



## A Memorial to Adam Smith

### A Hall, not a Street Name



### The Initial Idea

Provost Michael Beveridge is often said to have been the driving force behind the scheme to build a hall to the memory of the great political economist, Adam Smith. The Provost had often lamented the lack of a fitting memorial to the man who wrote his magnum opus, “The Wealth of Nations” while residing in the town of his birth.

The idea was certainly discussed and reported on by the Fife Free Press some years earlier, but does not appear to have been taken forward with any serious intent until Michael Beveridge assumed the provost’s chair.

This earliest suggestion for a memorial was made in 1883, when a Mr Stephen Mason from Glasgow, but a native of Fife, had delivered a lecture in the Corn Exchange under the auspices of the Financial Reform Association. The lecture, which was commended to working people revolved around the question of Free Trade versus Fair Trade.



However the important aspect for our purposes comes from Mr Mason’s assertion, that “he still considers that Kirkcaldy is

the place for the erection of a monument to the world-renowned author of “The Wealth of Nations,” Adam Smith. Not only so, but he has also promised to subscribe for the purpose of perpetuating his memory – if that were possible to do. In this wise endeavour, in the event of such a movement being inaugurated, he would do all in his power to ensure its success. To say that Adam Smith is deserving of such a mark of honour in his birthplace is simply to waste words; to us the singular thing is that some suitable monument to his memory and genius should have been raised long before now. There is reason to believe that a movement with this end in view would receive tangible support from many of the countrymen of the distinguished philosopher, and also from abroad. All apparently that requires to be done is for the Town Council to take up the matter, and forthwith summon into existence an Adam Smith Memorial Committee!” (Fife Free Press 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1883)



The centenary of the death of Adam Smith (17<sup>th</sup> July 1890) would fall during Michael Beveridge’s tenure as Provost of Kirkcaldy. He passionately believed that the centenary offered the opportunity for a national memorial to Smith. His determination to see this idea come to fruition was fully supported by W. Roy Spears, who at the time was the Town

Clerk of the Burgh, as well as being an eminent local solicitor with Gibson and Spears WS.

Both were determined that the memorial should be more elaborate than a mere statue. Kirkcaldy has never been big on statues of her famous sons and daughters. The imposing statue of Baillie Philp which once adorned the Philp Hall came to a sad end. When the old hall was demolished, the statue was moved to a position outside the Art Gallery. Not unexpectedly it fell victim to minor vandalism, fell into disrepair, and the civic fathers had it thrown on the coup!

The meaningless “Spirit of Kirkcaldy” which sits on a plinth on the north face of the Town House was a vanity and legacy project for many of the councillors of the time.

Nothing changes, and today’s “Waterfront” is the modern equivalent. The ‘Waterfront’ and the ‘Spirit of Kirkcaldy’ are meaningless, neither serves any purpose, and both are/were extremely costly.

However this was not the motivation behind Michael Beveridge’s thinking. The Provost believed that the memorial should be more practical and striking than a statue, and held to the firm belief that any Adam Smith memorial erected in Kirkcaldy should “take a shape which should prove of general utility to the town”. It was through this guiding vision that the idea of a hall and a library originated.

Provost Beveridge had for a long time felt the need for proper hall accommodation.



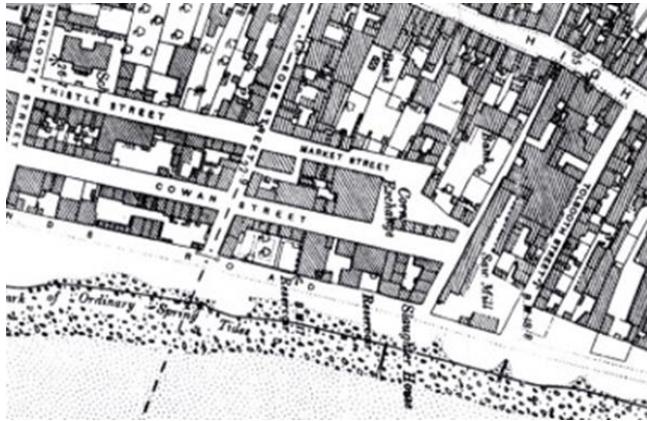
While Kirkcaldy had had the Corn Exchange since 1859, the Provost's practical experience with the Choral Union had showed him the many

deficiencies of the Exchange as an entertainment venue.

To take the matter forward he called a private meeting of local gentlemen on the 18th April 1889. The Fife Free Press on the Saturday following noted "for long the idea of a suitable memorial had been mooted, but now it appeared to be taking a practical shape." Mr Spears addressed the meeting remarking that he thought that on such an occasion as the centenary of the death of that distinguished philosopher Adam Smith, they would be able to interest the Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies throughout the United Kingdom and colonies, the United States and the continent of Europe in the movement".

Several other gentlemen spoke in support of the project. All were unanimous that something should be done. The scheme certainly met with the universal approval of those present. Thereafter a committee of seven was formed to frame resolutions which would be submitted to a public meeting in around a month. It has proved difficult to establish the names of the seven, but it would not have been a difficult task to secure that number from the myriad of solicitors and writers attending. With a view to enlisting sympathy in the movement, the committee were

empowered to approach local M.P.s and other influential gentlemen on the subject.



On the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1889, the public meeting, called by Provost Beveridge, was held in the Corn Exchange. A large and enthusiastic audience attended with the purpose of “inaugurating

the movement of a memorial to Adam Smith, the author of the “Inquiry into the Source of the Wealth of Nations”.

The meeting was presided over by Provost Beveridge with four resolutions to come before the meeting.



Each of the resolutions which had been drawn up, and were now being presented to the meeting were proposed and seconded by the following - (1) Sir George Campbell, MP for the Kirkcaldy Burghs, Provost Donald of Dunfermline, Mr Haldane M.P.; (2) John Barry M.P., Robert Lockhart; (3) Sheriff Sutton, Mr Robert Herriot; (4) Ex-Provost Don Swan, Mr D. Gourlay, Mr D Storrar.

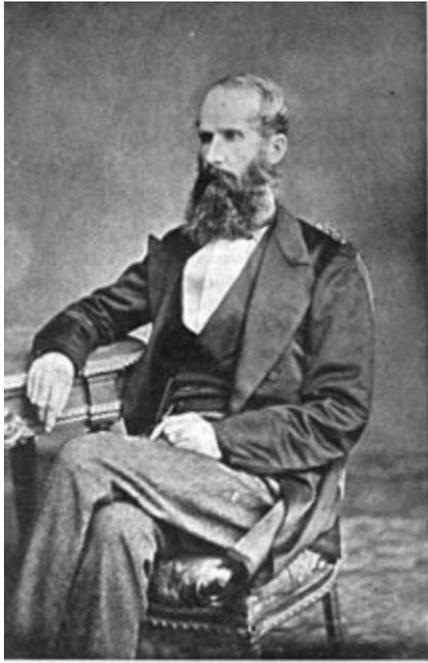
The Fife Free Press carried a report of the meeting in its 15<sup>th</sup> June edition. There can be no doubt that the movement had the full backing and support of the newspaper:-

“The proposed memorial to Adam Smith, the most distinguished of distinguished Langtonians, received fresh impetus from the public meeting on Thursday evening. The great genius proposed to be commemorated was the topic of every speaker, but so much has already been said and written on the subject, reference to it here is almost unnecessary.

It is the duty of the townsmen of Adam Smith, of his countrymen as well as people far apart who have seen the road to progress through the workings of his giant intellect, to supply by that hearty co-operation which alone can achieve success for the till now missing cairn to his memory.

Literature and philosophy would have been all the poorer today, but for the son of the Comptroller of Customs, who first saw the light of day, at the top of the close bearing his name.

Yet to this man, no memorial to his worth and genius has been raised, not even in the town which is, and ever has been, so proud of her son. If we correctly interpret the meeting of Thursday evening, however, the neglect of the past is about to be redeemed”.



SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL, M.P. & C.S.I., D.C.L.

As mentioned previously there were four resolutions to be put to the meeting. The first was proposed by George Campbell, the M.P. for the burgh:-

“That there is at present no suitable memorial in the Country to Adam Smith, the author of “The Wealth of Nations” and that the proper place for such a memorial is in

Kirkcaldy, in which town he was born and where he wrote his famous work”.



The next was proposed by John Barry M.P.:-

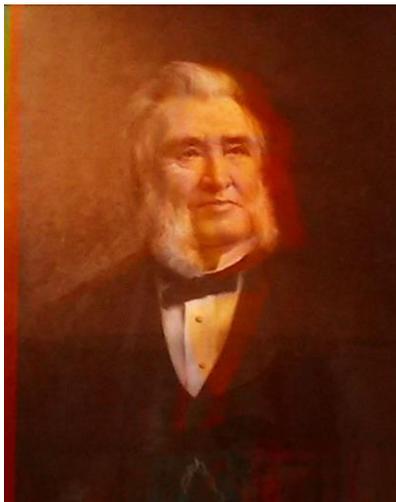
“That, in the opinion of this meeting, the most suitable memorial would be the erection of a hall for literary, scientific and general purposes, a prominent feature in which

being a statue of Adam Smith, with two smaller halls, one to be used as a free library, all as the funds raised will permit.”

Year	Mayor	Sheriff
1885	Chapman Browne	Thomas Bell
1886	Sir Benjamin Chapman Browne	William Haswell Stephenson
1887	William Davies Stephens	Joseph Baxter Ellis
1888	Thomas Richardson	William Sutton
1889	Thomas Bell	Edward Culley
1890	Joseph Baxter Ellis	Stephen Quin
1891	William Sutton	Benjamin John Sutherland

Perhaps surprisingly, the third resolution was proposed by Sheriff Sutton, who had journeyed from Newcastle:-

“That not only the inhabitants of Kirkcaldy and neighbourhood should be asked to subscribe for this object, but others in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad, and with that view, shall be appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to make all necessary arrangements, including the application of the funds raised, the vesting of the property when acquired, the regulations and conditions on which same shall be held, calling meetings, the appointment of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer, and appointment of a sub-committee with all the powers of the committee and the like”.



Finally, to great and often renewed applause, Ex-Provost Don Swan rose to his feet to propose the fourth resolution:-

“That the above resolutions be communicated to all public bodies in the United Kingdom and abroad, and to others who are likely to take an interest in the object in view, with a request to aid the same, and that the resolutions be advertised in such newspapers as the sub-committee may select”.

These resolutions were unanimously approved.

The next step was that on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, through the Fife Free Press, Michael Beveridge called a further meeting of the gentlemen who had allowed their names to go forward as

potential committee members. This meeting was to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July in the Town Hall.

Its purpose was to consider and give effect to the resolutions which had been passed. The meeting was charged with acting on resolution three with the appointment of the office bearers.

On the morning of the meeting, the “Fifeshire Advertiser” through its famed editor, Lachlan MacBean, fired a broadside at Edinburgh, and its evening newspaper in particular: - “In view of the movement in favour of an Adam Smith memorial, the Edinburgh folks are announcing with a blaze of trumpets that they already have a memorial to the great political economist, and in proof thereof they produce the tombstone in the Canongate Churchyard. This is pretty good in its way, but when the Evening Dispatch proceeds to insinuate that the movement inaugurated in Kirkcaldy has not been a success, it is necessary that the whole world should be told that the public have not yet been appealed to.



We Fifers are a canny and cautious race, and we do not go about important affairs with the feverish haste that would suit Edinburgh taste. If we did we might produce a memorial about the dimensions of the Canongate tombstone”.

Returning to the evening meeting with Provost Beveridge in the chair, he apologised for the delay in calling the meeting, but he had been away from home. On top of that he wished to see the Parliamentary by-election in West Fife past. He then suggested that the first thing to be done was the appointment of the General and Sub-committees. Thereafter, they should look at what could be done locally for this project before appealing to interested persons who reside in other areas.

The sub-committee which had the task of gathering funds in the neighbourhood were appointed and consisted of:- Provost Beveridge, John Barry M.P., Bailie Barnet, ex Bailies R. Douglas and J.T. Stocks, Treasurer Yule, Mr D.J. Wilson; Messrs A.D. Sang. J. Gourlay, T Dale, T Hutchison, J. Lockhart, D Storrar, A.R. Young, W. Dow, M.B. Nairn, A. Davidson, D Bell, J. Strachan, J. Tait, H. Hutchison and J. Stewart.

The office bearers were also appointed, and featured the following illustrious names, both local and national;-

Chairman – The Duke of Buccleuch, vice chairmen, the Earl of Rosslyn, Lord Elgin and Provost Beveridge; Messrs M.B. Nairn, John Barry M.P., Sir George Campbell M.P., Mr R.C. Munro Ferguson



6th Duke of Buccleuch

M.P., treasurer W. Roy Spears and secretary J. L. Innes.

Without doubt this is as imposing a list of influential men from the town as was as possible to gather. The “outsiders” could hardly have been described as common place either.

Once again this meeting hammered home the notion that in terms of subscriptions, Kirkcaldy had to show willing before expecting outside assistance.

### The Funding of the Project

The Fife Free Press of the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1889 gave a report on the first meeting of the sub-committee. “We observe with much pleasure the continued progress of this deserving movement. Gradually the contributions to the memorial mount up. While comparatively little has yet been done with the view to obtaining subscription in the town, it was reported that the fund now exceeded £6500.

It is becoming that the citizens of Adam Smith’s native town, with whom the proposed memorial originated, that they are in earnest in this matter, and from the manner in which the movement has already been taken up we are safe in anticipating that that is their intention. The first list of subscriptions appears in our issue today. It may be regarded as the starting point in our worthy scheme, and when the

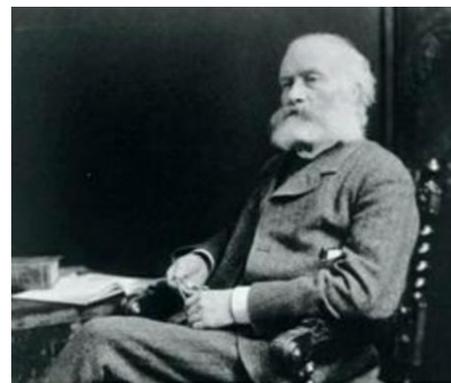
townspeople and people of the district have contributed towards the memorial fund the committee will be able to go with good grace to further afield. Before they appeal to the general public, however, it may be reasonably expected that the sum may yet be raised of £8000 or £10,000, and with such a substantial foundation the promoters may be assured that the needed aid will be forthcoming to give effect to their wishes.”

On the front page of the edition the first list of subscribers was detailed. The total was £6544:3:0. All the subscribers appear to carry Kirkcaldy addresses and the list was certified by W. Roy Spears, Treasurer and J. Lockhart Innes, Secretary.

A significant portion of the total mentioned above was made up of the following subscriptions; the Town Council had under their administration the sum of £2500. This was a bequest from the late Alexander Gow with the purpose of building or helping to build a hall and a library. The bequest contained no conditions, not even as to the name. The Council voted that these funds with interest should be transferred to the “Adam Smith Memorial Fund”. The late Mathew Beveridge (The Boxmaster for a lengthy period) had also left a bequest of £800 for the purpose of providing a hall for the use by members of the ‘Prime Gilt Box’. The managers of this body agreed to hand over to the fund, but with a caveat. This was on the condition that “in all time coming they would have the use of a room in the building”. (the

Prime Gilt Box was an organisation to help the widows of seafarers).

Michael B. Nairn donated the sum of £1000. Provost Beveridge gave £500 and Messrs Barry Ostlere & Co. another £500 with John Nairn contributing £250. A full list of the initial subscribers was shown.



Sandford Fleming

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1890 we learn from the Courier that Dysart Town Council have donated £100 from the common good



Thomas Elder

fund towards the memorial. The 24<sup>th</sup> saw a further report that the fund now stood at £8024:2:06p. Funds each of £100 had been received from Thomas Elder in Adelaide, Sir Sandford Fleming in Ottawa, Kirkcaldy Town Council and Mr R.E.G. Wemyss of Wemyss Castle.

On The 5<sup>th</sup> February a deputation in the form of W. Roy Spears and J. Lockhart Innes represented the committee in delivering an address to interested parties in Dundee. Again it was explained that the target was circa £15,000 with £10,000 from Kirkcaldy. It was again emphasised that it was a national memorial that was the object.

The meeting agreed it was a worthwhile objective and after Provost Hunter and John Leng, M.P.

John Leng



c. 1895

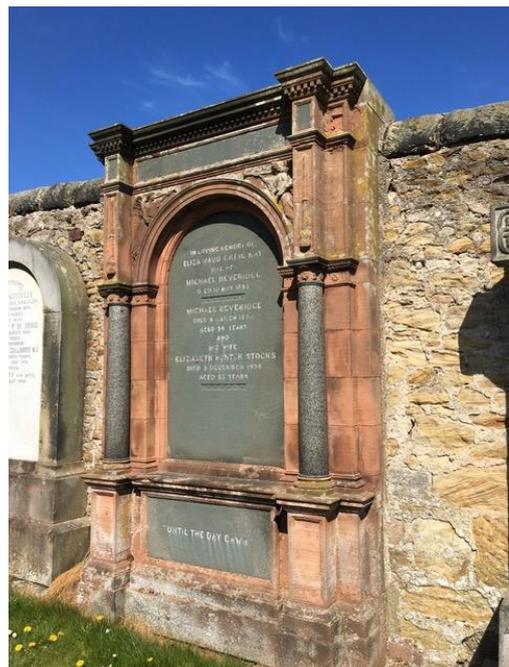
spoke, it was agreed to canvas in the city especially those with trade links to Kirkcaldy. Mr W.H. Blyth Martin W.S. was appointed secretary of the Dundee efforts.

However, the unfortunate death of Provost Beveridge in

**LEGACY OF £50,000 TO KIRKCALDY.**  
The late Mr Michael Beveridge, linoleum manufacturer, and Provost of Kirkcaldy, has by his will, submitted to the trustees on his estate on Saturday evening, bequeathed the magnificent sum of £50,000 to the town of Kirkcaldy to be devoted for providing the inhabitants with a public park and library. The other public legacies are: Free Church Sustentation Fund, £500; Free Church Foreign Mission Fund, £500; Free Church Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, £500; Free Church Home Mission Fund, £500; Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, £500; Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, £500. The legacy to the town has given rise to feelings of satisfaction among all classes in the community, the want of a public park and also a library having been greatly felt of late years by the inhabitants. The late Provost has made ample provision for his widow and also his widowed sister, Mrs Paterson. His whole estate, it is rumoured, is valued at about £160,000. Yesterday in all the churches in town suitable allusion was made to his lamented death. In St Brycedale Church, of which he was a respected elder, funeral services were conducted forenoon and afternoon. It is expected the public library will be connected with the Adam Smith memorial, towards which a large sum has already been subscribed by the public.

March 1890 almost derailed the whole project. The estate of the late provost amounted to £127,000. As an aside, the estate was wound up by W. Roy Spears in his capacity as a partner in Gibson and Spears W.S. When it quickly became known that in his will he had left £50,000 towards

the provision of a park, a hall and a library – the collecting of subscriptions had to stop. The legacy was contained in Michael Beveridge's Will drawn up in 1888. The funds were to be placed in the hands of the Provost, magistrates and councillors of Kirkcaldy as Trustees. At this point the Committee found that they did not have sufficient funds to build



either a hall or a library from the monies garnered to date.

It was shortly after the terms of the will became common knowledge that the first faint mutterings started to be heard in the local papers. It appeared that suggestions had been made that the legacy should be split in two. One half should fund the hall and the other half the park. It was argued that the “working class” believed that Provost Beveridge had left his legacy for a park first and foremost, before contemplating a hall and a library. The park was seen as both the greater need and benefit for the lower orders. The purchase of the park should be completed before any monies were allocated to the hall project. Only then should any residue make its way into the fund. It would seem that in some quarters the belief was that funding the hall should fall on the shoulders of the wealthy. On the 19<sup>th</sup> April a letter to the Press took a slightly different tack. Again, this former resident of the town who was now living in Cardiff argued that two parks were needed. His view was that the town was now so large that people on the extremities would be exhausted by the time they managed to reach the park. That said the view was that the park/parks had to come first before the memorial.



In late March 1890 the working committee met and Mr M.B. Nairn was appointed as chairman to replace the late provost. It was agreed that there was now a need to approach cities and

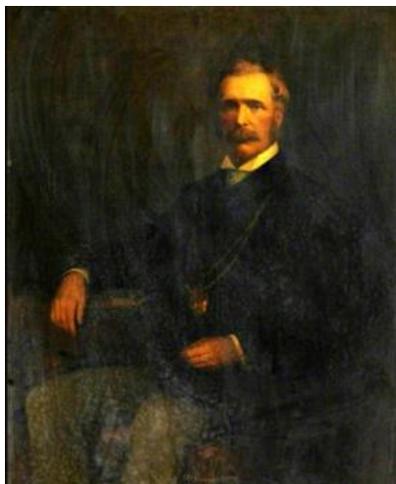
larger towns for subscriptions. A small sub committee was formed to plan these steps with London as a specific target. However, the Beveridge Bequest had all but put an end to donations, and it was very unlikely that any significant further subscriptions would be received.

It was clear that the only way forward seemed to be an amalgamation of the General Committee with the Town Council Hall's Committee as a joint effort to both fund and construct the memorial complex. Before the members agreed to this, and therefore the handing over of the funds held by them, they wished some assurances. This as we shall see was achieved although often with rancour.

### [Who Was Michael Beveridge?](#)

It is possibly sufficient to simply mention that Provost Beveridge was the driving force, but it is worthwhile having a brief look at a man who certainly left his mark on the town.

Born and bred in Kirkcaldy, he received his education at the Burgh School. He worked in insurance both in Kirkcaldy and



later in London, developing a sound commercial background. However, he had a change of direction, and in 1864 formed a partnership with his friend James Shepherd, to set up the floorcloth firm Shepherd and Beveridge. He was also a promoter and director in

the Kirkcaldy Linoleum Co. Ltd. Both were eventually acquired by the new firm of Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd Ltd, which also subsumed John Barry, Ostlere & Co. Ltd.

On the extension of Kirkcaldy in 1876, He went into public life, and topped the poll for the Third Ward. Beveridge went on to represent the Ward until his death. In 1878 he was



Patrick Don Swan's House - was St.Brycedale House - now Hunter House

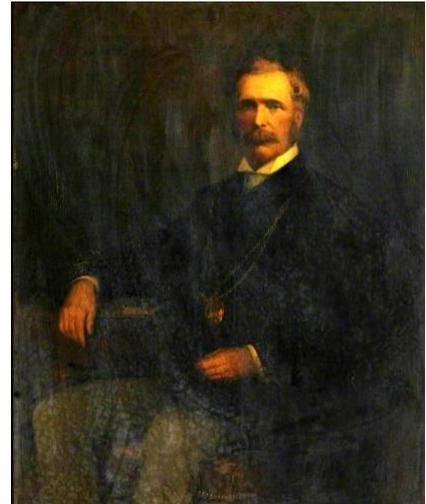
elected a Bailie of the burgh, holding the position until 1886. In that year Provost Don Swan finally retired. Beveridge was unanimously elected to follow Swan into the

provost's chair. Huge shoes to follow, as Don Swan had served a total of 37 years as provost. As provost, Beveridge's obituary in the Fife Free Press described him as "a safe man at the helm of affairs, and one in whom all classes had an implicit trust".

His term in office was brief and Kirkcaldy suffered the loss of two of its most famous and highly regarded civic figures over a short space of time. It had only been a matter of days before the death of Don Swan on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1889, that Michael Beveridge had visited him at his home. The Provost took unwell a few days after the visit. A chill had developed and this prevented his attending Swan's funeral. The chill turned to pleurisy and while he seemed to be

recovering there was a relapse. Disease of the lungs had set in, and for a period his condition swung between hopes of recovery and fears that the condition was fatal. Sadly on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1890 he lost his fight for life. There were less than three months between the deaths of the two provosts.

The Fife Free Press highlighted the desire that Beveridge had to honour Adam Smith – “as our readers are well aware, there is now more than one enterprise of great local importance on hand in which he took a very deep interest. One of the originators of the Adam Smith memorial movement, he



considered no effort too great in launching the cause, which he had resolved to bring personally under the notice of other and more influential communities. All along, he had been an enthusiast in the movement, which there is no doubt he viewed with the most intense satisfaction”.

His estate of £127,000 in today’s terms is the equivalent of £16,500,000. The bequest to Kirkcaldy of £50,000 is similarly now valued at £6,500,000.

### [The Lengthy Path to Completion](#)

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1890 we find that the Fife Free Press in a short paragraph indicates that – “Ground at Messrs. Sangs Nurseries is likely to be acquired for the erection of the proposed Adam Smith memorial. With a roadway from

Pathhead across the Den the site will have the merits of being central in the burgh”.

If swift movement was anticipated or expected, this proved not to be the case. The simple fact was that subscriptions and pledges had dried up. Added to this was the complication that the Adam Smith Memorial Committee had control of the subscriptions, whilst the Town Council were trustees for the Beveridge bequest. Other than a park, the intention of both was the almost identical objectives of providing a hall and a library. Would the two ever meet?

The Town Council set about finding ground for establishing the park which certainly kept them busy.

“On Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1892 a meeting was held of the subscribers to the Adam Smith Memorial Fund in the Town Hall with Mr Michael B. Nairn presiding. It was reported that the total sum pledged was £8576 14. 6d. However, Mr Spears was at some pains to stress that this total was the sum intimated as pledges, but he thought it possible that a sum nearer £7000 would materialise. It was suggested; that seeing the sum was insufficient in itself to erect a suitable memorial to Adam Smith the best course of action was to amalgamate



Bust of Adam Smith

with the Town Council. The Council were the trustees charged with actioning the late Provost Beveridge's bequest to provide a hall and library. It was determined that one of the provisions for handing over the funds would be that the name of Adam Smith should hold prominence. It was explained that a large hall might be erected and called the Adam Smith Hall, with the library and smaller hall called the Beveridge Hall and Library.

The resolution which was eventually agreed was that "in respect of the fund raised for the Adam Smith Memorial will not of itself be sufficient to erect a suitable hall and free library, that the whole funds raised for the memorial be handed over to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Kirkcaldy, to be applied by them, along with the funds bequeathed to them by the late Provost Beveridge in the erection of a public hall or halls and a free library in Kirkcaldy, with due prominence being given in the erection to the name of Adam Smith, with this proviso, that they shall co-operate with a committee of the subscribers of the Adam Smith Fund in the application of the funds so handed over, such committee to have full powers to make all arrangements on behalf of the subscribers in regard to the application and disposal of the fund, and the regulations and conditions under which the sums shall be held."

A committee consisting of Messrs John Barry, MP., W.R. Spears, D.J. Wilson, D. Bell, W. Strachan, J.L. Innes, D. Storrar,

W. Yule and the Chairman was appointed to take forward the proposed amalgamation". (Dundee Courier)

On Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1892, a letter from Mr Innes, along with the above mentioned resolution, was considered at the Council meeting. The councillors and Councillor Gourlay in particular, wished to ensure that proposals / decision of the newly formed joint committee would be placed in front of the Town Council for

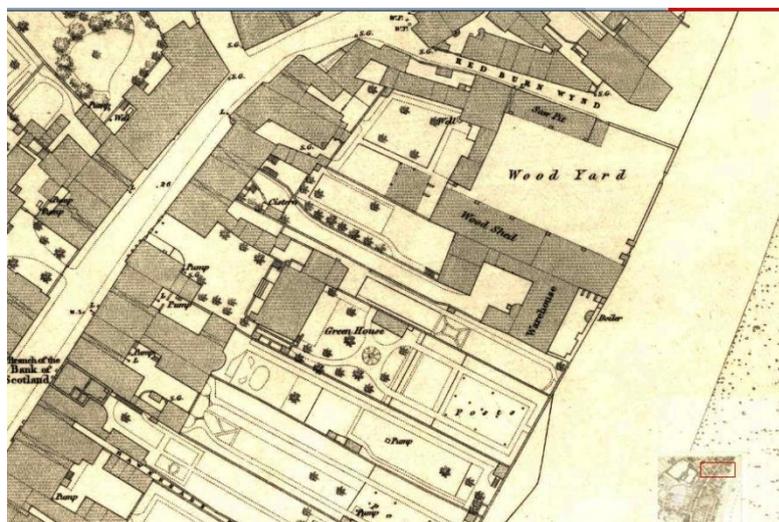
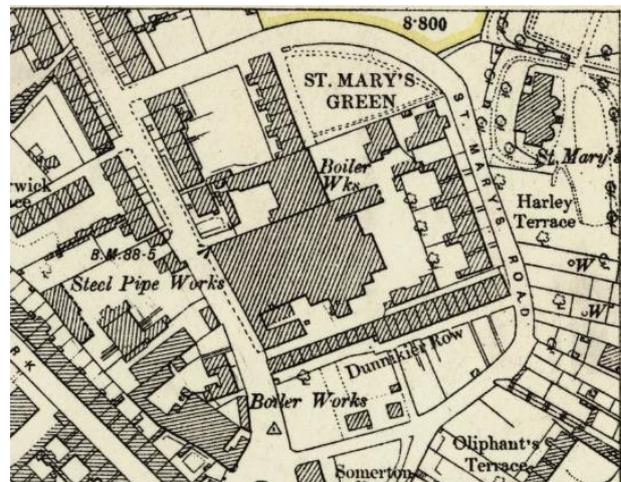
**THE SMITH MEMORIAL HALL—WHERE SHOULD IT BE?**  
(To the Editor of the *Free Press*.)  
SIR,—I am not a partisan nor a bigot in matters civic or ecclesiastical. It is with reference to the former I now write.  
In the issue of your esteemed paper of 8th October several probable sites are mentioned for the Beveridge and Adam Smith Halls, but a strong preference seems to be shown by the committee for a site on St Brycedale Avenue, about as far west as ground for the purpose is obtainable.  
I would have thought, sir, seeing so much of the late Mr Beveridge's money is necessary to carry out the work, that the site for these halls could not be got far enough east in the Second Ward. It would only be fair that such an effort should be honestly attempted. Even, supposing it cost an extra thousand or two would it not be advisable, if practicable, to secure a site at Adam Smith's close. This would give an importance to the memorial, which otherwise it would be impossible for it ever to possess. Next to that, I would say that the site at Redburn Wynd deserves attention as being near, and on a line with Adam Smith's birthplace, and being also within easy reach of the populous Third Ward section of the burgh, whose inhabitants, having so little hope of ever using the new Beveridge Park—which many there will never see—may at least be ensured with others a quiet read in the Free Library. Justice to all should be the first, and the price of the site the next consideration of the Committee.  
I will not subscribe my name to this communication—I may do so in my next—and meantime I remain yours,  
Kirkcaldy. 20th Oct., 1892. B.

approval. The Town Clerk, Mr Spears, indicated that he would arrange a joint meeting of the two committees and they would formulate a scheme to be submitted to the Town Council for their approval. So, at last the two funds and the two committees would become one, which should in theory help move matters forward. However, Kirkcaldy's history is awash with "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft – a-gley". This was no exception.

The first major problem centred on the choice of sites. This was always going to present problems. Kirkcaldy had a shape almost unique in Scotland. "The Lang Toun" was a fitting epithet – long, narrow and stringy, meaning that substantial distances had to be travelled from one end to another. This meant that placing such an enterprise was not easy, as it required a balance between being central and where the bulk

of the population lived. An example of the type of issues which could materialise was to be seen in the recently opened public park.

The Beveridge Park had been opened at the western extremity of the town, and many felt that it was inconvenient for the bulk of the population. Letters received by the Fife Free Press suggested that by the time many townspeople reached the park they would be exhausted. At this stage there were no trams and Victoria Viaduct was not yet in place. It was believed that the mistake of the situation of the



park was going to be repeated in the choice of site for the halls. There were two main sites under consideration – firstly Miss Nairn had offered two acres of ground on

Dunnikier Road (St. Marys) against part of Mr Sang's nursery which was close to the railway station. There was also a suggestion that ground in Redburn Wynd might be used. This was on the basis it was closest to Adam Smith's former

home. This alternative never really got off the ground, although it did raise its head from time to time. The complication was that the Adam Smith Memorial Committee voted solidly in favour of the Sang site, but the council element was opposed by 5 votes to 3. Overall while this gave a majority in favour of the Sang site, it has to be remembered that the town council had the power to approve/ refuse any joint committee's decision.

A Meeting of Kirkcaldy Town Council was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1892 with Provost Tait in the Chair. The Joint Committee mentioned above had clearly been at work choosing a site for the hall, and had reached their decision. The purpose of this meeting was to approve or disapprove of the suggested site:- "The Joint Committee recommended that a site at Messrs Sang's Nursery at St. Brycedale Avenue should be adopted for the Adam Smith Hall and the Beveridge Hall and Library. The Clerk was required to submit resolutions adopted at an "indignation meeting" held in the third ward to protest against the selection of this site as being uncentral and unsuitable to those living in the ward. Councillor Lockhart moved for approval, which was seconded by Treasurer Pratt. Bailie Halliday moved for rejection, and Councillor McKenzie seconded. On a vote, Bailie Halliday's amendment was carried by 20 votes to 5." (Dundee Courier).

This most assuredly put a spanner in the works, and astonishingly almost a year passed before matters moved on.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1893 was indeed a red letter day in the saga. The following Saturday it was reported by the Fife Free Press as “The Battle of the Sites”. A special meeting had been called to debate Councillor Lockhart’s motion to decide between the two sites. There was also a decision to be made as to whether any part of the Beveridge Bequest could be used to provide a library in the third ward. “There was a crowded attendance of the general public. In fact, so great was the pressure of attendance that the hall doors had to be thrown open, and the whole stair was lined with people unable to gain admission. So great at one time was the pressure of the crowd that it looked as if the council was to be besieged, and those councillors sitting near the door to be jostled about. The tables around which the councillors sat had to be pushed in to gain every available space. During the discussions, Bailie Dale arrived, and he had to leap over the tables to take his place on the bench. Notwithstanding the large presence, those present had maintained the best of order, and the Provost did not have a single instance in which he had to call for order”.

The Town Clerk had drawn up a memorandum on the situation, which he had submitted to Sir Charles Pearson, Advocate, Edinburgh.

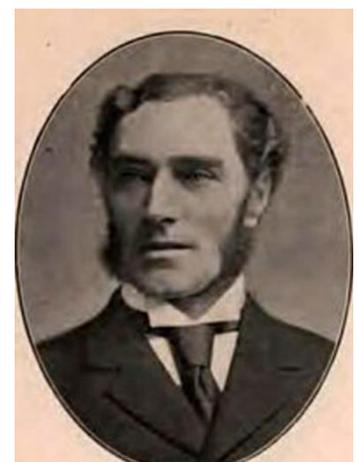
Councillor Lockhart wished to find a solution which would break the impasse, and his motion was that the Sang site should be chosen, but that some of the bequest be diverted

to provide a library in the third ward. Speaking in support of his motion Councillor Lockhart remarked “There was no doubt that it was the best site. It was moderate in price, and it possessed all the advantages necessary for such an erection. It was in the centre of two roads diverging towards the railway station; it was on the boundaries of the first and second wards. It was on the corner approved of by the late Provost Beveridge’s trustees, and it was the site recommended by the town clerk, who better than any other man, knew the position where the late Provost Beveridge wanted his hall and library placed. He saw no other way of raising up a magnificent pile to perpetuate the memory of the late Provost Beveridge, but by adopting Sang’s site.”



The third ward already had the benefit of the fairly new Pathhead Halls. These halls had been built by public subscription between 1882 and 1884. They had been designed by Glasgow

architect, James Sellars of Campbell, Douglas & Sellers. The Pathhead Theatre and Music Hall was opened by Provost Don Swan on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1884. Alex Fraser and Son were the main contractors. The question was – did the will preclude this scheme, as it mentioned only “a library.” The opinion of Sir Charles was that it



Charles Pearson

was perfectly in order to have a second library, but it should be named as a branch library to ensure that both would be linked to the Beveridge bequest. At the meeting it had been disclosed that from the £50,000 legacy, the park had been bought and equipped. The sum of £15,000 had been invested to maintain both the park and halls in perpetuity.



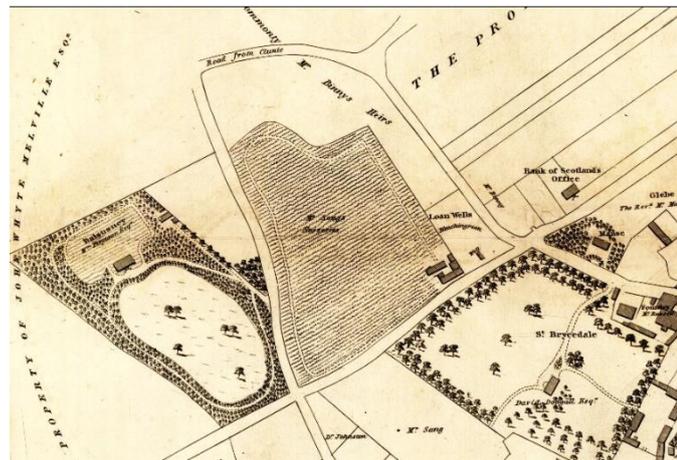
It was believed therefore, that around £11,000 was available to fund the cost of the halls and library from the bequest. Arguments were as Bailie Dale remarked, too partisan to Councillor's wards. If the public were well behaved – at times the councillors were not. The Provost attempted to keep the meeting centred on its objective, but all too often it strayed from its purpose.

While there was some argument in favour of the alternative site, the meeting took an astonishing turn. A lengthy debate arose as to what percentage of the £11,000 should be given to the proposed Pathhead Library. The debate was moving away from which site! Some suggested half; others suggested that no vote on the site should be taken until the share had been agreed. Then, there was a suggestion that a site on the High Street be sought. Finally a proposal came that no

decision should be taken until the forthcoming elections were past. It would appear the cart was being placed before the horse.

The Provost stayed calm, continually reminding the meeting that this was a special meeting convened to choose a site, and also agree to a branch library in Pathhead if the will so allowed. A third ward councillor then accused the Provost of stifling debate, to which he took umbrage. He pointed out that his accuser had already had the floor three times!

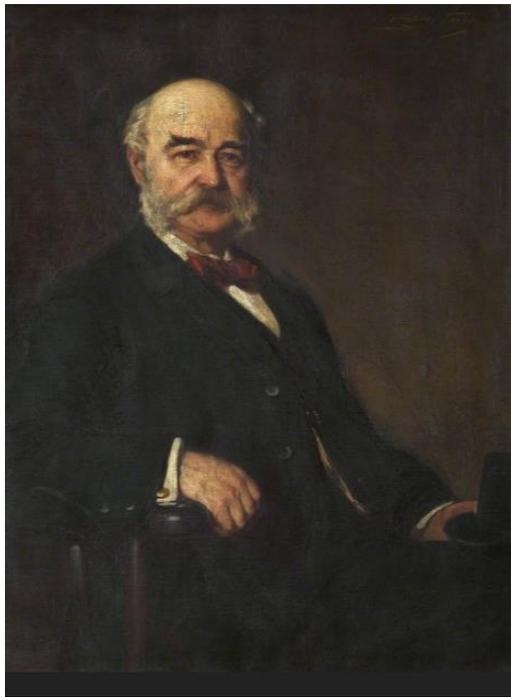
Eventually a vote was taken on Mr Lockhart's motion, which was to buy the Sang site, and £2000 to be allocated for the branch library at the Pathhead Hall. The



motion was passed by sixteen votes to eight. So, there was now a site and a branch library!

Although agreed in October 1893, it was not until the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1896, that Mrs Beveridge opened the library. It was indeed named the Beveridge Branch Library – although there was still no main library in existence nor near to being one. Part of the gallery had been converted into the library which contained 7000 volumes. There was a large attendance

including representatives of the Town Council who were of course the Trustees for the bequest.



Introduced by Provost Stocks, “Mrs Beveridge expressed her delight that part of her husband’s legacy was now fulfilled. (this was six years after his death)

With the approval of the committee, she placed a simple portrait of her late husband in the library. This was to remind people that the late provost had spent the greater part of his boyhood amongst them as well as much of his later life”.

The next steps in the slow and tardy process led to the establishing of an open competition to allow architects to submit plans for the new complex. The stipulation was that the Council were under no obligation to proceed with the winning plan, or any of the entrants. What was sought were the large hall, the smaller hall and the library plus ancillary rooms which also included accommodation for the hall keeper.

The Professional Practice Committee of the Edinburgh Architectural Association had obtained a copy of the

conditions laid down by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Kirkcaldy regarding the competition, and were not impressed. On 23 December 1893 they wrote that they considered three points in the conditions to be 'highly objectionable' and which they trusted that 'the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council may see their way to amend.' These were, firstly, the amount of commission offered which was a fifth less than the normal and would thus be a deterrent to architects of any standing. Secondly, there was no guarantee that the winner of the competition would be employed to erect the buildings; and also the Town Council wished to hold on to the drawings of the three prize-winners. Thirdly, there was no mention of the appointment of a professional assessor. And then they added that 'It is observed that the total cost, including three halls, library, subsidiary buildings, boundary walls, architects' fees, and clerk of works' salary, is not to exceed the sum of 12,000.' They pointed out gently that 'as the buildings are to be of a monumental character' this sum may 'prove very insufficient.' On the 9th of February 1894 they sent a reminder letter and on the 10th the Town Clerk wrote 'The Council has decided to adhere to the condition of the competition. An architectural adviser, however, will be appointed.' This was the architect James Ross Gillespie of Gillespie and Scott, St Andrews.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1894 The Fife Free Press had a shock announcement to make in that - A joint meeting of the

committees of the Smith and Beveridge Memorial Halls had been held on the Tuesday. The report by James R. Gillespie on the eight selected plans had reported that none of the eight could be built at the stipulated cost. The report led to some discussion, and on the casting vote of Provost Stocks it was decided not to recommend any of the plans to the full council for approval. This went against a proposed amendment suggesting that all eight go before a subcommittee to examine and report. The Press ended with "thus yet again no progress to report on this matter."

This decision drew a furious response in a letter to the Editor on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The letter was from an un-named entrant; "Such a decision seemed almost incredible. Before the committee initiated the competition, they visited several halls similar to the one they proposed erecting. One of these was the "New Halls" in Stirling. These have a main hall for 1400, a smaller hall for 300, two cloak rooms, committee rooms, stage dressing rooms, kitchen and keeper's house. The cost was £12000. Yet, the committee expect a building which can accommodate 400 more people, and with a free library thrown in to be produced for the same sum"

The letter went on to say that this showed that the architects were not at fault but the committee. The letter pointed out that two months work had gone into preparing his firm's plans. When their costings were complete, the price was only a few hundred pounds over the £12.000 ceiling. Feeling

reasonably safe on price, the drawings were completed and submitted. The writer's ire was not with being beaten by a superior design, but by the united efforts of the combined competitors being ruthlessly cast aside. Strong stuff, and possibly not undeserved?

With the Fife Free Press now starting to question the continual delays, the Council decided that Mr Gillespie should again look at the final eight and put them in order. This he did, adding to the months he had spent scrutinising all the entries in the first place.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1894, the Council met to select the winning entry. Provost Stocks presided. The winning entry was Plan number 7 submitted by Dunn and Findlay which won them a first prize of £50. Messrs Campbell, Douglas and Sellers of Glasgow (of Pathhead Hall fame) came second winning £30 (plan 12). Mr Simpson of Stirling came third winning £20 (plan 3). The limit for the building cost had remained at £12,000, although there was a clear acceptance that the cost would be higher than that figure. The Fife Free Press of the 20<sup>th</sup> carried full descriptions of the three prizewinning plans. We have now arrived at a point which is 4 years since the death of Provost Beveridge.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894, Kirkcaldy's public for the first time, through a sketch in the



Fife Free Press, caught a glimpse of their new halls and library. The Press indicated that Dunn and Findlay's winning plans had beaten entries from many of the top architects in the country.

More problems surfaced in September 1895 when the Town Council overturned a decision made by the joint committee.

Corncockle Sandstone



This time it centred on the choice of stone. The architect and the joint committee had been in favour of corncockle stone (pale red brown). In view of the new school, the Police Station, Balsusney House, Preston Villa and the Courthouse being of white stone, the Council felt grange stone more appropriate, and should be the choice. It was with the use of their overriding powers that grange was confirmed as the choice. The joint committee (or at least those representing the Adam Smith Memorial Fund) was rather agitated by what they



saw as interference. There was a sharp exchange of letters between the Town Clerk and the fund's secretary. Mr Macindoe, the Town Clerk, had written to ask if the joint committee approved of the change of stone. Having called a meeting of his committee, Mr Innes replied that they would make no response until the Council confirmed as to how the

name of Adam Smith would achieve prominence. Mr Innes continued by again pointing out that as they were financial contributors they should have “a voice in the final decisions arrived at in reference to the memorial buildings”

The Provost then commented “that there were two things before them from the Adam Smith Committee meeting: these were the naming of the halls and how to give the Adam Smith Committee a voice in the erection of them”. We have now reached a point that was five years after Provost Beveridge died and not a stone had been laid!

Some councillors had a degree of sympathy, as the Adam Smith Memorial Committee were contributing, but only had a say on the joint committee, with no say or input into the Town Council’s final decisions. Several councillors thought it only fair that they had a say, but several others, especially Bailie Westwater thought that every decision taken should come before the full council. His argument was that “I have no wish to delay the erection, but I consider the proposal as it stood to give this joint committee full powers over an unlimited expenditure is not the usual way of conducting this council’s business.”

It appeared that many members were loath to give the joint committee any form of free hand, but Treasurer Pratt indicated “that in his opinion Bailie Westwater’s proposal was unworkable. Innumerable things cropped up in putting up large buildings such as the one they proposed. There were

alterations and deviations continually cropping up. Now, was the whole work to be stopped until some little matter came up before them once or twice per month? He instanced a case in connection with the foundations where possibly such a case may arise, and there could be a difference of opinion on whether it should be piled or arched. That was a pressing decision and could not wait for up to a month before coming before the council. The work could never go on if the committee was not to have power to proceed and carry it out.”

Eventually a compromise was reached and the finding was that “ the finding of the meeting should be, that it be remitted to the Beveridge Hall and Library Committee to arrange the matter of the naming of the halls with the Adam Smith Committee, to accept estimates to carry out the work, all expenditure involving the sum of £100 above the estimates, to receive the approval of the council: also to arrange as to how the two bodies are to co-operate in the actual building of the halls; and that it be an instruction to the committee to consult the architects as to the costs of the buildings forming the two halls.”

This was agreed unanimously and the meeting ended. It seems that a workable solution had been achieved with the necessity of consulting the full council, only if any cost rose by more than £100 over the estimate.

The way now appeared to be clear for genuine progress.

The Fife Free Press carried an advert issued by the Town Clerk on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1897 – yes, 1897! This was in respect of heating for the new

**TO HEATING ENGINEERS.**

**TENDERS** are required for the **HEATING** of the **ADAM SMITH and BEVERIDGE MEMORIAL HALLS, Kirkcaldy.**

Copies of the Plans may be had on payment of Three Guineas, which will be returned on receipt of a *bona fide* Scheme and Estimate, by making application to the Architects, Messrs **DUNN & FINDLAY, 35 Frederick Street, Edinburgh.**

Estimates to be sent (accompanied by Plans shewing system proposed) to Messrs **DUNN & FINDLAY, on or before 18th December, 1897.**

**WM. L. MACINDOE, Town Clerk.**

**Town Clerk's Office,  
Kirkcaldy, November 19, 1897.**

complex which suggested that the end of the road was in sight. The plans were available for payment of three guineas, which would be returned on receipt of a bona fide scheme and estimate. By this time Provost Beveridge had been dead for nearly seven years.

The Fife Free Press of Christmas Day 1897, in its retrospective painted a bullish picture of how things stood:-

” A building which aims at keeping the mind in vigour and in health – has steadily advanced throughout the year, namely, the Beveridge and Adam Smith Memorial Halls. The mason work has just been completed, and the splendid edifice, shortly to be turned to various and most useful purposes, has of late been the object of general admiration. Several months must yet elapse, however, before these buildings are finished, but somewhere about the autumn of next year possession will be obtained, when the citizens of Kirkcaldy will be able to congratulate themselves on their magnificent

new halls, suitable for the exposition of the oratorio, for the dramatic performance, the musical concert, the popular lecture and the holding of large public meetings. Lesser halls, specifically adapted for scientific demonstrations, and other purposes, are likewise provided, while there is also the spacious Beveridge Library, which once its shelves are erected and equipped with some 20,000 or more volumes, the inhabitants of Kirkcaldy, both young and old, will not have at their hand a more valuable institution. It is calculated to be of so great a service to the community, to whom it will add a new and a very real pleasure, we are not surprised that a very strong desire should be expressed for the opening of this part of the building with the least possible delay.”

The autumn mentioned above had come and gone without possession being taken, but the Fife Free Press saw cause for optimism when on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1898 it published the following:-

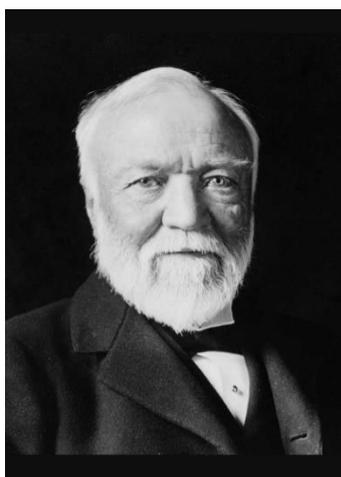
It is now expected – and there is no reason to suppose that there will be further delay in the matter – that the Beveridge and Adam Smith Memorial Halls, now so far advanced, will be completed in March next, when a befitting ceremonial will inaugurate the opening to the public of these magnificent new buildings. We understand that the names of the Earl of Elgin, Lord Rosebury and Lord Dufferin have all been suggested in connection with the opening ceremony.

Where all are so outstanding, all so distinguished, and all so eminent in their Country's service, the community would be happy to have any of them and still congratulate themselves.

"The Messiah", now in the hands of Kirkcaldy Musical Society, under the conductorship of the gifted Mr Allum, will doubtless issue forth the first choral strains in the large and beautiful main hall.

The opening of the halls will be very soon looked forward to with a great amount of interest, and the event will long afterwards be memorable."

In the fullness of time, the Fife Free Press of 14 October 1899 was able to cover the long awaited ceremony. The edition carried almost two full pages reporting on the opening, on Wednesday the 11th, of the new complex - The Adam Smith Hall and the Beveridge Memorial Hall and Beveridge Library.



There was perhaps a surprise in that their previous conviction that one of the three eminent men mentioned in their article the previous November would carry out the ceremony was proven unfounded. That duty fell onto the shoulders of a Fife born man who had made his fortune in the United States – Andrew Carnegie.

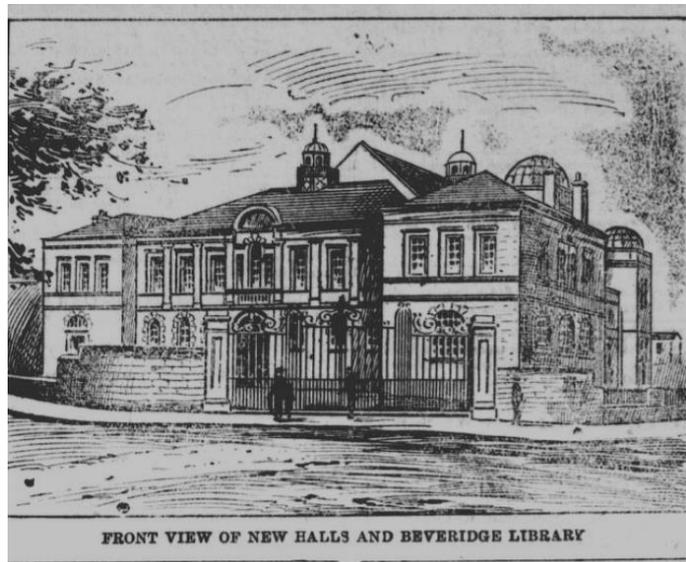
Certainly a man of worldwide fame, and equally well known for his philanthropy, his name was not immediately linked

with Kirkcaldy. Could there be another possible reason for this choice? We will return to this theme.

The paper commenced its coverage with a 'History of the Movement', covering the story which eventually brought the project to a conclusion. There then followed:-

### DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

'The building, which is T shaped on plan, is situated at the corner of Bennoch Road and St Brycedale Avenue, and may be roughly described as consisting of three parts - the large centre hall or Adam Smith Hall, the lesser or Beveridge Hall, and the reference and lending



library. On the ground floor, and in the centre of the facade facing Bennoch Road is the main entrance hall, which leads to a large crush hall. On the left of the entrance, and communicating with the crush hall, are the reference library and the lending library. The lending library is 38 feet by 26 feet [11.6m x 7.9m], and the reference library 43 feet by 22 feet [13.1m x 6.7m], and accommodation is provided for 36,000 volumes. Situated on the right of the main entrance are the cloakrooms, lavatories, and refreshment rooms. The main staircases giving access to the gallery of the large hall

are situated to the left and right of the crush hall. The large or Adam Smith Hall which is situated in the main body of the



INTERIOR OF "ADAM SMITH HALL."

building, measures 96 feet in length by 50 feet in breadth. [29.3m x 15.2m].

There is accommodation on the ground floor for 920 persons, gallery floor, 550,

orchestra 190 - total, 1660. The height from floor to ceiling is 39 feet [11.9m]. The hall is amply lighted by two circular headed windows at the gallery level. Internally, the walls of the hall are divided into six bays by means of pilasters, Corinthian in form, with gilded capitals. The ceiling is elliptical in form, which experience has proved to be the best form for acoustic properties and is divided by transverse ribs springing from the pilasters, each bay being divided into smaller panels by smaller ribs. The platform and orchestra are situated at the east end of the hall: the floor of the platform being 5 feet [1.52m] above the floor of the hall. The staging and seating of the orchestra gallery have been constructed so that they can be entirely removed, thus rendering available a platform space of 43 feet by 30 feet [13.1m x 9.14m]. Situated behind the platform recess are the retiring rooms with lavatory accommodation. Access to the area of the hall is provided for

by means of corridors, 6 feet 6 inches [1.98m] wide, flanking the hall on the two sides, and communicating with the crush hall. Means of egress have been amply provided for by two exit doors to the external walls of the corridors on the ground floor, and also by auxiliary staircases. Retiring rooms have been arranged at the back of the stage, these for soloists being on the same level, while these for the orchestra are at the first floor, and level with the upper portion of the orchestra staging. This disposition of retiring rooms has been adopted in the leading concert halls throughout Britain, and meets with the greatest approval by artistes using the stage. In addition to the large entrance from Bennochly Road, there is another equally commodious entrance at the middle of the great hall, facing St Brycedale Avenue. As the buildings are placed well back from both roads, there is room for semi-circular carriage drives to each entrance. A valuable feature of the building is a corridor which runs all round the hall, with doors leading into the large hall and other rooms. An advantage of this corridor is that the beams for the gallery rest on both the outer and inner walls in such a way that no pillars are necessary. On the upper floor, extending over the entrance hall, reference library and cloak rooms, is situated the lesser hall or Beverage Hall. This hall measures 67 feet by 38 feet [20.4m x 11.58m] and provides accommodation for 700 persons. Separate and independent staircases lead into this hall, which, at the same time, communicates with the main part of

the building when required. Committee rooms are arranged on this floor, which can also be used as retiring rooms in connection with the hall. Kitchen accommodation for use during social entertainments, and lavatory accommodation are also provided in convenient situations. The halls are kept ventilated by means of shafts termination in extractors above [the] ridge encased in ornamental fleches. The system of heating is the low pressure system. Externally the building has been treated in a phase of the renaissance of the 17th century. All the external walls are of Grange stone, and the facades to St Brycedale Avenue and Bennoch Road are faced with tooled ashlar. The internal walls are also of stone. American yellow pine is used in joiner work for staining and varnishing. The entire building has been designed in that form of classic known as Scottish seventeenth century, and the elevations have been treated simply and broadly. No excess of ornament has been shown, and the whole forms an effective building and expressive of the requirements internally.'

Following that mighty paragraph they have a rather shorter one;-

#### ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS.

The Architects were Messrs Dunn & Finlay, Frederick Street, Edinburgh, who have been very heavily congratulated on their successful design, whereby one of the finest buildings which Fifeshire at present commands has been provided in

Kirkcaldy. Mr Thomas Marshall acted a clerk of works. Although the building of the new halls has been in progress for a considerable time, they are now complete in every way, and at the service of the public.

The contractors were:- Builders, Messrs T. & G. Menzies, Kirkcaldy; joiner, Mr M. Wishart, Kirkcaldy; Slater, Mr Alex. Ferguson, Kirkcaldy; plumber and gas fitter, Mr John Adams, Edinburgh; plasterer, Mr Macgregor, Dunfermline; painter, Mr A. Lornie, Kirkcaldy; gas furnishings, Messrs Singer & Son, Frome, Somersetshire; tile hearths and grates, Messrs Hewden & Co., Edinburgh; furnishings, Messrs Wylie & Lochhead, Glasgow, and Messrs Edward Wilson & Sons, Dundee; Iron roofing, Messrs Barnet and Morton, Kirkcaldy; iron beams, Mr Rudyard Steffert, Glasgow; heating apparatus, Messrs Mackenzie & Concur, Edinburgh; ventilators, Messrs Donald & Some, Glasgow; seating, The Bennet Furnishing Company, Glasgow.'

The Grange stone used for the external walls will almost certainly have come directly by rail from the Grange quarry at Burntisland whose freestone was of very good quality and used in the major restoration of St Giles Cathedral and in the building of Fettes College in Edinburgh. The building is described as English Baroque by John Gifford while Glen Pride says it is 'a complete composition in typical Victorian classical style.' Pilasters with classical capitals between windows were a favourite motif of these architects and were

used both inside the main hall and outside on the upper storey facing Bennoch Road.

They also liked to employ both round-headed and bullseye windows, belvederes, and domes, and the occasional Venetian window, as seen above the main door and on the westernmost bay facing St Brycedale Avenue. There are even Venetian windows in the narrow gables on the north elevation - now obscured by the annex to the former Station Hotel - built by the Kirkcaldy architect William Williamson in 1903.

He was responsible for many fine buildings throughout the town including the Police Station, Betty Nicol's Bar, Dysart Primary School, etc., etc. He had gone to Kirkcaldy Burgh High School before being



Kirkcaldy police station

articled in 1887 to James Wylie Hislop, a former clerk of works to the Hopetoun Estate who worked in Kirkcaldy High Street in the late 1880s and 1890s, and designed the lodges etc., in Beveridge Park. Williamson then moved to Edinburgh to join the office of James Bow Dunn! He worked there as a draughtsman and then assistant and took classes at Heriot-Watt College until 1895 when he returned to Kirkcaldy to

open his own practice. Thus he may well have worked on the 1894 competition drawings for Dunn & Findlay.

James Dunn had been born in Pollokshields, Glasgow, on 16 January 1861 and the family moved to Edinburgh where he attended George Heriot's School, and in March 1876 he was articled to James Campbell Walker and studied at Heriot-Watt College before travels on the Continent. While working on his own in 1887 he competed for the Edinburgh Public Library and came second. The following year he won the competition for the Library of the Society of Solicitors to the Supreme Courts of Scotland and this win enabled him to set up business on his own account. In the year of the competition the 33-year-old Dunn took into partnership James Leslie Findlay, seven years younger and the younger son of the proprietor of the Scotsman, John Ritchie Findlay. He was an Old Harrovian and articled to his father's architect. He designed Dean Path Buildings for his father at the tender age of 17, and may be termed a gentleman architect as he never sought membership of the RIBA. Nevertheless he produced a considerable body of work even after the partnership with Dunn was dissolved in 1903, although they continued to share an office.

The partnership was probably formed in order to build the Scotsman's Buildings which began in 1898 and were completed by 1902. The Adam Smith Halls competition win was an auspicious start for the new partnership, and they

went on to build a number of villas, mansions, and tenements in Edinburgh. They also produced some very bold and complex projects, such as the Scotsman building and the Wesleyan Methodist Central Hall at Tollcross in Edinburgh. They also entered the competition in 1895 for the design of the North British Railway Hotel - now the Balmoral. The whole of



the west side of North Bridge is filled with the Scotsman building which incorporates shops and an arcade on the North Bridge level right back as far as the High Street with offices on the second, third, and fourth floors while there are a further four floors below the level of the North Bridge in which the newspaper used to be produced before being distributed throughout the city and beyond. The City Art Centre now occupies part of the original works, and when completed it was the largest single commercial development then erected in Scotland. The Wesleyan Methodist Mission Halls were built on a site where there were originally a school and two blocks of comparatively new tenements of shops and housing. The whole lot were demolished and new shops built on the ground floor with a view to recouping the purchase price. The hall, to accommodate 1,700 persons was above along with a small hall for 300 persons and a dozen

classrooms, stores and caretaker's house. When it opened in 1901 the Building News reported that ' . . . it is fitted up with electric light. In place of the ordinary pews tip up seats are provided, and on the underside of seats there is an arrangement by which felt hats may be affixed without any risk of being destroyed.'

Before joining up with Findlay, Dunn had previously built a very fine villa in Kirkcaldy, in Bennoch Road (now No 50) circa 1890 for Mrs Janet Isles of Bendhu who owned property in Mitchell Street. John Nairn was the client for alterations in 1901-06 including a 'motor car house' added in 1906. This area to the north of the town already contained impressive Victorian villas like Beechwood, Marchmont, Kilmany, and Forth Park. It is an asymmetrical mock half-timbered villa with Queen Anne details.



Then, after dissolving the partnership, around 1910 Dunn returned once again to Kirkcaldy . . . and to Bennoch Road, to build Sauchendene next door at No 52. This large 2-storey and attic villa is described by Gifford as

'accomplished neo-Georgian.' It does not appear on a 1907

feuding plan which shows No 50, and the present owner said that the roof was slightly amended from the original drawings when built. And like the halls, both houses are now Category B listed.

The opening ceremony on the 11<sup>th</sup> October “had been advertised in the press and no tickets were required bar those for the platform party. The doors were opened at 1.45pm with the ceremony itself commencing at 2.30pm. The hall was filled to overflowing by an assemblage of all classes of the community. Long before the interesting proceedings began the holding capacity of the splendid hall was taxed to the uttermost, and hundreds had to be pleased with standing room in the corridors, while others could not gain admission to the building at all. The front of the gallery was adorned with the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes and the Lion Rampant. The entrance of the leading citizens was greeted with loud cheers and when the principal platform party entered, headed by Provost Hutchison wearing his chain of office, and Mr and Mrs Carnegie and Mrs Beveridge, the enthusiasm was unbounded, the cheering lasting for several minutes.”

The names of the platform party were listed in the Fife Free Press and, without doubt they were the cream of local society. Also present were representatives from all the public bodies, the officials of the town, the clergy, the medical, legal, teaching, banking professions and officers of the local volunteers. Alex Gow’s trustees were also represented.

Equally impressive was the list of apologies for not being able to attend. Surprisingly, the architect J.B. Dunn was one who conveyed his apologies.

“Before proceedings commenced, Miss Gladys Lockhart ascended the platform and gracefully presented Mrs Carnegie with a lovely bouquet of flowers, which was graciously acknowledged by the recipient. Miss Lockhart was presented with a bouquet in return by Mr W.L. Macindoe.”



Provost Hutchison rose amid great applause to say how great an honour it was to both preside over the opening ceremony, and also to introduce the distinguished guest who had kindly consented to open the building. The Provost went on to mention the “late revered and esteemed friend” and his legacy to the town. Provost Hutchison to further applause remarked “the park had been bought and completed, and, we can truly say, is one of the most ornamental and useful institutions of the town”. The fact that the late Provost Beveridge during his lifetime had taken a great interest in trying to raise funds for a national memorial to Adam Smith, to the extent that he had left funds in his Will for that purpose drew further applause.

The Provost covered the amalgamation of the funds from the four major strands – the Michael Beveridge legacy, the Adam

Smith Memorial Fund, the Gow bequest and the Matthew Beveridge legacy. He explained how these monies had allowed the building of the handsome halls, and how the naming of the halls would commemorate both Adam Smith and Michael Beveridge.

Provost Hutchison then turned to the guest remarking that “in a large business community like ours I think you will agree with me in when I say that the committee showed wisdom and a right appreciation of the situation in asking Mr Carnegie, a great employer of labour and a pioneer of industry, and an even greater benefactor, to perform the pleasing duty today.”

The Provost outlined the extent of Mr Carnegie’s business empire and also his philanthropy at home and abroad. He finished his remarks with “we must look upon Mr Carnegie as



one of the most able, active, energetic and philanthropic men Scotland has produced. In giving him the honour of opening our halls today, we are at the same time conferring an honour on ourselves. I have now, ladies and gentlemen, great pleasure in introducing to you Mr Carnegie, and I have

another pleasing duty to perform, and that is to present Mrs Beveridge with two golden keys, to symbolise the opening of these halls and library. One of these I have pleasure in asking her to retain in remembrance of this day, and the other I will kindly ask that she present to Mr Carnegie (the keys were crafted by Alex Constable, jeweller, High Street, Kirkcaldy).

Mrs Beveridge arose amid loud cheers, and gracefully presented the golden key to Mr Carnegie. In doing so she referred to the great honour conferred upon her in being asked to perform so exceedingly pleasant a duty.”

Mr Carnegie in reply remarked that “this key, presented in any circumstances, would have been precious beyond price. Coming, madame, from you, the honoured wife of one of the benefactors of Kirkcaldy – one to whom in large measure its citizens owed this institution – I assure you this key must ever derive and retain tenfold value and handed down in our family as one of its most precious heirlooms.”

Mr Carnegie then rose to perform the opening ceremony to vociferous cheers which were also interspersed throughout his speech. His opening remarks are well worth capturing;-

“Provost and Magistrates, Ladies and Gentlemen – it is a rare privilege which I am indebted to



you this day, and a great honour. I can think of no public ceremony which could carry my heart more fully with it than the opening of a Public Hall and with it a Library “free to the people”. The circumstances attending the proceedings have an added charm, in this, that these powerful agencies for the improvement of the masses fall to be opened by me, not only in my native land, but in my native county. You have not gone far afield for one of great rank or official position, or one distinguished for scholarship, as you could easily have done, but you have judged worthy of the honour “a son of the Kingdom – your ain bairn”. I congratulate Kirkcaldy today on a double event – a double blessing. My experience in building libraries soon led me to see that halls were there fit and needed companion.”

The speech which was lengthy went on to cover many topics connected with philanthropy and its benefits. These can be summarised by the following headings and bulletpoints:-

**The great unifying influence** – making each citizen more of the kindly neighbour of his fellows, and part of a mass which wish each other well.

**Mr Beveridge and Mr Gow** – acted wisely when they devoted their surplus to this hall and library to the people of the community in which they had made their fortunes.

**Doing noble acts**- providing buildings of stature including halls and universities, quoted examples in the United States.

**Exalts and hallows his calling**- a sacred trust to use the enormous sums which one man may accrue, to be administered in his lifetime for the public good.

**The problem of the rich and the poor** – is best to be solved in our day by millionaires and men of wealth devoting themselves to the wise distribution of their surplus for the genuine and lasting improvement of the masses.

**Free public libraries** - through which the poorest, equally with the richest, can find access to the most precious treasures the world possesses, those stored up in books.

**Smith – one of the great lights** – the “Wealth of Nations” was an epoch-making book, pointing out to man a new path which led him upward.

**Smith – his true greatness** – his ability to see the difference between the ideal and the practical.

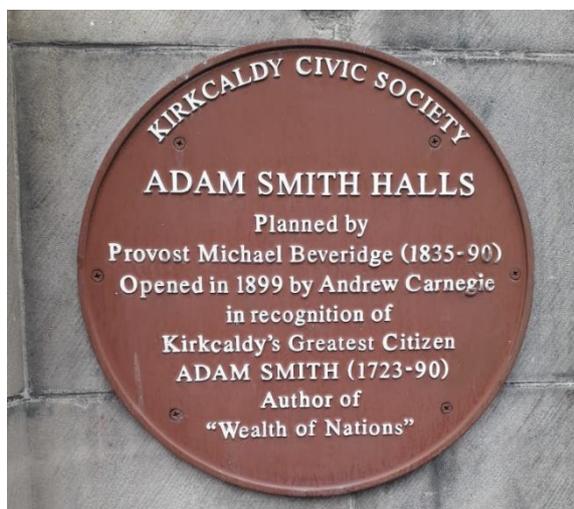
**A second genius to carry forward his work** – the eternal hope that by providing free libraries, another ‘Adam Smith’ would come forward to carry on his work.

**Obstacles to entice freedom of trade** – Carnegie saw countries menacing each other as a barrier to trade. This meant that countries did not wish to use the productions of its rivals. He believed in Smith’s ideal of harmony in everything.

**Protection in America** – taxes on imports offer the opportunity to find ways to maximise output in your own country and at the lowest possible cost. His philosophy is buying where you can cheapest and selling where dearest.

**Smith – his fame is to endure** - make every son of Fife, and especially every native of Kirkcaldy, proud that our country gave him to mankind.

He ended with “permit me now to dedicate this Adam Smith



Hall and free public library the gifts of your public spirited citizens, to the high uses for which they were intended by the generous and wise donors. That they will increase in usefulness as the years pass, and be more appreciated as powerful instruments,

conducive through their proper use, to the highest interests of this community I have not a shadow of doubt. That they will fulfil to the fullest the great good, of which I am certain they are capable, is not only my hope but my belief. I have great pleasure in announcing them open to the people of Kirkcaldy. (Loud and prolonged cheering).”

John Barry rose to provide the vote of thanks and amongst his remarks were “as citizens of Kirkcaldy, we feel that this hall and library could not have been opened under higher or

better auspices, for there is no man in the world so closely associated with the establishment of free libraries and the consequent spread of knowledge.”

The event was concluded by speeches from Mr Dalziel the Member of Parliament and R.C. Munro–Ferguson, both paying handsome tribute to Mr Carnegie.

Bailie Tait rose to pay tribute to Provost Hutchison for the excellent manner in which he had presided over the proceedings. Provost Hutchison in turn expressed his delight at the great pleasure it had been, and that he hoped that the successful meeting they had had would prove a good augury for the halls.

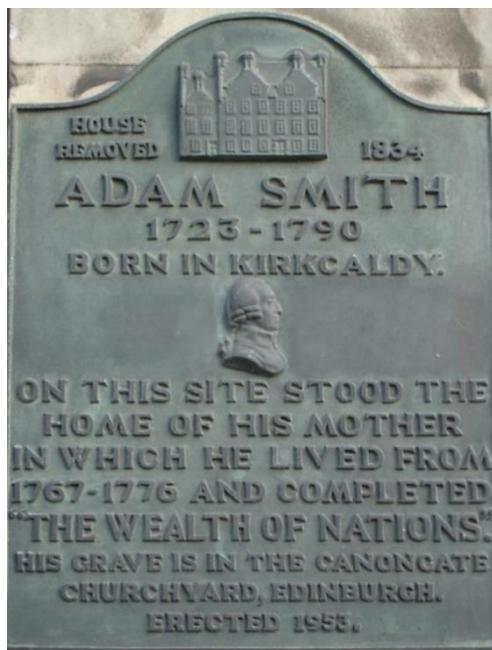
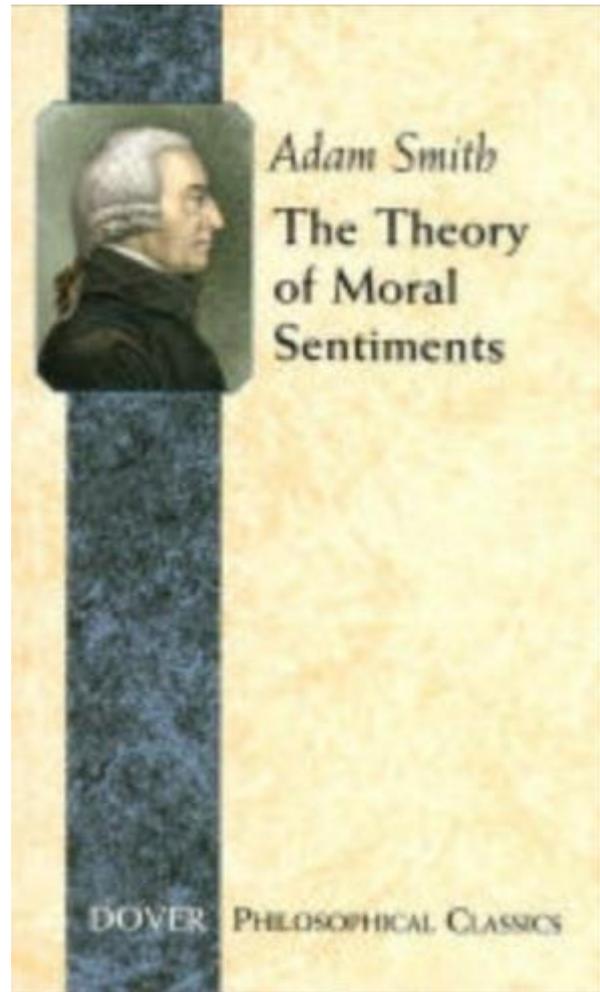
With just months to spare Kirkcaldy had both its memorial and its hall in the same century its planning had begun! If ever the old adage that “too many cooks spoil the broth” – then this was it.

The final point is that in his speech Andrew Carnegie had asked who might give an organ to this handsome hall? Of course it was the man himself – one of around 7,500 he provided free of charge in his lifetime. Scotland and England received the most 3,124.

An Inquiry Into The Nature And Causes of  
**The Wealth of Nations**



Adam Smith



**BEVERIDGE AND ADAM SMITH HALLS.**

**OPENING CEREMONY**  
 ON  
**WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1899.**

**A PUBLIC MEETING** will be held in the **ADAM SMITH HALL** at 2.30 P.M., when the **HALLS** will be **FORMALLY OPENED** by **ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., of Skibo.**

**THE HALL WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND NO TICKETS ARE TO BE ISSUED** except for certain portions reserved for the Members of the various Public Bodies and Subscribers to the **Adam Smith Memorial.**

**DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 1.45 P.M.**  
**WM. L. MACINDOE, Town Clerk.**

**Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy.**

**FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY,**  
**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, Oct. 18 & 19.**

Reserved Seats, 3s; Second, 2s; Third, 1s.  
 Plan and Tickets at Messrs J. & D. Fourn's, Bechallers.

Those purchasing 3s and 2s Tickets at the Box Office admitted Free at the Early Door.  
 No Seats Guaranteed unless Reserved.  
 Early Door to avoid the crush at 7.30 to 8.00.  
 Infants in Arms not admitted.  
 Ordinary Doors open at 7.30. Commence at 8. Carriages at 10.30.

**FAREWELL VISIT!**

**THE BEN GRAY CO.,** under the direction of Mr J. BARNISTER HOWARD, in WILSON BARNETT'S Great Play—

**'THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.'**

The Greatest Play of modern times.—Vide Press.  
 Full Chorus of Male and Female Voices.

The whole of the Beautiful Scenery carried by the Company is by Mr W. Hann, and T. Bull & Sons. The Music by Mr Edward Jones. Costumes by Miss D. Bernstein, Armour and Jewellery by White & Sons.

Songs sung by Miss MILDRED OWEN.  
 Dances by Miss MILDRED HESTER.

**Adam Smith Memorial Hall.**

**MR ALEXANDER** has the honour of announcing that his Company has been selected to Open the above Hall on

**THURSDAY, 12th October,**  
 AND  
**FRIDAY, 13th October,**

Under the Distinguished Patronage and presence of  
**PROVOST HUTCHISON,**  
 when the successful Play—

**'THE GRIP OF IRON.'**  
 (By ARTHUR SHERLEY)  
 Author of "The Two Little Vagabonds," will be produced.

During the Drawing-Room Scene the eminent young Violinist,  
**Mr Horace Fellowes,**  
 will give a Violin Recital.

## OPENING OF NEW HALLS.

THE ADAM SMITH MEMORIAL HALL

WILL BE OPENED ON  
**Wednesday First.**

IN THE EVENING THE

## OPENING CONCERT

WILL BE GIVEN BY

**Kirkcaldy Musical Society,**

WHICH

“**THE MESSIAH**”

WILL BE PERFORMED.

### SOLOISTS—

MADAME MEDORA HENSON, SOPRANO.  
MISS GRETA WILLIAMS, CONTRALTO.  
MR LLOYD CHANDOS, TENOR.  
MR WATKIN MILLS, BASS.

### ORCHESTRA—

FIRST VIOLIN W. H. COLE (Leader).  
“ R. A. ROCHESTER.  
“ G. JACKSON.  
SECOND VIOLIN A. J. GRAHAM (Principal).  
“ P. W. BROWN.  
“ J. PRINROSE.  
VIOLA - - - E. R. JOACHIM (Principal).  
“ A. ARNOLD.  
“ F. DAMMANN.  
VIOLONCELLO E. ANGLES (Principal).  
“ B. HOFMAYER.  
“ F. HILL.  
DOUBLE BASS F. G. COLE (Principal).  
“ J. MERRIT.  
“ A. TURNER.  
FLUTE - - - A. PICTON.  
OBOE - - - J. S. SINCLAIR.  
CLARINET - E. H. GREEN.  
“ ROWLAND HILL.  
BASSOON - - C. BORWICK.  
“ T. DRUMMOND.  
TRUMPET - - A. TOMLINSON.  
HORN - - - A. TUOLE.  
“ R. BAUGH.  
TROMBONE - W. ALLAN.  
“ J. T. LINDSAY.  
DRUMS - - C. O'NEIL.  
ORGAN - - MISS HEGGIE.  
PIANOFORTE - MISS BALFOUR.  
CONDUCTOR—DR ALLUM.

### ADMISSION—

CUSHIONED CHAIRS, Reserved and Numbered  
(Evening Dress), 7s 6d.

SECOND SEATS, Reserved and Numbered, 5s.

FRONT GALLERY, Except first Two Rows, 3s.

BACK GALLERY, 2s. BACK OF HALL, 1s.

Plan of Hall and Reserved Seat Tickets with  
Messrs J. & D. YOUNG, High Street.

Holders of Tickets for 3s, 2s, and 1s Seats are  
requested to secure their places by 7.45, after  
which Tickets will be Sold at the Door.

**Khartoum in Kirkcaldy.**

**GRAND**

**MASONIC BAZAAR,**

IN

**BEVERIDGE AND**

**Adam - Smith - Halls,**

ON

**FRIDAY and SATURDAY.**

27TH AND 28TH OCTOBER.

DECORATIONS BY KELLY, WILKINS,  
& CO., LIVERPOOL.

MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF KHARTOUM,  
SHOWING GORDON'S PALACE AND  
ORIENTAL BAZAAR.