



Here are more interesting women with Dundee connections. If you want to know more about these women the Local Studies Library in the Wellgate is the best place to start. It has books, obituaries, newspaper cuttings and all sorts of other fascinating material.

As you will see, there is quite a bit we don't know about some of the women here. If you can find out more please let us know via the website. Similarly, you may wish to propose other women for inclusion, if you can tell us about them and where you got the information.

Airlie, Rt Hon

burgess

1866 - 1956

Mabell, Countess

(obituary 7/4/56 in City archive, portrait in Victoria Art Gallery) was made Dundee's third lady Burgess in 1902 in recognition of her enlightened interest in the welfare of the people of Dundee and her husband's generosity in funding Auchterhouse Sanatorium (Sidlaw Hospital). She was noted for her kindness and her Gainsborough-style hats.

Allan, Agnes

**Red Cross volunteer
and instructor**

1886 – 1981

Agnes was born in Glasgow, the only child of a wealthy, widowed, retired auctioneer and property-owner who then married Agnes' governess and had five more children. Aged 8 or 9, she went to live with a childless aunt in Dundee. A lazy pupil, in her own words, she enjoyed Dundee High School and won an essay prize ('What I do with my leisure', apparently eating toffee). She liked French, Latin and Science; fascinated by a rabbit dissection, she spent 3d pocket money on a rabbit heart and squeezed it to see how the blood circulated.

Agnes always wanted to be a nurse, but Papa said nursing was a charwoman's job and Agnes was too short and fat for the uniform. In 1912, when a friend was going to London to train, Papa gave in, but died on the day of her appointment, and relatives dissuaded her from ever starting - "It would have been a slur on Papa's character, and wealth, to have a working daughter."

In 1912 she started working at Grey Lodge, helping to serve free dinners to schoolchildren, then in 1914 moved to the Red Cross – where she was examined for her first certificate by Dr Emily Thomson (plaque 4). The Dundee Red Cross had its own three hospitals, Caird Rest, The Lodge in Broughty Ferry and Cox's half-time school (converted). Agnes, friendly with the Cox girls, served as a VAD at Cox's. At a wedding that year a friend said she had enrolled on a physiotherapy course in London; Agnes on the spur of the moment said, "Put my name down too." She said she'd qualify and return as a volunteer, which she did.

The exams were: - written, viva, pause and practical. During the pause Agnes married Willie, an architect whom she had known since childhood. He was a fine pianist who accompanied her when she sang. When in 1914 he returned from working in Bolivia through a torpedo barrage, Agnes went to join him in London, taking with her 7 lb sugar for other friends. Willie helped her study of anatomy by teaching her to draw. Her family did not attend the wedding because Willie was not a Catholic but, "I wasn't bothered." Agnes worked in a London hospital until 1918, then went to Staffordshire for about a year. Willie was still in the army, though a non-combatant on health grounds. They returned to Dundee in 1922 or 1923. In Dundee the Roman Catholic community cut her dead for marrying a Protestant, though she had had no problem being the only Roman Catholic person in Dundee High School or in the Red Cross.

The warden of Grey Lodge invited Agnes onto the Club Committee, of which she later became Chair. She ran the 'Penny Bankie' savings scheme, attending every Monday from 6 - 8 pm for eight years. This was a very successful scheme, with some women saving £100 by holiday time; the bank gave a penny in the pound interest, though no credit. In the evenings Agnes would walk alone and uninsured, taking the money to the bank. She also worked closely in Dundee Social Union with D'Arcy Thomson - "tall, well-built, a head like a lion with a big red beard and a shock of red hair."

In 1919 she attended the Glasgow Police School course on high explosives and incendiaries. She wrote the Red Cross syllabus on chemical warfare in 1932-38, then the Glasgow HQ asked her to go to the Home Office school in Easingwold to train as an instructor. There were 60 on this course, the first to include women, where she worked from 9am to 10pm, and had to pass through gas chambers. Commander Ross told the women to wear undies which covered their shoulders because the protective suits were heavy, and rubbed – so Agnes bought a nightie and cut it down. On her return, she gave public lectures in the Public Health Institute in Constitution Road; these were well attended, as were sessions by four other lecturers in other parts of Dundee. In all she served sixty years in the Red Cross, active until the age of 90, and was County Director from 1939 to 1961. She organised huge Red Cross camps for people from all Scotland, where she would stand at the dining room door and greet all 300 or so by name, or at least by county.

She was involved with Grey Lodge for fifty years. Though often touring the country lecturing, she would drop in to meetings when possible, and was Patroness of the Grey Lodge Girl Guides. She fought a losing battle with one Grey Lodge warden who wanted to close the Saturday night club which the girls ran themselves. Miss Batting was a good warden, Agnes thought, but she got into trouble for sitting on the platform of a Socialist meeting. "People thought the Dundee Social Union was to do with the (newly created) Socialist party; that's why they changed to 'Grey Lodge'." When Agnes resigned she left the meeting and got someone else to read her letter, to avoid fuss. In thanks for her service she was given a rocking chair.

Agnes Allan lived in Longforgan at one time. She served on thirty-six committees, on the Education Committee as RC representative, and on five sub-committees. She worked with Grey Lodge, Old People's Welfare, Dundee Association for Social Service and St Mary Mothercraft. (Mrs Graham, wife of

High School, where she won the Harris Gold Medal. In 1895 she was awarded the first MA degree awarded by St Andrews to a woman. Shortly before graduating, she and a Miss Hamilton gained entrance to University College, Dundee to study for MB, ChB, having successfully argued that Mary Ann Baxter had said women were to be equal students, and she graduated in 1898. She took three successive holiday residential posts, at Glasgow Maternity Hospital, London's Belgrave Hospital and in the London and Toxteth Workhouse in Liverpool. She then became consultant physician to St John's Hospital for Skin Diseases and to the skin department of the South London Hospital for Women. In either 1898 or 1901 she married Dr Thomas Savill, who died in 1910. In that year she became editor of *Savill's Clinical Medicine*. In World War I she was head of the electrotherapeutic department of the Scottish Women's Hospital, Royaumont, France. She published various journal articles and medical works, and, in 1955, *Alexander the Great and his Time*. She has been described as "formidable".

Boase, Aimée G C **'social worker'** **1881 – 1934**
The second daughter of Lindsay Boase, in the jute trade, she gave much of her time to furthering the work of Dundee Infant Hospital, The Lodge, Broughty Ferry. This establishment became a VAD hospital during WW 1. She also supported Dundee Social Union, Grey Lodge, Dundee Women's Hospital and Nursing Home and the Children's Holiday Home in Blairgowrie. She was a friend and enthusiastic helper of Florence Horsbrugh (plaque 16); she also enjoyed gardening and fishing.

Bradshaw, Angela **artist and designer** **? - 1986 or 1987**
Angela was a leading light in the design department of Dundee College of Art, which became Duncan of Jordanstone College, from 1932 - 1950, before moving to Yorkshire in the 1950s. She endowed a student prize, the Angela Bradshaw Award for Graduating Students in Constructed Textiles, worth £4,000. An exhibition space in the art college was named after her on receipt of this bequest.

Brannen, Jan **hospital matron** **1915(?) - 2004**
After attending Morgan Academy, Jan went in 1932 to work in Perth City Fever Hospital, where she became a staff nurse. She then worked in Aberdeen, in Ashludie, and in Maryfield Hospital where she was matron from 1948 to 1969, when she became Principal Nursing Officer to the Dundee division of Tayside Health Board. She was the first secretary of the Dundee Committee for Cancer Relief. She lived in Blackness Road, was an elder of Stobswell Church and was awarded the OBE in 1970.

Brougham, Janet Muir **Councillor and weaver** **1897 - 1981**
née Ogilvie
Born in Dunfermline, she attended Queen Anne High School then started work as a linen weaver (her father was an active trade unionist in the linen industry). When he was blacklisted, the family moved to Northern England, then later returned to Dundee where he worked in Manhattan Works (Jute Industries Ltd). Janet then married Alexander and brought up three children,

Alexander, Magdalene and William in the Arklay Street area.

Harry Hird, a stoker in Cleghorn Works and a leading light in the Labour party, encouraged her to take an interest in politics. She first stood for the Council in 1945 (from 3 Arklay St) and was elected to Ward 5, Linlathen, where she served for 24 years, latterly deputising for the Lord Provost. Appalled by the conditions in Mollison Street Poorhouse, she campaigned for improvement and had a special interest in children's welfare, notably children's homes and foster care. Her concern for old people is reflected in the naming of Janet Brougham House, a residential care home. Overall her convenorship brought great improvements. Affectionately known as "Mrs Wummin", she retired in May 1970 and was awarded the OBE in July.

Bryson, Dr Elizabeth **academic, doctor and author** **1880 - 1969**
née Macdonald

Born the fourth of nine children in a very poor Dundee family, she lived in a two-room house. Her mother was a music teacher. At the age of ten she gained a bursary to Harris Academy. In 1892 universities opened to women; Elizabeth's mother went down to Harris Academy and insisted that girls as well as boys be taught mathematics and Latin, in order to qualify for entrance to medical studies. In 1896 Elizabeth went to St Andrews University where she took a first in English before she was nineteen. She then entered the Bute Medical School there, graduating in 1905, MD 1907, and was given one of the first Carnegie Research Scholarships. Principal Yule McKay described her as 'one of the most brilliant and capable students I have ever known.'

By this time she was living in a seven-room upstairs flat in Tay Square. Here she was a neighbour and later a good friend of Drs Thomson and Moorhead (Plaque 6), for whom she did a month's locum work on graduating.

Concerned at how surgery was creeping into childbirth, she decided to specialise in non-surgical gynaecology, but could neither get a hospital appointment nor afford to start her own practice, so she went to New Zealand. In 1918 she married Dr Robert Bryson. In 1925 she returned briefly to Edinburgh. She was active in the League of Mothers and the Workers' Educational Association and ran a special class for retarded children in New Zealand, where she was also president of the Federation of University Women. After war work 1939-1945 in Britain she returned to New Zealand, and retired in 1953. By 1965 she was again in Dundee. She died four years later but, if she died in Dundee, there is no local obituary for her.

Campbell, Elizabeth **poet** **1804 - 1878**

was born at Tannadice on 11/2/04, the daughter of a ploughman on Findowry estate. Her father John was widowed in 1808 and his children had from early on to become self-reliant. The fifth of six daughters and two sons, Elizabeth went into service aged seven then returned home. At this time she attended the village school, briefly, learning to read; it's said she 'did one quarter in the white seam' – presumably some schooling in plain sewing - then aged nine went into service again. Her talent for nature poetry developed through time spent reading in the laird's library. She held various posts including one with an Indian potentate, and with a family who took her to St Malo, France,

for two years. In 1832 she married William, a flax dresser, and had eight children of whom two sons died in infancy and another two as young men. She lived in Brechin, then in Arbroath where her husband died in 1873. At this time she arranged a private printing of her poetry, and sold it to raise money to support the family. She and two daughters then moved to Lochee. The Reverend Gilfillan 'discovered' her through the intervention of local poet and customs official Peter Whytock; Gilfillan greatly admired her piety and tenacity, and encouraged her to publish her autobiography and poems in 1875. Her poems are based on her knowledge of nature, and of the griefs and hardships endured by the poor; for her town readers, she brought nature poetry into their lives. There were several reprints. Three years later she died in Lochee.

Charlotte Augusta

**princess, heir presumptive
to the throne**

1796 – 1817

The only legitimate child of George, Prince of Wales, and Queen Caroline, Charlotte grew to be 5'8" tall, with auburn hair piled high, generally thought beautiful and loved by the populace. She was good at languages and music. She had a love affair with Captain Charles Hesse of the 7th Hussars, and wrote indiscreet letters to him which he refused to return until her father found out and applied pressure. George wanted her to marry the short and unattractive Prince William of Orange; she however fell in love with and married, in 1816, the handsome but penniless Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg. In November 1817 she gave birth to a 9lb stillborn son; she died the next day and both are buried in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Charlotte and Leopold had travelled to visit Leopold's parents, and she had wished the baby to be born there, where there were better medical facilities. The Regent and Parliament both insisted the child should be born in England. Their ship was caught in a storm and sheltered in the Tay estuary. The story has it that she was taken to a house in Broughty Ferry, where the baby was born and they both died, with the bodies being removed by coach to London prior to any official announcement.

In 1901 Mr Ogilvie, who owned Viewpark (later Burnbank) House, at the corner of Ferry Road and Victoria Road, demolished the 1881 cottage behind his house, found a headstone hidden in the cottage and built it into the boundary wall. An expert says the stone is shaped like a gravestone and is made of South Angus sandstone, probably from Carmyllie or Denfind quarries; he thinks it had stood in a cemetery at one time. It is well carved. Local expert Ken McConnell thinks the last word of the rhyming epitaph contains a clue. Possible confirmation for the story comes from the fact that a Montrose dominie at the time of Charlotte's death gave his pupils a writing exercise mourning her.

The original stone is now behind the boundary wall. Interbild put up a replica in 1986 when new houses were built on the site.

'Sacred to the memory of HRH Princess Charlotte Augusta, daughter of HRH the Prince Regent, consort of His Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg and heiress of the British crown, being just delivered of a still-born son./ Died 6/11/1817 aged 22 years. Much lamented by all the Nation who

International Fellowship of Reconciliation conference in Holland, married him in December 1939 and came to Dundee where they lived at 23 Dunmore Gardens. (Her father disapproved of the marriage; he wanted her 'tamed.')

They had four children and (eventually) seven grandchildren. She expected to work for a second degree, but social conditions in Dundee were so appalling; she helped local girls' clubs, persevered and after a year or two became secretary of the Dundee Association of Girls' Clubs. In 1944 she became a certificated club leader and handed the secretaryship over to a full-time paid organiser.

Margaret taught English and English as a Foreign Language at the College of Commerce for six years part-time and eleven years full-time until 1977. She was three times a co-opted member of the Education Committee from 1946 on, and tried (unsuccessfully) to have the tawse abolished. In the 1970s she joined Amnesty International, serving as local Secretary for 20 years and writing twenty letters a week. She described herself as ' a humanist with Christian stripes'; she 'combined a will of iron with a ceaseless concern about the world's suffering' and 'was consumed by the knowledge that every minute and every hour countless individuals around the world are victims of hunger, oppression, injustice and degradation.' She pointed out that in the mid-seventies there were over eighty Chileans in Dundee, and served on the Chilean Human Rights Committee which became the Latin American Human Rights Group. From 1973 to 1995 she was a member of the Dundee, latterly Tayside, Community Relations Council (which became the Tayside Racial Equality Committee) from its inception, acting as secretary for many years, working tirelessly for greater understanding of cultural differences. Bill Edgar describes her as 'a person whose life made a difference in promoting human rights, equality and justice at a local, national and international level.' She gave money to Oxfam, Amnesty, the Medical Foundation, Romanian children, the RSPB, animal welfare etc. She had a love of English literature and wanted to write. In teaching English she was a perfectionist, but she was not a great cook or housewife. She was a virtual vegetarian and a Friend. Her oldest friend, Myrtle Doughty, describes ' a frail, shivering, wheezing figure standing in Dundee's City Square in sleet and snow during a demonstration in support of the Sandanista regime in Nicaragua' ... her 'astonishing perseverance.' In spite of her increasing health problems Tony Robb says 'she made allowances for others but none for herself.' She is quoted in the Stroatley Rough School newsletter as asking, 'Have all my odd jobs added up to something really useful?'

Findlay, Janet

hawker

1723 – 1827

Janet lived at the foot of the Hawkhill and hawked small wares. At the age of 88 she married 'a youth of 25 with whom she occasionally resided till the day of her death'.

Fox, Alice

**Scottish country
dance teacher**

1899 - 1980

Alice was one of triplets. She began to dance from an early age, 5 or 6. From the age of 18 she taught ballroom, Highland and Scottish country dance, and was popular though very strict. She raised large sums of money for charity.

she was militant in the suffragette cause and was imprisoned in Perth in 1913. As a member of the Women's Social and Political Union she disrupted meetings and wrote to the press; she's quoted as having said she was 'proud to be a gaolbird' (a remarkable statement for a minister's daughter) in the cause of women's suffrage. Disguised in widow's weeds and glasses, she managed to get into a meeting held by Ramsay MacDonald in the Gilfillan Memorial Hall, but was roughly dragged out by eight burly men – an onlooker describes this as “one of the strongest arguments for women's suffrage that I have ever seen.”

From 1914 until 1916 when her father died she worked as a VAD nurse in Caird Hospital, Dundee. After that she was involved in war work in Gretna, Waltham Abbey and the Halifax area, then joined the women's police service. She was a loyal follower of Lloyd George and a frequent speaker at political meetings, twice chosen as a Liberal candidate though never elected. In the 1930s she took up Christian Science and worked as a practitioner and healer until four years before her death. In World War 2 she did Civil Defence work in London.

Halley, Mary

suffragist

1886 – 1959

Mary was born in Alyth, the daughter of Anne Teavendale and William Allen, an iron moulder who had trouble getting work because of his Trade Union activities. She married David Halley, a draper, director of Dundee United, and later the owner of Halley's Bar. and they had three daughters. She was a member of the Women's Freedom League. In February 1911 she took part in the census protest, and had twenty women staying at her house. The point of this was that women who were not at home on the night of the census were not registered, and as they could not vote they declined to be registered. Mary was the only woman threatened with prosecution, perhaps because of her father's activities. In later life she stood for the Town Council, but was unsuccessful. The family lived at Roycroft, a comfortable house in Yewbank Ave, Broughty Ferry. Mary was a woman of medium build; a keen gardener and dog breeder; and very strong minded, although she didn't talk about her past. “You could say,” her great niece remembered, “that she was a hard woman.”

Irwin, Margaret

Trade Union and suffrage activist

1857-1940

Born at sea, the only daughter of James, a ship's captain, Margaret was brought up in Broughty Ferry, gaining a degree in languages at St Andrews University. She went on to study at Queen Margaret College Glasgow & Glasgow College of Art, and remained in Glasgow for the rest of her life.

Aged 34, Margaret embarked on a lifetime's work to improve the lot of women in the workforce. She became organising secretary of first the Women's Protective & Provident League (sponsored by Glasgow Trades Council) and then the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, which by 1895 numbered 100,000 members. She stayed with the Council for all the 44 years it existed. She produced welcome reports for the Royal Commission on Labour, detailing the awful conditions of shop girls (who worked a 14-16 hour day), laundry workers, home workers and others. Although she was never a trade union member she was the driving force behind the formation of the STUC and served as its secretary for its first three years (1897-1900). The job was offered to her on a permanent basis but she refused, saying she feared prejudice against a woman in the job might harm the new Union. But she remained influential in the Trade Union movement, especially for setting up structures for women members and for urging that Scotland needed its own unions, not just branches of national bodies. Largely through her, the Council initiated and promoted a mass of useful legislation affecting industrial conditions and showing the necessity for reform of housing conditions of female workers in potato lifting, fish curing and fruit picking.

She had become a recognised authority on industrial conditions relating to women in Scotland; she lectured on economic questions, served on various government committees and gave evidence to a select committee in the House of Lords. In 1927 she was awarded a CBE.

Her first STUC motion, however, was on women's suffrage; she was a member of the Glasgow & West Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage until 1907 and after that a regular speaker at the Women's Freedom League.

Latterly she ran a model fruit farm in Blairgowrie until her death aged 83.

Margaret was brainy, shrewd and visionary, and her work in reforming labour laws that affect women has had a lasting effect.

Johnson, Ellen

vernacular poet

c.1835 – 1874?

Ellen was another protégée of Rev Gilfillan, but a very different person from Elizabeth Campbell. Bold, ever ready to stand up and speak out, she cast herself as the heroine of her own life story and the victim of injustice. Certainly she didn't have a very fortunate life. She was born in Hamilton, the daughter of stonemason and poet James, who deserted the family when she was still young. So Ellen was out to work in the mill at eleven years old. At seventeen she had an illegitimate daughter; the father walked out on her.

Her first poem (on the Crimean War) was published in 1854 in a Glasgow newspaper. Ellen's mother died in 1861, and she came to live with an aunt in Dundee, working at Verdant Mill, but was dismissed following her accusations of persecution by her fellow workers. Or perhaps because she was too fond of whisky? "I ken there's mair folk in Dundee / Wha likes a glass as weel as me." Undaunted, she sued for wrongful dismissal, won her case and was awarded five shillings plus expenses. Ellen had poems published in *The People's Journal* in 1862, writing about current events and offering sycophantic tributes to employers, but also championing the poor: her best known poem was a tearjerker entitled *The Last Sark*.

Then in '67 she asked Revd Gilfillan for a testimonial and managed to publish her *Autobiography, Poems and Songs of Ellen Johnson 'The Factory Girl'*. which won her a £50 prize from the Royal Bounty Fund. But she couldn't make a living from her poetry. She went to work in Tay and Chapelshade mills, then at the end of 1867 she returned, disillusioned, to Glasgow. She is probably the Helen Johnston who died from kidney malfunction in Barony Poorhouse.

Johnston, Etta J.

artist, scientist and social activist 1862 – 1952

Nothing is known of Etta's life and work after around 1900, save that she continued to live at the family home in Newport until her death, though it is known that she maintained an interest for some years in Newport Children's Home. Moreover, none of her oils or watercolours can be traced, though sales of these in 1883 are recorded.

At the age of 18 Etta began exhibiting at the hugely popular Dundee Fine Art Exhibitions and continued to produce oils and watercolours for the next ten years. She had been a pupil at Dundee High School, where she was probably taught by William Gibb, and there were at that time very many opportunities for art study, notably the classes run by St Andrews-based Patti Jack in the Fine Art Department of University College, Dundee. Jack and Johnston were both interested in landscape and countryside subjects.

They also share the distinction of being the first women to teach at University College, Dundee, as Etta began assisting Patrick Geddes in the 1888-89 session. That same year she studied Anatomy for Artists in a course given by the anatomy professor Andrew Melville Paterson.

She had been one of the original intake of students in 1883 and studied for six years. Her many certificates and prizes are recorded in mathematics, biology, anatomy, physiology and chemistry – 4 prizes for this! In 1883 University College had splendid new purpose-built chemistry laboratories. Professor Thomas Carnelly was an inspirational teacher who encouraged his students towards original research and publication and Etta produced four papers while still a student – *The antiseptic properties of metallic salts in relation to their chemical composition; Putrefaction; The effect of floor deafening on the sanitary*

condition of dwelling houses and *The relation of physiological action to atomic weight* - the last two being jointly written and the authors given as E Johnston and T Carnelly – i.e. Etta's name given first.

She also trained as a botany demonstrator and helped teach practical botany both in Dundee and in Edinburgh, encouraging the production of botanical drawings for practical use in study.

However women were not allowed to take a degree in Dundee until 1892 and there is no evidence that Etta ever did.

Her scientific work on floor deafening – then, in poorer areas, composed of midden material mixed with ashes – suggested a strong correlation between quality of deafening, air pollution and life expectancy. (The average age of death in the city in 1882 was 26 years, with the most affluent expecting to live 29 years longer than the poorest.) She had joined Dundee Social Union in 1888, then the Sanitary Committee which campaigned for years to achieve better sanitation in Dundee houses. She also collected rents, helped with the girls' club and ran jumble sales. She served on several other committees but her involvement ceased abruptly in 1900. Can any reader tell us more about her later life?

Jordan, Jessie

spy

1887 – 1954

She was born Jessie Wallace, in Glasgow, to an unmarried housemaid. Her first four years were spent with her granny until her mother married. Her parents were brutal, and at age 16 she left home and went as a housemaid in Perth, on Kinnoull Hill, then to three more jobs before returning to her mother, who was now living in Dundee. In August 1912 she met Fritz Jordan, who was working as a waiter in the Royal Hotel in Dundee, married him in Hanover and had a daughter whom they named Marga Wilhemina after the Kaiser. Fritz died in 1918, and Jessie came back to her mother in Perth; soon she returned to Hamburg where she re-married. Her new husband was a German Jew called Baumgarten; the marriage was unsuccessful and they were soon divorced. She had three hairdressers' shops in Hamburg, but was forced to liquidate when her daughter's ex-husband, to whom she had lent money, went bankrupt. So in 1937 back she came to Perth to housekeep for her widowed step-brother William Haddow. But by then she had been targeted as an agent by the Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) and recruited just before she left.

Jessie was a solidly built, blonde woman, an elegant dresser and a person who wanted excitement and esteem. She was said to be "strong-willed & strict but capable of great kindness and generosity." But she wasn't a very good spy. She sent back information on an arms depot near Rosyth, Southampton docks, Aldershot, Scottish east coast defences etc, but nothing very useful. She bought a hairdresser's shop in Dundee in Sept 1937 (Jolly's Saloon in Kinloch Street, price £70) to use as cut-out address for information from USA. Business was not good: she was trying to run a grand establishment in a poor district. Carelessly she tucked maps she had drawn for the Abwehr in amongst shop paperwork, and her shop assistant Mary Curran became suspicious of mail with German stamps and her frequent absences. In March 1938 she was caught, found guilty and imprisoned in Perth, initially for four years. A year later her daughter died during an operation, leaving a grand daughter, Jessie. Jessie senior was transferred to Holloway during the war, where she became a Christian Scientist. In 1945 she was repatriated to Germany, where she "became a missionary for that cause". She died in November 1954, having refused treatment.

Keddie, Joan P.

singer

? - 1921

Joan was best known under her surname 'Keddie', although eight years before her death she married Captain James Taylor, M.C., of Edinburgh. Born and brought up in Newport where her singing soon attracted admiration, she was for a long time in the choir of St Mary's Parish Church in Dundee, taking part in local concerts and amateur opera. When she became a professional she went from Dundee to London where she was taken up and given important roles by Mr D'Oyley Carte and other leading entrepreneurs. She toured extensively and was one of the most admired performers of her generation – as

the May Queen in *Merry England* and Diana in *Rob Roy* amongst many other parts. She died in a Glasgow hospital, aged about 25-30. In that short life she had become a famous actress and singer, popular both with the public and in the profession.

Kerr, Mary Elizabeth Grainger **singer and pianist** **1864 – late 1940s**
'Meg,' as her friends knew her, was a musician and soloist with Dundee origins. Her father was a Scottish solicitor, her mother English, and the family lived in a big house in Nethergate. After a home/private education she settled in London in her early 20s. She was a well-known Scottish contralto, described as "one of the most cultivated concert singers of her generation, excelling both in oratorio and in songs...". She sang in the premiere of Delius' *Mass of Life* and the first Scottish performance of Elgar's *The Kingdom*. Her skills were particularly in modern British music, Hebridean songs and Russian music. In worldwide recitals and lectures she introduced all these to audiences in Brussels, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Cairo, Alexandria and Jerusalem, as well as singing and giving pianoforte recitals in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. She died in or near London.

King, Jessie "Marguerite" **journalist** **19th/20th century**
In her time, around 1890, Jessie King was the best known woman journalist in Scotland. She was well travelled, and a great supporter of the suffragettes, whose meetings she reported. Reporting in the *Dundee Advertiser* on the formation of Dundee & East Fife Women's Suffrage Committee at Mathers Hotel, "Marguerite" writes: "I have been so long a voice crying in the wilderness on this matter...." (Emily Thomson (plaque 6) and Agnes Husband (plaque 1) were at this meeting.) Jessie also accompanied Mary Lily Walker (plaque 17) on her 'Lady Rent Officer' visits.
The publishers John Leng & Co Ltd claimed the honour of having produced the first woman journalist in Scotland, and described her as "a brilliant descriptive writer, an authority on household matters, and a poetess."

Kinnear, Catherine **orthoptist and philatelist** **1912 – 1988**
This lady spent her lifetime in an immense variety of services for Dundee. After graduating from St Andrews University in the thirties, she was momentarily at a loss. But her father and grandfather had been doctors, and a family friend who was an eye consultant supplied an answer; she became an orthoptist. After a year's training in London she returned to, and never left, Roseangle in Dundee. For forty years she worked at the Nethergate Eye Clinic, dealing with successive family generations, much loved and respected. But that was only a part of it.
From childhood she was a keen philatelist, gathering vast collections of stamps illustrating themes in history all over the world, particularly South America. For thirty years she was a member of the Dundee and District Philatelic Society – and in the 1980s its first woman president. Her interest in history never faltered; indeed, philately was part of it. She became a founder and the first woman president of the Abertay Historical Society and was secretary of its archaeological section for twenty-five years. Her interests led her into regular archaeological 'digs' and meetings of the Bibliographical Society. As a council member of the Dundee Civic Trust she fought long and hard to preserve Dundee's long established postmark, seeing it as a significant part of city history.
With ceaseless energy and commitment, she enjoyed every aspect of her work.

Laird, Elizabeth Matthew **doctor** **1878 – 1971**
Elizabeth was the daughter of A.B. Anderson, chemist. She studied medicine at St Andrews but graduated in Edinburgh because St Andrews didn't take women for other subjects: the professor ruled that it was "positively indecent to lecture to a woman in physiology and anatomy". In 1901 Elizabeth married a Forfar consultant engineer called John and went with him first to Calcutta, then to Brazil. When he died in 1926 she returned to Dundee, living at 20 Woodville Place. She died in 1971, but she left a

'dynasty' of doctors, with (at least) both her daughters and a grand-daughter entering the profession.

Lorimer, Elizabeth Hilda Lockhart classical scholar 1873 - 1954

Hilda was the oldest daughter, third of eight children of Rev Robert, minister of the Free Church of Mains & Strathmartine, Angus. She was never known as Elizabeth – in fact her family called her "Hiddo". Every day the young Hilda walked five miles to Dundee High School and later to University College, Dundee, where she graduated, gaining a first in the Cambridge Classical Tripos in 1896. She became a classics tutor, then a fellow, at Somerville College, Oxford, where she endowed a college prize and stayed until she retired. But she was not a stay-at-home academic: she travelled in Greece, Turkey and round about, helping with excavations. She was a very learned, distinguished Homeric scholar, perhaps her best known book was *Homer & the Monuments*. In 1917 she worked as a nursing orderly in the Scottish Women's Hospital. She was a keen ornithologist too. Slight but wiry, she is remembered as "sitting very erect on a bicycle with high handlebars, still (at 76) attracting the attention of the casual passer-by".

Lyon, Mrs Agnes song writer 1762 – 1840

Agnes was born in Dundee, the eldest daughter of John Ramsay L'Amy. Bonny, blue-eyed, fair and slender, she had many suitors; at 24 she married Rev James, the minister of Glamis and had ten children by him. A cultured woman of similar tastes to her Perthshire contemporary song writer Baroness Nairn (*The Land o' the Leal, Caller Herrin'* and *The Laird o' Cockpen*), she showed equal indifference to a poetical reputation. She actually filled four MS books with poetry and verses, but she is famous for just one published song, *Neil Gow's Farewell to Whisky*., Even that appears as anonymous in nearly all collections of Scottish song. In old age, it is said, "she retained much of the buoyant vivacity of youth, and her whole life was adorned by the most exemplary piety".

Macarthur, Mary Trade Unionist 1880 - 1921

This woman was not a Dundonian, but perhaps deserves a mention. A Glaswegian, in 1906 she became founder and secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers. She came to Dundee in 'the snowstorms of March 1906' to support a jute workers' dispute; it was not officially organised so the employers just locked the workers out. So Mary (by now a TU official) started the Dundee Union of Jute & Flax Workers. She held a meeting in Gilfillan Hall and talks with the Dundee Trades Council, and within a week had enrolled 3,000 members. A month later she returned, and got them to affiliate to the General Federation of Trade Unions (a mutual insurance agency). Mary was "...not at all like the usual female agitator" but "blue-eyed, fair-haired & charming".

Mackenzie, Alison printmaker 1907 – 1982

Mackenzie, Winifred painter, printmaker 1905 – ?

The half-sisters were always known as a pair. Their father was from the West of Scotland and studied painting and architecture at Glasgow College of Art, where he met Charles Rennie Mackintosh, with whom he planned to go into partnership. However, he had to leave for India to run his father's sawmill business in Bombay, where his daughters were born. In 1909 the children and their mother/ stepmother moved back to Bridge of Weir. In 1911 the girls received their first paint boxes. When their father died in 1914 the family moved to Kilmacolm. Alison and Winifred attended Glasgow School of Art from 1923 to 1930; Alison studied design and textiles, gaining the top award in her year, and Winifred studied drawing and painting before undergoing teacher training which she did not find useful. In 1930 they went to London where they learned wood-engraving at the Grosvenor School of Art. An exhibition in a Bond Street gallery led to Alison's receiving a commission from LNER for its well-known railway posters in 1936 – 1937, and to further commissions.

In 1940 they moved to Playfair Terrace in St Andrews where they cared for their invalid

Yorkshire.

Grace has her very own plaque (not a Trail one) at the rear of Baxter's Court in Princes Street.

Martin, Mrs/Lady Isobel Carlaw educationalist 1875? - 1933

Isobel spent her life between Edinburgh and Dundee, and in both cities she held a prominent place for over forty years among women engaging in public work in Scotland, her main interest being education. She lived in one of the terraced houses in Springfield between 1894 and 1910 when her husband was editor of the *Dundee Advertiser*, then the couple moved to Edinburgh when he was appointed director of the Museum of Science & Art in that city. For three years from 1906 she served on the Dundee School Board and the Free Libraries Committee, representing the latter on the board of University College, and was described as a "vigorous & intelligent member". Profoundly interested and versed in educational theory; she founded a movement to encourage bulb culture among school children, and she organised gardens for every school, with bulbs donated and an annual exhibition in the Drill Hall in Ward Road. Isobel was also into politics: she was one of the founders of Dundee Women's Liberal Association and an admirable public speaker. She was described as an "arresting & engaging personality, possessed in high degree of the gift of winning friendships".

Mary, Queen of Scots gave The Howff 1542 - 1587

The Queen of Scots' most remembered link with Dundee is that in 1564 she gave The Howff to the citizens. This piece of land had been the garden of Greyfriars Monastery, which was destroyed in 1548. It was used as a graveyard and also as a meeting place (that's what "howff" means) for the Nine Trades of Dundee until the 18th century. You can read the story on the plaque at the entrance to The Howff in Meadowside, and the event is commemorated in stained glass in the McManus Gallery.

Meechie, Helen brigadier 1938 - 2000

Helen was born in Dundee and educated at Morgan Academy and St Andrews University. She got an MA in modern languages and a teaching diploma, but then she decided she'd like to join the army. So at 22 she was commissioned into the WRAC (Women's Royal Army Corps). She was the first woman to graduate from Sandhurst Staff College, and the first to attend (in 1976) the now defunct Royal College of Defence Studies, being made a Lieutenant-Colonel. Three years later she was made Commander WRAC Army of the Rhine. This was near the Berlin Wall, and men were not keen on women being in a potential combat area so she had to use all her diplomatic skills to soothe male egos. Up the military ladder Helen went; in 1982 she was appointed Director of the WRAC and Honorary Aide to the Queen. Her work did much to help the assimilation of men and women in the army. In 1986 she was awarded a CBE, also an honorary doctorate from Dundee University and was appointed Hon. Colonel of Tayforth OTC. She stepped back from direct command and returned to the Royal College of Defence Studies, then moved to the post of Deputy Director-General of Personnel Services. The highest-ranking woman in the British Army, she retired at 53 and settled in London or Wiltshire before being appointed vice-president and chairwoman of the WRAC Association and made a freeman of the City of London. Helen had a passion for golf, tennis and travelling, and came back often to Scotland for golf. She visited USA, Hong Kong, Germany and N. Ireland on army business. *The Scotsman* described her as: "A most efficient and accomplished lady who led the WRAC with style, commitment and devotion..... The sly shake of the head, the knowing grin and penetrating question established who was in charge." A powerful lady, Helen had other things to do than get married; the army was her life, and women in the army have much to thank her for.

Miller, Mrs Lily Binnie first woman town councillor ? - 1961

Although other women before her served on the Parish Council, Lily was Dundee's first

Nicol, Helen**Citizen of the Year 1966****? - 1979**

"Nell" was a super-active member of St Andrews Parish Church; she was secretary of the Women's Guild, drama and social groups and choir, she played piano for the Boys Brigade, and she taught Sunday School for 65 years. From 1952 onwards she lived at 30 Kenmore Terrace, and it was about then that Rev P. Lee roped her in to help with four clubs for handicapped people and three for the elderly. She acted as secretary and organised concerts and talks for them all. What's more, she sent out 800 Get Well / sympathy cards every year to the sick and the bereaved. Described as "the architect of social work among the disabled" she became Dundee's fourth Citizen of the Year in 1966 - "I wish you had given it to someone else," she said.

Ogilvie, Anna Belle**home help pioneer****c.1902 - 1992**

'Mrs Ogilvie' was born c.1902 and educated at Grove Academy. At 45 she married Captain James Ogilvie of Broughty Ferry. They lived in Singapore until he died in 1948, when she was asked to return to help form a pilot scheme for a home help service. Dundee Corporation's nascent service was in trouble: first the Department of Health for Scotland refused to endorse it, saying demand was 'negligible'; then, when it did get started it was very disorganised because there was nobody to hold it together. Finally a complete service was agreed in terms of the NHS (Scotland) Act of 1947. Mrs Ogilvie was appointed as Superintendent in August 1948, and by the end of the year 23 domestic helps were employed and 113 individuals and families were being helped. She retired in 1961 and died 31 years later at the age of 90.

Ogilvy, Lady Jane**philanthropist****1809 – 1861**

Lady Jane was born in July 1809, the third daughter of the Earl of Suffolk & Berkshire. She married Sir John Ogilvy of Baldovan MP. In 1884 she started the Home for Lapsed Women, and, a few years later, Baldovan Orphanage & Asylum for Idiot Children (the first such institution), then in 1860 the Convalescent Hospital, Union Place. She also gave to many private charities. She died at Baldovan House and was buried in the Old Burying Ground, Strathmartine

Ogilvy, Marion**ghost!****before 1503 – 1575**

Marion was the daughter of the first Lord Airlie and lover of Cardinal Beaton, who built her Melgund Castle near Brechin. She was an able and literate woman who managed her own affairs, and left £3,000 in her will. The reason she is included here is that an entirely unfounded but persistent legend names her as Dundee's most famous ghost. She is said to be the White Lady of Claypotts Castle, and is to be seen waving her handkerchief from the window towards St Andrews where Cardinal Beaton lived. Especially on 29 May, the day he was burnt to death in 1546. Go and look!

Ogilvy Dalgleish, Lady Elizabeth**philanthropist****c.1841 - 1922**

Born Elizabeth Frances Molison, she was the grand-daughter of William Baxter and an heiress. In 1860 she married William (later Sir William) Ogilvy. He became a partner, and then, in 1872, chairman of Baxters, the biggest textile firm in Dundee. When her mother died they moved to Errol Park, where he died in 1913. The family put plumbing into Errol village. Elizabeth was involved in the Girls' Industrial School, serving as secretary to the ladies' committee for 30 years and helping to fund the new Balgay building; she was Hon Vice President of the YWCA, largely responsible for the Welcome Hall for mill girls in Long Wynd. She gave money for a new building for the Institution for the Blind. Other of her concerns were the YW restaurant, a boarding house for businesswomen and a convalescence home for girls in Aberfeldy. When not involved in good works she showed herself to be very keen on Highland cattle, and beat King George for the Smithfield championship. Of course she possessed vast wealth, but she was said to have "led a quiet, simple and helpful life".

Parker, Fanny**suffragette****1875 - 1924**

Fanny was born and brought up in New Zealand. She was the future Lord Kitchener's niece, a connection useful to her in that he paid for her to come and study at Cambridge and later his influence helped her out of at least one suffragette scrape. After graduating she taught for a while, returning to England and joining the militant Women's Social & Political Union (WSPU) in 1908. She was arrested in February for going on a deputation from the Women's Parliament to the House of Commons and given six months for obstruction. By the following year she and a friend were running a "dairy & farming school" to teach suffragettes economic self-sufficiency, and also going on speaking tours with the Scottish Universities Women's Suffrage Association; in 1911 she was their delegate to an international congress in Stockholm. In 1912 she joined in a window breaking campaign in London and was sent to prison for four months. Ethel Moorhead (Plaque 22) was at that demo; they met, and became lifelong friends. Ethel described her as "charming with bloom on soft cheeks and cherries in her hat ... brown eyes and silky hair ... daring, joyous, vivid and strategic".

Fanny came to Dundee in October and became the local WSPU organiser. She was indefatigable, collecting two more prison terms, writing weekly letters to the press and holding meetings of all kinds including one in Perth where she and May Grant (see above) were pelted with rotten eggs and had to be rescued by police but bravely went back next month to try again. She wrote in the *Advertiser*: "Militancy has its uses... we cannot give or withhold votes, but we can offer peace or war."

By August 1913 she was WSPU organiser in Edinburgh, and spent some time looking after Ethel Moorhead who had been released, ill, under the 'Cat & Mouse Act'. This Act allowed women prisoners to be released when their health was endangered but re-arrested as soon as they got better. The next year she and another (probably Ethel) tried to burn down Burns's cottage but she was caught and imprisoned again, and was forcibly fed – by rectum. She was sent to a nursing home and promptly escaped, but World War II broke out and suffragettes were amnestied before she could be re-arrested. One of her uncles wrote to her: "I have medals too but I would be prouder if I had yours." The WSPU disbanded and Fanny joined the Women's Freedom League, working in London as head of their National Service Organisation which found jobs for women and made sure they weren't exploited. She later became Deputy Controller of the WAAC at Boulogne. Ten years later she died in Arcachon near Bordeaux; she was almost certainly living there with Ethel, and she left nearly all to her in her will.

So – Fanny Parker did not live long in Dundee; but when she did she certainly made an impact.

Petrie, Miss Mary**tutor to the Romanovs****c.1881 - 1965**

Miss Petrie was born in Russia c.1881 where her father was a flax inspector. She became tutor to the Romanovs. She and her sister were still in Russia at the time of the Revolution; they went to Sweden with the Romanov family for asylum, and then to France, where Mary remained with the family for many years. She was a member of St John's Cross Church. She died at 33 Seymour St on December 22nd, aged 84.

We'd be interested to know more about this lady's life: can you help?

Pettersen, Miss Ingeborg Resch musician**c.1854 - ?**

Born in Norway, she was the sister of Yngmar, a shipbroker and Dundee's Vice-Consul for Norway, Sweden and Portugal. She is first listed in the 1889 Street Directory at 21 Tay St, the following year at 75 Nethergate; then the 1891 census records her as living with her brother (age 54) at 13 Magdalen Yard Road, a singing teacher, unmarried, age 37. They both lived at 3 Tay St in 1903-4; after that there is no mention of them. The British Association report of 1912 says: "Among other musicians, no longer with us but who have left their mark on our musical life, are" So she (age 58) had left or was dead by then.

Scotland, Elizabeth “Lizzie” politician c.1850 – 1940

A bright and breezy little woman with boundless energy and unfailing good humour, Elizabeth had many friends. She was an earnest Methodist, acting as Sunday School teacher and class leader, and was also organiser of the municipal department of the British Women’s Temperance Movement. She was vice-president of the Liberal Association, and was involved with the YWCA and Dundee Burgh Insurance Committee. She ran her own shop, but it was for her ardent reforming ideals she was best known. After twice standing for the Parish Council she became a councillor for Ward 2 in 1907, topping the poll; she remained until parish councils ceased to exist in 1929. While she was giving a public speech one day one of her fans called out “Miss Scotland for ever!” She replied: “No, no, maybe not Miss Scotland for ever,” but in fact she did not marry. She lived in Blackness Avenue for many years, but latterly stayed with a niece in Shaftesbury Road. She died at ninety, healthy up to the end.

Scott, Anne or Anna Duchess of Monmouth 1651 - 1752

Her house, which stood on the corner of High St and Overgate until the 1960s, is perhaps better known than this rich, aristocratic lady. Anne was born in this house in February 1651, Countess of Buccleugh, daughter of Francis, Earl of Buccleugh and Lady Margaret Leslie. That same year their house was used by Monck as HQ after the sack of Dundee. At the age of 12 Anne was married by the Bishop of London to James Scott, Duke of Monmouth (age 13), but being children they did not stay together then. Later she bore him seven children; only three grew to adulthood, one being the son from whom the present Duke of Buccleugh is descended. James claimed the throne, was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor and was executed in 1685. Anne married again in 1688, to Charles, 3rd Baron Cornwallis, but had no more children. She was the lady addressed by the minstrel in *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*.

Semple, Kirsty doctor c.1924 – 1995

Kirsty was born and brought up in Edinburgh, graduating at Surgeon’s Hall. She then went to Harrogate, then came next to Dundee in 1951, where she ran a G.P. practice in Strathmartine Rd until retiring in 1981 on medical advice. She was married, with two sons. Before retiring she visited Canada, which “provided her with the drive to begin...” Tayside Breast Care & Mastectomy Group in 1978 and to serve with it as a counsellor. Six years later she and others founded Tayside Council on Addictions, making use of the Canadian approach to the treatment of dependency. She served on the SACRO committee; conducted bible study at Noranside; was an elder and acting beadle at Steeple Church where she ran a tea room for the homeless. A committed opponent of euthanasia, Kirsty latterly trusted in faith healing. A striking, confident woman with black hair drawn tightly back she was loved by many - “made you feel better coming in the house”. Friends said she also helped a great many people on an individual basis, sometimes taking alcoholics and the homeless into her own home. She accepted nomination as Citizen of the Year, hoping to promote the cause of cancer research, but before the ceremony she died of secondary cancer herself on May 9th. Kirsty Semple Way is in the Ninewells Hospital complex.

Shelley, Mary née Godwin writer 1797 – 1851

Mary’s link with Dundee is tenuous, but she does have a plaque here, in South Baffin Street. She was the daughter of William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, two of London’s most famous radical writers. Her mother died in childbirth and her father re-married. Mary did not get on with her stepmother, Mary Jane Clairemont, and her health was poor; she needed a break from London, so at fourteen she was sent on the packet *Osnaburgh* to Dundee to stay with family friends, the Baxters. They were jute magnates and had a great big house called ‘The Cottage’ on Ferry Road. Mary was described as ‘precocious and intellectual’. “I lived principally in the country as a girl, and passed considerable time in Scotland. I made occasional visits to more picturesque parts, but my

habitual residence was on the blank and dreary northern shores of the Tay, near Dundee. Blank and dreary on retrospection I call them; they were not so to me then. They were the eyry of freedom, and the pleasant region where unheeded I could commune with the creatures of my fancy. It was beneath the trees of the grounds belonging to our house, or on the bleak sides of the woodless mountains near, that my true compositions of the airy flights of my imagination, were born and fostered."

It is said that Dundee inspired the setting for Mary's famous novel *Frankenstein*. In 1814 Mary finally returned to London. She had known Percy Bysshe Shelley as a schoolgirl; now a young woman she met him again and they were instantly attracted. They eloped in July. Thereafter, the letter she sent to Isabel Baxter received only a nasty letter from Isabel's fiancé; it was only after Percy's death in 1822 that they became friends again.

Soutar, Elizabeth

blind poet

1767 – 1834

Elizabeth was said to be one of Dundee's earliest woman writers, a learned woman, a friend of Mrs Lindsay, a headmaster's wife. Although her poems were published there appears to be no extant copy of her works, the only example being in Alan Reid's *The Bards of Angus* (1897), which suggests that her verse was conventional.

In suffr'ings be my strength, O Lord,
In weakness be my Love;
And when the storm of life doth cease,
Then take my soul above.

She is buried in the Howff, and was obviously considered to merit a lengthy inscription; it reads: "She was gifted with a great memory/ Possessed a mind well stored with the/ Holy Scriptures & although blind/ For many years composed a number/ Of poems on religious subjects. She was much respected by all who knew her. The gospel was her joy and song / Even to her latest breath;/ The truth she had maintained so long/ Was her support in death" etc.etc. She bequeathed £5 to the Kirk Session, £3 to the Dundee Female Society and 10/6d to the Clothing Society - the profits of poetry sales. Elizabeth is included as one of Norrie's *Dundee Celebrities*.

Stenhouse, Elizabeth

therapeutic radiographer

1932 - 1988

Liz was born on 3rd April 1932. Brought up initially in Africa, where her father was an agricultural advisor, she later returned to her native Aberdeenshire. She qualified as a therapeutic radiographer when she was 22, and in 1974 became Superintendent in Ninewells Hospital, the same year as she was awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Society of Radiographers, for which she was also an examiner.

She was a prime mover in setting up an informal committee of Scottish Superintendent Therapy Radiographers for the exchange of ideas and the promotion of good practice. This reflected her deep and practical concern for the general well-being of her patients and also for that of the staff who worked with her. This latter resulted in a ground-breaking paper in 1986 which highlighted the need for effective staff support for those working with life-threatening illness if the contribution of good and sensitive professionals was not to be lost.

The span of her other interests was demonstrated by her involvement in a great number of organisations which included: Grampian [Hillwalking and Climbing] Club, Dundee Choral Union, Dundee Children's Panel, Dundee Voluntary Action, the Society of Friends, and many others. She died in her mid-fifties in a traffic accident.

Stewart, Maureen

bookmaker

c.1932 – 1987

Maureen was born in Lilybank and educated at Lawside Academy. She first worked in Gellatly St Auctioneers, then became a bus conductress with Alexanders, where she met her future husband Jack. During the '60s she left the buses to work in two local bookies, then joined Ladbrokes in Dundee. She was the first Scottish female manageress of a bookmaker's shop. In the '60s she was a prominent member of the Labour party, and Michael Foote once visited her at her home at 11 Fintry Drive. She died in February 1987, and was survived by her husband and sons Jake & Roddy.

Stewart, Mary**road and track cyclist****1913 -1976**

Mary was a member of Heatherbell Ladies' Cycling Club, the first ladies' cycling club in Scotland. The club had between 40 and 50 members and they wore green tops with purple and yellow bands 'to look like heather'. Club members were very active, and would cycle to Edinburgh before starting to compete in the day's races. At times they used a Dundee football ground as a track. At weekends there would be long trips round Scotland. Mary won many cups. She married Mr Taylor & lived in Logie Street, Lochee. She was said to have been quite a character. Her daughter Florence was born in 1938, and was perched on the back of a tandem before she was five. During the war Mary was a postwoman, and later she worked in Vernonhome (NHS headquarters), cycling there and back. Indeed she cycled until shortly before her death.

Symers, Miss Helen Halyburton 3rd woman burgess**c.1831 – 1906**

Miss Symers, of St Helen's, Dundee was born in about 1831, the last of a long line dating back to the 16th century. Her father was an agent of the British Linen Company Bank. A member of St Paul's United Free Church, she clearly had a lot of money, and she gave generously. In 1878 she initiated the Fund for Indigent Females with a donation of £10,000 to invest. She gave to the Convalescent Home, Royal Victoria Hospital and the Salvation Army Rescue Home. She gave the site of the Arthurstone Branch Library, and took much interest in its progress. She was also president of Dundee Ladies' Union, treasurer of the Female Society for Visiting & Relieving Aged Females in Distress, a member of the Industrial Schools Society and the Home for Reformation of Females. Although she was an office bearer on four voluntary organisations she was said to have had "a retiring nature" but "bounty never unthinking". In fact, when she was made a burgess 1899 "in recognition of her many acts of wise beneficence to the City and citizens of Dundee" she asked that the ceremony be a private one. University archives record that in 1903: "In accordance with the wish of Miss Symers who has so generously gifted a large proportion of the purchase money, the ground in front of Ellenbank House (Perth Road, south of Dundee University) is to remain an open space for the city as well as for the college." She gave £5,000, with two provisos: [a] that the space remain an open space and [b] that the university didn't incur debt i.e. it met the price in full. She died, aged 74, in November 1906, and she is commemorated in the name of Symers Street in Downfield.

Thompson, Jean Napier**medium****c.1897 - 1971**

Born in about 1897, Jean became a medium and prophetess with a wide following in Dundee and abroad. She gave talks and demonstrations in USA, Canada, Scandinavia & the Albert Hall, London, and was respected as a prophetess because of the success rate of her prophesies.

She demonstrated her powers for an Edinburgh college research team. (Her obituary does not record exactly what the team was researching.). She lived at 2 Stirling Ave, though she had moved to Whitfield six weeks before her death. She died in Maryfield Hospital on November 25th, aged 74. Her picture is in her obituary.

Gertie Thomson**Red Cross****c.1911 – 2003**

Born in Cupar, Gertie and her younger sister Trixie were daughters of the well-known Dundee City architect and engineer, James Thomson. She was educated at Seymour Lodge. Her concern for the sick dates from when, as a young girl during the first World War, she helped her father gather sphagnum moss for binding soldiers' wounds. In 1938 she joined the VADs, Voluntary Aid Departments organised by the British Red Cross which were designed to provide medical aid in time of war. Then during World War II she became an ambulance driver in the Women's Auxiliary Police and went on to spend nearly 20 years with the force; when the practice of using women drivers was discontinued Gertie found a job in CID in charge of photography and lost property. In 1963 she was transferred to Civil Defence as Emergencies Planning Officer for Tayside,

personality but her personal friends knew her as a warm-hearted & loyal woman." She died on 25th February 1918 and her picture is in her obituary.

Watt, Mary Elizabeth **painter** **1885 – 1954**

Mary was born in Dundee, daughter of Alexander Thomson Watt and Betsy McEwan. Her grandfather was a linen weaver, her grandfather was a factory overseer in the jute mills and her father was a master butcher with two shops in Dundee. The family were members (and both Mary's grandfathers were ordained) in the Catholic Apostolic Church Dundee (now St Mary Magdalene's, at the foot of the 'Conschie Brae'). Elizabeth Mary was born in 1885. She painted china, drew fairy pictures, portraits and landscapes. Her watercolours of Ardnamurchan are particularly admirable. She was a renowned member of the 'Glasgow Girls' and exhibited until her death in 1954. She was therefore a contemporary of Anne MacBeth, Jessie M King and others, and a close friend of Hesse Schotz (sister of Benno Schotz) with whom she shared a studio in Glasgow.

Weatherstone, Maureen Margaret **librarian, activist** **1924 - 2008**

Though proud to have been born in N. Ireland, Maureen spent most of her early life in Edinburgh, attending Edinburgh Ladies College and then Dollar Academy. She came from a military background, with many relatives in the armed forces, and during World War II Maureen served in the WAAF, with three pips on her shoulder.

After study at Edinburgh University her first job was as a personnel officer with Ferranti's in Manchester before coming to Dundee to Henderson's jute mill in the early 1950's. She subsequently joined Dundee University Library staff as sub librarian and was an influential and popular member of the university community in the days when it seemed one large family. She was later elected to Senate. She retired from the University in the mid 1980s.

It was in the early 1950s that she visited the Iona Community and her whole view on life changed. She developed a deeply felt spiritual involvement, and this led to her long-term activity in the whole area of social justice - Fair Trade, peace, CND, green & sustainable future issues and more - which she supported in every way she could. But in both paid and voluntary work she still worked with military precision.

Maureen still enjoyed being daughter of the Lord Provost. She accompanied her father on a number of official occasions, and when the Queen opened the Forth Road Bridge in 1964 Maureen was there.

She had wide interests outside her paid employment. As a member of Soroptimist International from 1964, she was president of the Dundee Club from '71-'73. An early supporter of the new Dundee Council of Social Service (now DVA) she was instrumental in setting up two thrift shops, and was a prime mover in developing the Dundee Access Group, which soon set about tackling issues concerning accessible transport and access in general, including the ramp to the Caird Hall. An interest in other countries took her to China, Iceland, & Palestine, as well as nearer countries. Always interested in the arts in all forms, she was a regular visitor to the Edinburgh Festival, RSNO, Scottish Opera, and supporter of all local theatre & musical events: despite increasing disability she was determined to get there. Even when, latterly, Maureen needed a wheelchair to get out and about nothing dimmed her commitment to a world fit to live in.

Wiedeman or Browning, Sarah **poet's mother** **1772 – 1849**

Sarah Wiedeman was born on the corner of Seagate and Trades Lane, and is one of the few women who was already commemorated with a plaque when Dundee Women's Trail was set up. She was the daughter of the first manager of the sugar refinery which opened in the Seagate (the site of her plaque) in 1770. Her mother was Scottish but her father came from Hamburg; he is described variously as a draughtsman, a mariner and a manager. By the time she was in her teens she was living in London, attending the Congregational church. She married a mild, scholarly bank clerk called Robert Browning; Sarah was the boss of the household! Her son Robert Browning, was the poet, born in London in May 1812. Sarah was a Sunday school teacher and very religious. Carlyle

called her: "a true type of a Scottish gentlewoman." She had a square head & forehead and "a beauty of nature". Commentators disagree about whether she was intellectual and artistic; Robert Browning's biographer Miller claimed she possessed only one book. But they agree on her sweet serenity and goodness. Robert Browning junior adored her and called her "a divine woman". He stayed home till he married at 34; when he travelled he needed mother to pack his bags for him, and when he went to bed he needed a goodnight kiss.

Wilkie, Annot (Robinson)

socialist, suffragette

1874 – 1925

Wilkie, Helen

socialist, suffragette

1882 - ?

These sisters were born in Montrose, daughters of Catherine Jane Erskine, teacher, and John Wilkie, draper. It was a poor family. Annot went to Montrose Academy where she worked as a pupil teacher, then attended teacher training college before taking external classes at the University of St Andrews, being awarded the LLA in 1901. She taught in Dundee and then Lochgelly. She was a member of the Independent Labour Party (ILP) and in 1906 became the first secretary of the Dundee branch of the Women's Social & Political Union (WSPU), a suffrage organisation. Her sister Helen, who may also have been a teacher, organised women, many from the textile workers' union, for a WSPU march in Edinburgh in 1907. Helen was part of the deputation that met Churchill in 1909 and in 1912 became secretary of another suffrage organization, Dundee Women's Freedom League. She was also a prolific letter writer to the Dundee papers and a gifted orator.

Annot never quite decided whether the Labour Party or the suffrage movement was most important to her. In 1907 she moved to Manchester, joining the local branch ILP, and becoming a WSPU organiser. The following year she married Sam Robinson, a working-class clerk, party activist, propaganda secretary of the Central Manchester ILP and active supporter of the militant suffrage movement. But he was violent and an alcoholic; their marriage broke up within five years and Annot brought up their two children. In February 1908 she took part, with other WSPU members, in an attempt to force their way in to the House of Commons hidden in a furniture van. She was sentenced to six months imprisonment but by June was back on a soap box in Hyde Park. In 1910 she became a part-time organiser for the Women's Labour League (WLL) and that year put forward a conference resolution condemning the Labour Party leadership for its lack of support for the women's franchise or the WLL. She also supported liberalised and equal divorce. The following year she publicly disagreed with the league's position on suffrage and soon afterwards moved to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) as a full-time organiser and was active at the Midlothian by-election in September 1912. When war came Annot, a pacifist, resigned from the NUWSS and helped to found the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF), meanwhile working on behalf of young women munitions workers. In 1917 she was part of the Women's Peace Crusade. After the war she was employed as an organiser by the WILPF and travelled in Britain, USA and Holland on its behalf, until in 1922 there was no money to employ her full-time and she had to return to teaching. Back in Scotland, she taught in Newburgh, Fife. She died suddenly during an operation in Perth Royal Infirmary. Her obituarist, her friend Ellen Wilkinson, described her as 'a big woman and a big personality' with 'an exquisite sense of the ridiculous and a sharp tongue'

Winter, Annie Doig

musician

c.1903 – 1996

Born in Dundee, the last of the Winter printing family, Miss Winter was a relation of J.M. Barrie. She attended Dundee High School, then went to London to study piano & violin. After teaching music in Dundee, she went to Canada where she taught and played in orchestras before coming back to Dundee in 1939/40. Miss Winter became a member, then orchestral director of Dundee Operatic Society. She was a founder member of Dundee Chamber Music Society (and left it a legacy), and was also in Dundee Symphony Orchestra. Board exams were held in her house in Forfar Road. After her father died she chaired the company 1960-85; though retired she was still active until the year of her

death. She died on the 25th April 1996.

Young, Ruth

doctor

1884 – 1983

Ruth was born in Dundee, the daughter of a flax merchant. She attended Dundee High School, then went to University College (St Andrews University), where she gained a BSc, and to Advanced Medical School Dundee, graduating MB ChB in 1907. She went on to post-graduate study in Vienna & Dresden, then in 1910 she set off to India where she was a lecturer at Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana in the Punjab for six years, going on to become Professor of Surgery at Lady Hardinge Medical College in Delhi. In 1917 Ruth married C B Young, thereafter doing voluntary work, chiefly in maternity and child welfare, until 1925 when she became personal assistant to Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service of India. In 1928 she was awarded the MBE. In 1931 she became director of the Maternity & Child Welfare Bureau of the Indian Red Cross Society, and from 1936 to 1940 Principal of Lady Hardinge Medical College. A year later she was awarded the CBE. In 1943 Ruth went to Ethiopia to advise the Ethiopian Women's Work Association on welfare work. Finally, in 1951, she retired. She kept journals of her journeying in India, the East, Ethiopia and North America which are in Dundee University archive. She died just a month or so before her hundredth birthday.