

## People in Logie Parish School ~ Logie Villa



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Logie Villa circa 1990

**Logie Villa** started its life as the Parish School of Logie – attached to and administered by Logie Kirk. However, with the passing of the Education (Scotland) Act in 1872, the new School Board erected three new schools at Bridge of Allan, Craigmill and Menstrie. The Parish therefore retired the parochial teacher, **Mr. Thomas Cumming**, and sold the building to **Lord Abercromby** of **Airthrey Castle** for the sum of £620 in 1884. He turned it into a private dwelling house.

However, prior to this, the 1841 Census Records identify the Logie Schoolmaster at that time as **Daniel Ferguson** (40), living with his wife **Margaret** (40). Two teachers; **Alexander Ferguson** (35) and **Mary Ferguson** (30) are also listed as being present at the school. It would appear that this was a brothers and sister team of teachers.

By the time of the 1851 Census only the “parochial schoolmaster” **William Spencer** (23) is listed, and in 1861, **Thomas Cumming** makes his first appearance as the Schoolmaster, sharing the school house with his sister **Margaret Cumming** (22). However, by the time of the 1871 Census, **Thomas Cumming** had acquired a wife, **Isabella** (25), and they had two

children, **Thomas** (1) and **Margaret** (7months). They also boasted a “general servant” **Flora McArthur** (20)

In 1889, **Lord Abercromby** sold the **Airthrey Estate**, and therein, **Logie Villa**, to **Donald Graham**, a Glasgow merchant.

The **Graham Family** rented out what was now officially called **Logie Villa**, and the 1891 Census Records show **Eliza King Stewart**, and 80 year old widow, living there with her niece **Mary Stewart** (30) and a “general domestic servant” called **Janet Houston**. **Mrs. Stewart** is recorded as “living on private means”. However, by the 1901 Census, the records show that the owner of **Logie Villa**, **Donald Graham** had died shortly before, and ownership was now in the hands of **The Representatives of the late Donald Graham**. The tenant and occupant was **Alex Ballantyne**, a labourer and , apparently, a single occupant. In 1902 he was replaced by **George Millar**, and again, in 1903, a new tenant was **James Galbraith**, who lived there until 1906, when a Minister **David Snaddon** moved in with his family

By the time of the 1911 Census, ownership of **Logie Villa** had passed to **Donald Graham’s** widow, **Gertrude Lawrence Clara Graham**, and occupation had increased dramatically from the days of single labourers. The Minister **David Ritchie Snaddon**, aged 38, lived at the house with his wife **Jeannie Snaddon** (41) and their three daughters **Violet Lister Snaddon** (7), **Sybil G. R. Snaddon** (5) and **Winifred L. R. Snaddon** (3) and their son **George A. R. Snaddon** (11 months). The household also included a boarder, 65 year old **Elizabeth Liston**, and a 36 year old servant called **John Boswell Mitchell**. **David Snaddon** died in 1914, and his wife **Jean Calder Snaddon** continued as the tenant at **Logie Villa** until 1917, when it appears that she remarried to become **Jean Calder Henderson** – still in residence at **Logie Villa** – where she remained until 1933. However, the records show that in 1920, she again became a widow, and remained so until her tenancy ended and she was replaced by **John Sorley**.

**John Sorley** was understudy to **Edward (Ned) Robb**, sexton at **Logie Kirk** who lived in **Logie Kirk Lodge**. He came from the same **Robb Family** as **Mima Robb**, still living today at **Gogar Cottage**. At **Ned Robb’s** death in 1939, **John Sorley** ceased his tenancy at **Logie Villa** to take up the position of Sexton at **Logie Kirk** and moved into **Logie Kirk Lodge**.

His place as a tenant of the **Graham** family of **Airthrey** in **Logie Villa** was taken by **James Lambert Oliver** and his wife **Margaret Oliver**. They had previously lived at one of the four cottages that comprised **Crossroads Cottages**. It is remembered that **Crossroads Cottages** at that time were equipped with what were euphemistically called “dry” toilets. **Jimmy and Margaret Oliver** had three daughters during the 20’s and 30’s – **Betty** in 1927, **Nancy** in 1930, and **Margaret** in 1936. **Jimmy** is described in the Stirling Valuation Roll as a Storekeeper.

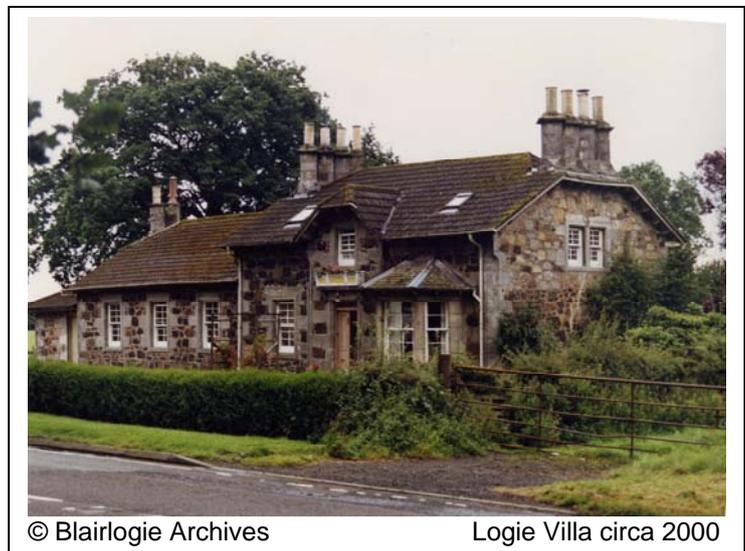
Prior to the move to **Logie Villa**, **Jimmy Oliver** had been chauffeur and gardener to the **Dawson** family of **Friarscroft** at Causewayhead. **Margaret** was nanny to the **Dawson’s** daughter **Myra**, and when **Jimmy** and **Margaret** married in 1926, the **Dawsons** built a Chauffeur’s house which became known as **Friarscroft Lodge**. Later, daughter **Nancy** became nanny to other children of the **Dawson** family and eventually moved with them to Southern Rhodesia.

The **Oliver** family lived as tenants at **Logie Villa** until 1946 when the **Airthrey Estate** was broken up, and property outwith the immediate **Airthrey Estate** was sold in separate lots. Tenants were invited to buy or leave. Due to ill health, **Margaret Oliver's** parents, **Mr. John** and **Elizabeth Gibson**, had to vacate their tied cottage at **7, Manor Powis Cottages**, and that triggered the decision of **Mr. and Mrs. Oliver** to purchase **Logie Villa**, whereby they could provide a home and care for **Margaret's** ageing parents. Sadly, **John Gibson** died on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1942, but **Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson** remained at **Logie Villa** until 1975

In the same period, daughter **Betty Oliver** became engaged to **Alexander (Sandy) Harrison** in 1945. He worked for Ogilvie the builder, and they were married in 1946 – after which they also moved into **Logie Villa**. The new couple were allocated the long schoolroom section of the house, while the Schoolmaster's house remained with the elder **Olivers**. During the 1939/45 war, a searchlight unit was stationed in the field across the road from **Logie Villa**. The cook to this unit – known as **Cookie Wylde** – brought his family, **Robert, Charlie** and **Maggie**, down from Rothesay to be billeted with the **Olivers** and **Gibsons**.

At this time therefore, **Logie Villa** played home to eleven or twelve people, and it is reported that three "billetees" from the city also arrived with "a wee case of socks full of holes and very little else"

Members of the **Oliver, Gibson** and **Harrison** families lived in **Logie Villa** from that time until the Summer of 2006. **Margaret Oliver, (Jimmy's** wife) died in 1971, and **Granny Gibson** died in 1975. Daughter **Nancy Oliver** married **Douglas Lyon** in 1953 in Rhodesia and is now living in Perth, Australia. Daughter **Margaret Oliver** married **Hugh McMillan** and now lives in Canada.



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Logie Villa circa 2000

**Sandy** and **Betty Harrison** had a son **James** in 1947 who now lives in Menstrie.

**Sandy Harrison** died in 1997, and **Jimmy Oliver** died in 1983. **Betty Harrison** lived in **Logie Villa** until the Summer of 2006, when she moved to Menstrie to be nearer to her son **James**, but her sister **Nancy** is in Australia and her sister **Margaret** is in Canada.