

# People in Logie Powis House

The earliest recorded ownership of the **Powis Estate** is found in several references within title deeds or records of disponements made in later years; for example, a document dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 1833, states “ which lands formerly pertained to the **Abbey of Cambuskenneth** as part of the temporal patrimony and property of the same”. This wide land ownership, including not only the **Powis Estate**, but also what we now know as **Cornton, Logie**, and **Airthrey** existed before the Reformation. At the Reformation, by the Act of Annexation, the lands became the property of The Crown.

The early ownerships that followed – still including lands of far greater extent than the current **Powis House** estate – are documented in the **Reverend Menzies Fergusson's** book **Logie – A Parish History**, and he describes a pattern of family ownership and inheritance that lasted through the years of his history into the late Victorian period.

In 1480, the lands were held in feu-ferme by **Alexander Kalender**, and, in 1492 they passed to **Thomas Calender**, then in 1494 to **Robert Calender**. His ownership appears to have lasted until 4<sup>th</sup> February 1557, when ownership again passed on to **John Callender**, and then eventually **Robert Callender** took ownership on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1561. Despite the changes in the spelling of the name, this clearly suggests a family fiefdom, passed from father or uncle to son or nephew over a period of around 80 years – but all under the general patronage of **The Crown**.

Following this **Callender** family governorship, it is recorded that the next owner was **David Balfour** of **Inchyre**, and this is confirmed by Charter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 1594 from **King James VI**, in liferent for himself and his eldest son, also **David Balfour**. This **David Balfour**, did, in fact, succeed his father, but, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1607, disposed the **Powis Estate** to **Thomas Ewing**, who, in turn, was succeeded by his eldest son **John Ewing**, designated in the Crown Charter of 1731 as “Servitor of **John Earl of Mar**”.

Another family reign then commenced when **John Ewing** disposed the **Powis Estate** to **Alexander Stirling**, third son of **James Stirling** of **Auchyle** by documents dated 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> September 1629. Succession then moved to his daughter **Mary Stirling** in February 1636. However, being still a minor, **Mary** was side-lined in favour of her uncle **James Stirling**, who encouraged her to dispoise the property in May 1637 to the same **James Stirling**, who quickly disposed the property forward to **John Stirling** of **Herbertshire**, in June 1638. He, in his turn, passed the property, in 1653, to **William Stirling**, son of **James Stirling** of **Bothwill**.

**William Stirling** married **Dame Helen Sinclair, Lady Bannockburn** in February 1672, but, having no children by this marriage, his death in early 1678 led to succession by his brother **George Stirling** of **Auchyle**. **George Stirling** had three sons and two daughters. **William**, the eldest son, succeeded him on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1707, but, unlike his father, although also marrying well to **Lady Lilius Forrester** in 1718, had only daughters by his marriage, none of whom produced offspring. This may be a major reason why ownership of the **Powis Estate** by the **Stirling** family came to an end. In July 1729, **William Stirling** sold the estate to **Edward Mayne**, designated as a Merchant of Lisbon. The **Stirling** family “reign” had lasted for almost precisely 100 years

The **Mayne** family had a history of involvement in the Stirling/Perthshire area, and this, coupled with trading in Spain and Portugal, had led to **Edward Mayne** acquiring a large fortune. After purchasing **Powis**, he immediately installed his brother **William** in the property, and, when he died, unmarried, in 1743, his will left the **Powis** properties to his nephew **Edward (William's son) William**, unlike his benefactor brother, was married four times – a trait that appears to have continued in the **Mayne** family, and had many offspring before dying in 1740. During his ownership of **Powis**, **Edward Mayne** purchased the **Lands of Logie** in 1731, which included a large part of what are now **Airthrey/Stirling University** estate, and **Blairlogie**.

His nephew, also **Edward Mayne**, married three times, and it was said of him “that the cradle rocked for 50 years”. His third wife **Janet**, daughter of **James Henderson** of **Westerton** or **Airthrey**, gave him two sons; **James**, his successor, and **Edward**, who succeeded to the merchants business in Lisbon. During his ownership, it was this **Edward Mayne** who replaced the ancient house at **Powis** with the new building that forms the central part of **Powis House** today. The date of this work is given as 1746/1747. He was a great philanthropist within the local communities and also acted as a magistrate. In 1765, **Edward** sold half the **Lands of Logie** to **Robert Haldane**, but it is also recorded that **Edward's** father **William** lived for some years at **Logie** before his death. **James [Captain James Mayne of H.M. 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot]** succeeded by disponentment dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1774 just before his father's death in June 1777, and it was **James** who sold the remaining half of the **Lands of Logie** to **Sir Robert Abercromby** of **Airthrey** in 1800.

However, in 1806, a sale of the **Powis Estate** was made to **Duncan Glassford**, and it is at this time that financial uncertainties created problems for the owners of the Estate. **Duncan Glassford** sold the property after only two years of ownership, and the financing of its purchase by **Edward Alexander** was supported by the **Stirling Banking Company**. In the early years of the 1800's this bank ran into liquidity problems, and, despite a loan of £85,000 from the **Bank of Scotland** in February 1826, was declared bankrupt at the end of that year. The terms of the Bank's loan to **Edward Alexander** allowed the **Stirling Banking Company** to sequester the **Powis Estate**, which it did by disponentment dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 1827, and ownership passed to Trustees in the name of **Alexander Smith** of **Glassingall** and then to **Gideon Colquhoun**, merchant in London, as “cautioner” in a composition arrangement. A document dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 1833, records the disponentment of the **Powis Estates** to **Gideon Colquhoun** on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1832 by the **Stirling Banking Company** and **Edward Alexander**, with all of the Bank's partners incorporated in the disposition.

The ramifications of this financial uncertainty and the actions undertaken to recover the debts are illustrated by an action taken by **Gideon Colquhoun** recorded on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1833 against **Sir Robert Abercromby**, seeking repayment of debts in respect to the Northern part of the **Powis Estate** purchased by **Sir Robert** in terms of an agreement dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 1829.

A kind of resolution appears to have been reached later in 1833, when “The Mansion House of Powis, with the Offices, Lawn, Garden and Orchard, part of the farm called Powis Farm, the lands and farm called Manorneuk Farm, with the water that supplies the said Farm of Manorneuk and Mill Lead; and superiority of parts of the Estate of Powis called Craigmill or Craigend or Powis” were disposed by **Gideon Colquhoun** and **Edward Alexander** to **Thomas Buchanan**, late of **Bombay**, presently residing at **Tullibody House**. However even this apparent resolution was not yet complete, for **Edward Alexander's** son **Sir James Edward Alexander**, succeeded in his inheritance of

part of the **Powis Farm** by disposition from **Gideon Colquhoun** in June 1835, and the full transfer of ownership was only then achieved when **Sir James Edward Alexander** sold the southernmost portion of the lands to **Thomas Buchanan** in December 1839, and the northernmost portion to **George Lord Abercromby** at the same time. These later actions appear to be technical and legal resolution of agreements already made between the parties involved after practical resolution of the debts and financing problems. This “tidying up” is also seen in the legal transfer of ownership dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 1840 insofar as it stipulates that the transfer to **Thomas Buchanan** required the concurrence of **John Alexander Henderson, Mary Gryce Henderson or Colquhoun, Catherine Alexander** and **James Colquhoun**, presumably all partners in the consortium of interests led by **Gideon Colquhoun**. There is also record of a loan of £5000 made to **Edward Alexander** dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1835 by **William Alexander** “sometimes of the **Island of Croix**, now residing at **Claddens** near **Kirkintilloch**” against the security of **Powis**, and a later discharge bond dated January 14<sup>th</sup> 1840 when this debt was repaid. This was probably allowed by the sale of the house to **Thomas Buchanan**.

The eventual arrival of **Thomas Buchanan** heralded a third family dynasty to own **Powis** and which also lasted over 100 years. **Thomas Buchanan** had been Superintendent of Marines at Bombay, who, prior to arriving at **Powis**, married **Catherine Abercromby**, the youngest daughter of **Sir Ralph Abercromby**, on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1811, but, sadly, he died shortly after finally acquiring **Powis**, in May 1842, a year after the death of his wife **Catherine**. He was succeeded by his son **John Buchanan** and this is recorded by the Registrar on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1843. **John**, like his father before him, had spent his early years in **Bombay** in the service of the **Honorable East India Company**. After his return to Scotland, he lived for a time at the home of his father **Thomas’s** cousin **Miss Edmonston** at **Newton**. **Thomas’s** will stated in a codicil dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 1841, that **John** would only inherit **Powis** if he had not, before **Thomas’s** death inherited the estates of **Thomas’s** brother at **Cambusbarron** or the estates at **Newton** of **Miss Grizzel Kinninmond Edmonston**. As neither of these events occurred, he duly inherited **Powis**, and the document of transfer states that the estate includes “the furniture, wine, plate, books and other effects” and it also included “the parsonage and vicarage of the **Lands of Powis**, which said includes those lands called **Craigmill** or **Craigend**”.

The National Census of 1841 gives a picture of the household of **Powis** in the last years of occupancy by **Thomas**, after the death of his wife **Catherine**. In **Powis House** itself, the inhabitants are listed as **Thomas Buchanan**, aged 66, and “independent”; **Matilda Jameson**, aged 30 and “independent”; **Alexander Paterson**, aged 14, **Emily Morrison**, aged 35, **Janet Crosby**, aged 30, **Elizabeth Fairly**, aged 23, **Janet Miller**, aged 28, and **Donald Ferguson**, aged 30. Although not designated, it is assumed that the latter names represented the serving staff to the household. In **Powis Garden Cottage**, the Census lists **James Smith**, aged 35 and “gardener”, with his wife **Elizabeth Smith**, aged 30; with their children, **Charles** (6), **John** (4), **Sarah** (2) and **Jessie** (6 months) **Christian** (3 months).

**John Buchanan** had married **Harriet**, the eldest daughter of **John Nimmo** – also a servant of the **Honorable East India Company** – in 1837, before inheriting **Powis**, and she bore him five sons and two daughters, two of which sons inherited **Powis** later. **Harriet** died at **Powis House** on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1892. **John Buchanan** died a year before his wife, on March 18<sup>th</sup> 1891, aged 79, but, before this, as early as 1848, ownership of part of the Estate, described as “31 falls and 20 ells of ground with the low houses or cottages thereon on the West side of **Powis Loan**” had passed to his daughter **Miss Elizabeth Buchanan**, at that time resident in **Charlotte Square, Edinburgh** for a sum of £19,000.

**Elizabeth Buchanan** did not take up residence at **Powis House**, and the 1851 Census indicates a rental agreement, with the occupants of the main house being listed as **James Allan Dalzell**, aged 78, a “retired civil servant of the East India Company” together with his wife **Argentina Dalzell**, aged 55, and staff consisting of **Jane Tod** a single lady’s maid, aged 40, **Margaret Colway**, aged 38, **Marrion Forber**, aged 38, **Maria Wilson**, aged 28, and **James Harvey McMillan**, aged 25; all four being described as “house servants”. Encouragingly, in **Powis Garden Cottage**, **James Smith**, the gardener, still reigned at age 46, with his wife **Elizabeth**. Their son had left home, now being 16, but **John**, **Sarah** and **Jessie** were still living with their parents.

**Powis Cottages** housed four families by 1851, and these are likely to be the “low houses or cottages on the West side of Powis Loan” referred to in the description of the Estate made in 1848. The families listed are: **Andrew Ferguson**, a farm servant of 35 years, with his wife **Agnes** (35) and their children **James** (11), **Andrew** (9), **Henry** (7), **Elizabeth** (5), and **Peter** (2).

The second family is listed as **John Pedler**, a farm servant aged 26, with his wife **Elizabeth**, aged 21.

The third family is given as **Thomas Binnie**, a farm servant, aged 34, his wife **Margaret** (32), and their children **George** (9), **James** (5), **Margaret** (3) and **Henry** (2). Lastly, **John Donald**, also a farm servant, aged 36, with his wife **Janet** (36) and their children **Isabella** (8), **John** (60), **Janet** (3) and **Andrew** (1).

However, some eight years after **Elizabeth’s** ownership commenced,, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1856 **John Buchanan**, stated to be of **Portobello**, regained full ownership from his aunt **Miss Elizabeth Buchanan**, formerly of **Charlotte Square**, but now of **Hope Street, Edinburgh**, and the lands and estate are described in the disponentment that recorded this transfer as:

“The mansion House of Powis, with the Offices, Lawn, Garden, Orchard and others about the same as lately in the occupation of said **Edward Alexander**, and also that field or part of the farm called **Powis Farm**, as lately possessed by **John Bruce**, tenant therein, but excluding that part of the Estate purchased by the **Rt, Hon. George Lord Abercromby**, now deceased, measuring 34 acres”

**John Buchanan** enjoyed a long sojourn at **Powis House**, and the ten-yearly National Census gives several glimpses into the households during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The occupants of **Powis House**, recorded in the 1861 Census, were **John Buchanan**, “landed proprietor”, aged 48, his wife **Harriet**, (41), and their children **Elizabeth** (17), **Ralph** (14), **James** (12), **John** (9), **Francis** (8) and **Anne** (2); plus a strong supporting staff consisting of **Robin Thomson** “governor” of 21, **Mary Hoburn**, the cook aged 27, **Janet Anderson**, 27, a housemaid, **Elizabeth Anderson**, a 24 year old nurse, **Margaret Jessanine**, laundress aged 21, **Jessie Hutcheson**, a 23 year old “table maid” and **Anne Robinson**, a 15 year old “kitchen maid”.

The **Smith Family**, all as recorded in the 1851 Census remained in the **Powis Garden Cottage** in 1861.

Two families are recorded as living in what is newly designated as **Powis Loan**: **Thomas Binnie**, now recorded as being 43, continued to head one of these families with **Margaret**,

his wife aged 40. Neither sons **James** nor **George** are still in the family home, and daughter **Margaret** and son **Henry** have been joined by new additions **Thomas** (7), **Janet** (3) and **William** (1). The other family listed in this location as being **James Hutton**, aged 48, with his wife **Helen**, aged 41.

Still in the occupancy of **John Buchanan**, the 1871 Census provides the news that the only inhabitants at **Powis House**, when the Census Takers called, were **Margaret Kent**, the cook, **Catherine Sutherland**, the table maid and **Emily Henderson**, all looking after **Margaret Beveridge**, an eleven year old visitor while the **Buchanan Family** were away. However, **James Smith** and his family (unchanged from the ten years since the 1861 Census) were still looking after the gardens from **Powis Garden Cottage**. Two new entries, closely associated with the house, appear in this latest Census: firstly **Powis Lodge**, with **James Wright**, coachman, aged 55 included with his wife **Anne Wright** (52), with their two sons **Blackwood Wright** (21) and **Hugh Wright** (14), and, secondly, **Powis Stables**, housing **Duncan McKenzie**, a labourer ages 55, with his wife **Eliza** (50) and family members, daughter **Eliza** (9), and two grandsons **John** (10) and **William** (3).

By the 1881 Census, the occupants of **Powis House** itself are listed as **John Buchanan**, his wife **Harriet**, and only three of the six children listed in 1861: **Elizabeth**, now 36, son **Francis**, now 28, and daughter **Anne**, now 22. The listed supporting staff was also much reduced to **Hector Cameron**, butler, **Margaret Elliot**, cook, **Elizabeth Duncan**, housemaid, and **Sarah Gordon**, laundry maid.

However, although **James Smith** is still listed as the Gardener in **Powis Garden Cottage**, his wife **Elizabeth** is missing and he is listed as a Widower. Three of their children, **John**, **Sarah** and **Jessie** are still in the family home.

The new entries in the 1871 Census appear again in this 1881 Census, and the first is the **Powis Stable Yard**, where lived **Archibald Walker**, (64) assistant gardener, with his wife **Agnes** (61) and their two children **James** (26) a grocer's assistant, and **Isabella** (21), a dressmaker. The second is **Powis Lodge**, where **David Norval** (42), coachman, his wife **Helen** (40) and their children **Mary** (15) and **Alexander** (13) are recorded.

At **John Buchanan's** death in 1891, his inheritance passed jointly to two of his sons : **John Abercromby Buchanan** and **Francis Charles Buchanan**. In the Warrant of Registration of this ownership transfer, **John** is stated to reside at **108a Finchley Road, London**, and **Francis's** address is given as **Powis House**. The conditions of inheritance included a clause to the effect that the sons were to pay a yearly sum of £153 – 6s – 8d to **John's** wife **Harriet** during her remaining lifetime.

Just prior to this handover, the 1891 Census gives a further picture of this estate at the end of Victorian times. The residents at **Powis House** are headed by **Harriet Buchanan**, living with her children, now reduced to **Ralph**, **James**, **Francis** and **Anne**, with a supporting staff of **Catherine M. Johnston**, housemaid, **Mary S. Kilpatrick**, cook, **Jane May**, maid, and **Grace C. Ferguson**, table maid.

**Alexander Thomson**, gardener and domestic servant, resided in **Powis Garden Cottage** with his wife **Flora**.

**Powis Lodge** now provided a home for **Joseph Strang**, (40) coachman, his wife **Janet** (34), and their children **Janet** (9), **Catherine F.** (7), **Agnes** (5), **Annie H.S.** (2) and **Marion H. J.** (1).

**John Dollar**, gardener and domestic servant, lived with his wife **Sarah** and son **William** in the **Powis Stables**.

**Francis Charles Buchanan** occupied **Powis House**, but his brother **John Abercromby Buchanan** continued to live in London, and, by disponentment dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 1905, **John** passed his share in the ownership to **Francis**, who then became the sole owner and occupier until 1923, when he moved South to **Bournemouth**, and **Powis House** became a rental property in line with the attached farm lands. During the occupation of the House by **Francis Charles Buchanan**, the tenancies of the farms, following that recorded by **John Bruce**, continued, and in 1903, it is known that **James** and **Margaret Logan** became tenants of **Powis Farm**.

Just before this time, the 1901 Census provides another chance to learn of the many people who have lived and worked at the **Powis Estate**. Although the ownership of **Powis House** still resided with the **Buchanan Family**, the occupancy in 1891 did not include either **John** or **Francis** but is reported as being by **Jane Dot or Smith**, widow aged 72 and she is joined in the house by **Anne P. Lesahaly**, also a widow of 48; **Mrs. Dot Smith's** children **James** (46), **Helen D.** (39) and **Arthur** (29) – all single – also lived in the house, and the staff consisted of **Mary A. Lindsay**, the cook, **Janet Adams**, table maid, **Cath Livingston**, housemaid, **Margaret Mc Neill**, laundress and **Mary McGowan**, housemaid; all being single ladies with ages ranging from 19 to 45.

**Powis Garden Cottage** was now the province of **Alexander Thompson** gardener (54) and his wife **Flora C. Thomson**, and the **Powis Lodge** was occupied by **John Don**, gardener, aged 28, his wife **Mary C. Don** (also 28) and their two daughters **Elizabeth C. Don** (5) and **Maggie G. Don** (2).

The occupation of **Powis Stables** had increased substantially with the installation of **Charlie Campbell**, aged 39, as coachman, and his family, given as his wife **Mary** (aged 33) with their children **Jack** (17), **Francis**, (15), **Charles** (12), **Annie** (10), **Duncan** (8), **Christine** (6), **James** (4), **Barbara** (2) and **Alexander** (9 months).

In the most recent National Census open for public inspection (that for 1911), the people connected with the **Powis Estate** were recorded as: The family at **Powis House** itself was absent, as was the case at an earlier Census, and only two family servants, **Christine McAfee** (25) and **Mary McLean** (30) were left in charge. **Alexander Thomson** and his wife **Flora** remained at **Powis Garden Cottage**, but **Powis Lodge** saw a change of tenancy to **Joseph Lewis** (24) an assistant gardener, his wife **Jessie** (30), their daughter **Jane** (1) and son **Joseph** (under 1 month). No record is entered of residents at **Powis Stables**.

Although information from the National Census in 1921 and thereafter has not been made available to the public at this time, records from the Stirling Valuation Rolls indicate continuing occupations and tenancies, and the records show that, in 1918, and during the First World War, the Gardener's Cottage was occupied by **Andrew Bennie**, **Powis Lodge** by **John Thornton**, and the **Powmains Cottages** were occupied by **Logan Family** farm workers such as cattlemen **John McLachlan** and **William Granger**, and famous award winning ploughman **Alexander (Sandy) Stoddart**. **Manorneuk Farm** was tenanted by farmer **Thomas Thomas**, whose death in 1927 resulted in a new tenancy being granted to farmer **John Letham**. His tenancy lasted until 1933, when his neighbour **James Logan** of **Powis Mains** added to his acreage by becoming the tenant of **Manorneuk** also.

It was during this period of ownership by the **Buchanan** family, that the development of some of the privately owned houses at **Graigmill** took place by sale or lease of individual plots along the **Alloa Road**. Typical of these sales is that between **Francis Charles Buchanan** and **James Bett Stalker** of **969, Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, New York** of a lease for 872 years for 52 falls and 5 ells, carrying an annual feu duty of £2 – 12s – 2d. Again, on 12 November 1934, **Ralph Abercromby Edmonstoune Buchanan** (by then the owner of **Powis** ) but residing at **Airthrey Court, Wilderton Road, Branksome Park, Bournemouth** sold 1380 square yards of **Manorneuk** land on the **Causewayhead** to **Alloa Road**, to **James Bald Wilson**, Schoolmaster of **Bannockburn** with an annual feu duty of 3 – 5s – 0d.

After **Francis Charles Buchanan** moved out of **Powis House** in 1923, his first tenant was **Hugh Baird Spens**, a Writer or Solicitor, who worked in **Glasgow**. His father, **Col. Spens** had provided the family name to the legal partnership of **MacLay Spens**, and **Hugh** worked with his brother **Thomas** in what, by another amalgamation, had then become **MacLay Murray Spens** – a legal partnership that is still offering legal services in **Glasgow** today. During this period of tenancy , the Gardener's Cottage was occupied until 1926 by **Francis Buchanan's** gardener **Andrew Bennie**, and then, until the outbreak of the Second World War, by **John Fraser** and his wife **Annie**. The Powis Lodge was occupied firstly by **Edith H. Snelling** until 1930, after which the lodgekeeper became **John McAndrew**. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, **Hugh Spens** enlisted, joined the **Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders**, and eventually became Adjutant at **Stirling Castle**. Shortly after the war commenced, **Powis House** was commandeered by the Army, and, as **Hugh Spens** no longer lived there himself, he moved his family to the Factor's House at **Keir Mains**.

Whilst the tenancies of **Powis House** and its farm lands remained steady during the Twenties and Thirties, the ownership had changed, On the death of **Francis Charles Buchanan** in 1933, he was succeeded by his son **Ralph Abercromby Edmonstoune Buchanan** – this succession is formerly recorded by the Registrar on 12 November 1934. **Ralph Buchanan** remained as landlord, and operated from his home in **Bournemouth**, but the staff at **Powis House** remained until, with the outbreak of war, first the Chauffeur was declared "non-essential", and then the **Fraser** family left **Powis** when the gardens were abandoned in favour of growing food.

At the end of the war, in 1945, **Hugh Spens**, having moved his family during the requisition of the house by the Army, did not return, and a new tenant moved in. This was **Alexander Frederick Murray**, a Company Director. It is reported that his Company owned a jam making factory in **Alloa**, but this has not been substantiated.

This tenancy continued until the death of **Ralph Buchanan** in 1948, and the accession, by the terms of **Ralph's** Will, registered in 1927, passed to his wife **Elsie Kate Buchanan**. At this break in the ownership, and the continuing residence by **Elsie Kate Buchanan**, in the family property in **Branksome Park, Bournemouth**, **Alexander Murray** offered to buy **Powis House**, and this offer was accepted in the sum of £3,500. The transfer of ownership is registered on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1949. At this time, also, the **Logan** family exchanged their tenancies of **Powis Mains** farm and **Manorneuk** farm for ownership. This sale is recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1949 in exchange for a sum of £9,000, and is registered in the joint names of " **James Logan** and his wife **Margaret Joan Kennedy Logan**, both Farmers" **Elsie Kate Buchanan** also sold land at **Grangehall Cottage** on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1949 to **Samuel Bennie**, the son of the old **Powis House** gardener **Andrew Bennie**.

Thus were the **Buchanan** family's ties to **Powis** and to **Logie** severed after just over 100 years.

The ownership of the House by **Alexander Frederick Murray** was relatively brief, and, in 1951, he sold **Powis** to **Margaret Elizabeth Davidson** and **Alison Stewart** for the sum of £8,000. This sale is registered on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1951, and it is interesting to note that just prior to this sale, in the legal notices associated with the transfer to **Alexander Murray**, the extent of the **Powis House** lands had been registered as "with Gardener's Cottage, Chauffeur's House, Stable, Garage, ground pertaining thereto, entrance gateway, lodge and drive and piece of ground on North of drive in which a septic tank is situated". It is also interesting to note that the address attributed to **Margaret Davidson** and **Alison Stewart** is given as **Gushetneuk** (sic) **Cairn Road, Bieldside, Aberdeenshire**, the name of the workshop for ceramics erected for **Margaret (Majel) Davidson**, at the home of her brother **Capt. Stuart Davidson**, in **Aberdeen**, who later purchased **Invermore** in **Logie**, and promptly renamed it **Guschetneuk**.

**Margaret Davidson** and **Alison Stewart** were soon joined in occupation of **Powis House** by **Margaret McGillivray**, **Mabel Winifred Burnard**, and **Betty Soper**, and these five ladies quickly became known in **Logie** as "**The Powis House Ladies**".

While occupying the whole of **Powis House** itself, "The Ladies" let **Powis Lodge** to tenants including **Ewan C. Mackintosh** between 1952 and 1954, **Dr. Gerald Haughton**, a chemical engineer, in 1955 and 1956 and to **Colin A. V. McQueen** at the end of the 1950's. The **Powis Lodge** tenant for the whole of the 1960's was **Alex Munro**, and he continues to be recorded as the tenant until 1990. The **Garden Cottage** was initially tenanted by **John Tait**, a nursery man, and **William P Hurley** thereafter, but in 1955, **John D. Wood**, gardener, moved in to look after the **Powis** gardens. He lived in the Cottage until his death in 1962, when occupancy passed to his wife **Jean R. Wood**, after which daughter **Mary R. Wood** became the tenant until 1978.

**Margaret Davidson**, who preferred the name **Majel Davidson**, was an artist involved in both paintings and ceramics, of sufficient ability to merit a retrospective exhibition at the **McRobert Centre** in 2004, many years after her death in 1969. **Alison Stewart** was a journalist and writer. The Ladies together developed a strong community spirit, and the **Powis House** property, originally belonging only to **Margaret Davidson** and **Alison Stewart** was shared with the other ladies by dint of bequeathments in Wills and other internal agreements, so that, by the time that the property was sold to **John Heggarty** in 1989, the disponentment document is made in the names of **Margaret McGillivray**, **Mabel Winifred Burnard**, **Betty Soper** and the Executors of **Margaret Elizabeth Davidson**, which included the share of **Alison Stewart**, who died in 1968, left to **Margaret Davidson**, by the terms of **Alison's Will**.

The **Powis Ladies** organised and ran an extensive piggery which they built themselves in and around the Courtyard and outhouses of **Powis**, and this was viewed with a full range of opinions by the rest of the local community. They were generous to and supportive of the people around them, as witnessed by their treatment of the **Wood** family in the **Garden Cottage**, and their eventual sale of **Garden Cottage** to **Graeme** and **Hazel Chalk** in July 1989. A major disposal of the original buildings of the **Powis House** complex took place in 1973, when a number of the outbuildings around the courtyard to the North of the main House were becoming dilapidated, and were sold to **Frank** and **Kate Matthews** in order that they might be redeveloped. This courtyard was eventually developed into four new homes, and is the subject of a separate Archive Narrative History. One aspect of this



development, however, needs to be recorded here. **Margaret McGillivray**, as the last surviving member of the **Powis House Ladies**, decided to create her own “retirement home” by restoring and developing the **Doocot** element of the courtyard buildings. This renovation was completed in 1989, and, sadly, **Margaret** died within weeks of moving in, and therefore never realised her ambition of winding down in her dream house.