for the brighter morrow  
Waiting for the sweet "Well done".

Messiah of the blessings given  
Grant the sweetest and the best;  
Though tears on earth – a smile from heaven  
And peace to calm an aged breast.

Aug 4 Enzie Annual Pic-nic and Games to be held at the Holl on Saturday 13 August. Competitions open to those from Bellie and the Enzie. Games to start at 2 o'clock.  
Morrison's Band. Tea served at 5.30 p.m.  
Full particulars seen in bills. Alex C. Paterson, Holl, secretary.

The first drifter launched by the firm of W.R.McIntosh under its present name, took place off the beach at Iainstown despite the business being in existence for close on 100 years through grandfather, father and son.

The boat, the 'Stateley' was built for Messrs A. Smith (Swanson) and Co. Iainstown

The report spoke of how the price of boats had increased over a relatively short period of time. Thirty four years before (around 1870) a first class scaff cost only £70, latterly first class zulu boats, £600 and now the steam drifter demands an outlay of £2,300. During the past 20 years fishing boats and vessels turned out by McIntosh's yards, at Portessie and Iainstown would form a fleet numbering well on to 200.

Miss Margaret Jessie Paterson, Midway Cottage, meantime a student in Glasgow passed in the Matriculation Exam of London University.

The contractors to build Mackay's Buildings on East Church were – Mason – A. Milne and Son; Slater and Plumber, John Barclay; Carpenter, W.Geddes and Sons, Portessie; Plasterer, William Ingram, Cullen; Painter, Robert Duncan and Son.

The Enzie School pupils went on holiday for 8 weeks on Friday.

Some alterations were to take place at the school during this time – Mason , A.Morrison, Carpenter, Messrs, A.Hendry and Sons, Plumber, John Barclay.

A report in the paper spoke of Lossiemouth bemoaning the dearth of fishing boats now landing fish at the port. Only a handful compared to over 100 that used to be common. Peterhead and Fraserburgh were now the chosen ports with Lossiemouth, Hopeman and Burghead once great centres for landing and curing now things of the past. The traders complain of the absence of boats while those who depended on the boats landing fish, such as gutters, coopers, labourers and lodging house keeper now sadly miss the trade.

Aug 11 Deskford was advertising its annual Flower Show and Pic-nic. This to be held on Wednesday 24 august.

The contractors for the new house, shop and stable on Baron Street for Mr McConnachie, Chemist, were Morrison, mason, A.Murray, carpenter, James Ingram, plasterer.

**“Picturesque Cullen” A handsome and Picturesque book containing 16 whole plate views at a cost of 1/-**

**Buckie Town Council had not yet agreed among themselves to purchase Cluny Harbour. This was made plain when a representative of the Portessie Committee (acting for the Craigenroan Harbour Project) asked for money back that had been loaned to the town council.**

Aug 25 Three shop premises on High Street meanwhile occupied by Mr Green, Draper, Mr Watson, Provision Merchant and Mr McGregor, Watchmaker were being offered for sale. (This block is now known as the Virginia Buildings)

Also for sale at this time was 50 West Church Street consisting of a dwelling house, baker’s shop and bakehouse, also stable and hay loft with other conveniences. It belonged to the late Mr. Byers, Baker and is now occupied by David Lindsay Fowler, Baker and Confectioner.

In the first game of the new football season Buckie Thistle were to meet Elgin Haugh Rovers at Cluny Park on Saturday afternoon 27 August. The kick off to take place at 3.45p.m. Admission adults 3d boys 1d with ladies free.

Buckie Thistle held their AGM in the Institute hall with J. L. McNaughton being appointed president, A. B.Hendry, vice president; captain, A. Duncan, vice captain, W. Forbes; secretary/treasurer, W. Hendry.

An open air Temperance meeting on Cluny Square attracted a large crowd.

The Enzie Pic-nic and Games at the farm of the Holl, postponed a week because of heavy rain the previous week, took place on Saturday. (This was the second Pic-nic and Games in the Enzie this year) They were held in a field given by Mr Andrew Stewart, farmer. The judges were – James Duncan, Broadley and William McKenzie, Auchenreath.

The winner in the heavy events was A. Sudding, Portgordon, who threw the heavy hammer a distance of 88’. Other competitors in the heavy section were – P. Bonnyman, Clochan, J. McBeath, Broadley, A.Gordon, Hillpark and James Grieve, Bogmoor.

Miss Guthrie, Muir of Clochan won the brooch in the ladies' highland schottische dance competition.

Sept 1 Concern was being expressed at the amount of erosion being done by the sea at Commercial Road.

Sept 8 James Mackay bought a large amount of goods at a salvage sale of goods belonging to Andrew and Thomson, Union Street, Aberdeen who suffered £12,000 loss due to a fire.

Following a visit by the Duke of Gordon and a meeting of Portgordon fishermen it was proposed to both deepen and extend the harbour.

Sept 15 A trip on the SS Earnholm was being offered at a cost of 3/- to view the Channel fleet then at Invergordon.

Sept 22. **Opening announcement** - 29 East Church Street. He was to carry on a business of wood carver and picture frame maker. His advert spoke of him having worked in Glasgow, Dublin, Chicago and other places.

R. Watson, who had taken over the Globe Supply Stores on High Street had introduced Trading Stamps. A stamp was given for every 4d spent. They could be redeemed later. An early form of co-opie 'divvie' or Green Shield Stamps.

Mr Charles Forbes, Baker, Bridgend, bought property on Baron Street from Mrs Nicholson, Fochabers.

The Thistle team to play Elgin City was – Imlah, Forbes, Robertson; Duncan, Reid and Thomson; Valentine, Fender, McKenzie, Shearer and Milne. Reserves, Birnie and Duncan.

Sept 29 **Opening announcement** - R. Tindall and Sons, Ironmongers, Iron Merchants and Tinsmiths (Wholesale and Retail) Cluny Harbour and 1 High Street were advising that they had added a tinsmith's department and were prepared to undertake the manufacture of all kinds of tin ware for domestic and other requirements. Lanterns, tanks, funnels, milk cans etc.

Madame Alma, MBIMS, Professional Palmist and Crystal Gazer can be consulted daily at the 6 ½ d Bazaar in the Fishermen's Hall. For a short time only.

Notice – Miss Reaper was advertising that she had commenced dressmaking at 58 West Church Street with all orders being promptly attended to. Good fit and style guaranteed.

R. Watson was giving notice that he had been forced to discontinue the stamp scheme only recently introduced due to a misunderstanding with the stamp company.

The street lamps, gas, were lit for the first time this season on Tuesday. In Portessie not all of the lamps, to be lit by paraffin, had yet been erected.

A Harvest Home was held at Bogs, Enzie, with the farm also started to plough. With both taking place marked the design of a very early year.

The Hope of Buckie Juvenile Good Templar Lodge was to resume work on Monday first.

Buckie Town Council held a special private meeting to discuss a letter received from Cluny Trustees regarding the proposed new reservoir.

In the match between Buckie Thistle and Elgin City held in the Public Park, Buckie beat Elgin by four goals to two in what was a friendly match.

**A proposal had been put forward to construct a new, 18 hole, golf course between Tugnet and Portgordon (Now called Spey Bay.) It was suggested that the railway authorities might be approached to making a railway halt near Auchenreath for golfers.**

A woman and child received injuries when they fell over the bank at Dougal's Brae to land some distance below on the bank of the Buckie Burn. It seemed that some bigger children had taken away a toy and the child of 18 months had gone after them. The mother, Mrs Wm. Cowie 'Spirral' saw the infant teetering on the top of the steep bank and rushed to grab her but only resulted in propelling both over the top. Both survived but the child had her leg broken above the knee while the mother suffered extensive bruising.

Oct 6 The Gospel Meetings being held each Sunday in the Volunteer Hall conducted by Rev. Hugh McKenzie were still continuing.

A shop, bakehouse and dwelling house at 16-18 St Peter's Terrace was for sale. (It is believed that the premises were originally owned by McWilliam, Bakers, who later went to High Street.)

**Buckie Town Council were again to discuss the 'Harbour Question' A letter was received from the Board of Trade, London which spoke of the need for a public inquiry to take place in Buckie. The inquiry, which would involve several learned law men, would debate the respective values of Craigenroan Harbour as a refuge for the fishing fleet in the neighbourhood and Cluny Harbour. The town council were given orders to see to accommodation and the advertising of the public inquiry.**

Some Findochty loons were fined 2/6 of 24 in jail for stealing neeps from Netherton. A plea on their behalf spoke of the ground being cleared for the construction of a hall on the site.

Oct 13 A dispenish sale was advertised to take place at the Core farm, Enzie, then tenanted by Mr McConnachie. The sale items included – 5 horses, 1 colt of two years, 1 brown roadster, 'Dairyman' a horse famed for its

trotting properties, a small pony with trap and harness, suitable for children. Seven dairy cows, 8 bullocks, 10 yearlings, 9 calves as well as a quantity of poultry.

**Opening announcement** - George Scott, Monumental Sculptor, Baron Street.

**Mr Alex Smith MA was appointed science master at Buckie Secondary School at a salary of £140 per annum. He came from North Berwick.**

There was no sale for the baker's business at 50 West Church Street, presently occupied by Fowlers.

At the recent meeting of Lodge Gordon Freemasons, R.W.M. Bros. T. Campbell, presented Bros. Wares with a purse and golden sovereigns. Bros. Wares was leaving Buckie.

The Russo- Japanese War was still continuing with news being given of a Japanese gunboat being sunk.

The members of the town council were told by Provost Simpson that the hotel bill for food for prisoners held in the Buckie lock up from 14 May through until 13 September came to £1.8.4. The bill was to be paid. (It didn't look as if the prisoners had been over-fed)

Oct 20 The Drapery Stock that had belonged to Mr Wares at 4 Low Street, who had signed the Trust Deed, was bought over by a firm from Keith.

A tattie, of the Champion' variety weighing 2lbs 5 oz was dug up from the garden of William Thomson, Temperance Hotel, Low Street.

Oct 27 Wm. Spencer, Buckie Sawmills and Engineering Works, Cluny Harbour, (formerly owned by G. Cowie, Sons and Co.) was advertising cut timber, the manufacture of carts and lorries, wood turning, engineering and blacksmith work also horse shoeing.

The following trades were invited to tender for the work of constructing a bakery for Charles Forbes on Baron Street – mason, carpenter, plumber, plasterer, painter and glazier.

The proposed golf course between Tugnet and Portgordon was to resemble that at St Andrews.

A concert was given in Enzie Public School, Clochan to raise funds for the Morrison-Mutterer Fund for the behove of the Poor.

Vocal contributions were given by Misses Gray, Simpson and Reid also Dr Bennett, all of Buckie. Miss Guthrie, Clochan, Miss and Mr Mair, Portgordon, Mr David Reid, Portgordon and several others gave string selections. An entertaining part of the programme was furnished by a gramophone in charge of Mr A. J.Taylor, Enzie Post Office. Mrs Reid, School house Portgordon acted as accompanist.

A dyke was built on the Stroup Brae, Findochty, on the south side of the road, It will do duty as a retaining wall preventing loose sand being carried on to the road.

The newly built SS James Crombie made her maiden visit to Buckie. She was to succeed the SS Earnholm. Her visit engendered manifested a lot of interest. The new vessel was said to be able to carry 40 passengers on a long run with 310 on a short run.

Nov 3 A sale of boatbuilder's plant was advertised at the premises of the later Peter Thain, Boatbuilder, Main Street, Buckpool.

**A sale of furniture, implements, and potato and turnip crop belonging to the late Andrew Boyne, shoemaker, Auchenhalrig, also boots and shoes for men women and children and sewing machines etc.**

The public inquiry in Buckie held to discuss the Harbour Question cost the ratepayers between £400-£500.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon offered the site proposed for the new 18 hole golf course at Tugnet at exceeding favourable terms. Mr Lowson, St Andrews, Fife, had been retained to lay out the course.

**On pages 6, 7 and 8 of the B .A. a report is given on the Harbour Question inquiry. The editor said that though the commissioner had given no decision that it did seem as if the end of the road with regard to the Craigenroan Harbour had been reached.**

The three shops on High Street in what is known as the Virginia Buildings was again being offered for sale.

**Features of the Harbour Question inquiry are given on page 4 with part II of the inquiry itself being given on pages 6, 7 and 8**

Nov 17 *John Barclay, Plumber, Cluny Harbour, gave notice that his son who had much experience abroad and elsewhere was to join the firm which would henceforth be known as John Barclay and Son.*

**Opening announcement** - Mitchell and Robertson, Bakers and Biscuit Makers, gave notice that they were opening at 16 St Peter's Terrace.

**Part three account of the Harbour Inquiry found on pages 6 and 7**

The Buckie drifter 'Frigate Bird', BF 398, skipper George Murray 'Bodge' was lost off Yarmouth when she ran aground. The crew were all saved. The boat was built by W.R. McIntosh, Portessie.

Notice on front page – John Barclay, Slater, thanking the public for their support over many years and advising that his son had joined the firm.

A 4lb loaf was reduced in price from 7d to 6d.

Vandalism was rife in Buckie, with glass breaking being all too common. At the weekend two glass globes recently erected outside the premises of R.Tindall and Sons on High Street were smashed as was the plate window of Pozzi, Newsagent. Just recently the front door glass of Gibson, Chemist on West Church Street was broken with Hillocks, Draper having two windows smashed.

**Tee name – Sutherland 'Jakie' Findochty.**

Seafield Lodge I.O.G.T. Portessie held a function

**A report on the Harbour Inquiry was given on pages 6, 7 and 8**

Dec 1 *Buckie Parish Church planned to hold a Grand Bazaar in the Fishermen's Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 15, 16 and 17 December to increase the endowment of the church.*

Bruce Miller and Co. George Street, Aberdeen had an advert in the B .A. They were selling pianos from £16 to £45 and organs from £5 to £100.

The paper spoke of a squad of men being busy levelling and improving the north east quadrant of Cluny Square with a flight of steps constructed next to the railway fence leading down on to the Stroup Brae. It was hoped that some money might be given, via subscriptions to enable improvements to be made to the south east quadrant.

The Virginia Buildings on High Street were again offered for sale at a reduced figure of £1,600 but again there were no taker.

**A further report on the Harbour Inquiry is given on page 6 and 7.**

*The Banffshire Advertiser had a note to the effect that they were to publish a booklet giving a complete report of the Harbour Inquiry*

Dec 8 David Grieve, who had been a postman in the Enzie for the previous 6 years was to leave for Glasgow. At a meeting with friends he was presented with a purse and golden sovereigns as a mark of respect.

The Christian Temperance Mission were holding a whole week of meetings, talks and services in the Fishermen's Hall. This was being ran under the auspices of the Buckie Lodge of the Good Templars.

**Opening announcement** - Charles Rally, Hairdresser and Perfumer, Keith was to open a branch shop on Cluny Place in the building formerly occupied by Messrs Whyte Bros. Photographers. Gents 3d, boys 2d, singeing 3d, shampoo, 3d shampoo 1 1/2d. Opening hours – 8.30 am – 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturday. Wednesday half day, closed at 2 p.m.

Not to be outdone Truelove, Hairdresser, Cluny Hotel, Buildings had a big advert alongside that of Rally's

**A report is given of the opening of St James' RC Chapel, Letterfourie, on Friday, 2 December.**

**Another extract of the Harbour Inquiry is given this week on pages 6 and 7.**

Dec 15 Robert M. Campbell, 5 Cathedral Street, Buckpool, had a notice in the paper, stating that he was prepared to carry out bill-posting and bell ringing.

Robert Hendry, auctioneer was continuing with the Trust Sale of Draper's goods at 4 Low Street. Goods were being sold by auction at 6 p.m. every night.

P.McLaren, Merchant, East Church Street, had a big advert this week in the paper.

A number of houses in Findochty were flooded when rain water spilled down the Stripe (It has taken a long time for the powers that be to get this problem resolved as people were still being affected as late as 1998.)

**Part VII of the Harbour Inquiry was given this week on pages 6 and 7.**

Dec 22 The public were advised via a big bill in the paper on a Cinematograph Performance that was to take place in the Fishermen's Hall. The notice spoke of Animated Pictures, and Super Concert. Some of the films that were to be shown were – the most marvellous picture of the world ever seen – Wonders of the Deep, Kingdom of the Fairies – 30 magical coloured tableaux, 1,1000 feet long, produced at a cost of £2,000. No picture has caused such a sensation.

Shot v shell – Japan's Struggle For Freedom. Film shots of this war.

Great American Mail Train Robbery – 700 feet long – thrilling to the highest degree.

The Tragic Elopement – or Wrecking of a Happy Home- 350 feet long full of pathos and exciting.

Boys will be Boys – a regular screamer, 7 laughable scenes, exceedingly funny.

Uncle Sam's trunk of Barnum and Baileys freaks and beauties, direct from London and continental markets.

Concert Party – Madame Pattie Hicks – Scotland's leading lady violinist; Archibald Murray, Refined American Entertainer; Jeannie Hendry, The Human Butterfly; George W.Walker, Famous Scottish Vocalist; Marguerite Low, Solo pianist and accompanist.

Admission charges – reserved seats 2/-, unreserved 1/6 and 1/-. Back promenade (limited) 6d

Afternoon performance starting at 4.45 p.m. – admission, children 3d and 2d with adults 1/-.

The reporter of the B.A. having seen the show had this to say – The pictures bear ample evidence that the wondrous resources of the Cinematograph are not yet exhausted. (He couldn't have known but he was absolutely correct and again could not have visualised how much further they would go.)

A week long sale of unredeemed pledges, including brooches, rings and watches etc. was advertised to take place at 17 Baron Street by D.P.McCall, Auctioneer and Valuator.

James Mackay (Draper) now also licensed auctioneer and valuator was to open new auction rooms East Church Street (later to be called Shanks Lane). The first sale in the newly finished sale rooms was scheduled to take place on December 24 at 7 p.m. with a second a week later on Hogmanay.

The contractors to build the villa on High Street for D. L. McGregor, Watchmaker and Jeweller, were – John Dawson, mason; W. Geddes and Son, carpenter, Portessie, J and T. Campbell, plumber; Slater, John Barclay and Son; Painter, R.Johnston, Plasterer, R.Hume. the architect was Mr Geddes.

The team chosen to represent, **the blue and whites** (Buckie Thistle) against Huntly United in a tie in the Elgin and District Cup was as follows – Birnie, Robertson and Forbes, Duncan, Fender and Thomson, Milne, Newman, McKenzie, Rob and A.N.Other.

**Tee name – Cowie 'Dodde' Portessie.**

*Badenhannan was described as a district at this time along with Shielburn and Drybridge. This was stated when a wide collection was being made at this time for infirmaries and hospitals. It was also the name of a small farm and today in 1999 it is still the name of a house off the Buckie to Deskford road beyond Shielburn. (This information is included since an article written in the magazine of May 1999 said that they could not find this place on any map.) My father –in –law, Jimmy Gordon, Buckie, had a saying that probably arose from a day when the steam mill was doing a thrashing there – "Plenty mait at Badenhannan".*

The aim of the Parish Church congregation in holding the bazaar in the Fishermen's Hall was to raise sufficient funds that would enable the church to be removed from the list of smaller livings (Presumably this would entitle the minister to a larger salary)

The layout of the stalls in the hall was praised taking the form of tiers from the front so that there was a splendid show of goods on display.

There were the following stalls – Stall one – Congregation which had on show and for sale the following – pictures, knitted work, fancy goods, quilts, tables, cushions, photo frames, binoculars, sheepskin mats, clock, children's clothes. Congregation stalls 2 and 3 held similar goods

There were two Guild stalls on which the following were displayed – tea cosies, pinafores, cushions, sewn and knitted work.

The Sweet and Flower stall was tastefully done up with pot plants and holly while on the Refreshment Stall one could buy a great variety of cakes of all sorts and sizes.

A total number of 63 lady members of the congregation manned the stalls.

When the minister of the church Rev M. Anderson came to total up the taking over the three days and evenings at 11.30p.m on Saturday the sum came to £496. This exceeded all expectations and with additional sums added the figure came to over £500.

The Town Band, under the leadership of Mr Wright discoursed selections in the gallery on Thursday night and Saturday afternoon and evening. William Thomson conducted the auction sale towards the end of the bazaar on Saturday.

Dec 29 The Arradoul smithy on Cairnfield estate was to let along with 4 acres of arable land. Mr Grant, Thorneybank Croft was available to show the boundaries given a day's notice.

### **The Harbour Inquiry part VIII was given on pages 6 and 7.**

In his summing up of the past year the editor wrote – Big changes took place during 1904 greater than for a number of years previous. One of the major changes was seen in the fishing industry with the move from sailing boats to steam drifters. Another change was seen in the character of the four great herring fishings of the year. Buckie was deserted to a degree never seen before as boats and fishermen went straight from the west coast fishing to Shetland then on the east coast. This bypass has had an adverse effect on such as curers and others, which were it to continue, will be feared not well for the town. Occasional visits from drifters did not compensate for the poor summer fishing.

Thankfully for many the Yarmouth fishing was good. The number of marriages taking place afterwards was in no way diminished with people of the belief that where there is still life there is hope.

The commercial life in the town has felt the downturn with commercial travellers cutting back on their visits because of a fall off in trade. Building, boat-building and fishing boat furnishing trades have felt the effect too, with the number of hands being employed being reduced.

He continued that at this time not one shipyard from Portgordon to Portessie had an order on their books, whether this be of sail or drifter. Despite this it hadn't been all doom and gloom throughout the year for back in April the shipyards of McIntosh at Ianstown and Portessie launched five zulus and a drifter in July. George Thomson launched one large zulu and one small one. They also had a drifter on the stocks though a buyer for this had still to be found. They were also working on a haddock boat.

George Smith, Main Street launched one zulu and one drifter while along at Portgordon, George Grigor launched the steam propelled boat, 'Balm' with a zulu on hand. William 'Beal' Geddes was perhaps the busiest of all employing between 15 and 18 men constantly and launching no less than four drifters and one zulu boat.

The building trades were less busy than they had been the previous year with 27 plans for houses, stables, bake-houses, smiddies and extensions being less than the 30 of 1903 and 33 of 1902.