

1907

Jan 3 Gordon Lodge of Freemasons (589) were to hold their annual ball in the Masonic Institute hall, on Friday 18 January. Forty two couples were present.

Buckie Good Templars Institute were advertising a series of Pictorial Post Cards

Packet one contained the following – Buckie R.C.Church, St Peter's Road, 1870, St Ninian's Churchyard, Enzie; Presholm, R.C. Church, Craigmint Bridge, Baron Street, Beach, 1875.

Packet two – Episcopal Church Buckie, 1876, R.C. Church, 1870, Old Parish Church, Buckie, 1870, Rathven Market/Peter Fair, Baron Green – Buckie, 1866.

Packet three – Buckie Lodge I.O.G.T. officials , 1874, I.O.G.T. Institute, laying the foundation stone, High Street, Buckie, 1866, I.O.G.T. Institute, Buckie, Procession, Buckie to Keith 'Express', 1880, Old F.C. School, Buckie, 1870.

Price per packet – 4 1/2d, per post 6d. The series of (3 packets) 1/-, post free. To be had from the 'Advertiser' office.

In the for sale column of the B.A. there was a large number of zulu boats also one fifie, the Harmony BF 20007 belonging to J. Geddes, 18 Richmond Terrace, Portgordon.

The annual ball at Maryhill Farm, Drybridge took place the previous Friday when 30 couples were present. The dance began at 9pm and continued through until 4am with a break for tea at 10pm. Farmer, Mr Sim, kindly lent the barn for the occasion. Ross and Green provided music while Mr Jamieson was M.C. Mrs Green, Mrs McIntosh and Miss Russell provided the refreshments.

The sawmill and engineering business forming the trust estate of A. Rose Smith was sold for £1000 to Messrs James Jones and Sons Ltd, timber merchants, Larbert.

The newly appointed Master of Lodge Gordons, freemasons, was H.E. Stagg. Thomas Campbell was immediate Past Master.

The death took place of Mr A.W. Black, MP for Banffshire, following injuries sustained in a railway accident at Elliot Junction, a mile west of Arbroath, on Friday evening of the previous week. A blizzard was blowing at the time. Twenty-one people were killed in the train smash.

In his usual summing up of the year past (1906) the editor had this to say. The introduction of drifters during the past year was more emphasised than ever. A number of new houses were built in the town also the Wesleyan Methodist Church and some coal stores. Prospects for the building trades in the year ahead looked to be good.

Following a very poor herring fishing on the west coast the Shetland and east coast fishing was good while high prices obtained in East Anglia sent 'a lot of gold to this quarter'.

One measure of the increased wealth in the town may be judged by the fact that £1,000 raised at different bazaars in the town was not uncommon.

With local boatbuilders getting the hang of building drifters they were determined to cash in on the market with all yards kept busy. A couple of dozen drifters were either in hand or on order.

The re-opening of the steam sawmilling business at the harbour by James Jones was good news for local boatbuilders who could get their timber cut to size locally.

Mr W.R. McIntosh built 5 drifters during the past 12 months with a further three on order. Mr George Thomson built two drifters and 2 small boats with another drifter nearly ready to be launched with orders for two more, George Smith, Jun. built two drifters with 8 others on order. His father had another drifter on the stocks. In addition to those drifters built locally orders had been placed elsewhere when local builders had to decline, being unable to cope.

In Portgordon, William 'Beel' Geddes launched ten drifters during the year with work to keep over 40 men employed for a full 12 months ahead.

In Portknockie George Innes launched his first drifter with orders for more. In Cullen, Messrs Gardiner also built and launched their first drifter.

Jan 10 Clark's Pierrots and Comedy Show was to be presented in the Volunteer Hall.

Buckie Catholic Association were to present the original drama – ‘British Born’ in the St Andrew’s Hall.

Buckie Poultry, Pigeon, Cage Bird, Rabbit, Cat and Cavie Association were to hold a Grand Exhibition in the Fishermen’s Hall on Wednesday 16 January. Price of admission – from 9am until 12 noon – 1/- - in the afternoon and evening – 6d. Children half price.

A. Grant and R. Fraser- Jt. Secretaries.

George Thain, 38 Great Western Road was offering for sale the zulu fishing boat, Breadwinner, BF 1732. The boat was later withdrawn.

Rev Kerr, minister of the Enzie Free Church or ‘Cock-Hat’ Kirk, intimated to the congregation on Sunday that the debt on the new hall in Portgordon, now the Church of Scotland, Parish Church, had been paid off. The debt had been £252 but £160 had been raised from a sale of work, while young people had raised additional monies to take the figure to £202. Mr Kerr had collected a further £50 from friends outwith the congregation to clear off the remainder. He said how the congregation had to be congratulated for their efforts.

The first coal of the winter from the Mrs Bryson Memorial Coal Fund was distributed among the poor people of the parish of Rathven. The poor of the area, connected with the Parish Church also received the usual gifts of clothing and provisions supplied by the Women’s Guild.

The Huntly Volunteer Gymnastic Team (by kind permission of the officers) were to give an exhibition in the Fishermen’s Hall. During the interval the audience were to be entertained by Marie Rae, Aberdeen, soprano, Dan Fraser, Scots Comedian, Aberdeen.

Jan 17 A meeting took place in connection with the new golf course at Spey Bay. This took place at Fochabers-on- Spey (later called Spey Bay) station.

Mr Alex Murray died at St Paul, Minnesota, in the home of his son-in-law. He went out to America in September from Buckie where he resided in the Seatown in a house that was burned down. His wife who had been living temporarily at 5 Baron Street had intended to go out to join him very soon.

The first prize in the Good Templars Draw was a pony and trap, won by Mr George Michie, Brankumleys.

There were many other good prizes with Mr John Wilson, 4 Wilson’s Land winning a cigar case.

Buckie town council was again discussing the ‘Harbour Question’ It appeared that it was not all settled as one had reason to believe. Members agreed to open negotiations with the Cluny Trustees for the purchase of Cluny Harbour.

Buckie Thistle were beaten 4-0 by Aberdeen F.C. at Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen in the semi final of the Aberdeen Cup.

Jan 24 John Hay, who was at the time foreman to George Thomson, Shipbuilder, Buckie, was advertising that he aimed to start up on his own account, as a boatbuilder, at Kingston-on-Spey, and was open for orders.

The draper shops in the town were all again advertising cut price sales, namely – James Mackay, C.I. Shearer, John Sandison, Edward Hillocks, John Green, Leith Esson, Little Wonder, T. D. Yule, Robert Grant.

Mains of Gollachy, on the Letterfourie estate, was let to Messrs James Mair & Sons, Fleshers, Buckie.

The annual meeting of the Cluny Park Committee took place with one decision taken being that all football teams wishing to play a game there would have to pay 10/-

Tee name – Stewart ‘Dodam’

Jan 31 Alex Smith, Contracting Carter, Low Street, Buckie, signed the Trust Deed.

A concert took place in Enzie Public School with the object of introducing a singing class to be started by J. D. Knowles. John Dawson, Gollachy Woollen Mill, presided over a large audience. Contributors were – Mrs Reid, Miss N. Simpson, Miss Mona Campbell, Miss McCulloch, Adam Robertson, James Stewart, Mr Knowles, Master Strachan, A. Forbes (cornet), A. Nicol, Jun. (violin), A. Garden, Drybridge (violin), Miss Henderson, piano and accompanist.

- Feb 7 Among places where the prospective parliamentary candidates for Banffshire were to hold meetings was Bogmoor. (It would appear then that the county boundary must have been subsequently changed since from, at least pre WWII, the county boundary was marked by the Tynet Burn, with Bogmoor forming part of Morayshire.) A new MP was to be elected to take the place of Mr Black who died following a rail accident.

One of the candidates was Mr William Whitelaw, Nairn, Conservative, (whose son also named William Whitelaw died in the first week of July, 1999). The other candidate was Captain Waring. Liberal.

Tee name – Flett ‘Tosh’ – Findochty

Angelo Janetta, 8 St Peter’s Road, Buckpool, was fined 5/- or three days in jail for having his shop at 16A, open after 10pm. He pled guilty.

- Feb 14 Tee names - Smith ‘Jean’ (Portessie), Reid ‘Reekie’ (Buckie) Geddes ‘Geddie’ (Portgordon), Hendry ‘King’ (Portgordon), Smith ‘Jeckie’, Garden ‘Pap’, Smith ‘Jo’ (The last three all Portessie), Cowie ‘Rosie’, Reid ‘Mosh’, Murray ‘Farmer’ and Murray ‘Prince’.

A poem is found on page 7 column 5 titled – ‘Vote For Captain Waring’ by Nomad.

The Portessie Ratepayers held a meeting with a letter drafted to be sent to Buckie Town Council stating how as now part of the town they were opposed to the purchase of Cluny Harbour.

Dramatic Entertainment took place at Enzie Public School under the auspices of the Picnic committee. The performers were the Buckpool Dramatic Club who presented the drama – ‘Cramond Brig’ etc. Mr Newlands, who presided, thanked the audience for their attendance and apologised that all could not get seats. He suggested that through the committee they should try to get a public hall for the parish and was sure that if the public would support them in such a scheme as they did when entertainment was provided it would soon be accomplished.

- Feb 21 Opening announcement - George Watson, St Peter’s Place was advertising that he was to start up in business as a Paper Hanger, Glazier, Painter and Decorator.

Announcement - Robert M. Wilson, Organist and Choirmaster, Parish Church, Buckie, late of the parish church in Cove, Dumbarton and Finsbury Park, Church, London, was advertising that he was commencing teaching the piano, organ, harmonica as well as singing and the theory of music.

James Mackay was again in the business of buying up the stock of others. He was advertising that he had bought the goods of James Watson, 47 Broad Street, Aberdeen for the sum of £625.11.2 and was to have a special sale of the goods running parallel to his own sale stuff.

Captain Waring took Banffshire for the Liberal Party with a majority of 2009. Banffshire had been Liberal from at least 1893. The most popular candidate had been Black who took the most votes.

The Cluny Hotel was sold to a man from Inverness who as the B.A. said, ‘knew the hotel trade’.

The B.A. carried an advert stating that emigrants were wanted for Canada. They could have 160 acres free. This was said to be a splendid opportunity for healthy men and women who were wanted as farm hands, domestic servants and railway labourers.

The death took place of Dr William Cramond, Cullen, at Aberdeen, on 14 February, 1907. He was a native of Fettercairn, Kincardineshire, born in 1844.

A full report is given on page 7 column 3.

- Feb 28 Advert – Millers – Motor and Cycle Works, 2 Cluny Square (later sold to the Clydesdale Bank)
For all the latest in 1907 models (bicycles)
- | | | | |
|------------------|---|--------|------|
| Singer miniature | - | £6.10 | Cash |
| “ Royal | - | £7.0 | “ |
| “ Challenge | - | £8.10 | “ |
| “ Model De Luxe | - | £12.12 | “ |
- Strathlene Cycles - £4.10 and £10.10

Deskford Draught's Club held their annual dance with 40 couples being present. Music was by Gordon Mitchell's Band while Messrs Wood and Craib were MC's

- Mar 7 Buckie Amateur Operatic Society were to put on a performance of the 'Pirates of Penzance'.

L.T. McGarth, Ironmonger, was advertising that he was the local agent for the Donaldson Line of Steamers, sailing direct to Canada.

Buckie Philharmonic Society, now in their second season were to stage a Scottish Concert. A special re-engagement was Duffton Scott, the Scottish Comedian and among the many solo singers was to be Jessie McLaren and Bessie Grant, both sopranos from Buckie and Adam Robertson, tenor.

The idea of constructing a tunnel under the English Channel between France and England was again being raised.

Opening announcement – Adam Robertson, a native of Huntly, was advertising that he aimed to open in business as a Painter and Decorator at 9 Baron Street.

Tee names – Thomson 'Supple' – Cowie 'Spirl' – Smith 'Neeper' (Lossiemouth)

The death took place of George Murray 'Baron', (53) Cliff Terrace. He was one of the part owners of the first steam liner in Buckie – Star of Hope. While others pulled out he took the vessel to Aberdeen and had it converted into a trawler. The boat ran aground near Colliston in 1906 while working for the Admiralty and was wrecked.

- Mar 21 An open recruiting meeting was to take place in the Fishermen's Hall to gather more recruits for the Rolling Wave Lodge of the I.O.G.T. There was to be a musical programme.

The new Wesleyan Methodist Church opening ceremony was to take place at 3.30pm on Wednesday 27 March, 1907 by Mrs David Reid, Oran House, Portgordon.

The service afterwards to be taken by Rev. F. H. Benson. Elgin.

Tea to be provided in the Fishermen's Hall at 5pm.

A Great Public Meeting to take place in the new church at 7pm when the speakers were to be Rev Benson and Rev. Arthur Hoye and others with the chair taken Rev. A.R. Choate.

The opening services to be continued on March 31 in the morning at 11am and the evening at 6pm. conducted by Rev Choate, Newcastle and on Sunday 7 April conducted by Rev. Howard May, Inverness. Collections at each meeting for the Building Fund.

The Enzie School Board changed the pupil's school holidays. The summer holidays to be cut from 8 weeks to 6 with a week at Easter and 10 days at Christmas. This it was agreed would meet with the government attendance grant.

A series of evangelistic meetings were to take place in the Fishermen's Hall, conducted by John Maxwell.

Miss Annand, Burnside, was appointed organist of the Enzie Parish Church. Miss Annand apart from being an excellent organist is known to be an accomplished soprano singer.

George Webster, Cluny Cycle and Motor Works, East Church Street also Motor Garage at *Gray's Lane*.

Sole agent in Buckie and District for the celebrated Humber, Rover, Centaur, Triumph, Sparkbrook, Royal Enfield and Elswick cycles. Priced from £6 to £15.15.

Sole makers of the famous Cluny cycles, fitted with all the latest and best equipment, guaranteed for 2 to five years from £5.17.6 - £10.10 Agent for Rover and other motor cars.

Buckie for Bicycles – L.T.McGarth – Swifts, Raglan, Hazelwoods. Free wheels, 2 brakes, plated rims, Dunlop tyres etc, built to last and suit the fine roads around Buckie.

Mar 28 The new Wesleyan Methodist Church built at the junction of Titness Street with North Pringle Street was opened on Wednesday March 27 1907 by Mrs David Reid, Oran House, Portgordon. The silver key to open was handed to her by Rev. Mr Choate, Portessie. The church was built to accommodate 700 people, 200 in the gallery with 500 in the body of the kirk. The mason was John Dawson, carpenter, Alex Murray, painter, R. Duncan and Son, slater, John Barclay and Son (all Buckie), plasterer, Mr Smith, Portgordon, plumber, Mr Beveridge, Cullen. Architect, Mr John Fowlie, Cullen.

James Coats Jun. Manufacturer, Paisley sent the Public School, Deskford, 171 books to suit all classes of scholars and also a large bookcase secured through the headmaster, Mr Smith. The gift was much appreciated by all concerned.

Notice - Men wanted. Canada wants thousands of men for farm and railway construction. 160 acres free – good land given on simple conditions. Cheap fares. Healthy climate with sure work.

The Baptist Church were now holding their Sunday services in the Good Templars Institute on West Church Street; the minister being – Rev. George Macdonald.

Ap 4 A sale was advertised at Arradoul Sawmill of fencing posts, deal of various sizes and firewood.

Advert – Hossack's Aerated Waters delivered in the Buckie and Fochabers districts. Agent for Moray and Nairn Laundry Co. Elgin. Parcels called for and delivered as arranged. P.I. Smith and Co. Coal and Carting Agents – 28-30 Great Western Road, Buckpool (near to Buckpool Station).

Advert - Canada! Canada wants farm, domestic servants and railway labourers. Situations found free of charge. Go by the cheapest and most direct route. Book your passage here – Donald Grant, 57 West Church Street. Authorised agent.

The Enzie School Board, by a majority vote, opposed (1) the providing of premises etc for meals and (2) the supplying of food to school pupils. This was decided after a letter from Edinburgh School Board, relative to the Education (Provision of meals) (Scotland) Bill had been read and discussed. "The suggestion smacks of Socialism", was said by one member.

No less than nine zulu boats were put up for sale in the Masonic Institute hall by auctioneer, Ralph Kynoch. The sale created a degree of interest with the hall being crowded with fishermen. The boats were – Promise, Banana, Exert, Dove (Ianstown), Edith (Portknockie), Nile (Ianstown), Caledonia (Portessie), Ruby (Portessie), Johns (Portgordon), Bidding was stiff with prices low. The only offer for a boat that had cost £800 when new only three years before was £300. The only boat sold was the Banana that went for £286 to Alex Addison, Cullen. The Promise and Hephzibal were sold afterwards in a private bargain through Mr Kynoch.

Tee names – Cowie 'Steiner'. Murray 'Chap'. Reid 'Rosie'. Smith 'Stripie' Smith 'Susie'. Cowie 'John'. Cowie 'Jamie' (The last four all being from Portessie).

Apr 11 Mr G.G. Wood was appointed postmaster in succession to Mr James Pirie, Merchant, who was going to South Africa to join his brother there. The business was bought over by Mr A. T. Bruce.

An ancient grave was found by workmen digging the foundations for a new house on St Peter's Road, Buckpool. The cist was only a short distance below the surface and was covered with a heavy slab of grey whinstone, measuring 4'3" by 2'3" and 14" thick. The lid was marked by longitudinal lines. The sides of the cist were formed from red sandstone. The bones that had

originally been left in the cist had weathered away to more or less dust so that all that remained could have been held in an envelope. A few pieces of flint were found. It appears that the bones may have been buried in an urn that had crumbled away.

Dr Simpson, who took an interest in archaeological finds, suggested that the bones dated from the period between the Stone and Bronze Age.

The fisherman who was having the house built decided that he no longer wished to have this particular site even though much of the building materials were no on site and the foundations more or less all dug. Mr Dawson, builder, has decided to give the stone for cemetery purposes.

In 1999 an authority put the date of the burial around 2000 BC if the body had been cremated. He also suggested that the grave could possibly been opened and robbed at an early date. Bodies were known to disintegrate completely as was found at the famous Sutton Hoo grave site in England where the graves were once again dug in sandy material.

At a meeting held in Portessie there was talk of disjunction from the burgh of Buckie if no satisfaction could be had concerning the 'Harbour Question'

Ap 18 Opening announcement - John Imlach, Barking Works, Cluny Harbour was intimating that he intended to start a joinery business in Ianstown in partnership with his sons.

Most of the shops in Buckie, including shoemakers, butchers, grocers, drapers, ironmongers and booksellers decided to close at 7 o'clock during the months of May, June, July and August – Saturday excepted and Wednesday at 2pm. Two notable exceptions were James Mackay, Draper and L.T.McGarth, Ironmonger.

During the past week George Innes & Sons, Portknockie launched their third drifter, Emulator. At Portgordon, William Geddes launched the Sublime. Herd & McKenzie launched the Excelsior at Findochty.

Two more drifters were added to the Buckie fleet when the Jeannie Murray and Forward arrived at their home port after being built at Lowestoft.

The Enzie School Board decided not to make Enzie an Intermediate School.

Despite the great number of drifters being built at the time from 1874 up to 1907 there had been a decrease of 97 boats in the Buckie district, down from a figure of 672 to 575. At the same time the number of fishermen employed also saw a considerable decrease down from 3984 in 1874 to 2533 in 1907 – a decrease of 1451.

The same pattern was witnessed around the Moray Firth from Wick to Fraserburgh.

Ap 25 Mr D. Campbell. Boot and Shoemaker, 8 East Church Street, signed the Trust Deed with the complete stock being bought by William Mustard, Cullen.

Lewis Milne, was to move the farm of Mains of Findochty to Rannes at the May term where Miss Andrew was retiring. Mr Sutherland was to move from Bloomfield, Deskford to Mains of Findochty. George Thomson was to give up the tenancy of Mains of Gollachy, with the farm being taken over by Messrs James Mair and Sons, Fleshers, Buckpool. Thorneybank on the Cairnfield estate was to be vacated by P. Smith and taken over by Robert Thomson, Oran. Robert Dawson was to take over the croft of Backstrype on the Letterfourie estate.

A Davidson, or 'Charlie' as he was best known, the Buckie Thistle custodian left for Canada. He was presented with a writing case, pipe and 'spuchen'.

A comprehensive account is written on page 6, columns three and four on the 'Rise and Progress of the Steam Drifter'

May 2 **Notice** – Alex Farquharson and William Martin General Engineers and Boilermakers gave notice of the dissolution of their partnership. The business was to continue under the sole charge of Mr Martin.

The Singer Sewing Machine shop was to move from Low Street to 42 East Church Street. the business hours were advertised as from 6pm to 9pm in the evenings and on Saturday from 9am to 8pm.

Miss Horne, assistant teacher at Enzie Public School moved from there to Lanarkshire where she was to receive a higher salary.

Funds were being raised for the repair of the Parish church tower.

The grass parks at Burnside of Enzie, belonging to widow Mrs Kelman were let for the season to Mr Peter Laing, butcher, Keith who took the first, second and third year parks at the price of £3.17.6, £2.9 and 34/- respectively per acre. Stables, Cuttlebrae took the two manse parks at £3.5.6 per acre. Saturday last, the day of the sale was cold and stormy.

May 9 Mains of Gollachy. Displeenish sale, belonging to the outgoing tenant, Mr George Thomson, known for the number of historical stone cists and artifacts he found on his farm and on nearby Easter Gollachy.

Among the animals for sale were 5 horses, 2 pair and an orra beast also a pony 'Nell' and a dark brown unbroken colt of 2 years.

A strike of net workers at Messrs Marshall & Co. Net Works, Buckie. The 50 women and girls walked out on Monday though the boss had asked them to work until Saturday by which time he would see what could be done. They were asking for their wages up from 3/9 to 4/- per day but it was said that it was difficult to meet this as materials had increased considerably in price recently. As it was a good number returned to work at the old wages on Tuesday.

Two Baptist preachers had been holding meetings in the Garmouth district and as a result of their labours 7 women and 3 men were baptised in the River Spey on Friday evening. The incident created some stir and a large crowd gathered to watch the ceremony take place.

Miss Watt, Portsoy, and Miss Paul, Keith, were appointed teachers at Enzie Public School to take the place of Miss Horne and Miss Ross who had received appointments elsewhere.

A comparison of Banffshire and Elginshire (Morayshire) was given as follows –

Area of Banffshire	(1906)	403.364 acres
Area of Elginshire	“	304.931 acres
Population of Banffshire	(1901)	61,488
Population of Elginshire	“	44,800

Towns in Banffshire

Area covered by Buckie	(1906)	831 acres
Population of Buckie	(1901)	7,483
Area covered by Banff	(1906)	383 acres
Population of Banff	(1901)	3,732
Area covered by Keith	(1906)	560 acres
Population of Keith	(1901)	4,753

Towns in Elginshire

Area covered by Elgin	(1906)	993 acres
Population of Elgin	(1901)	8,407
Area covered by Forres	(1906)	480 acres
Population of Forres	(1901)	4,313
Area covered by Rothes	(1906)	674 acres
Population of Rothes	(1901)	1,621
Area covered by Lossiemouth	(1906)	423 acres
Population of Lossiemouth(1901)	3,904	

May 16 Spey Bay new golf course was to be opened for play in a fortnight's time. At the near by railway station, later to be known as Spey Bay, then Fochabers- on -Spey, trains were to stop more often than formerly as a concession for golfers.

A poem is found on page 5 column 3 called 'The Captive Bird' by W.G. Mair.

Something akin to a poem is also to be found on the same page describing the Cullen area and titled 'In The Year 1910' (looking ahead) by J.R.M.

May 23 A quantity of slaked lime was responsible for setting off a fire that did considerable damage to the steading of Cuttlebrae in the Enzie. The stable and chaumer (workers' sleeping quarters) were completely destroyed. Fortunately they were able to save all the horses. In addition to the loss of the buildings, which would have to be rebuilt one hundred quarters of oats and a quantity of manure, were lost. The tenant farmer of Cuttlebrae was Mr Stables.

A letter to the B.A. asked that swings be set up in the Public Park.

The History of Cullen Harbour is printed on page 6 columns 2,3 and 4.

May 30 An advert told how the Cluny Stables were now under new management with the owner being Mr Charles Taylor who spoke of being able to provide hiring in all its branches. Cabs, wagonettes, dog carts etc were available for hire.

Advert – Wanted at once buyers for Ross's £3.10 cycles – Victoria and Windsor cycles at 10/- per month. Also every description of musical instrument available for sale. Ross, Fochabers.

A trout measuring 17 ½ inches in length, 9 inches in girth and weighing 2lbs was caught in Loch Soy. Portsoy.

A William III coin was found at Portsoy while men were digging a trench.

A letter to the B.A. spoke of the smell nuisance coming from a dung depot that had been established close to the path leading from Buckpool south along the course of the Buckie Burn then hence past the farm of Mill of Buckie. It had the effect of spoiling a nice walk for many.

The Spey Bay Golf Course was opened for play on 24 May 1907

A poem is to be found on page 8 column 4 titled 'The Morning Star' by W.G. Mair.

June 6 The Cairnfield Estate was inviting firms to tender for the work of rebuilding the steading of Thorneybank.

A. Hay. Tailor and Clothier, Portgordon, had moved from his previous accommodation to a place on the Square.

E. Pinder –Ord Circus Hippodrome were to be paying their annual visit to Buckie with the 'big top' being set up in Morrison's Park, Titness Street. Where was it?

James Grant, Arradoul Mains, had installed a milking machine driven by an electric motor. The machine was capable of milking 65 cows in a little over an hour. It was the first of its kind in Banffshire and as such aroused a lot of interest to see it working. It saves a lot of time and labour since to hand milk the same number of cows requires the efforts of two men and a girl. The machine was made by Messrs P & R. Fleming, Glasgow.

June 13 The steamer, Fawn of Kirkwall left Buckie with 30 fisher girls bound for the fishing at Stronsay.

Professor Cameron, U.F. College, Aberdeen, examined the pupils of Arradoul on Religious Knowledge.

Gordon Castle, Fochabers, like the policies of Letterfourie House, was a popular place for outings and picnics with a variety of organisations going to both places as was reported.

Many organisations travelled to Drybridge by train from the Highland Railway Station.

Plans were submitted for a house and shop for George Paterson, Tinsmith, on East Church Street.

The town council agreed to suggest to the Cluny Estates that the new street running south from West Church Street, near to Victoria Bridge should be called Victoria Street. (This suggestion apparently was shelved in place of Queen Street)

New Zealand was looking for settlers, especially farm workers and domestic workers, with reduced fares being offered.

June 20 John Cochrane, Plumber, was advertising that he was starting up in business in Portsoy. (The firm was still in business fifty years later, at least.)

Miller, Motor and Cycle Works, 2 Cluny Square was advertising himself as being the only practical motor and cycle mechanic in Buckie at the time with 14 years practical experience on hand.

He was also advertising an 11 HP Durkopp Motor Car for sale or hire.

Among the cycle accessories he had for sale were bicycle pumps at 1/- each, in July 1999 I bought such a pump that cost me £5. How's that for inflation?

A further 200 more fisher girls from Buckie and villages near by left by steamer for Uyasound, Baltasound and Stronsay.

Someone in Cullen was saying that they had lifted a stem of good quality new tatties the previous week. This was early.

The Buckie area experienced the worst thunderstorm and flooding within recollection. It was very localised with places not many miles distance being missed completely

June 27 The paper carried an advert for the Drybridge Games and Picnic on Saturday 6 July. As usual these were open to all comers. The games, as usual were to take place in the policies of Letterfourie House by kind permission of Sir Robert Gordon, laird.

Two drifters were launched during the past week at Kingston. These were the first boats of any kind launched on the Spey for 27 years when a barque was launched from the yard of Mr James Geddes.

The drifters, Pisces and Winsome were both built for Findochty owners. They had some problem launching the Pisces since the course of the Spey had changed since the last launching.

July 4 The Enzie Annual Picnic and games were advertised to take place on Saturday 13 July in a field near to the railway station by kind permission of Mr Stables, farmer, Cuttlebrae. P. Stewart was secretary this time.

A poem is found on page 7 column 6 called 'Love'. Written by W.G.M.

July 11 Alney Villa, Great Western Road, Buckpool was up for sale. It was occupied at the time by Mr John Esson who for a long time had a draper and cycle agent's business at Bridgend before moving the previous year to near Buckpool Station. He had not had an advert in the paper for a long time, however. The feu duty on the house was £2.

The Drybridge Games unfortunately did not have a very good day, weatherwise, which affected the size of the crowd. The following people formed the committee to run the event – A. Bremner, James Allan, R. Kessack, A. Robertson, W. Robertson, George Addison, William Green, George Johnston, Quarryhead, and William Ross, Williamson, were the judges of the heavy events. F. Stephen, Cornhill won the medal for collecting most points. Fobbie Urquhart, Bauds, came second in a number of events.

The dancing medal was won by Miss Smith, Inverurie. In the airgun shooting competition William Clark, Inchgower came first with John Garden, Wellheads, second.

The town council were again debating the question of steps at Jock Grant's Brae. This had been raised a year previous but had to wait until money became available. (Jock Grant's Brae leads up from Baron Lane, off Baron Street, on to Cluny Terrace. Some know the steps now as Calder's Steps)

A poem is found on page 8 column 3 called 'The Tender Smile' by W.G.M.

July 18 Garmouth and District were to hold their 10th annual Highland Games.

A traction engine and wagons had been employed for some time driving railway sleepers from the Farnachty Wood to Cluny Harbour. They were playing havoc with the surface of the road as we learnt later when the roads department had some complaints to lodge.

A proposal had been put forward for the amalgamation of the two banks, Bank of Scotland and the Caledonian. (It was the Caledonian Bank that had the grand building built on East Church Street only the previous year and in 1999 still the Bank of Scotland in Buckie)

The Enzie Games enjoyed 'halcyon' weather we were told. The games were under the management of Messrs P. Stewart, secretary, A. Paterson, J. Murdoch and A. Stewart.

C. Morrison won the medal in the heavy events while R. Mair took the medal with most points in the light events. The ladies' Highland Schottische was won by Miss McKay, Arradoul, who was presented with a bangle. Second was Miss Wilson, Buckpool, who received a brooch.

J. Garden who was second at Drybridge came first in the airgun shooting competition. The married men won the Tug-of-War competition.

G. Grigor and W. Murdoch were M.C's while Mr Murray and his band from Deskford provided the music for dancing which went on until 10pm.

R. Thomson and J. Johnston were in charge of the airgun competition, A. Sim and J. Paterson were keepers of the refreshment stall while J. Adam and J. Paterson were gate keepers.

Aug 1 Peter Fair - The day started off fine and continued so until around 4 when it became overcast with a drizzle falling. It was estimated that the crowd, if anything, was larger than it had been for a year or two.

One thing that was very noticeable was that there had been a big improvement in the kind of sweets that were being sold as 'farins', with the trash of yesteryear largely absent. This was not surprising with people unlikely to enjoy the kind of rubbish formerly sold much inferior to that one could buy in the shops of Buckie.

There seemed to be more bazaar-type stalls, selling a variety of goods, than was previously seen.

A large number of horses were forward with an unusually high demand. First class horses changed hands from between £50 and £60, second class- £20-£40 with the poorest specimens making between £10 and £12. An innovation was a large herd of Skye ponies, sold for between £6 and £7.

Though there was a considerable number of men and a few women looking for a harvest fee the demand was not so high as one had seen formerly, with the incoming of the binder having an effect. Those who were engaged were being offered £5-£5.10 to bind and build with those lifting being offered £4-£5. Women were being offered from £3.10 to £3.15.

Crops showed average promise but due to the relatively poor summer weather it would be some weeks yet before a start could be made with the sickle.

The number of passengers using the train from Buckie to Rathven was up by over 100 on the previous year with the figure being up by 200 for the return journey. The number of railway tickets sold on Peter Fair day totalled 9,000.

An additional piece of excitement on the day occurred when a horse-drawn drapery van belonging to Paterson of Elgin and Lhanbryd, returning home collided with a lorry at the top of High Street en route there. The shafts of the van were broken with the horse taking off while the injured driver was attended to by Dr Raffan of Randwick Villa.

Arradoul farm worker, Alex Mackay, was fined 2/6 or 24 hours for failing to ring his bell on his bicycle as he approached pedestrians walking on the Barhill Road. He pled guilty.

A. Davidson, better known as 'Charlie' the former keeper with Buckie Thistle got a great write up following a game played in Canada where he was then living.

Aug 8 The annual general meeting of Wednesday F.C. was scheduled to take place in the Good Templar's Institute.

Miss McPherson, infant mistress at Enzie Public School left at the end of the summer term. She was to take up a new post at Haroldswick.

A note in the paper told of 'tatties' being stolen from the griever's garden, Mr Paterson, at Preshome. The writer saw this as a form of Socialism! Which reads, he said, "Why should another have what I have not. (Oh! The villains – put them to the sword)

- Aug 15 The annual general meeting of Buckie Thistle F.C. was to take place. The secretary was G. Ellis.
- At Findochty 8 boats landed 30 crans of herring between them. These sold for 13/- salted and 20/- fresh.
- Aug 22 For the Thistle's first game of the season the team was to be selected from the following list of players – John Murray, George Reid, Clark, Hay, Thomson, Stewart, Ross, Watson, Bain, Pringle, Falconer, J. Reid, C. Jones, Dawson, Maxwell, Duncan, Wilson, Black, McKenzie, Leask, Forsyth, Cormack etc.
- A poem is to be found on page 7 column 4 titled 'The Stream' by W.G.Mair.
- Aug 29 In the first match of the season played at the Public Park, Buckie Thistle were to play Elgin Caledonian on Saturday 31 August. Admission 3d, 1d with ladies free.
- Rev. William Gibson who had been conducting services since April accepted the pastorate of Buckie Baptist Church.
- Sept 5 Alney Villa on Great Western Road was again offered for sale at the reduced price of £400, once again, however, it remained unsold.
- Jock Grant's Brae was now open to the public again but equipped with a flight of concrete steps and guard rails at right angles at the south end of Mr Calder's property. The work was done by A. Milne and Sons, Builders, Buckie.
- The following pupils at Enzie Public School gained leaving certificates in a recent examination – Annie Gordon – lower English; Margaret Kelman, lower English and lower French; Margaret Laing, lower Maths; John Smith, lower Maths. and lower English; James Stewart, lower English lower French and lower Latin.
- A proposal was put forward to have golf course constructed at Portsoy.
- Sept 12 The government of the day stopped raffles being held at such as bazaars where they had been seen as a good way of raising money. The Duke of Gordon opening an event at New Elgin said how he had always been in the habit of buying tickets at all events he attended and was somewhat critical of the stance taken by the government, expressing the feeling that there was little or no ill in the practice.
- The formal opening of the Spey Bay Golf Course took place during the past week with the Duke of Gordon performing the opening ceremony. The event was well covered by the B.A. and also every other paper in the country it would seem.*
- Riots were taking place in Vancouver with the Japanese residents being attacked.
- Rev Alfred Wild, late of Whiterashes, Aberdeenshire, was inducted into the charge of the All Saints Episcopal Church, Buckie on Wednesday September 21.
- Sept 19 Opening announcement - Alex Dallas, was advertising that he was taking over the business of Mrs Purvis at 68 West Church Street (corner of West Street) where he was to sell groceries, china and ironmongery.
- A whole family at Ipswich died after eating poisonous fungi. They were so hungry that they ate the fungi believing this to be edible mushrooms.
- The death took place of Miss Reid of Connage farm. The B.A. spoke of the farm on the Rannes estate (now Seafield) for the past 350 years.

Sept 26 The street lights in Buckie were lit for the first time this autumn on Saturday evening.

The first drifter to be built with the new registration letters – BCK - the HANDSOME, built at Kingston on Spey, was launched on Saturday 21 September, 1907, from the boatyard of Mr John Hay for James Murray & Sons of Seaview Road, Buckpool. Miss Barbara Murray, daughter of the owner performed the christening ceremony. The Handsome was later towed to Cluny Harbour by the drifter Hearty, prior to going to Dundee to have engines fitted.

The Handsome had a keel of 83 ½ feet long, a beam of 18 ½ feet and a depth of 9 ½ feet.

Oct 3 Opening announcement – James Smith, Baker, was advertising that he was to open for business at 50 Findochty. His advert said that he intended later to open a dining room serving breakfast, dinners and teas, all at moderate prices.

Alney Villa was again offered for sale but yet again there were no takers.

Tee name – Murray, ‘Stone’.

The death took place during the week of Bailie Birnie. James Birnie, 50, Tailor and Clothier, came from Buchan to be foreman tailor with William Thomson. He later worked in Fochabers for a short spell before returning to Buckie where he set up business on Cluny Terrace. Besides taking a deep interest in local politics, being senior Bailie in the town council he was a very enthusiastic and successful poultry exhibitor.

On Sunday it was learned that a murder had been committed in Lhanbryd with John B. Smith being the victim. Mr Smith who worked at roadwork and came originally from Aberdeenshire lived locally in a ground-floor flat in a house near to the railway station in the village. It was the family upstairs who reported an odd smell coming from the downstairs flat to the police. They found the door locked and when they broke in found the victim lying on his bed with his head smashed in by a heavy mash hammer found lying near to the bed. It is believed that the murder must have taken place either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

A number of suspicious characters have been arrested in Keith, Elgin and elsewhere but the police are not sure that they have the assailant who could possibly have got a berth on a fishing boat as a fireman and sailed for the English fishing.

Oct 10 L.T.McGarth, Ironmonger, was advertising the Patent Washing Machine at 35/-; mangles from 25/- to 50/-; wringers for round or square tubs; portable washing boilers with rustless pans.

Donald Grant, Grocer, West Church Street, Buckie, while on a cycle run along with three friends on Sunday last came off his bicycle when descending the Bone Mill Brae, west of Portgordon, and sustained severe injuries to his head.

Oct 17 James Wood, Blacksmith, who had his business at Commercial Road, died at his home 11 Cluny Terrace this week.

Alney Villa, Great Western Road was again being offered for sale at the still lower figure of £350.

The drifter, Handsome BCK 1 arrived at Cluny Harbour from Dundee where it had its engines fitted.

On Friday a special train left from the GNSR station Buckie, with 200 fisher girls on board en route for the English ports. Eighty of them came from Buckie with the rest gathered from adjacent villages. The return fare was £3 per head. The fares from Fraserburgh to England in connection with the East Anglia fishing totalled £4,000.

The town council was near to concluding the business of the Harbour Question and purchase of the harbour from the Cluny Estates. What was involved in the purchase was the harbour itself, complete, together with all the land on the seaward side of Baron Street, Bank Street, Low Street and Commercial Road. Stretching from the Coastguard Station to the Freuchny and Rathven Burn also further land to the south of Commercial Road towards the railway line.

The price that had been agreed with the Cluny Trustees was £2,000 paid annually for a period of 30 years, with the first instalment being paid in 1909. The two councillors who put their names to the agreement with the Cluny Trustees were James Archibald and Robert Reid.

At the annual meeting of the Public Park committee the question of people having to pay to enter on the days that football matches were being played there came in for discussion. A number considered that this wasn't right.

- Oct 24 It was proposed to form a Literary and Debating Society in Buckie with a meeting scheduled to take place in the Masonic Institute.

Tee name Mair 'Dear', Buckpool; Pirie 'Skipper' Portknockie.

A poem is found on page 8 column 4 titled 'The Song of the Sea' by W.G. Mair Portknockie.

- Oct 31 The Literary and Debating Society came into being with the office bearers as named below – Hon. presidents – Dr Miller and Provost Archibald; Hon vice president – Mr Muir; president – S. McEwan; vice president, Miss Lyall; secretary, Miss Geddes; committee – P.McLaren, A.Merson, Miss Cruickshank and J. S. Simpson.

St Peter's R.C. Church was reopened on Sunday after recent extensions had been completed. The chancel was extended by 12 feet with a new high altar and baptistery. On the outside the extension was built in red sandstone to match the rest of the building.

On the east gable the large rose window was first removed and again restored in the new extension by the mason, Mr Morrison,

Much marble was used in the altars, high and low. The material used in the construction of the altar weighed 12 tons and consisted of prepared marble and Caen stone with the work being executed by Messrs Leclere of Tournai. Two of their expert workmen travelled to Buckie to fit the various parts together.

The long drawn out business of acquiring the Cluny Harbour from the Cluny Estate Trustees was finally concluded at a special meeting of Buckie Town Council held on Monday 31 October when the appropriate missive was signed. One can read the report of the meeting in the paper of this date.

- Nov 7 Mr George Newlands was to rous out from the farm of Broadley on Wednesday 20 November He had for sale three horses, one that was aged and other two one a mare of 4 years, the other 8. Also one foal, 3 cows, 2 yearlings and 2 calves.

John Bruce, who had been in business in Gordon Street as a baker for 25 years bought over a large bakery business in Ellon. The Buckie business was bought over by John Guthrie, West Church Street. John Bruce must have been highly thought of from the many gifts he received from different organisations in the town.

This year's harvest was being described as the most disastrous on record. The daily newspaper, Scotsman, spoke of only 1872 and 1879, within living memory, being anything like as bad as this present year.

Portessie Harbour committee and ratepayers were not happy with the decision of the town council to buy Cluny Harbour and were asking for a disjunction. The town council appeared to go along with this.

- Nov 14 The whole front page was taken up with a notice, the heading that read -- Private Legislative Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 – Buckie Burgh and Buckie (Cluny) Harbour.

William Smith and Son, Lossiemouth bought over the business of the late Bailie Birnie, Tailor and Clothier, 1 Cluny Terrace and were to re-open the shop on 18 November.

Alney Villa was at last sold for the sum of £350. It was bought by solicitor, R.Y Mackay for a client.

The drifter, Rosedale BCK 2 was launched at Kingston from the boatyard of Thomas Duncan. It was built for Messrs Samuel and William Anderson, Findochty.

BCK 3 was the number given to the drifter Gowan, launched from the boatyard of George Thomson, Buckie, for William Murray 'Prince', Joseph Cowie and Alexander Riach, all Buckie.

The Rosedale was towed to Lowestoft, the Gowan to Yarmouth, to have engines fitted.

Ralph Kynoch, auctioneer and commission agent bought the coal business of R & J. Barbour, Buckpool.

J. P. Coats Jun. Paisley gave Enzie Public School 150 books and four maps.

Nov 21 William Robertson, Chemist (who later had the house Struan, on Cluny Square built) married Maggie, eldest daughter of James Watt, Coldhome Farm, Keith.

Tee name – Hendry ‘Coull’ , Portgordon.

BCK 4 the Flower, was launched from the boatyard of George Smith Sen. For John Cowie, and James Sinclair, Buckie.

Rathven millionaire - *Stewart Dawson was born at Rathven in the 1870s and left an orphan when still quite young served his time as a watchmaker. Later he went south to work in England and set up business as a watchmaker in a small way. In 1907 he was head of a great jewellery concern with branches throughout Australia and many towns in Great Britain and still only considered to be middle-aged. He is known to have relatives living locally and in the Aberchirder district who he pays a visit occasionally.*

R. Tindall & Sons were advertising that they were to open a large new showroom at Cluny Harbour with a china department, also ranges and grates. They also had the shop at 1 High Street.

Nov 28 Opening announcement - George Calder and William Smith who were both employed by Bailie Birnie were to open as Tailors and Clothiers at Seaview Place.

The death was reported in America of Thomas Thomson who had a saddler’s business on High Street before emigrating with his family to the U.S.A. He was an expert on violin construction and made many fine instruments. He was a great friend of J.S. Paterson, Rathven, both having much in common in the musical line. He was aged 68 and a brother of George Thomson the late farmer of Mains of Gollachy.

The most of this year’s harvest in the district was at last gathered in, it had taken three months from start to finish. It was being said that not since the year 1782 and 1787 had conditions been so bad.

A poem is found on page 7 column 3 titled ‘Scotia Adieu’ by W.G. Mair, Portknockie (Good)

Dec 5 A poem is found on page 8 column 4 titled ‘Peace On Earth’ by James Ferguson of Pasadena, California.

Dec 12 Advert – For Boots, Shoes and Slippers see William McDonald, 46 West Church Street (opposite the High School)

Advert – The West End Drapery – T.D. Yule, 30 West Church Street.

The Thistle team picked to play Aberdeen F. C. at Pittodrie in the second round of the Aberdeen cup was – Reid, Reid and Hay; Thomson, Clark and Stewart; McKerron, Robertson, McKenzie, Black and Leask. (The Thistle were beaten by three goals to nil)

A poem is found on page 6 column 6 titled ‘An Early Winter ‘ by W. G. Mair, Portknockie.

With two drifters being launched this week and another to be ready by the end of the year Mr William ‘Beel’ Geddes, Portgordon, will have launched 12 drifters during the past 12 month.

The first this week was the Laurel Bank for an Aberdeen buyer and the second, the Ivy for Cellardyke. The Press Home built for J. Coull, Buckpool would be launched before the end of the year.

No less than 550 miners lost their lives when an explosion occurred in a coal mine at Monongah, West Virginia.

Opening announcement - Mitchell Pyper was to open a grocery and bakery business at 13 Portknockie.

Advert – James Reid, Joiner and Cabinetmaker, Cluny Terrace, was advertising that he had presently a large stock of all classes of household furniture, including sideboards from £6. Jobbing joiner work a speciality.

The Free Gardeners were to hold their annual Entertainment and Dance billed as the event of the year. This was to take place in the St Andrews Hall on 26 December.

Advert - Wm. Hendry, Cabinetmaker, Baron Street. His advert read – Having purchased the old Methodist Hall nearby we now have an additional showroom to show off our large and varied stock of household furniture.

Some more tee names – Cowie ‘Gullie’; Cowie, ‘Upple’. Flett ‘Tosh’.

A Flett ‘Tosh’ was fined for committing a nuisance on Cluny Lane and was fined 1/- or 12 hours in jail. Alex Allan who was caught riding a bicycle on the pavement was received the same punishment.

Celtic (Buckie) was to play Buckie Thistle in a friendly match at Victoria Park, West Church Street on Saturday 21 December 1907. Admission 3d for adults, 1d for boys with ladies free.

“Victoria Park (the first time this name was found to be used) in former years, Hector’s Park on West Church Street, through the kindness of Lady Cathcart’s factor, Mr Ranald R. Macdonald, Mrs Hector, Mill of Buckie and Mr G. A. Garden, Cleanhill, the Victoria Park has been granted to Buckie Thistle committee who intend that it be available for sports etc. and a convenience to the town in many ways”.

In a county council meeting report we learn of the situation presently existing between Portessie and Buckie where Portessie wanted to be separate from Buckie with Buckie apparently quite happy for this to take place.

Charles Innes Shearer was appointed second Bailie in Buckie in place of the late Bailie Birnie. Bailie Shearer, a native of Banff, where he had been a member of the town council, came to Buckie some 12 before to start up in business as a tailor and clothier though this was quite different from the work that he had been doing previously, which was more of a clerical nature.

Dec 26

Rev John Greenlaw was elected minister of Buckie Parish Church. He came from Holm, Orkney. Two ministers were on the short leet for the post after one had withdrawn with Greenlaw pulling 156 votes to his opponent’s 31.(He was to remain in Buckie for the next 40 years.)

The Buckie Lodge of IOGT held a limerick competition in conjunction with a bazaar held to raise money for the building fund. There were two different limericks where contestants were asked to add a suitable last line. Entries came in from some distance away.

Limerick one read –

The Templars o’ Buckie hoo prood they will be
A’ their freens and relations an’ neepers tae see
In the Fishermen’s Hall
Patronising each stall
????????????????

The following lines were among the winners –

“To remove the IO from the IOGT” (George C. Sandison, East Church Street)

“Wi’ a coin that’s mair eese than a copper bawbee” (W. F. Johnston – Advertiser Office)

