

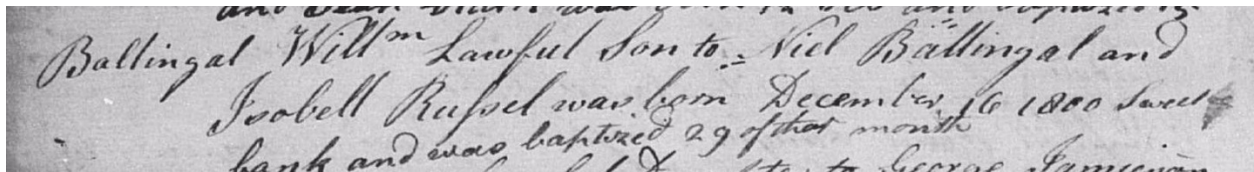
**William Ballingall (1800-1888): The Second Ballingall Factor of Balbirnie and Balgonie, Markinch Parish, Fife**

**By His Distant Second Cousin, Michael T. Tracy**

William Ballingall was the ninth child of Niel Ballingall who at the time of his birth had served nearly thirty years as Factor of Balbirnie. William was born and brought up at Sweetbank which was the Factor's residence, a place where he himself would become all too familiar with. After his schooling, Ballingall would return to Markinch and began working as an assistant to his father at Balbirnie. In 1823-24 James Balfour of Whittinghame had purchased the nearby estate of Balgonie from the Earl of Leven and appointed William as his Factor. William continued to reside at Sweetbank until his marriage in 1838 to Janet (Jessie) Purdon Hunter when he purchased a home at Kirkforthar Feus in Markinch. The couple would have five children and after his father's death in 1843 they resided at Sweetbank and the home of Kirkforthar Feus in Markinch. Like his father before him, William also would be an effective, efficient and instrumental Factor of his time, managing the estates of Balbirnie and Balgonie simultaneously for over five decades. He was described as "being slightly under middle height with broad shoulders and a deep chest. He kept himself very erect and had an air of authority about him. His dress was simple and always the same, black morning coat, dark trousers and wellington boots. He wore a black silk handkerchief round his neck and a white shirt with a stand-up collar. This was finished off with his tall silk hat."<sup>1</sup> He would also manage the areas two working collieries for decades and participate on various company boards and was a member of the Markinch Parochial and the Markinch School Boards. This then is the narrative of the life and times of William Ballingall.

**Early years**

William Ballingall was born on Tuesday, 16 December 1800 at Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland.<sup>2</sup> He was the ninth child of Niel Ballingall, Factor of Balbirnie, and Isabella Russell. William was baptized on Monday, 29 December 1800 at Markinch Parish.<sup>3</sup>



*Fig.1. Baptismal Record of William Ballingall, 29 December 1800, Markinch Parish Records, Crown Copyright*

<sup>1</sup> Gourlay, Ian, Wilkie, Ken, Manson, Bruce. *Markinch: Its Church and Parish*. 2010, p. 147

<sup>2</sup> Baptismal Record of William Ballingall, 29 December 1800, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0092

<sup>3</sup> Baptismal Record of William Ballingall, 29 December 1800, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0092



*Fig.2. Markinch Parish Church, Markinch, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

William spent his early childhood at Sweetbank, a home he would spend most of his entire life at. Sweetbank was located 3/8 of a mile west by south of the village of Markinch.<sup>4</sup> The property is described in the Ordnance Survey Name Books of 1853-55 as “a dwelling house with garden attached, occupied by Mr. [William] Ballingall, Factor for the Estates of Balbirnie and Balgonie, the property of Mr. Balfour, Balbirnie House.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ordnance Survey Name Books, *Fife and Kinrossshire Ordnance Survey Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 92, OS1/13/92/31*

<sup>5</sup> Ordnance Survey Name Books, *Fife and Kinrossshire Ordnance Survey Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 92, OS1/13/92/31*

20,000. 11-53. *Plan 24 A Markinch Parish* No. 21. 317

List of Names to be corrected if necessary	Orthography, as recommended to be used in the new Plans	Other modes of Spelling the same Name	Authority for these other modes of Spelling when known	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
<i>Prestonhall</i>	<i>Prestonhall</i>	<i>Prestonhall</i> Do Do Do	<i>Property Plan</i> <i>Mr Ballingall</i> <i>Mr Nichols</i> <i>Mr Cheape</i> <i>Reverend Bishop of Dunelm.</i>	<i>1/2 mile N. of Markinch</i>	<i>A row of Cottages and garden, occupied by Laborers and Cottiers.</i>
<i>Sweetbank</i>	<i>Sweet Bank</i>	<i>Sweet Bank</i> <i>Sweetbank</i> Do Do Do	<i>Property Plan</i> <i>Mr. Ballingall</i> <i>Mr Nichols</i> <i>Mr Cheape</i> <i>Rev. Mr. Wilson</i> <i>Property Plan.</i>	<i>1/2 mile N. of Markinch</i>	<i>A dwelling house with garden attached, occupied by Mr. Ballingall, factor for the Estates of Balbirnie and Balgonie, the property of Mr. Ralfour Balbirnie House.</i>
<i>Balbirnie Bridge</i>	<i>Balbirnie Bridge</i>	<i>Balbirnie Bridge</i> Do Do Do	<i>Mr. Ballingall</i> <i>Mr. Nichols</i> <i>Mr. Cheape</i> <i>Reverend Bishop of Dunelm.</i>	<i>1/2 mile N. of Markinch</i>	<i>Are the stone bridges of two arches over the fair Leven on the old Watergate road. It was built by the County.</i>

Fig.3. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk

According to the Reverend James Ballingall in his typescript, *The Ballingalls of Sweetbank, Markinch* after an education at the parish school, [William] was sent to board with the Rev. John Laird afterwards minister at Cupar, who was then the minister at Portmoak, where he was tutored along with some other boys, including Mr. Cheape of Wellfield. After this, probably around the age of 15, he was sent to London, to be with his mother's brother, William Russell who died in London in 1825 and was buried in Bow Churchyard, perhaps with the view of following a commercial career. But this did not develop and [at] aged 17, he returned to Markinch and began work as [an] assistant to his father."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Ballingall, Rev. James. *The Ballingalls of Sweetbank, Markinch*. Typescript, undated

## The Factor of Balgonie

In 1823-24 James Balfour of Whittinghame had purchased the nearby estate of Balgonie from the Earl of Leven and appointed William Ballingall as his Factor. Now he would become a Factor in his own right and continued to assist his father at nearby Balbirnie. William would also continue to reside at Sweetbank with his father during this time.

## Marriage and Family life

Janet (Jessie) Purdon Hunter was eighteen years younger than William Ballingall, born in 1818 in Glasgow.<sup>7</sup> After they met the young Factor began dating her. They were married on Thursday, 6 December 1838 in Glasgow.<sup>8</sup>

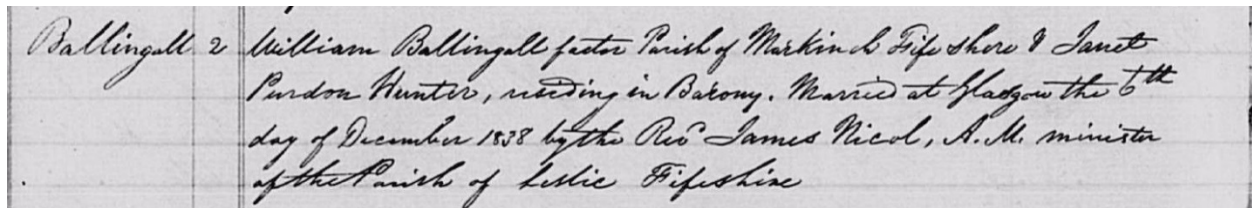


Fig.4. Marriage Record of William Ballingall, 6 December 1838, Glasgow Barony Parish Records, Crown Copyright

Shortly after their marriage, Ballingall purchased a home at Kirkforthar Feus in Markinch where they resided for a short time. After the death of his father, Niel Ballingall (1750-1843) in April of 1843 the couple and young children relocated to Sweetbank and alternated between the residences. They had five children who were all born in Markinch Parish. They were:

Niel born on Friday, 17 January 1840<sup>9</sup> and died on Wednesday, 26 July 1916;<sup>10</sup>

Andrew Hunter born on Wednesday, 21 July 1841<sup>11</sup> and died on Wednesday, 10 April 1901;<sup>12</sup>

Jessie Alston born on Monday, 20 February 1843<sup>13</sup> and died March of 1902;<sup>14</sup>

William born on Tuesday, 21 January 1845<sup>15</sup> and died on Sunday, 14 March 1869;<sup>16</sup>

James born on Thursday, 3 December 1846<sup>17</sup> and died on Sunday, 3 October 1926.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Baptismal Record of Janet Purdon Hunter, 1 February 1818, Glasgow Parish Records, Old Parish Records 644/1 0220 0019

<sup>8</sup> Marriage Record of William Ballingall, 6 December 1838, Glasgow Barony Parish Records, Old Parish Records 622/0170 0606

<sup>9</sup> Baptismal Record of Niel Ballingall, 7 February 1840, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0175

<sup>10</sup> Death Record of Niel Ballingall, 26 July 1916, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0001 0029

<sup>11</sup> Baptismal Record of Andrew Hunter Ballingall, 8 August 1841, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0230

<sup>12</sup> Death Record of Andrew Hunter Ballingall, 10 April 1901, Perth Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 387/00000166

<sup>13</sup> Baptismal Record of Jessie Alston Ballingall, March 1843, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0200

<sup>14</sup> Death Record of Jessie Alston Reid, March 1902, England and Wales, Death Index, 1837-1915. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006

<sup>15</sup> Baptismal Record of William Ballingall, 9 February 1845, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0216

<sup>16</sup> Death Record of William Ballingall, 14 March 1869, Drymen Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 477/00 0004

<sup>17</sup> Baptismal Record of James Ballingall, 13 December 1846, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0224

<sup>18</sup> Death Record of James Ballingall, 3 October 1926, St. Andrews Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 453/000 0075



The family is listed in the 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch, Fife, Scotland showing William as being 35 [sic] years of age and working as a Factor and his wife, Jane is listed as being 30 [sic] years of age with the following child, Niel age 1.<sup>19</sup>

William Ballingall	35	Factor and Land	yes
Jane do	30		yes
Niel do	1		yes
John Wain	15	Female Serv	yes
Josephina Lums	15	do	yes

Fig.5. 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing William Ballingall and Family

William became an Elder of Markinch Parish Church in 1844 and “went to church twice every Sunday with the family. On a Sunday morning he would hear each of his children saying the Shorter Catechism [and] Bible reading took place in the evening and prayers were conducted every morning and evening.”<sup>20</sup>

#### **Death of Janet (Jessie) Ballingall**

Janet (Jessie) Ballingall “did not recover well after the last delivery, and the doctor, giving the usual treatment for fever in those days, had her bled.”<sup>21</sup> She died on Tuesday, 8 December 1846 at Sweetbank at the age of 28. Janet (Jessie) Ballingall was buried in the Northhall Cemetery on Saturday, 12 December 1846.<sup>22</sup> Her burial record stated, “Hunter, Jessie, age 28, spouse of William Ballingall at Sweetbank; 12 December 1846 in south most grave of their grave, in grave of William Ballingall in Markinch, interned 1 March 1834, a stone erected at the head.”<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 4, Page 3

<sup>20</sup> Gourlay, Ian, Wilkie, Ken, Manson, Bruce. *Markinch: Its Church and Parish*. 2010, p. 147

<sup>21</sup> Ballingall, Rev. James. *The Ballingalls of Sweetbank, Markinch*. Typescript, undated

<sup>22</sup> Burial Record of Janet Ballingall, 12 December 1846, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0070 0320

<sup>23</sup> Burial Record of Janet Ballingall, 12 December 1846, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0070 0320



*Fig.6. Grave of Janet (Jessie) Purdon Ballingall, Northhall Cemetery, Markinch, Fife, Scotland, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

### Life as a Factor

Since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century there were two large working collieries, Balgonie and Balbirnie, both of whom were under the auspices of the Factor, William Ballingall. "During his time as Factor on Balbirnie Estate the parks on the Lomond Hills were fenced, trees planted and new cot houses and steading were built. On Balgonie Estate most of the tasks appear to relate to the coal workings as the opening of the railway in the 1840s provided a need for this commodity. William was new to the coal business and spent a great deal of time learning the activities."<sup>24</sup> These collieries employed many people and in 1842 Ballingall commented on the Balgonie and Balbirnie collieries: "It has not been the practice of the proprietors of these collieries to employ very young persons at the coal for many years. At Balgonie or Thornton Colliery, only six boys are employed, not one under eleven years of age. At Balbirnie, men are only employed, the nature [nature] of the work requiring full strength."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Gourlay, Ian, Wilkie, Ken, Manson, Bruce. *Markinch: Its Church and Parish*. 2010, p. 148

<sup>25</sup> Balgonie Colliery. Accessed at: [www.fifepits.co.uk/starter.eat/pits/b/pit-36.htm](http://www.fifepits.co.uk/starter.eat/pits/b/pit-36.htm)



# **SOME PITS AND MINES IN THE VICINITY OF COALTOWN OF BALGONIE**

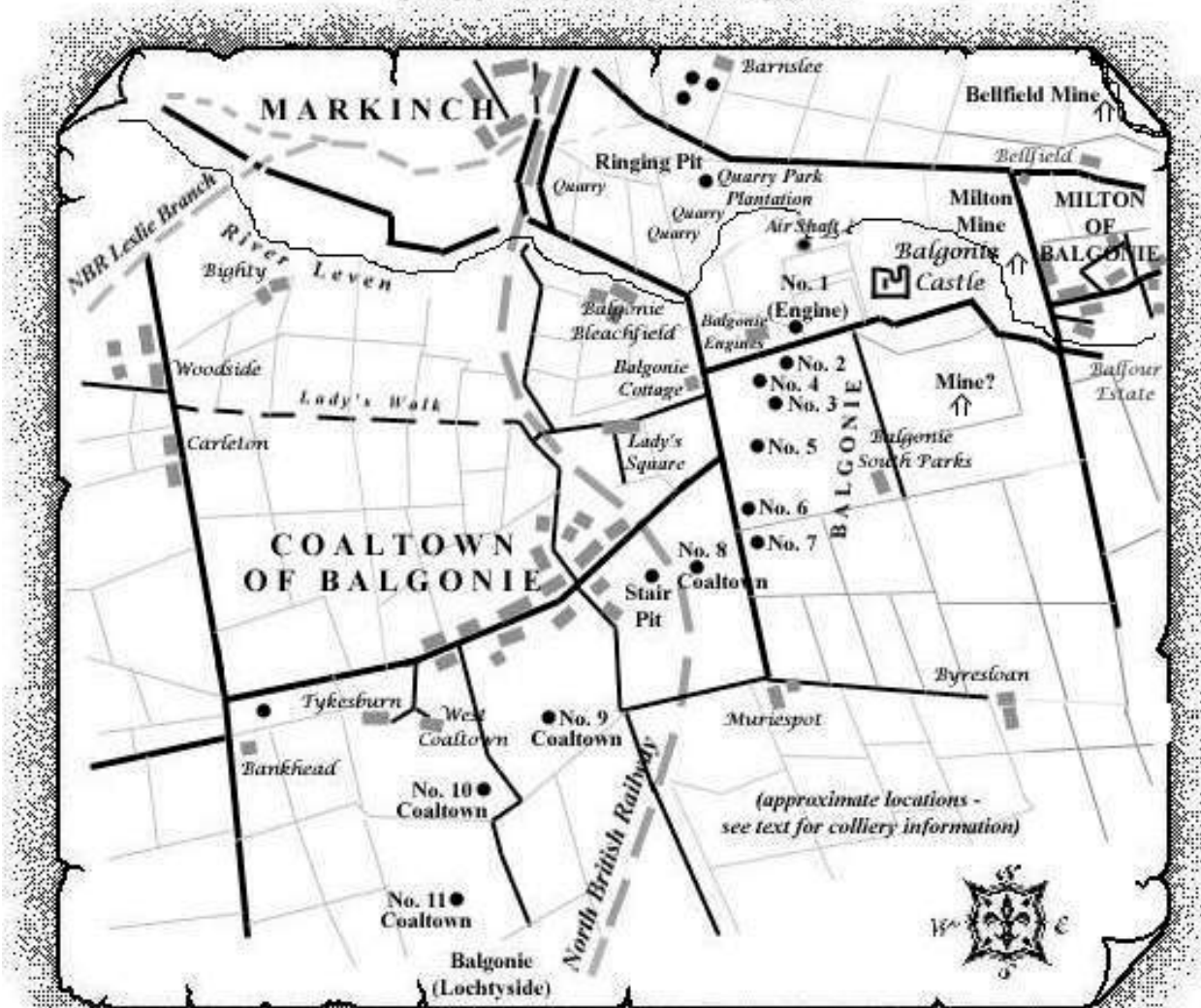


Fig.7. Coal Pits and Mines in the Vicinity of Coaltown of Balgonie, Photograph Courtesy of Fifepits.co.uk

Ballingall, like his father before him, would write numerous correspondences to the proprietors informing them of various reports on properties, rents, issues of the day and building projects. One such letter written by Ballingall informs Balfour of the building of the new steading at Nuthill (Falkland House) in 1824.<sup>26</sup> Numerous letters still exist of Ballingall's letters written in 1825-26 to William Waddel regarding rent returns and leases at Auchmuty.<sup>27</sup> William Ballingall could ably deal with the interests of the Balgonie and Balbirnie estates without first asking permission of the Balfour family. The same was true of any other finances. Additionally, when leases expired on farms and other properties Ballingall had to obtain new tenants by word of mouth and advertising if the tenant did not automatically renew

<sup>26</sup> *Business, Personal and Estate Correspondence, 1812-1826*, National Records of Scotland, Ref. GD152/218/5/15

<sup>27</sup> *Business, Personal and Estate Correspondence, 1812-1826*, National Records of Scotland, Ref. GD152/218/5/16



the lease. One such example of an advertisement was found in the *Fife Herald Newspaper* on Thursday, 29 January 1863 looking for a tenant to occupy and farm the lands of Newtonhall.<sup>28</sup>

## The Valuation Rolls

The Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act of 1854 established a uniform valuation of landed property throughout Scotland, which was collected annually for each parish in each county and burgh. These records record the name of each proprietor, the occupier of the property and the annual rateable value of the property. The first Valuation Roll for Sweetbank was in the year of 1855 which listed William Ballingall as the tenant and occupier with a yearly rent or value of the house estimated at 50 pounds.<sup>29</sup>

VALUATION				ROLL.		
County of Fife.				Markinch Parish.		
				For the Year 1855-56.		
Number.	DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF SUBJECT.	PROPRIETOR.	TENANT.	OCCUPIER.	YEARLY RENT OR VALUE.	
					As Estimated by Assessors.	As Adjusted on Application or Appeal.
261,						
90	Part of Farm of Star	John Baillie Esq of Balfour	Andrew Elliot Farmer Star	said Andrew Elliot	42 6	42 6
91	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Goodall Woodside	said John Goodall	10 -	10 -
92	Oral Hill Smithy with Land	Do	William Stewart South Woodside	said William Stewart	20 -	20 -
93	Part of Farm of Star	Do	Philip Spittal Markinch	said Philip Spittal	10 19	10 19
94	Land at Markinch Croft	Do	Ellis Marshall Markinch	said Ellis Marshall	5 -	5 -
95	House and Land at Sweetbank	Do	Andrew Patterson Sweetbank	said Andrew Patterson	4 -	4 -
96	Southbank House & Park	Do	William Ballingall Sweetbank	said William Ballingall	50 -	50 -

Fig.8. 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife listing William Ballingall (Last Entry)

The 1865 Valuation Roll for Sweetbank listed Ballingall as the tenant and occupier of the property and the yearly rent or value of the residence estimated at 50 pounds.<sup>30</sup>

VALUATION				ROLL.		
County of Fife.				Markinch Parish.		
				For the Year 1865 - 66		
No.	DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT.	PROPRIETOR.	OCCUPIER.	TENANT.		OCCUPATION.
				Under Lease of 21 Years and less than 99 Years.	Under Lease of 99 Years or upwards.	
121	Part of Farm of Star	John Baillie Esq of Balfour	John Laurie Farmer	said John Laurie		10 19 11
122	Part of Farm of Star	Do	Robert Campbell Farmer	said R. Campbell		10 19 11
123	Farm of Star	Do	Robert Black Farmer	said R. Black		10 19 11
124	Farm of Star	Do	Thomas Buchanan Farmer	said T. Buchanan		10 19 11
125	Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
126	Part of Farm of Star	Do	Thomas Gray Farmer	said T. Gray		10 19 11
127	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
128	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
129	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
130	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
131	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
132	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
133	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
134	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
135	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
136	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
137	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
138	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
139	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
140	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11
141	Part of Farm of Star	Do	John Baillie Farmer	said John Baillie		10 19 11

Fig.9. 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife listing William Ballingall (Last Entry)

According to the 1875 Valuation Roll for Sweetbank is unchanged from the previous decade.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>28</sup> *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 29 January 1863, p. 1

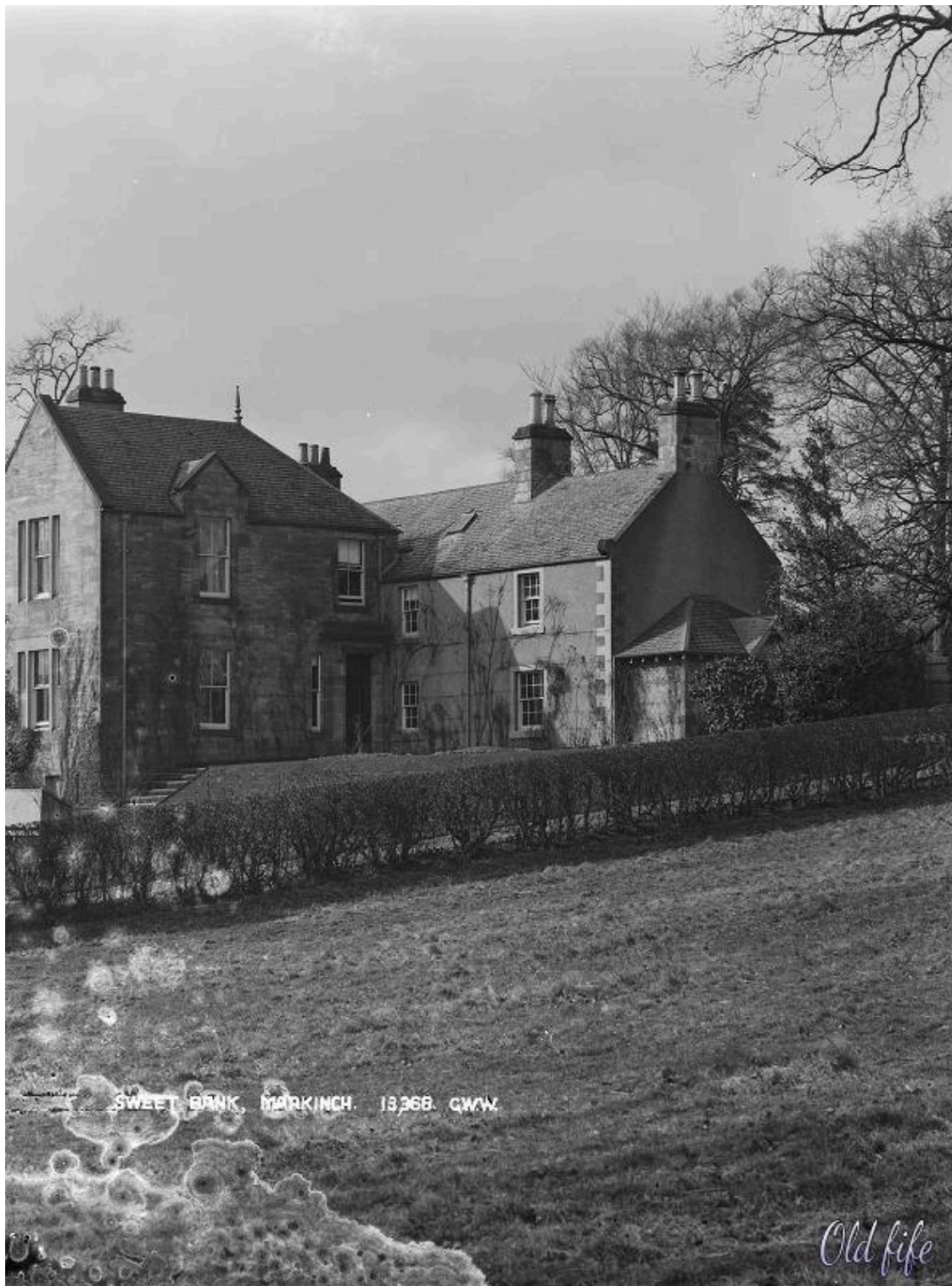
<sup>29</sup> 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch, Fife, Scotland (VR010100001)

<sup>30</sup> 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch, Fife, Scotland (VR010100011)

<sup>31</sup> 1875 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch, Fife, Scotland (VR010100021)

184 (KIRKCALDY DISTRICT.)		VALUATION ROLL—COUNTY OF FIFE.—Parish of MARKINCH Continued.—Year 1875-1876.									
No.	Description of Subject.	Proprietor.	Occupier.	Tenant.			Rent payable under such Lease.	Pen Duty or Ground Annual, &c.	Pen Duties.— To whom Payable.	Yearly Rent or Value.	No.
				Not under Lease of 10 Years or upwards.	Under Lease of 10 Years, and not less than 20 Years.	Under Lease of 20 Years or upwards.					
130	House, Balhirmie	John Balfour Esq.—Contd.	William Mackie, assistant gamekeeper	same						£4 0 0	130
1	do. do.	do.	James Elder, assistant gardener	same						4 0 0	1
2	Rose Cottage and Garden, do.	do.	Said J. Balfour	same						8 0 0	2
3	Balfarg Lodge, do.	do.	James Robertson	same						4 0 0	3
4	House and Garden, do.	do.	Thomas Gould	same						8 0 0	4
5	East Lodge, do.	do.	William Mitchell	same						4 0 0	5
6	Markinch Lodge, do.	do.	Alexander Tytler, coachman	same						9 0 0	6
7	West do. do.	do.	Alexander Philp, labourer	same						4 0 0	7
8	Balhirnie Home Farm do.	do.	Said John Balfour	same						660 0 0	8
9	do. Woodlands do.	do.	do.							135 0 0	9
140	Balhirnie Colliery do.	do.	Said John Balfour							565 0 0	140
1	Farm of Newton do.	do.	James Thomas Esq., Forthar	same						470 0 0	1
2	Part of Farm of Dalginch do.	do.	James Terrace, farmer	same						150 0 0	2
3	do. Broomfield do.	do.	James Bruce, jun., do.	same						80 0 0	3
4	Star Moss Peats do.	do.	William Bethune, jun.	same						35 0 0	4
5	Farm of Preston do.	do.	Richard Storrar, farmer	same	same					321 16 0	5
6	Land of Newhall and Part of Balfarg do.	do.	Thomas Heatherwick, farmer	same						39 19 0	6
7	Farm of Balfarg do.	do.	Said John Balfour (farmer)							850 0 0	7
8	Part of Farm of Conl do.	do.	Thomas Gray and Thos. Malcolm Gray,	same	same					179 4 0	8
9	Pearsons Bank Land do.	do.	William Mitchell, woollspinner	same						42 0 0	9
150	Land of Pearsons Bank do.	do.	Messrs Wm. Grosset & Peter Dixon,	same						52 10 0	150
1	Sweetbank House, Offices, and Garden do.	do.	William Ballingall Esq. (papermakers)	same						50 0 0	1
2	do. Land do.	do.	do.	same				£13 12 0	Charles B. Balfour Esq.	50 0 0	2

Fig.10. 1875 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife listing William Ballingall (Last Entry)



*Fig.11. Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Residence of William Ballingall and Family, Photograph Courtesy of the Markinch Heritage Group*



The last Valuation Roll which listed William Ballingall as the tenant and occupier of Sweetbank was in the year of 1885 and is reproduced below.<sup>32</sup>

VALUATION ROLL—COUNTY OF FIFE—Parish of MARKINCH Continued.—Year 1885-1886.									
LOCALITY DISTRICT,	DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF SUBJECT	PROPRIETOR	TENANT	OCCUPIER	IMMEDIATE OCCUPIER Not Rated (d. VIOL. C. 3 M. 2 and 3)	PER-DEUTY OR GROUND-ANNUAL, £s.	YEARLY RENT OR VALUE	No.	
					George Ferrier, ploughman John Watson Thomas Thomson, cattleman			246	7
						£s. 8 0 0		8	
						50 0 0		250	1
						16 10 0		2	
						5 0 0		3	
						5 0 0		4	
						300 0 0		5	
						12 0 0		6	
						4 0 0		7	
						4 0 0		8	
						8 0 0		260	1
						4 0 0		2	
						9 0 0		3	
						4 0 0		4	
						604 0 0		5	
								6	
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								270	1
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Fig.12. 1885 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch Parish, Fife listing William Ballingall (Last Entry)

## The Census Records

According to William's youngest son, the Reverend James Ballingall (1846-1926), "Left with five very young children, William Ballingall asked his eldest sister-in-law, Annabella Graham Hunter, to take on as best she could the mother's place, and 'Aunt,' as all the children called her, lived on at Sweetbank... The other sister-in-law's, Mary, Eliza and Andrea, came from Glasgow to the Markinch house formerly occupied by William Ballingall."<sup>33</sup> This is evidenced by the 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish which listed William Ballingall as being 50 years of age and working as a writer in Markinch in practice with the following children: Niel age 11; Andrew Hunter age 9; Jessie age 8; William age 6; James age 4 and Annabella Hunter, sister-in-law, age 34.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> 1885 Scotland Valuation Roll for Sweetbank, Markinch, Fife, Scotland (VR010100031)

<sup>33</sup> Ballingall, Rev. James. *The Ballingalls of Sweetbank, Markinch*. Typescript, undated

<sup>34</sup> 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland, Enumeration District 3, Page 14, Lines 4-10

Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Within the limits of the Parliamentary Burgh of		Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of		Town or Village of	
House No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
					Males	Females			
38	Prestonkirk	William Ballingall	Head	Mar	57		Coal Miner	Fife Ballinvarrie Barrow	
		Jane Do	Wife	Mar		67		Do Do	
		John Do	Son	Unm	27		Laborer on Coal Works	Do Do	
39	Sweetbank	William Ballingall	Head	Mar	50		Writer in Markinch in Practice	Fife Markinch	
		Niel Do	Son	Unm	21		Scholar	Do Do	
		Andrew Hunter Do	Son	Unm	19		Scholar	Do Do	
		James Hunter Do	Son	Unm	16		Scholar	Do Do	
		William Do	Son	Unm	14		Scholar at home	Do Do	
		Annabella Hunter Do	Son	Unm	44		Domestic Servant	Annabathie Glasgow	
		Anna Ponsie Do	Son	Unm	24		House Servant	Perthshire Perth	
		James Matheson Do	Son	Unm	22		House Servant	Fife Markinch	

Fig.13. 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing William Ballingall and Family

The 1861 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish which showed William Ballingall as being 60 years of age and working as a writer in Sweetbank with the following children: Niel age 21 and working for his father as a writer's clerk; Andrew age 19 and working for his father as a writer's clerk; William age 16; James age 14 and Annabella Hunter, sister-in-law age 44.<sup>35</sup>

1	William Ballingall	Head	Mar	60	Writer in Sweetbank	Fife Markinch	1	12
	Annabella Hunter	Son-in-law	Unm	44		Perthshire Perth		
	Niel Ballingall	Son	Unm	21	Writer's Clerk	Fife Markinch		
	Andrew Do	Son	Unm	19	Do Do	Do Do		
	William Do	Son	Unm	16	Scholar	Do Do		
	James Do	Son	Unm	14	Scholar	Do Do		
	John Hunter	Son	Unm	26	Domestic Servant	Fife Faldreath		
	Annabella Hunter	Son-in-law	Unm	44	Do Do	Do Do		
5	Total of Houses...	5			Total of Males and Females...	16	12	

Fig.14. 1861 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing William Ballingall and Family

By 1871 most of William's children have married and moved away. This census listed William as being 70 years of age, residing at Sweetbank and working as a Factor; his son, Niel is 31 years of age and working as an Assistant Factor and Annabella Hunter, sister-in-law to William, is 54 years of age and working as a housekeeper.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> 1861 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland, Enumeration District 3, Page 14, Lines 15-20

<sup>36</sup> 1871 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 3, Page 5, Lines 21-23

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the													[Page 5]
* Civil Parish of		Quoad sacra Parish of		Parliamentary Borough of		Royal Borough of		Police Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet of	
F. Markinch													
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES. In- habited (2), or vacant (3).	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CON- DITION.	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.	Number of Children from 1 to 15 attend- ing School or being educated at Home.	Persons with the or more Wid- ows	
						Males.	Females.						
15	Lodge	1	Robert Milson	Head	Mar	58		Cartor	Fife Markinch				2
			Isabella Milson	Wife	Mar	57			Edinburgh				
16	Lodge	1	Robert Milson	Son		10		Scholar	Fife Markinch		1		
			Alexander Philp	Head	Unm	71		Forester	Fife Markinch				3
			Margaret Philp	Widow		60		Housekeeper	Fife Markinch				
17	Lodge	1	Ann Philp	Wife	Unm	24		Machinist	Fife Markinch				
			Alexander Philp	Head	Mar	44		Cochman, Servant	London, Ect				5
			Mary Philp	Wife	Mar	40		Wife	England, Mills				
			William Philp	Son	Unm	13		Apprentice Draper	England, Mills				
			Diana Mary Philp	Daughter	Unm	11		Scholar	Fife Markinch				
			Isabella Philp	Daughter		6		Scholar	Fife Markinch				
			James Philp	Daughter		3		at Home	Fife Markinch				
18	New Markinch	1	Adam Dalrymple	Head	Widow	78		Formal, Outworker	Fife Markinch				2
			Ann Dalrymple	Daughter	Unm	48		Paper finisher	Fife Markinch				
19	do	1	Samuel Duff	Head	Mar	68		Wife	London, Markinch				2
			Margaret Duff	Wife	Mar	65			London, Markinch				
20	do	1	Robert Archibald	Head	Mar	52		Carpenter, Master	Fife Markinch				2
			Isabella Archibald	Wife	Mar	45			Fife Markinch				
			William Archibald	Son		9		Scholar	Fife Markinch				
			Alexander Archibald	Son		6		Scholar	Fife Markinch				
21	Sweetbank	1	William Ballingall	Head	Widow	70		Factor	Fife Markinch				8
			Niel Ballingall	Son	Unm	31		Assistant Factor	Fife Markinch				
			Annabella Graham Hunter	Sister-in-law	Unm	54		Housekeeper	London, Glasgow				
			Margaret Hedman	Cook	Unm	25		Domestic Servant	Fife Markinch				
			Elizabeth Fairley	Housemaid	Unm	25		do	Fife Markinch				

Fig.15. 1871 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing William Ballingall and Family (Lines 21-23)

The final census which listed William Ballingall was in 1881. In this census William was shown as being 80 years of age and working as a Factor; his son, Niel is shown as being 41 years of age and working as a Factor; and his sister-in-law, Annabella Hunter is 64 years of age and working as a housekeeper.<sup>37</sup>

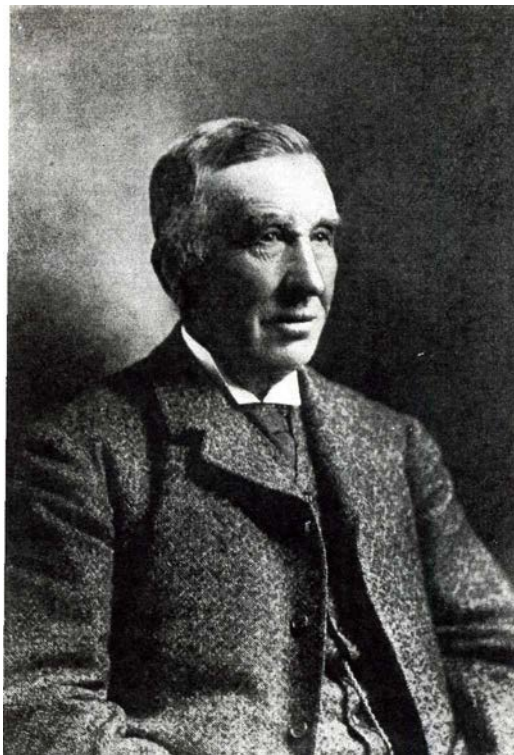
<sup>37</sup> 1881 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 3, Page 5, Lines 11-13





### A Banquet in His Honour

On Thursday, 21 June 1883 old friends, family members and agriculturalists assembled in the town hall of Markinch to attend a banquet honouring William Ballingall as Factor of the Balgonie and Balbirnie estates for over 50 years.<sup>43</sup> Ballingall was gifted a handsome plate by the tenants and workers on the estates. The inscription read: "Presented to William Ballingall, Esq., by the tenantry and employees of the Balbirnie and Balgonie in recognition of his upright and honourable conduct for upwards of 50 years during which time he was factor on the Estates, 21 June 1883."<sup>44</sup> At the banquet his cousin and long-time friend, John Ballingall (1824-1912) of Dunbog stated: 'During the time Mr. Ballingall had managed the estates great progress had been made in all the arts of life and not the least in the science of agriculture. The factor had thus had to draw up plans to meet the altered circumstances of the time. The lands had been improved. Thorough drainage had been instituted and other changes had been introduced in all of which Mr. Ballingall had taken an active part. They all knew that in the details of management he was exceedingly painstaking and that while sincerely attached to the interest of his employer, he had the entire confidence of tenants, and workers on the estate. His kindness of disposition was well known, as was the gentle spirit of his management. The tenants all knew Mr. Ballingall as a personal friend who at the same time looked well after the interests of the proprietors. No tenant who asked for the renewal of his lease had ever been repulsed and no new arrangements had been made at the end of a lease without the tenant having the first offer. In that way leases had descended from father to son among the tenantry on the estates.'<sup>45</sup>



*Fig.17. John Ballingall, Fife's Oldest Agriculturalist taken in about 1912, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

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<sup>43</sup> *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 27 June 1883, p. 5

<sup>44</sup> *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 27 June 1883, p. 5

<sup>45</sup> Gourlay, Ian, Wilkie, Ken, Manson, Bruce. *Markinch: Its Church and Parish*. 2010, p. 148



*Fig.18. Markinch Town Hall, Markinch, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

### **The Will of William Ballingall**

On Saturday, 18 November 1882 William Ballingall made out his Last Will and Testament at Sweetbank.<sup>46</sup> Contained in his rather very specific will, Ballingall did not forget his sister-in-law, Annabella Graham Hunter, who since his wife's death in 1846, took care of and raised his five children. He directed that she was to receive a yearly annuity of 200 pounds for the rest of her life and she could continue to reside at Sweetbank for as long as his children had occupancy permission from the Balfour family.<sup>47</sup> She was also to receive upon his death, the marble figures which stood on the mantelpiece.<sup>48</sup> Furthermore, to his son, James, and daughter, Jessie Reid, they were to receive 500 pounds each.<sup>49</sup> To his eldest son, Niel, he was to receive all his watches, rings, household furniture, silver plate, books and photographs.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, the diamond ring that was given to him by his brother, James Ballingall

<sup>46</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>47</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>48</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>49</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>50</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)



(1798-1856) was to be given to his son, James.<sup>51</sup> Lastly, the ring given to him by his late wife, Janet (1818-1846) Ballingall, was to be given to his son, Andrew Hunter Ballingall.<sup>52</sup>

### Death of William Ballingall

"In his later years William continued to ride around the estate on a Sussex cob pony but had to give this up around four or five years before his death..."<sup>53</sup> William Ballingall died on Monday, 1 October 1888 at Sweetbank, Markinch Parish at the age of 87 of senile decay.<sup>54</sup> He was taken to John Mitchell, the undertaker at Markinch.<sup>55</sup>

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1888. DEATHS in the *Parish of Markinch* in the *County of Fife*.

No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
118	<i>William Ballingall</i>	<i>1888, October First</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>Niel Ballingall</i> <i>Factor on Cunder</i>	<i>Senile decay</i> <i>Ascertified by</i>	<i>And Ramsay</i> <i>son</i> <i>(Present)</i>	<i>1888,</i> <i>October 1<sup>st</sup></i> <i>at Markinch</i>
	<i>Factor on Cunder</i>	<i>16.25m AM</i>			<i>deceased</i> <i>Carobel Ballingall</i>	<i>Harry &amp; Henry</i> <i>M.B. Bell</i>		<i>W.D. Harton</i> <i>Registrar</i>
	<i>Property</i>	<i>Sweet Bank</i>			<i>M.S. Russell</i> <i>(deceased)</i>			
	<i>(Widower of Janet Markinch</i> <i>Pyndon, Fife)</i>							

Fig.19. Death Record of William Ballingall, 1 October 1888, Markinch Parish Records, Crown Copyright

His obituary notice was published in the *Fife Free Press and Kirkcaldy Guardian Newspaper* and read "At Sweet Bank, Markinch, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., William Ballingall, in his 88<sup>th</sup> [sic] year."<sup>56</sup> William Ballingall was buried in the Northhall Cemetery in Markinch on Thursday, 4 October 1888 and his gravestone still stands presently and reads: "William Ballingall 16 Dec 1800 – 1 Oct 1888." His funeral bill was recorded by John Mitchell, the undertaker charged the family 6 pounds, 15 shillings and 6 pence.<sup>57</sup> Later an inventory was conducted at Sweetbank on Thursday, 15 November 1888 and it was determined that the value of his personal estate was recorded as being 12,019 pounds, 13 shillings and 6 pence.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>52</sup> Last Will and Testament of William Ballingall, 18 November 1882, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>53</sup> Gourlay, Ian, Wilkie, Ken, Manson, Bruce. *Markinch: Its Church and Parish*. 2010, p. 148

<sup>54</sup> Death Record of William Ballingall, 1 October 1888, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0118

<sup>55</sup> Inventory of William Ballingall, 15 November 1888, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>56</sup> *Fife Free Press and Kirkcaldy Guardian Newspaper*, 6 October 1888, p. 5

<sup>57</sup> Inventory of William Ballingall, 15 November 1888, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)

<sup>58</sup> Inventory of William Ballingall, 15 November 1888, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/62)



*Fig.20. Graves of William Ballingall and Family, Northhall Cemetery, Markinch, Fife, Scotland, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

William Ballingall was Factor on Balgonie for over 53 years, and on Balbirnie, if the time is included of when he assisted his father was for 66 years. Like his father before him, William was a trusted Factor of the Balfour family. He began working as an assistant to his father at Balbirnie and in 1823-24 he was appointed Factor of Balgonie. Ballingall resided at the Factor's House at Sweetbank for a good portion of his 87 years.

He married Janet (Jessie) Purdon Hunter in 1838 and they would have five children, the eldest son, Niel (1840-1916), would succeed his father as Factor of Balgonie and Balbirnie in his own right thus becoming the third generation of the family to hold the position. William, however, was an effective and influential Factor of his time and would also manage the areas two working collieries for decades

and famously state in 1842 that it has not been the practice of the proprietors of these collieries to employ very young persons at the coal pits.

After losing his beloved wife, William asked his sister-in-law, Annabella Graham Hunter, to help raise the five young children which she did with great earnest and vigour. She would continue to reside at Sweetbank long after William's death and live to see some the children are grown and married with their own children.

As early as the winter of 1861, Ballingall was appointed to the Markinch Parochial Board and served on that board for over 28 years. He was appointed by Colonel Balfour to the Markinch School Board in 1873 and likewise served the school and its interests during the next 15 years. William Ballingall served the tenant and workers of the Balbirnie and Balgonie estates for over 50 years in which he held himself with the utmost honour and conduct. Fife can be justly proud of one of its own, William Ballingall, the Factor of Balbirnie and Balgonie. William Ballingall is warmly commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant second cousin, Michael T. Tracy. This work is dedicated to the Memory of William Ballingall.

*Memoratus in aeternum* (Forever Remembered)

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