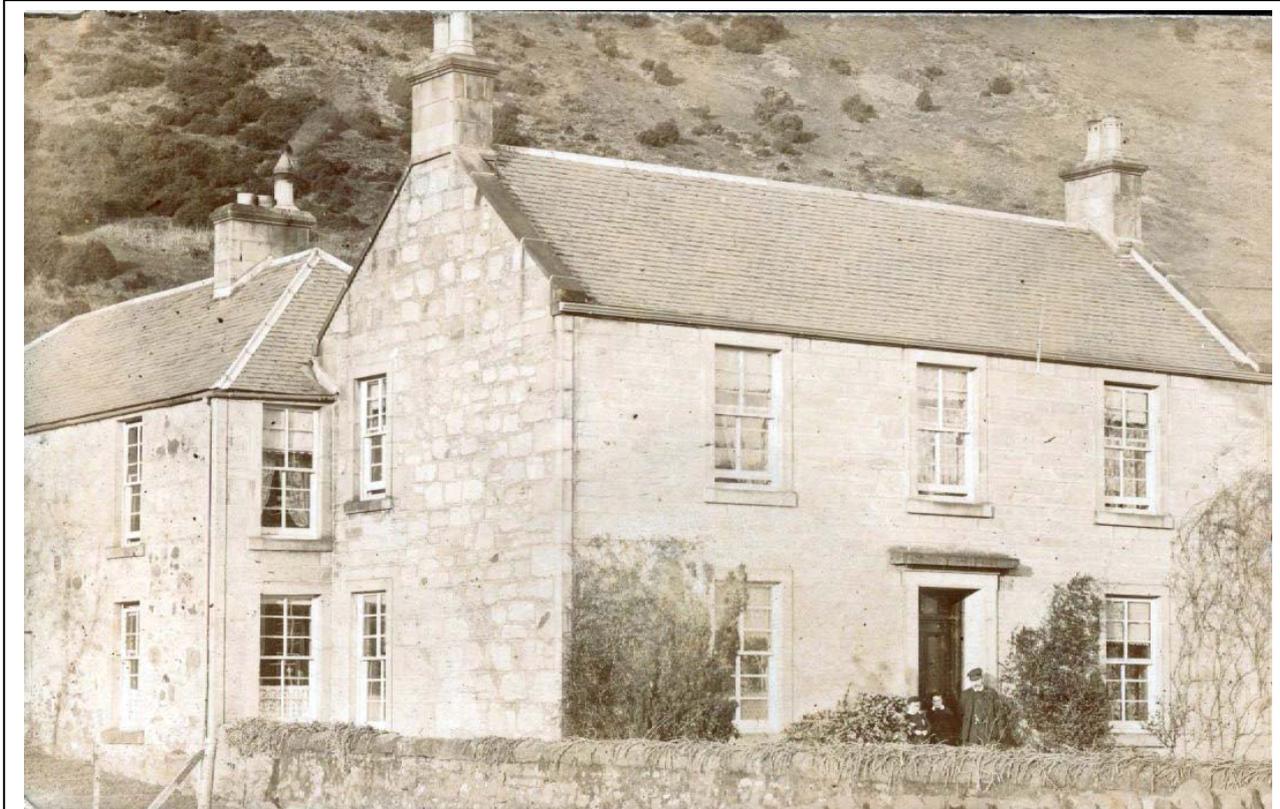


## People in Logie Blairlogie Park



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Blairlogie Park 1890s

The lands on which the present Blairlogie Park now stand are partly set on what was originally called **The Orchard** and also partly on what until recently was called **The Boigs**. **The Orchard** consisted of the land currently occupied by **Blairlogie Park**; a section of the eastern end of **The Boigs** that is currently owned by **Stirling Council** including the **Blairlogie Car Park**; the property now occupied by **Guschetneuk**; and the area of land around three and a half acres on the South side of the main A91 road recently sold by the **Howrie Family**. **The Orchard** as a single entity lay mostly to the South of the old **King's High Road** from **Stirling** to **Menstrie**, bounded by the burn that still runs around these properties, and, at one time, extended eastwards as far as **Gogar Loan**. However, this eastern extension had been absorbed into the lands of **Manor** by purchase from **Archibald Shearer**, (owner of **The Boigs** and wheelwright of **Stirling**) before the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The new Turnpike Road (now the A91) when it was built around 1806, split **The Orchard** into two sections, with the larger part lying to the South of the new road.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, **The Orchard** was owned by **John McLeish**, one time tenant at **Manor**, but later resident at **The Orchard**, perhaps in one of the cottages later known as **Orchard Terrace**. However, as **Blairlogie Park** had not been built at this time, he might also have lived in the row of buildings that appear just to the North of the New Turn Pike Road in maps of **Blairlogie** drawn in the early 1800's, but which have long since disappeared; probably by being demolished at the time that the current house at **Blairlogie Park** was built. In November 1845, this **John McLeish** disposed the lands called **The Orchard** to the Trustees of a marriage contract between **James Ferguson** of **Donne** and **Ann Meek Davison** of **Blairlogie**. One of the Trustees of this contract of

marriage was **Miss Frances Stewart Meek** (presumably a relative of the lady who married **James Ferguson** in April 1845).

**James Ferguson** and **Ann Meek Davidson** or **Ferguson** owned **The Orchard** until May 1858, when they negotiated its sale to **James Kippen**, cattle dealer of **Acharn**, in the **Parish of Kenmore**. For reasons that are not clear, **James Kippen's** ownership was not entered in the New Particular Register of Sasines Reversions at **Perth** until 10<sup>th</sup> August 1863. However, this registration gives an interesting insight into the **Blairlogie** history of that time by recording the lands that then or previously bounded **James Kippen's** new property where **Blairlogie Park** now stands.

**The Orchard** is delineated as being bounded by the lands of **Gogar** on the East, the lands sometime possessed by **John Henderson** in **Blairlogie** on the South and North ( N.B. these included **The Boigs**, later owned by the **Edmond** and **Shearer** families, the **McLaren Sisters** and then their nephew **Donald McLaren**; this last being contemporary with **James Kippen** ), plus, "that spot of land" bounded sometime by the lands of **Gogar** and the **Minister's Glebe** of **Logie** on the South, the **Menstrie** to **Blairlogie** road in the North, and the entry to **John Shearer's** steading in the West.

**James Kippen** owned these lands until 1876, but in his years of ownership he was busy. He cleared the land North of the Turn Pike Road, and built the current house at **Blairlogie Park**, and this was done in the years of 1865 and 1866, because, in other contemporary documents referred to below, he refers to "the new freestone dwelling and offices and others erected by the said **James Kippen**"

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1866, **James Kippen** bought a strip of land lying just to the West of his new property on the North side of the Turn Pike Road from **Donald McLaren**, owner of **The Boigs**, and it may well be that this purchase for the sum of £10 was connected with access for the works that **James Kippen** was carrying out, because he resold the same piece of land to **Donald McLaren**, again for £10, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1876.

**James Kippen** also used the equity value of his new estate to raise money. In December 1866, he borrowed £250 from the **Stirlingshire Building and Investment Society** (of which he was stated to be a small shareholder), and in February 1870, he borrowed £450 from **Peter Cameron**, sometime Planter in **Matanzas** on the **Island of Cuba** and thereafter residing in **Victoria Place, Stirling**. In both cases, the **Kippen** lands were disposed as security for repayment and for payments of regular interest. It may have been that some of this money was needed to fund the erection of the "new freestone dwelling"

**James Kippen** lived at **Blairlogie Park** with his sister **Janet Kippen**, and, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1867, he bequeathed the whole of his **Blairlogie** estate, when he should die, to **Janet Kippen**. **Janet** registered her title to these lands in **Perth** on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1878, shortly after the death of **James Kippen**. **Janet** then quickly realised the value of the estate by putting the lands, house and other buildings ( still encompassing the lands on both sides of the new Turn Pike Road ) to public roup on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1878. The successful, and only bidder, was **James Bett**, a farmer of **Blackdub, Bridge of Allan**, with a price of £1100. As part of this contract of sale, farmer **James Bett** took on the obligation of the £450 loan, with all its terms, to the Trustees of the late **Peter Cameron**, and actually paid **Janet Kippen** only £650. The contract between them also contained a stipulation that **Janet Kippen** should have liferent use of "the kitchen and bedroom of the low flat of the backmost of the two dwelling houses" This confirms that from the earliest years, **Blairlogie Park** was viewed as being two houses – sometimes occupied separately, and

sometimes as one joined up house. **Janet Kippen** also reserved to herself liferent use of the easternmost half of the garden and use of the coal house.

**James Bett** appears not to have lived at **Blairlogie Park** himself but to have rented it out to tenants, though it is not clear what tenants, for either the two houses or the lands, he might have attracted in the time that he owned the property. In fact, his ownership lasted only for a short space of time, for he sold on the properties to **Alexander Wilson of Loaning Bank, Menstrie**, and this sale is recorded on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1881. The sale price was £900, made up of two sums of £450 each, one of which was reserved for acceptance by **Alexander Wilson** of the burden of the debts and interest payments to the Trustees of the late **Peter Cameron**. Once again, this debt had been sold on. **Alexander Wilson** also accepted the term of the liferent use of the bottom flat in the backmost house, the eastern garden and the coal house by **Janet Kippen**.

**Alexander Wilson** continued in the role of his predecessor **James Bett** as a landlord, living himself at **Loaning Bank, Menstrie** until the time of his death in 1896. Shortly after taking ownership, a record of **Alexander Wilson's** tenants in 1881 appears in the National Census of that year. They are listed as **Donald McLaren**, aged 32, **Betsy**, his wife, another **Betsy**, his daughter of two years old, **Marjorie**, daughter of 2 months old, and **Christine Fraser**, a visitor and probably **Donald's** sister. **Donald McLaren** was the owner of the adjoining **Boigs**, and would have lived with his family in the front house at **Blairlogie Park**, while **Janet Kippen** continued to occupy her liferent flat in the back house.

After the death of **Alexander Wilson**, the Trust document he had made was registered by his Trustees, who were **Alexander McNabb** of **Middleton Kerse, Menstrie**, **John Marshall**, of **Laurel Bank, Menstrie** and **Lillias Catherine Wilson**, wife of **Peter Nicholson**, traveller of **Blairlogie**. In 1899, these Trustees set in motion the transfer of ownership of **Blairlogie Park** (which is legally recorded in this name for the first time in this document) to **Alexander Wilson's** son – also called **Alexander Wilson**, who until 1899 had not reached an age of sufficient maturity to be granted the inheritance.

This young **Alexander Wilson** had met and courted a girl called **Catherine (Kate) Reid** who was working as a maid for the **McNabb Family** of **Middleton, Menstrie**, and whose **Middleton Kerse Estate** were co-founders with the **Johnson Family** also of **Menstrie**, of the distillery at **Menstrie** that later was to become **DCL**. N.B. This **McNabb Family** is the same as that from whom **Alexander Wilson senior** had appointed one of his Trustees. **Alexander** married **Catherine Reid** on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1899, and they set up home together at the **Wilson family's** property at **Loaning Bank, Menstrie**. But, in order to give **Catherine** her own home, he then moved his mother **Elizabeth Reid** and **Catherine's** brother **David** ( a carpenter ) into the back house at **Blairlogie Park**, where they lived until 1910. **Janet Kippen** had obviously left before this time. However, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1910, **David Reid** married **Fanny Morris** of **Greenock**, and poor mother **Elizabeth Reid** was moved again to a new home in a cottage at **Menstrie** in order for the back house at **Blairlogie Park** to become the new home for the young married couple. They had a baby there ( **Eleanor Reid** ) on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1913, but shortly after that they moved out of **Blairlogie** – reportedly because they found it too quiet and lonely. It is recorded that, in the latter years of the **Reid's** tenancy in the back house, the front house was occupied by a **Mr. William Robinson**, who is remembered as having both sheep grazing and shooting rights on **Dumyat**.

In the background to this series of tenancies in the house itself, **Alexander Wilson** had followed his predecessors in disposing the ownership of the property as security for a number of loans. In 1906 there is a record of a loan of £50 secured from the Trustees of the late **Isabella McInnes** of **Alva**. He was also involved in a number of transactions concerning the continuing debt of £450 to the Trustees of the late **Peter Cameron**. This debt commitment was sold on for £100 to **John Christie**, grocer at **Bannockburn**, and then to **Robert Allan** of **St Mary's Wynd, Stirling** for £300 – all in the years 1906 and 1907. Again, in 1911, **Alexander Wilson** mortgaged his properties for the further sum of £100 to the Trustees of the late **James Grieve**, tanner and leather worker of **St, Ninians, Stirling**. The sale and transfer of these paper assets seems to have been as commonplace prior to the Great War as it is with the traders and equity funds of today, and, as an example, we have a record of the Trustees of the late **Isabella McInnes** onward selling her credit of £50 against **Alexander Wilson** dated 1906, to **Hugh Drummond**, cabinet maker in **Stirling**. And **Hugh Drummond** paid £50 for the privilege of taking ownership of this note.

However, in June 1913, **Alexander Wilson** sold **Blairlogie Park** to **Alexander Hamilton**, farmer of **Wester Seamores, Denny**, and, conjoined in this purchase was **Alexander Hamilton's** wife **Mary Kowan** or **Hamilton**, and his daughter **Annie Johnson Hamilton**. The price paid was £750. The extent of **Blairlogie Park** outlined in this sale still included all the lands to the South of the A91 road. The change of ownership may have been one reason for the departure of **David** and **Fanny Reid** from the back house. Another consequence of the sale was a flurry of legal documents recording the repayment of **Alexander Wilson's** debts to the various Trustees and Banks in the **Stirling** area during the second half of 1913.

**Alexander Hamilton** and his family moved into the front house at **Blairlogie Park** after the purchase, but continued to let out the back house. Their first tenants were a young couple **James** and **Margaret Logan**, newly married in 1914, and who had three children in the back house: **Jenny**, born in 1915; **John**, born in 1917; and **Senga**, born in 1919. They moved to the **Logie Family** home at **Powis Mains Farm** in 1919.

The **Hamilton Family** continued its ownership of **Blairlogie Park** until November 1924, with the actual title passing first to **Mrs. Mary Hamilton**, and then finally passing to the daughter **Annie Johnson Hamilton** after the deaths of her parents – **Alexander** in 1923, and **Mary** in 1924. The rentals of the back house continued after the departure of the **Logans**, and, in 1920, there is a record of occupancy by **John Paterson**, a retired gentleman. He was replaced in 1922 by **Mr. Robert R. Robson**, an Excise Officer, who was himself replaced in 1923 by another Excise Officer **Mr. Robert W. Thomson**, who occupied the back house until 1927.

At the death of her mother in 1924, daughter **Annie** sold the house and lands in November of that year to **James McInnes**, a retired farmer. The Stipend Register of 1930 also records that **James McInnes** of **Blairlogie Park** was formerly the Representative of **Alexander Wilson, Loaning Bank, Menstrie**, for **Robert Galloway's** feu at **Blairlogie**, and that he farmed at **Westerton, Muthill**. **James McInnes** continued in the tradition of living in the front house while also renting out the back house. Initially, the rental by Excise Officer **Robert W. Thomson** continued, but, in 1928, he was replaced by **John Sharpe** – interestingly described initially as “a clerk”, but, by 1931, defining himself as a Motor Salesman. His wife was **Janet Sharpe** or **Duguid**.

**The Sharpe** family history intermingles with that of various places in **Blairlogie** for some 50 years from the early 1900's. **John's** father (also **John** ) had come to **Blairlogie** early in the 1900's for the post of Gamekeeper at **Blairlogie Castle**. He and his wife **Janet** lived first in **Blairmains Cottages**, then at **Kirklea Cottage**, and, finally at **The Croft**. They suffered the loss of three of their sons in the 1914/18 war. **Janet Sharpe** died in **The Croft** in 1933 as did **John** in 1942. They had eight children: **George, John, James, Hugh, Robert, Charles, Agnes** and **Helen**.

Their son **John** and his wife **Janet** had no family, and they moved out of **Blairlogie Park** in 1931, and on into **Struan**. They were replaced, as **James McInnes'** next tenant, by **John's** brother **Charles**. **Charles Sharpe**, who had been born in 1903 at **Blairmains Cottages**, married **Katherine Agnes Laurie** (born 1907) and who was a Civil Servant. They paid an annual rent of £26/£28 for their tenancy in the back house at **Blairlogie Park**. They had one child, **Anne Fyfe Sharpe** in March 1932, while they lived at **Blairlogie Park**. **Katherine (Kate)** died in 1963, but **Anne Sharpe** later married, firstly to **Frank Hind**, but, after his death in 2000, to **Adrian Pickles** and **Anne Pickles**, sadly once again a widow, lives at **Causewayhead** to this day. **Charles Sharpe** was apprenticed as an engineer – working for **Henderson Brothers** in **Stirling** in the early 1930's. He then worked in the motor car trade, but was also a recognised agricultural engineer, and worked as a Government specialist in agriculture during the 1939/45 war. He went into business on his own in **Barnton Street** after his marriage to **Katherine** in 1930. After the war he entered into partnership with a **Mr. Millar** to become a Ford Main Dealer, becoming first Managing Director and, later, Chairman of **Millar's Garage** of **Drip Road, Raploch** until he retired in 1968. This garage later became **Ogilvies**, and lastly, **Mogul** before its recent demolition. Although the ownership of **Blairlogie Park** changed in 1934, **Charles Sharpe** remained in his tenancy in the back house until 1945.

During the 1939/1945 war, the garage in the back house at **Blairlogie Park** was used as their HQ by a team of Norwegian soldiers attached to the **Highland Light Infantry**, exercising in the **Ochils**. At one point, it is reported that not only did they need to have their tank pulled out of the mud by a local farm tractor, but they also ran out of food occasionally, and they were saved by porridge made by **Mrs. Sharpe** and **Mrs. Maltby**

**James McInnes**, the owner of **Blairlogie Park** and sometime farmer at **Westerton, Muthill**, died on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1933, and his heritage of the property **Blairlogie Park** started a journey through his family. His first choice as his heir had been his brother **Matthew McInnes**, but he predeceased **James**, and the estate was finally settled on **Donald Adrian McInnes**, whose address is recorded as being **Pickwick Arms Club Residence, 230, East Fifty First Street, New York**. Living, as he did, on the other side of the Atlantic, **Donald McInnes** quickly converted this asset into cash by selling, via his attorneys, in November 1934, to **Mrs. Margaret Baynes** or **Miller**, wife of **William Miller**, farmer **Balbougie, Inverkeithing**. But, in August 1938, after the death of his wife **Margaret**, **William Miller** legally recorded the transfer of proprietorship of the properties, but subject only to a life interest for himself, to two lady relatives - **Mrs. Jessie Finlayson Miller** or **Mitchell** and **Miss Margaret Ann Bayne Miller** (the latter of which quickly became **Mrs. Margaret A. B. Easson**).

These two ladies, however, did not take up residence in the front house at **Blairlogie Park**, and, for the first time in its history, both houses were let out to tenants. The new tenant in the front house (the back house continuing to be let to **Charles Sharpe**) in 1939, was **Henry Kirk Maltby**, recorded initially as a NAAFI Clerk, but later in his tenancy, in 1946, as a NAAFI Manager. While renting out their property in **Blairlogie**, the two ladies

resided respectively at: **Margaret Easson – East Pircorthie, Dunfermline** and **Jessie Mitchell – The Dale, Stanton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk**.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> 1946, the two ladies sold **Blairlogie Park** to **John Roberts Alec McDonald** of **Newhouse, Dunlop, Ayrshire** for £2000. **Mr. McDonald** is variously described in the **Stirlingshire Valuation Rolls** as a Poultry Farmer and a Music Teacher, and he invoked the aid of the **Halifax Building Society** to fund the purchase. This change in ownership resulted in a number of changes to the occupancies at **Blairlogie Park**. **Charles Sharpe** left and was replaced in the back house by a new tenant, a retired gentleman called **Mr. David T. Henderson**, who lived there until 1950. The tenant in the front house, **Henry Kirk Maltby**, then negotiated the purchase from his new landlord, **John McDonald**, of part of the **Blairlogie Park** lands across the A91. In November 1946, therefore, the piece of land that now houses **Guschetneuk**, was sold to **Henry Kirk Maltby** on the condition that he would erect a Bungalow costing not less than £1200 by 12<sup>th</sup> December 1946. The sale document contained around two pages of somewhat onerous terms, including conditions concerning insurances to be taken out, maintenance restrictions and a feu duty of £7.10.0 per year.

The departure of both **Charles Sharpe** and **Henry Kirk Maltby** by the end of 1946 heralded the end of **Blairlogie Park's** life as a two home rental asset. **John McDonald** converted the buildings into a single home after **David Henderson** left the back house in 1950, and he lived there himself until he sold the property in 1952.

**William Ronald Howrie**, a retired Civil Servant, bought the house, together with the remaining grounds South of the A91, in August 1952, for the sum of £4,400. He had previously lived at **Orcadia, Buxley Road, Disley, Stockport**, and again, **Halifax Building Society** smoothed the sale with a mortgage. He occupied the house with his wife **Jeannie F. Howrie** until his death late in 1968. His son, **William James Howrie**, acting as his Executor, sold **Blairlogie Park** to **Roger Sydney Platfoot** for a sum of £4,500, and this sale was registered in March 1969. Once again, however, not all of the original lands of **Blairlogie Park** were transferred in this sale. The remaining 3 ½ acres of land ( the residue of the original Orchard) on the South side of the A91, were retained by the **Howrie Family**. They passed by inheritance firstly to **Mrs. Howrie**, and then to her daughter. In 2008, this piece of land was again sold to two gentlemen for a reputed sum of £38,000, and later, one quarter of this 3 ½ acres is reputed to have been sold on for a sum of £80,000. At this point, the grounds of **Blairlogie Park** conformed largely to the same extent and place as they do today.

However, **Roger Platfoot** did not stay long at **Blairlogie Park** and, in May 1971, he sold the property to **Frederick George Middleton** and his wife **Margaret Fotheringham** or **Middleton**. By this time, the price paid had risen to £7,800, despite the departure of the land on the South side of the A91. **Freddie Middleton** redressed the balance a little, however, when he purchased a strip of land some 20 feet wide on the western boundary of the property from **Stirling Council** in November 1982 for the sum of £375. N.B. The land of **The Boigs** had changed hands a number of times through the years, including, latterly, to a company called **Carmor Developments**, whose plans for development did not mature, and who then relinquished it to **Stirling Council** for protection as a site of Special Scientific Interest and on which to locate the **Blairlogie Car Park**. In this strip of land, **Freddie** and his wife **Margaret** created a landscaped buffer between **Blairlogie Park** and the new car park.

Shortly after this, however, the **Middletons** sold the property on again to **John Christie Barr** and his wife **Irene Jessie Barr**. The price reflected the inflation in property prices in the years after the 1939/1945 war, and was £67,000. The sale took place in November 1985, and the **Barrs** had purchased **Blairlogie Park** with a plan to convert it back into two houses; so as to share the property with their son **Alexander (Alex) Penman Barr** and his wife **Frances (Fran) Barr**, who would occupy the back house. This split of the property into two legally separate properties was duly committed to a formal agreement, and what was then to be called **The Coach House** together with sections of the lands and rights of way, was purchased by the young **Barrs** for a sum of £30,000. **John and Jessie Barr** had previously lived at **Callender Drive, Larbert** and **Alex and Fran Barr** had previously lived at **Main Street, Larbert**. **Alex and Fran Barr** made major improvements and extensions to the living accommodation in the newly designated **Coach House** – especially to the second floor – where what had been a large hay loft was converted into modern bedrooms and utility facilities.