



**ST. ANDREW'S
WEDDERBURN**

1868-1968

Braemar
Wedderburn
4. 5. 68

Dear Mr Chancellor,
On Sunday our celebration
was all that we had hoped. I am
pleased that you are interested.

We have not a resident minister
at St Andrew's now, our services
are conducted by Mr Leitch (Rev)
from Churlton.

My husband as Elder of our
church opened your letter -
Mr Leitch has told him to do so
I shall send to you
with this note, the Wedderburn
paper and the booklet which
I compiled.

With best wishes,
I am,

Yours sincerely,
Edna Turnbull

Mrs Colin Turnbull
Braemar
Wedderburn

Foreword



This Booklet carries Greetings and is

An Invitation

To all Presbyterians and Friends to attend

Centenary Celebrations

and

Thanksgiving Service

of

St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church, Wedderburn

**As we look back on the Century of Service by
our fathers, we ask God's blessing for the
new era.**

The Story of St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wedderburn was built in 1868 by Mr. James Paterson who was born in the village of Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, Scotland—nine miles from Glasgow.

As a young man he was apprenticed to the trade of carpenter and wheelwright and paid five shillings a week while attending night school. His son Erwin and daughter Susan still reside in the district.

The first Minister appointed to the charge, Rev. Laurence Roxburgh, was ordained in 1867 and remained in Wedderburn until 1886.

The first entry in the Baptismal Register is that of James Laurence Roxburgh Hendry.

During the year 1867 Presbyterians gathered to worship in the Mechanics' Institute and in the well-kept book, 101 years old and in a beautiful hand the following minutes are written on the first page.

1st. day of May, 1867—Present : Messrs Robert Steel, Angus Ross, Joseph Lockhart, Donald Ross, James Paterson.

Moved by Joseph Lockhart, Seconded by Donald Ross, "That the Home Mission Committee be requested to continue the services here of the Rev. L. Roxburgh during the month of June to enable the Committee to try and properly organize a Charge at Wedderburn with the addition of the following Stations :

TORPHICAN—MR. PETER McVEAN.

[Present owner : Mr. Graham Turnbull.]

BRENANAH—MESSRS COUTTS BROTHERS.

[Present owner : Mr. K. Rollinson.]

SPRING HILL—MR. PETER McPHERSON.

[Present owners : Messrs L. H. and T. J. Holt.]

GOWER SPRINGS—MR. JOHN SUTHERLAND.

[Present owner : Mr. S. Hodgson.]

FERNIHURST—ALLFREY & McPHERSON.

[Present owners : Messrs J. and L. Evans.]

BOORT—BLACK & FARIE.

[Present owner : Dr. D. D. Coutts.]

and any others that may join within a reasonable distance." Carried.

On the third day of July 1867, it was moved by Mr. R. Steel, seconded by Mr W. Cosh, "That the Rev. L. Roxburgh be instructed to request the Rev. Abernethy to deliver his lecture here (on the Laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable); further that the Treasurer be empowered to procure bills announcing the lecture and tickets of admission for the same. Admission to lecture 1/- for benefit of the Sunday School fund."

On 16th day of July, 1867—It was moved, "That the kind offer of the Wesleyan Church for service on Sunday evening also for the lecture be accepted and the Secretary be instructed to tender thanks of this Committee to the Committee of Wesleyan Church."

On 15th day of May 1867—It was moved by Mr James Paterson, seconded by Mr. J. H. Cample, "That a four gallon tin of kerosene be presented to the Committee of the Miners' Institute as a recognition of their kindness in allowing the use of the Institute on Sunday, free of charge and further that the sum of one pound be presented, through

them, to their librarian for his unwearied attention to the comfort of the people who meet at the Institute for Public Worship on Sundays."

Mr. Roxburgh was ordained on 4th. December 1867, and a tea meeting was held on that evening.

On January 7th 1868—It was moved by Mr. J. Ross, seconded by Mr. James Paterson, "That this committee deem it necessary to take steps at once for the erection of a building for the Presbyterian Church at Wedderburn."

On 6th day March 1868—It was moved by Robert Steel, seconded by Mr. Lockhart, "That Mr. James Paterson be asked if he will draw out plans and specifications for a new Church, 40 feet long by 20 feet wide or thereabouts with height of walls 14 feet to be constructed of brick."

(Joseph Lockhart was the first School Master at Wedderburn. His was a Private School.)

Extracts from Original Minutes as Written

29th. day of May 1868.—Tenders submitted :

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| JOSEPH HARRISON | £485 4 0 |
| EDWARD FLANNERY | £547 18 6 |

The tender of Joseph Harrison accepted.

All monies for building fund to be deposited in the Bank of Victoria, Inglewood. Mr J. Lockhart appointed Treasurer for building fund.

2nd day of July 1868—Robert Steel be requested to lay the Foundation Stone of new Church on Saturday, 11th day of July at 3 p.m. and that a collection then be made.



Rev. Lawrence Roxburgh, first Minister at Wedderburn. Ordained in 1867.

That Ten Pounds be paid to Mr Paterson for drawing plans and specifications and agreeing to look after the erection of the building.

The Secretary reported that the Foundation Stone of the New Church was successfully laid on the eleventh day of July, 1868, and the sum of £5/6/0 was collected on the occasion.

Messrs J. Campbell and T. McMeeken were appointed to get a quantity of cake to distribute to the children at the laying of the stone.

22nd. day of July 1868.—Mr J. Paterson paid to the treasurer the sum of ten pounds as allowed to him for drawing plans and specifications.

4th day of November 1868.—Tenders called for 18 seats for New Church. Any of the congregation that might apply, to erect a seat at their own expense.

6th day of January, 1869—Rev. Roxburgh stated that Rev. Abernethy had kindly consented to open our new Church and that he had appointed Sunday, 17th day of January for the opening services and that on the

following day, Monday 18th he thought a tea meeting should be held.

February, 1869.—That £156/7/4 is the total debt on the new Church and that 80 sittings were let which comprised the whole accommodation at present available.

Managers for Year 1869.—Donald Ross, Joseph Lockhart, Robert Steel, James Paterson, George Doig, John Kirk, Robert Tyler, David Guthrie. Rev. Roxburgh's salary £135 per annum.

28th day of June 1871.—That the attention of the Shire Council be called to the dangerous state of the street from the Mechanics' Institute to the Church, requesting them to put the same in repair.

3rd. day of October, 1871.—Secretary reported that the street had been put in a state of repair.

24th day of June 1873.—That the young ladies of the congregation should take up the subscriptions in future.

8th day of October 1873.—Moved by Mr J. Paterson that when Rev. Roxburgh was in Melbourne he should see if a suitable Bell for the Church could be got. **23rd day of February 1874.**—Proposed by R. Steel seconded by J. Paterson that the Annual Fete take place on 17th March on Recreation Ground.

31st day of March 1874.—Clear profit from Fete £38. Thomas Armstrong, Esq., of East Charlton had handed in a cheque for £20. £13 of which was used for the purchase of a bell.

5th day of August 1875.—That the Managers approve the effort the Ladies of the Church are making to procure an organ.

29th day of November 1875.—Mr James Paterson and George Doig were appointed to examine the roof of the Church where a drop of water falls through on to the Bible and to get the necessary repairs effected for the prevention of same.

29th day of November 1875.—Conversational debate as to the best and cheapest method of having bell rung and lamps lighted on Sunday.

11th day January 1876.—An error in the yearly income was pointed out which was partly caused by an erroneous statement published in the Review showing that this Church had contributed during the year £150 to stipend fund whereas £20 of that amount should have been credited to the previous year. The Managers expressed sympathy with the Rev. Roxburgh on the great loss that he would suffer in his income on that account and expressed an opinion that if possible the amount would be made up additionally this year.

26th day of August 1879.—Moved by Robert Steel seconded by Joseph Lockhart that the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee for the purpose or organising a choir and for improving the Psalmody of the Church.

27th day of December 1879.—Mr Neilson stated that he understood that Mr. Thomas Murray, Missionary here, was not satisfied with the amount paid to him for his services, namely £2 per week and the use of a horse free of all expenses provided by Rev. Roxburgh.

Mr. Cossar moved that at next quarterly meeting the Committee will take into consideration the salary paid to Mr. Murray with a view to an increase of what is at present paid to him if the funds will then

admit of it.

4th day of April 1881.—Debt on Church amounts to £17/4/10.

12th day of July 1886.—Present Rev. F. Robinson, Messrs R. Steel, J. Lockhart, W. Nielson. Rev. Robinson's accommodation is unsuitable and it is desirable whenever practicable to build a Manse on Church grounds.

13th day of September 1886.—Resolve that the Secretary write to the Managers of the Churches at Richmond Plains and Berrimal asking for a contribution of horse feed for minister's horse. Minister's salary £225 per annum.

21st day of February 1887.—A deputation met with the people of Richmond Plains and laid the matter of the erection of a Manse before the meeting and Mr. Steel detailed what had been done in the matter at Wedderburn. The meeting took up the matter very cordially, three five pound subscriptions were presented by the Gentlemen at the meeting and the following young gentlemen were appointed as collectors and added to the building committee :— John Stewart Irwin, Robert Lang, William Gould and Gilbert Lang.



Rt. Rev. Rhys A. Miller,
M.A., B.D., Moderator
of the Presbyterian
Church of Victoria.

21st day of March 1887.—That a Bazaar be held on 24th. May and that Mr John Stewart Irwin ask for the use of the Show Grounds for that day.

1st day of February, 1894.—That a minute of regret be recorded in the Books of the Church as follows :—

“That the Board desires to record its regret at the loss sustained by the death of Mr. Donald Ross, who for nearly 30 years was a member of the Board and to testify to the consistent character of its deceased member, his active interest in all its concerns and genuine sympathy in its history.

8th day of August, 1895.—J. B. Steel was appointed Secretary.

26th day of July, 1898.—The old organ sold for sum of £5/0/0.

20th day of February, 1900.—Presentation to Mrs Steel for her services as organist.

2nd. day of April, 1902.—That the thanks of the Committee be sent to Messrs Taylor and Schaefer for the able manner in which the painting of the Church was carried out.

23rd day of July 1903.—Moved Mr E. Johnson, seconded J. B. Steel that a tablet in memorial of the late Rev. L. Roxburgh be placed inside porch of Church or outside the building.

17th day of August 1904.—That Mr James Hendry be appointed as a member of the Committee. **17th. day of January 1908.**—That the matter of laying on water to front of Manse be left in Secretary's hands.

28th day of January 1909.—An account from Geo. Morecroft for an iron gate for Manse, 10/-.

30th. day of June 1909.—It was agreed to erect a lamp in front of the Church and request the Shire to find oil and light same. **23rd day of July 1909.**—Mrs J. B. Steel resigned as organist. Moved that her resignation be received with regret and that a record be made in the minutes to show our appreciation of her services the same to include Mrs R. Steel.

20th day of October, 1909.—Mr James Ball added to the Committee.

7th day of May 1926.—Moved that the different representatives discuss the matter of conveyance for the minister with their respective congregations and that the object be to purchase a new Ford Car costing £169/10/0. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Steel moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Round for taking care of the horse and manse during the absence of a permanent minister.

25th day of May 1926—Moved that a Chevrolet motor car be purchased. As an amendment it was moved that an Overland Motor Car be purchased. It was then moved that the disposal of the buggy and harness be left in the hands of Mr. Smith.

Rev. Alexander A. Bell be asked to accept a call to Wedderburn at the salary of £235 per annum and expenses.

(Minutes from 1926—1945 have been lost.)

18th day of April, 1945.—Mr. T. Ball moved that the Church's 80th. Anniversary be a special celebration and that Mr Oswald Jones be invited as guest speaker.

26th day of October, 1966.—J. Gould moved and A. Tonkin seconded that we accept the tender for restoration of the Church.

Restoration of St. Andrew's



Dr. W. T. C. STRAEDE, O.St.J., whose help and inspiration made possible the restoration of St. Andrew's Church.

Memorial Windows

In 1958, Sir Francis Rolland, then Moderator of Victoria, dedicated the new windows of the Church.

Down through the years the rains and storms have beaten upon the old Church and although that drop of water came through on to the Bible was easily staunched, gradually damp patches appeared on the inside walls. The bricks were locally made, and built with mortar, the lime of which had to be locally burnt, deteriorated in places, and water seeped through.

Still the old spire stood firmly, the bell rang out and the weather vane showed the wind's direction.

"Nothing can be done!" the sceptics said. "There's no damp course!" It was done. The walls were re-inforced with metal mesh, plastered over and finished with white quartz sand, a strong apron of cement was put all around and the little Church commences its next hundred years with humble pride.

Sir Francis, Padre of the 14th. Battalion, First A.I.F., on that day also dedicated the Albert Jacka Gates at the Memorial Gardens, High Street, Wedderburn.

Albert Jacka, born in Wedderburn, was the first soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the 1914-18 War.

Gold

Wedderburn is well-known as a gold bearing district. The Church Building is in the centre of the richest area.

Fortunes were made in the early days, 100 yards to the south of the Church, and as recently as 1951 within 50 yards to the East. In that year large nuggets were found on the footpath and in the street directly outside the Church gate.

There has always been conjecture as to what lies within the Church grounds, and as permission is never granted to mine there, some old members continue to suggest an arboretum to beautify the surroundings and offer their services free to dig 'good deep holes' for the trees.

Brief History Since 1900

An important part of Church work during the latter years has been the Annual Flower Show.

Inaugurated by the Rev. Alexander A. Bell in 1927, the Show in 1928 was opened by Lord Bruce who spoke from the platform of a horse drawn lorry, to a crowd which filled the streets outside the Mechanics' Institute Hall. The Flower Show has become an occasion enjoyed by people from a large area.

Minister's Son

Reverend William Ride was minister at Wedderburn from 1901 to 1909. His son, Sir Lindsay Tasman Ride, K.B., C.B.E., M.A., D.M., B.Ch., LL.B., was born in 1898 and is now retired at Stanley, Hong Kong. Lindsay Ride became the 1922 Victorian Rhodes Scholar and went to New College, Oxford. He graduated a Doctor and in 1928 went to Hong Kong as Professor of Physiology.

He became Vice-Chancellor of the Hong Kong University in 1949, which position he held until he retired in 1965. During World War II he was wounded (he still carries a shrapnel bullet—one of our own—received in action), was taken prisoner by the Japanese, transferred to Kowloon, and walked out of prison.

After ten exciting and hazardous days he reached Chunking and later went behind the Japanese lines and did reconnaissance work with a price on his head. His activities in Hong Kong included conducting the Hong Kong Singers (a Choral Society); O.C. of the Citizen Military Forces; playing Cricket and Tennis for the University and many other activities. He was a member of the Commission which recently investigated the lawlessness in Hong Kong.

Thanks

The Board of Management of St. Andrew's wish to record their thanks and appreciation to Dr. W. Paton; Dr. W. T. C. Straede; Rev. E. J. Roberts; Mr. J. Erskine and Mr. E. J. Ride who assisted with research for this story, and to Mrs Colin Turnbull who compiled this booklet.

Board of Management — St. Andrew's, 1968

COLIN TURNBULL (Elder)

JOHN GOULD (Elder)

CLIFFORD COATES (Secretary)

ROWALLAN TURNBULL (Treasurer)

WILLIAM LUMSDEN

RICHARD POOLE

ARTHUR TONKIN

ROBERT STEEL

Organist — MRS HOWARD MATTHEWS

President of Ladies' Guild — MRS W. LUMSDEN

Secretary of Ladies' Guild — MRS HOWARD MATTHEWS

Superintendent of Sunday School — MRS HOWARD MATTHEWS



Interior of St. Andrew's Church

Centenary Programme of Services

11.00 A.M.—Preacher : Reverend Alexander A. Bell.

2.00 P.M.—Thanksgiving Service. Conducted by the Moderator of the Wedderburn Charge, Rev. G. H. Leicester. Address by Victorian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Rhys A. Miller, M.A., B.D.

7.00 P.M.—Preacher : Rev. Douglas Mathews.

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