

The St Andrews Golf Club

Founder Members

Researched and written by Keith McCartney

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The first Minute of The St Andrews Golf Club recorded that *“At St Andrews the 29th September 1843 a number of young men met to consider what steps should be taken to form themselves into a Society when it was proposed and agreed to that this Society should be instituted on this day and be called the St Andrews Mechanics’ Golf Club when it was proposed by A. Carstairs, cabinet maker, and seconded and unanimously agreed to that D. Todd, jun., painter, should be made Captain of the Club for the first year.”*

In the Club’s centenary history, published in 1946, A. J. Bennett listed the names of our eleven founder members. They were – *William Ayton, cabinet maker; Alexander Carstairs, cabinet maker; Alexander Bruce, cabinet maker; James Herd, mason; John Keddie, joiner; John Lynn, tailor; Adam McPherson, plasterer; James McPherson, dancing master; George Morris, butler; Robert Paterson, slater, and David Todd, Junior, painter.*

William Ayton

(Cabinet Maker)

William Ayton was born at Newburgh, Fife, in 1788, the son of William Ayton, who was a sailor, and his wife Jean Scott. He married Elspeth Watson in 1817 at Dunino and died on 31st December 1863 at his home in Market Street, St Andrews when his occupation was recorded as joiner.

William served as Captain of the Club in 1846. His son William Ayton, jun., born in 1820, was to Captain the Club a record number of times – 1871 to 1880, 1885, 1890 and 1893 and was the winner of the Cross Clubs when it was first put up for competition on 24th June 1850.

In 1946 Alex Ayton, great-grandson of the founder member, presented the Ayton Trophy to the Club to commemorate 100 years continuous membership in the Club by his family. His brother, Laurie Ayton, sen., was to Captain the Club in 1953.

Alexander Carstairs

(Cabinet Maker)

Alexander Carstairs was born at St Andrews in 1804, the son of John Carstairs and Elizabeth Pattie. He married Jane Ferguson in 1827 at Edinburgh, where he was living at 1 Church

Street, Stockbridge. In 1841 he was living with his wife and five children in North Street, St Andrews.

He died on 4th March 1850 at 30 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh predeceasing his wife who died on 15th October 1886 at 21 South Castle Street, St Andrews.

He became the Club's second Captain when he succeeded David Todd, jun., in 1845.

Alexander Bruce

(Cabinet Maker)

Alexander Bruce was born at St Andrews in 1823, the son of Henry Bruce, who was a surgeon, and Janet Brown. His father died when he was twelve years old.

In 1841 he was living with his younger brother George, born in 1825, in Market Street. Both were apprentice wrights. In 1851 he was living in the home occupied by his brother, his brothers' wife and children at 110 Market Street and was a cabinet maker (journeyman).

Alexander was Captain of the Club in 1848

His brother was the famous George Bruce. A man of many talents he was a successful businessman, poet, naturalist and town councillor after who the Bruce Embankment, which dates from 1893 when he began to reclaim land from the sea beside the links, is named. George himself joined the Club in 1846 and was Captain in 1855 – 1856.



James Herd

(Mason)

James Herd was born at St Andrews in 1817, the son of James Herd, who was a weaver, and Margaret Pirie. He married Janet Wood in 1844 at St Andrews. In 1851 he was living with his wife and family at 126 North Street, St Andrews when his occupation was recorded as being a journeyman mason.

He was the winner of the Club Medal when it was first put up for competition on New Year's Day 1847.

John Keddie

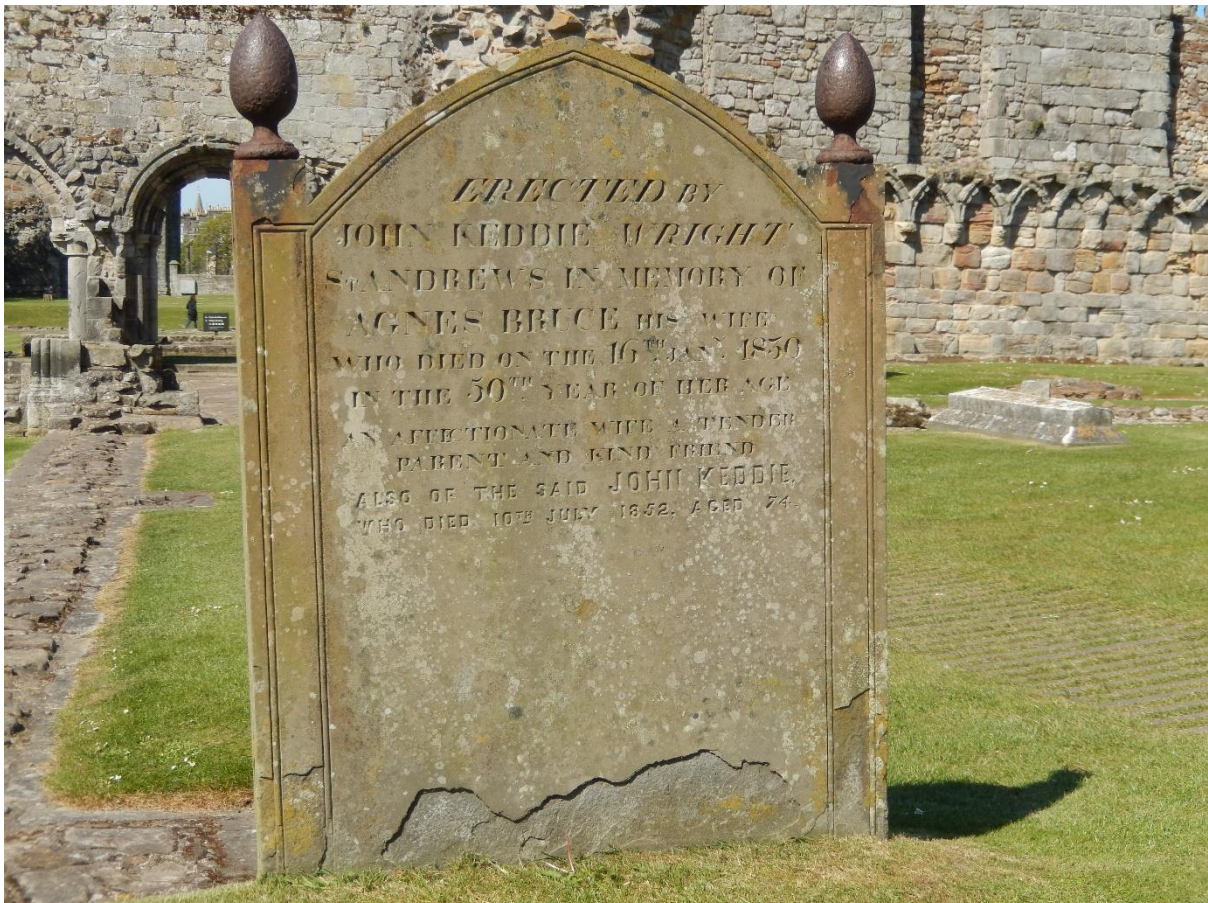
(Joiner)

John Keddie was born at St Andrews in 1813, the son of John Keddie, who was a joiner, and Agnes Bruce. In 1841 he was living in his father's house in Market Street.

He married Barbara Scott in 1846 at Edinburgh. She died in 1847. In 1849 he married Julia Peacock at St Andrews and in 1851 was living with his wife and family at 126 Market Street. She died in 1855 and in 1875 he married Ann Elizabeth Grainger at Edinburgh.

He died on 6th February 1890 at 1 Abbotsford Place, St Andrews, when it was recorded that he was a Sheriff Officer, formerly joiner.

John was Captain of the Club in 1847.



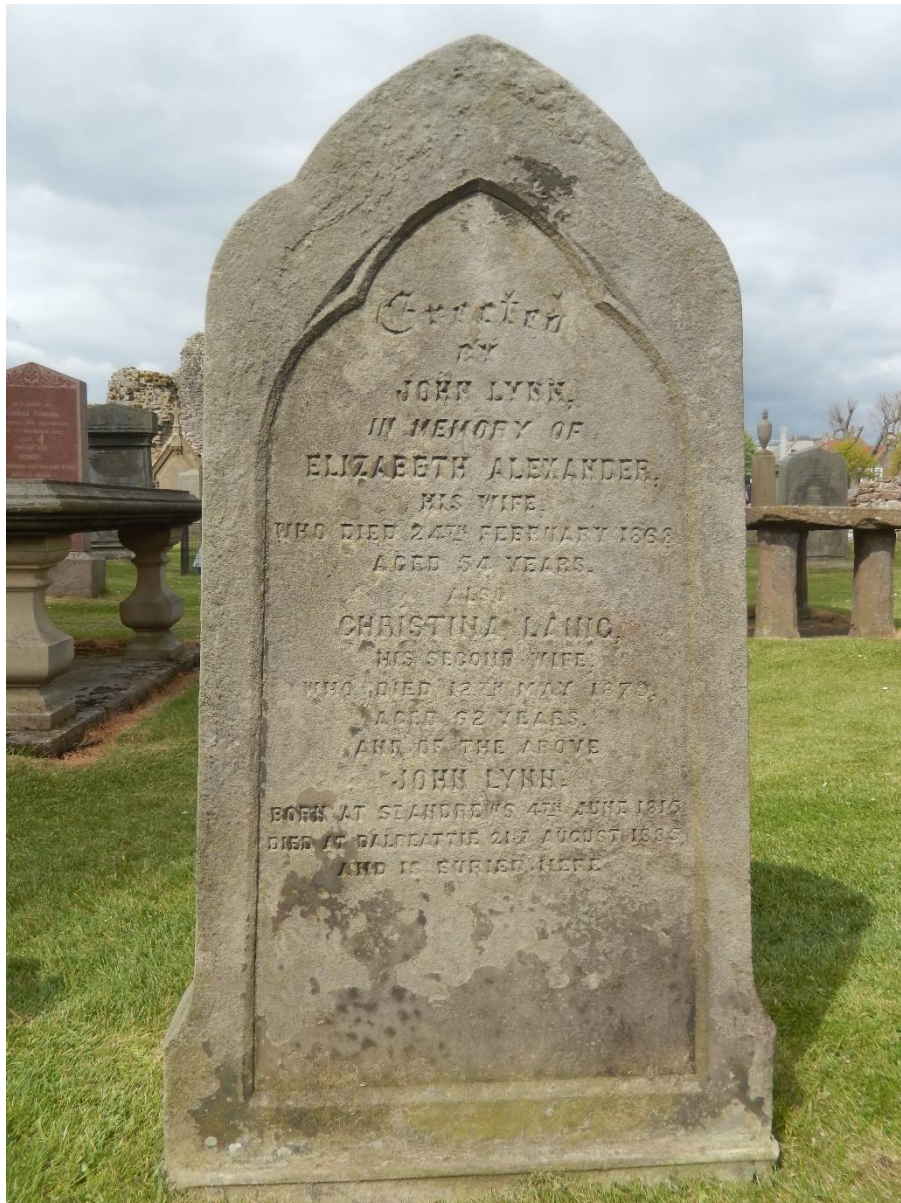
John Lynn

(Tailor)

John Lynn was born at St Andrews in 1811, the son of John Lynn, who was a weaver, and Alison Gourlay. He married Elizabeth Alexander at St Andrews in 1838 and in 1841 was living with his wife and family in Market Street.

Elizabeth died in 1868 and in 1876 John married Christian Robertson at St Andrews.

He died on 21st August 1885 at Lillybank, Dalbeattie, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and was buried at St Andrews.



Adam McPherson

(Plasterer)

Adam McPherson was born at Perth in 1814, the son of Alexander McPherson, who was a general labourer, and Christian Murray. He married Catherine Ramsay at St Andrews in 1850

and in 1851 was living with his wife at 6 Pilmour Links. She died in 1859 and in 1861 he married Janet Lorimer at St Andrews.

He died on 25th December 1884 at 106 North Street, St Andrews.



James McPherson

(Dancing Master)

James McPherson was born at Strachan, Aberdeenshire, in 1816, the son of John McPherson, who was a blacksmith, and Agnes Middleton. He married Catherine Lamb at St Andrews in 1841 and in that year was living with his wife at West Port.

He died on 4th December 1889 at West Port, St Andrews.

George Morris

(Butler)

George Morris was born at St Andrews in 1819, the son of John Morris, who was a weaver, and Jean Bruce. He married Agnes Peattie at St Andrews in 1846 and in 1851 was living with his wife and family at 126, North Street.

George was employed as a house servant in the St Andrews home of Robert Chambers, partner in the publishing firm W & R Chambers of Edinburgh, and rose to become their butler.

A fine golfer, he went to Carnoustie in 1855 as Keeper of the Green but resigned his post after a few years and took over the Golf Inn there.

In 1864 he returned to work for Robert Chambers who, in 1869, took him to Hoylake where they laid out a nine-hole course for the Liverpool Golf Club (Royal Liverpool from 1871) which Chambers formally opened on 5th June that year. George's son John (Jack) Morris accompanied them on the trip and was appointed the Club's first professional, a post he held from then until his death in 1929.

George died on 11th October 1888 at 22 West Preston Street, Edinburgh when his occupation was recorded as warehouseman.

He was an older brother of the legendary Old Tom Morris and uncle of the equally famous Young Tom Morris both of whom were also to become members of The St Andrews Golf Club.

Robert Paterson

(Slater)

Robert Paterson was born in 1802 at St Andrews, the son of William Paterson, who was a heckler, and Betsy Thomson. He married Helen Adamson at St Andrews in 1828. In 1841 he was living with his wife and family in Market Street.

He died on 30th June 1887 at 37 Market Street, St Andrews.

Robert was Captain of the Club in 1850.



David Todd Jnr

(Painter)

David Todd was born at St Andrews in 1818, the son of David Todd, who was a house painter, and Cecilia Bruce and in 1841 was living with his parents and siblings in Union Street. He married Jane Ritchie at St Andrews in 1847.

He died on 7th November 1875 at 13 South Street, St Andrews when his occupation was recorded as house painter (master).

David was the first Captain of the Club 1843 – 1844.

