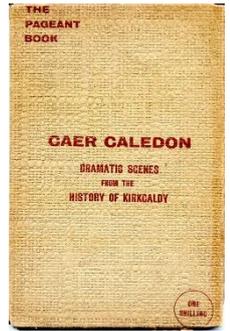


Caer Caledon

Dramatic Scenes from the History of Kirkcaldy



When reader's eyes scan the title of this month's chosen object there may well be some puzzled looks. Very few, if any, will be aware of either the name or its part in Kirkcaldy's history and why it has been chosen for inclusion.

To be honest when the project was in the planning stages it never received a mention – principally because none of the team knew of its existence! It was an item which was stumbled upon by chance, although it has since been mentioned in two previous narratives, even if only fleetingly.

As our knowledge grew it became an almost compelling subject for inclusion as the 25th object (halfway there). Although little known, it encapsulates so much of the town – and not just its history and heritage. Caer Caledon gathers together 1.500 years of local history, features many of the events and personalities who forged the narrative of the town, and brought together many of the amateur groups and societies who have provided culture, enjoyment and entertainment, to Kirkcaldy for many decades.

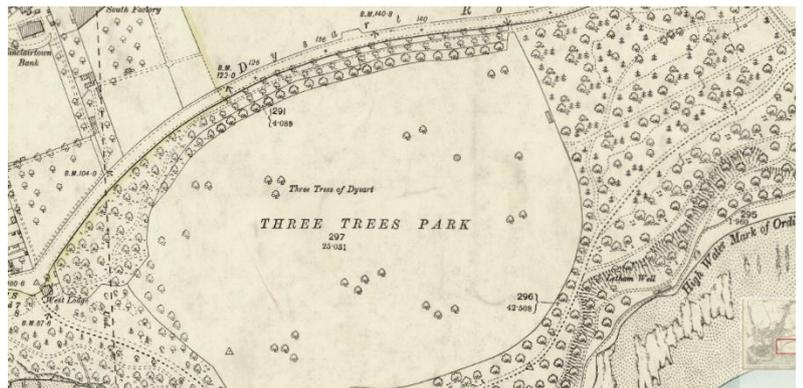
In modern parlance it provided a holistic view of the Lang Toun and quite possibly was the first event of its type in Scotland – never mind Fife or Kirkcaldy.

Caer Caledon was a pageant and it took place in the grounds of Dysart House between the 28th June and the 1st July 1911.



There were, and have been, only three performances of the mammoth event since its initial performance, and none since 1911. Michael Nairn granted the use of the part of his policies which is now Ravenscraig Park as the setting for the event. At the time it was private

ground then known as the Three Trees Park. It was not until 1929 that the area was gifted to the town by Sir Michael. The purpose behind the event was ostensibly to celebrate the centenary of St Peter's Episcopal Church but there was a secondary intention and that was connected with the organ which had been installed in the church in 1909.



Although the event did not make a ripple in the national press it was certainly a very well attended affair with over 450 children taking part.

Our intention is to cover the purpose, personalities and content behind the undertaking and just possibly lead to a revival of the pageant – if only in part.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

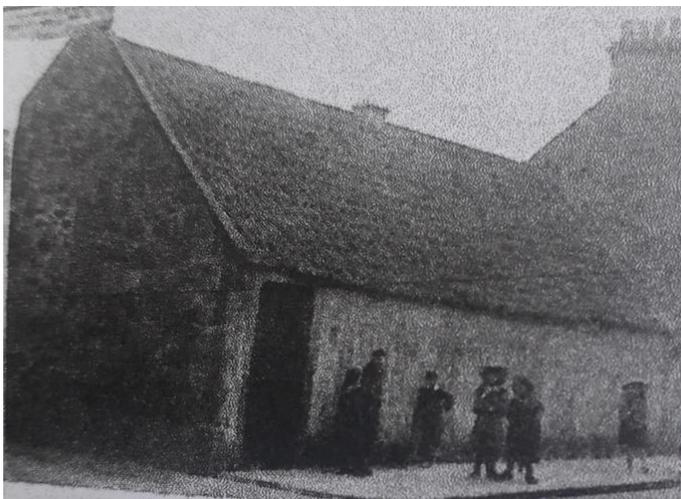
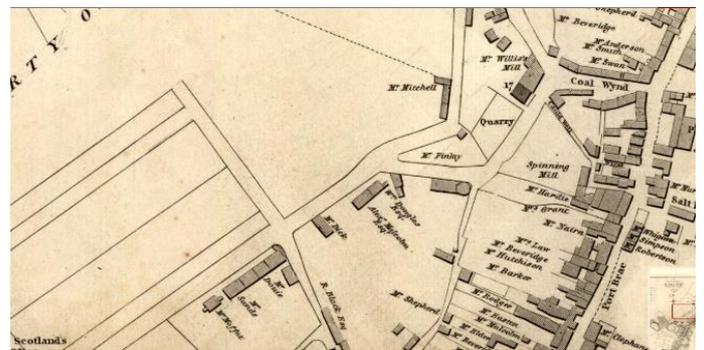
Parts of two of our previous narratives have covered the bitter disputes between the Episcopalian and Presbyterian forms of worship over the centuries. Little would be gained by re-visiting that same ground, but it is worthwhile remembering that the deposition in 1688/89 of James VII and II by William and Mary led to a long period where the Episcopalians had little or no say in either the affairs of the national church or local congregations. Distrust was enhanced by the fact that the Episcopal Church was seen as being supportive of the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745. A number of restrictions on Episcopalian worship had been put in place and these were intensified by an Act of 1719. The Act ordained that there could only be free public worship for Episcopalians, if they both prayed for the Hanoverian dynasty and rejected the power of Scottish bishops. A significant number of followers



left the church during these dark and difficult times. Matters started to look brighter following the death of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1788 and little by little restrictions on Episcopalian worship were removed. By 1864 all the restrictions had been lifted and congregations as well as the number of churches continued to expand.

As early as 1811 the framework for the future dioceses were being put in place. Dunkeld and Dunblane combined together in that year and in 1837 St. Andrews joined. That same year saw Fife being transferred from Edinburgh thereby extending the diocese further. Today St Peter's is in the diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane with its Bishop, the Right Revd. Ian Paton based at St. Ninian's in Perth.

It was in 1811 that St Peter's was re-constituted and appointed its first rector – the Reverend Thomas Scot. In December of 1812, land was purchased at the top of Coal Wynd and by 1813



sufficient funds had been raised to build a modest church with seating for 122. The music was provided by a barrel organ which could play 22 hymns and 10 canticles. The organ was a gift from the Rev Scot.

From the earliest days the church attracted many of the landed families and probably the most important and best known were the Oswald family who were said to have provided the timber for the church. One of the first baptisms performed was a son of the Earl of Elgin. It was believed that many of the sons of the landed families while being educated in England became accustomed to and enjoyed the style of the Episcopalian services – hence the Episcopalian faith became associated with the upper and landed classes. This baptism is possibly no real surprise as the father, the 8th Earl of Elgin, who was/became the Viceroy of India had been born in England and was also a close friend of the Oswald family. Elgin Street was named after this gentleman.



Earl of Elgin

The evidence of an expanding congregation is seen by extensions to the church building which were put in place in 1833. These consisted of a gallery, stairs and a porch. The costs amounted to £120 plus £30 for decoration. This perceived association with the local gentry can be shown by the fact that donations towards the costs were made by; Oswald of Dunnikier, Ferguson of Raith, Wemyss of Wemyss and the future Countess of Rosslyn. Very surprisingly, the minister was left to personally pay the interest on the loan part of the cost!

By 1843 the congregation had continued to grow and a decision had to be made as to either modifying the present building to take greater numbers of worshippers, or to build a new larger church. The

second option was chosen and ground in Townsend Place was acquired from Mr Oswald.



The foundation stone was laid on the 19th July which, by any measure, was an auspicious day for Kirkcaldy.

The day saw the laying of no less than three foundation stones during a three hour ceremonial period which was followed by no less than four public dinners in various parts of the town. A procession started from the then town house, along the High Street to the harbour where the foundation stone for the new extended pier was laid. The procession then retraced its steps before proceeding up Whytescausway to lay a foundation

stone for the new burgh school – at what was then known as Loan Wells, but is now St Brycedale Road. From there the short journey to St Peter's was made where again a foundation stone was laid.

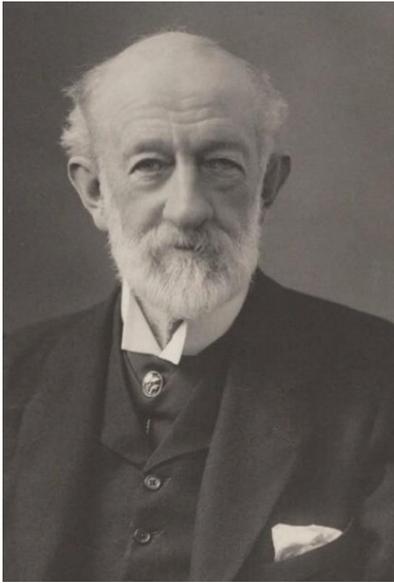


All were undertaken with full masonic and civic ceremonial rituals which included the use of; corn, wine and oil. The cost of the new church was around £1,500 with half of the sum being provided by local landowners. The church was designed by the Glasgow architect John Baird and was of the English gothic style of the early 13th century. It could accommodate 300 worshippers.



In the 19th century, bazaars were a popular and successful method of fundraising and St. Peter's was no exception. In 1853 such an event raised £270 and in 1870 a sum of £300 was collected. The ladies of the congregation clearly put considerable effort into their fund raising activities and the Countesses of both Rothes and Rosslyn played their part.

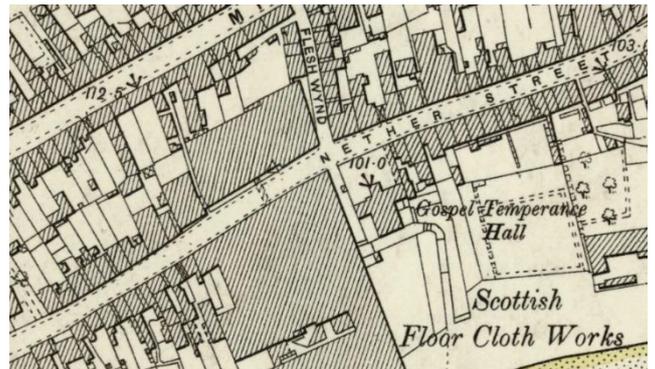
The manse at the time was at 43 East Quality Street, Dysart, but it was subsequently decided to build a new manse in the church grounds. The 1843 church was much closer to the road than the present building and this allowed a manse to be built in the ground to the rear of the church and the south side of what is now West Albert Road. The manse was completed in 1856 at a cost of £1,200.



Eventually, the manse became part of Antony's Hotel which sadly has made way for the building of a residential home for the elderly. The church had several additions during the late 19th century and a number are believed to have been carried out by Sir R. Rowand Anderson, Scotland's foremost architect of the day, who did many works for the Episcopal Church.

The church was not content with ministering only from Townsend Place and therefore two missions came into being. This idea seems to have its seeds in the sermon which was preached to mark the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. One mission's purpose was to serve the Pathhead area, the other looking after the spiritual needs of those living in the Links area.

Sir Michael B Nairn had offered the use of the lower floors of the Pathhead Philp School until a building was completed in 1897 and dedicated to St. Michael.



In Pratt Street, two rooms were rented as a mission until, in 1906, a church was built just opposite the entrance to Mill Street. This building was familiar to generations of Raith



Rover's supporters as they made their way up Pratt Street in hope if not expectation! This mission was sold to the Catholic Church in 1946 and had

been dedicated to St Columba. It is now a private house.



At St Peter's itself, the Oswald family, through Mrs Oswald had, in 1893, gifted a brass eagle lectern in memory of Colonel

At service in St Peter's Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy, at noon, a beautiful new brass lectern, in memory of the late Major Oswald of Dunnikier, was dedicated by the rector, Rev. Mr Harper. The lectern was presented in memory of the late Major Oswald by his widow and daughters.

J.T. Oswald of Dunnikier. The lectern is still in use today. A hall was also constructed to

the east of St Peter's at a cost of £200. Three quarters of this sum was provided by Mrs Oswald.

If ever confirmation was required of the connection between the gentry and the Episcopalian church you do not have to look further than the pages of the *Gentlewoman* of the 15th November 1902. A marriage took place in St Peter's between Major Charles Morris and Miss Lena Oswald. The bridegroom was the eldest son of Sir John and Lady Morris of Killunden with the bride being the daughter of the late Townsend Oswald and Mrs Oswald. The suggested connection lies in the

fact that the ceremony was conducted by the Lord Bishop of St. Andrews, Canon Egerton. The principal bridesmaid is named as Miss Egerton (the bride's cousin). The St Peter's minister – the Reverend C. Gardyne assisted the canon.

It would hardly have been possible to have produced a guest list containing a greater number of A-list gentry.

One of these was the Duchess of Sutherland. The Duchess had a Kirkcaldy connection as she had been born Lady Millicent Fanny St.Clair-Erskine and was a daughter of the 4th Earl of Rosslyn. The Duchess had a very impressive record in World War 1 organising field hospitals and ambulance units. For her services she was awarded the French *Croix de Guerre*, the Belgian *Red Cross Medal* and also the British *Royal Red Cross*. As an aside, which has nothing to do with the story, John Singer



Sargent painted her portrait in 1904. In 1979 at Sotheby's it fetched \$210,000, a then record for the artist's work.

The article carried details of the reception at Dunnikier which followed the nuptials and gave an indication of some of the major wedding gifts. Without question, Messrs Hamilton and Inches, Edinburgh's luxury jeweller's stock, would have been hard pressed to match the quality and quantity of the wedding gifts.

Locally, the tenants of Dunnikier gave silver earrings, the staff of Dunnikier House a buhlclock* and tea caddy, and the congregation of St Peter's a fitted travelling bag.

- Apparently, a French style of clock which featured tortoiseshell and brass. (Don't worry if you don't know, I had to use google!)



In 1906, although he did not know it at the time, the guiding light for this narrative arrived in the shape of the Reverend H.T.J. Waring. Waring had been a curate at St. Ninian's Church in Glasgow before taking up his post in the Lang Toun. It transpires that the good Reverend was an accomplished musician and it was he who promoted the idea of a new organ. The original barrel organ from Coal Wynd was still in use although much modified. The new organ was ordered from Norman & Beard at a cost of £435 with the original instrument heading to St. Michaels.

We now have a potted history of the church and how 1911 became the year of its centenary and the man normally credited with the idea of the pageant had arrived in Kirkcaldy. As this narrative is centred on 1911 there is little point in recounting the more recent history of which the highlight has to be the building of the new modern church which replaced

the 1843 building. That building was wrestling with severe subsidence and ultimately demolition was the only serious option. It will therefore be rare for this narrative to slip beyond 1911.

The Episcopal Church in Kirkcaldy has a fine history stretching back over 200 years and whose congregations have faced many problems and dilemmas – but overcame them and continue to do so.

We can now safely move onto the next stage”-

The Idea of a Pageant

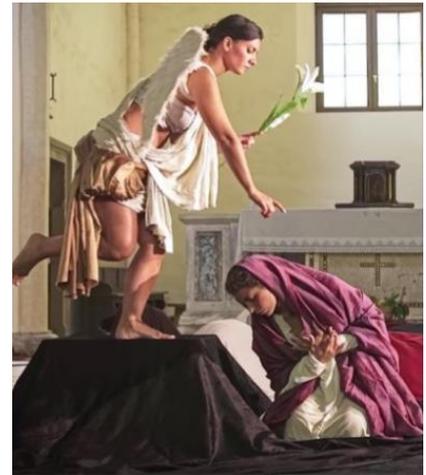
There can be little doubt that the year 1911 was one for ceremony, celebration and pageantry. This would certainly be true of the month of June when, on the 22nd, George V and his wife Mary were crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom. There certainly were local celebrations of the event but Caer Caledon was unconnected, simply being a parochial event relating to St. Peter’s. The timing was coincidental in falling only six days after the coronation and, in fact, had been planned for almost a year.



In 1911 pageants had not reached Scotland although there was a history of historical based processions and the *tableaux vivants*. Whilst a procession requires no explanation, the latter entertainment was an import from France and often featured historical and artistic themes – with one important proviso – any figures did not move. Scenes depicted normally came from; history, religion,



mythology, or the world of Art. Before the advent of photography, film and



television, the tableaux was a way of depicting great events or artistic masterpieces using a canvas backdrop with carefully co-ordinated figures in the foreground as though they were figures in a painting. They were in essence living pictures.

A pageant offers not just the depiction of scenes, but allows movement of the figures. *Redress of the Past*, a major Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project, examining historical pageants in twentieth-century Britain, suggests that it is probable that Kirkcaldy's event was the first ever staging of a modern pageant in Scotland.

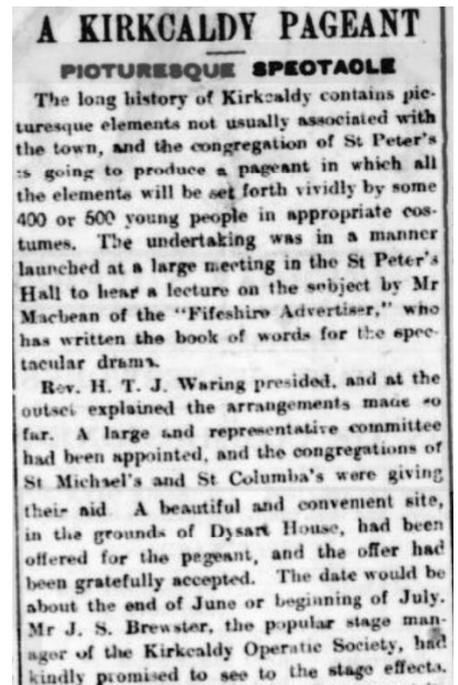
The advent of the modern pageant is attributed to one Louis Napoleon Parker (1852-1944). A dramatist and composer, Parker developed a reputation for historical works. In 1905 he staged the Sherborne Pageant and in 1906 the Warwick Pageant. Both of these were huge productions featuring 800/900 people. This led to an outbreak of what was termed *pageantitus*.



It can be safely assumed that while Scotland did not have immediate pageant fever it was certainly aware of what was becoming a fashionable pursuit in England. The possibility must exist that through the loose connections between the Episcopalian churches of Scotland and England, pageantry had become more familiar to Scottish congregations.

The 1911 coronation would doubtless bring English celebratory pageants into focus but this cannot be the touch paper for St Peter's as Edward VII had just died (May 1910) when the Kirkcaldy project was first mooted. No detailed plans for the eventual crowning of his successor could have been in place at that stage.

The Fifeshire Advertiser of the 2nd July 1910 makes the first mention of the proposal. On the 29th June a concert, marking the end of the Sunday school term, had been well attended. Prizes and medals had been handed out with many for perfect attendance. The children had entertained their parents to an evening of vocal and instrumental music together with some recitations.



The Reverend Waring had made mention that the combined Sunday School roll for the three churches was around 300. The average attendance at St Peter's had been 101, 43 at St Michael's and 65 at St Columba's. In his address he made mention that the town had seen a prevalence of sickness over the last 6/7 months and as a result there had a significant number of deaths involving children. A sobering reminder of the obstacles standing in the way of reaching adulthood at the time and how health care has improved in the intervening period.

It was at this point that the Reverend Waring introduced the proposal to celebrate the church's centenary. The Managers and Vestrymen had viewed the possibility of a children's pageant representing the history of Kirkcaldy, as being an ideal way of recognising the 100 years. The idea was supported unanimously.

“He was delighted to say that Mr Lachlan MacBean, the editor of the *Fifeshire Advertiser*, had consented to draw up and arrange the episodes which would be part of the programme and the children would then be represented in some of the chief events from the history of the town”.

KIRKCALDY'S HISTORICAL PAGEANT.

A pageant of the history of Kirkcaldy is to be given in midsummer of next year by St Peter's Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy. The pageant will be enacted in the beautiful policies of Dysart House, and it is anticipated that about 360 children will take part. Mr L. Macbean, Victoria Gardens, author of the Burgh Records of Kirkcaldy, had arranged to write the libretto, and at a meeting in the Church Hall he explained what steps were being taken, and outlined the ten episodes in the town's history which were to form the subject of the pageant.

Mr J. S. Brewster, Edinburgh, who has been so successful in arranging the stage effects for the local Operatic Society, has agreed to be pageant manager.

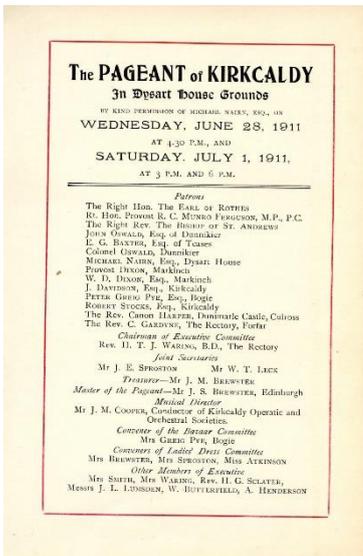
The performance will likely last three days, and it will take place towards the end of June.

He continued by mentioning that there would be a further meeting in October where Mr MacBean would outline his proposals for the event. The Reverend Waring asked that parents take an interest in the event and encourage their children to take part.

He hoped the occasion would be a memorable one. The report certainly indicates there were several bursts of applause during his discourse which would suggest support was there.

By the time the *Fifeshire Advertiser* was published on the 5th November it was able to contain a report on the October meeting. It was held in the St. Peter's church hall and the Reverend Waring was in the chair. He was able to report on progress made to date and that included:-

A large and representative committee had been appointed and the congregations of both St. Michael's and St. Columba's were included.



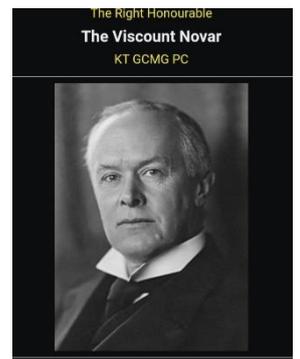
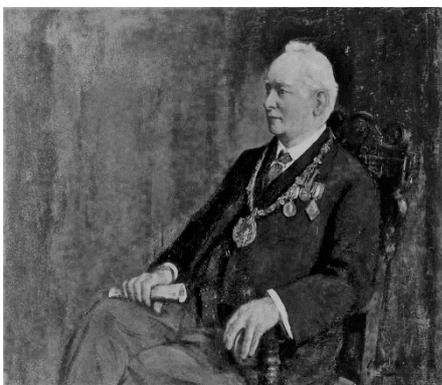
As well as arranging and organising the committees, a number of patrons had been secured and they were listed in the frontispiece of the Pageant Book. They were a combination of local gentry, well-known individuals, and a sprinkling of figures from the wider Episcopal Church.

The Earl of Rothes was the head of the list. Although his wife was not named as a patron

she was certainly involved. Little did she know then what would unfold when she took a passage on the *Titanic* a few years later?

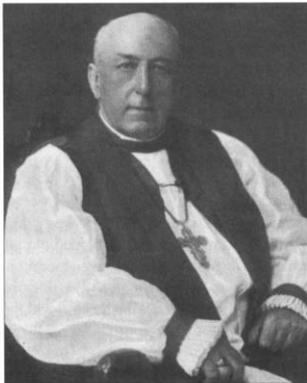


The local landowners were represented by Provost R.C. Munro Ferguson and Colonel Oswald. Michael Nairn's name appeared on the roll, as did the brothers J & W Dixon from Markinch. John Dixon was a long serving Provost of the town and the brothers were owners of a local paper mill.



J. Davidson Esq., Peter Greig Pye and Robert Stocks were well known names from the manufacturing and commercial sector.

From the church there was the Bishop of Brechin, who was the



WALTER JOHN FORBES ROBERDS
Primus 1908 - 1935
Bishop of Brechin 1904 - 1935

Lord Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, along with the Bishop of St. Andrews. The Rev. Canon Harper from Culross and the Rev. C. Gardyne from Forfar completed the list of patrons.

A site at Dysart Park had been offered and accepted with the intended dates being in late

June or early July.

Mr J.S. Brewster, the stage manager for Kirkcaldy Operatic Society, had agreed to see to the stage effects.

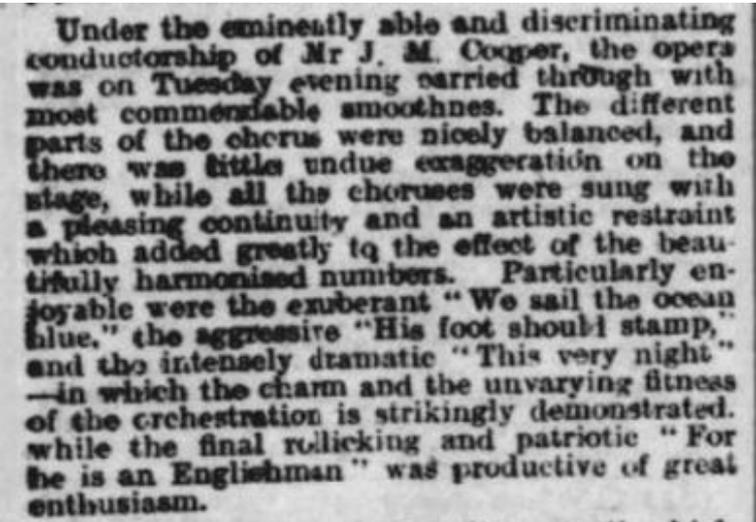
A sub-committee under the direction of Mrs J.M. Brewster was dealing with the costumes. Mr J.M. Brewster was the manager of Kirkcaldy's National Bank branch and no relation to Mr J.S. Brewster

Of vital importance, was that a substantial amount had already been promised as a guarantee fund.

He pointed out that the allocation of parts and the preparation of the costumes still lay before them, not forgetting the arduous task of rehearsals and training. The Reverend Waring then concluded with some complimentary remarks on the libretto written by Mr MacBean.

Mr MacBean in turn spoke in relation to the scope and character of his script. There followed readings from some of the episodes already completed and gave an outline of each of the ten proposed sections. It was apparent that several of the scenes represented moments of great crises in the history of Kirkcaldy. The report contained descriptions of some of the episodes as; lively, tumultuous, dramatic and tragic. Each little episode was rounded off by an especially composed song which was then set to music. Two of these were then performed by a choir of boys and girls before Mr MacBean was thanked for his work by Mr J.M. Brewster and the meeting then concluded. Eight months to go and much work ahead!

Before we leave 1910 we learn from the *Fife Free Press* of the 3rd December that Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society are presenting "Trial by Jury" and "H.M.S. Pinafore" in the King's Theatre for 5 performances. It is being mentioned as the newspaper reports that the orchestra was "under the eminently able and discriminating conductorship of Mr J.M.Cooper". This gentleman would have had a major part to play in the forthcoming event notably in relation to both the songs and the music.

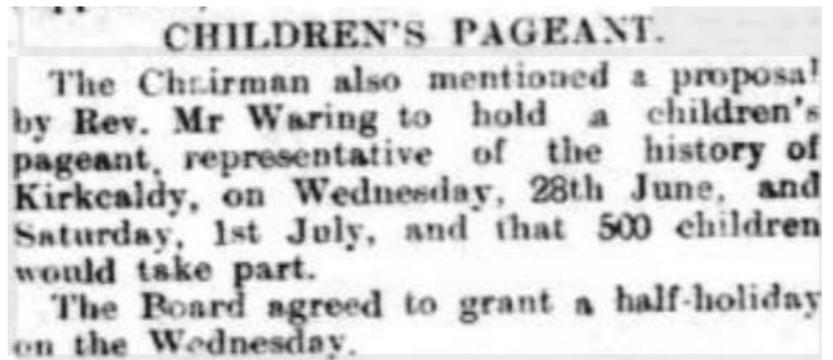


Under the eminently able and discriminating conductorship of Mr J. M. Cooper, the opera was on Tuesday evening carried through with most commendable smoothness. The different parts of the chorus were nicely balanced, and there was little undue exaggeration on the stage, while all the choruses were sung with a pleasing continuity and an artistic restraint which added greatly to the effect of the beautifully harmonised numbers. Particularly enjoyable were the exuberant "We sail the ocean blue," the aggressive "His foot should stamp," and the intensely dramatic "This very night" —in which the charm and the unvarying fitness of the orchestration is strikingly demonstrated. While the final rollicking and patriotic "For he is an Englishman" was productive of great enthusiasm.

We must assume much work and planning was carried out in the intervening period before we obtain an update from the *Fifeshire Advertiser* on the 18th February 1911. A social meeting has been held with the Reverend Waring once again in the Chair. There was some business to be undertaken, the main part of which was a financial review of the church affairs. After some general remarks, Mr Waring moved onto the forthcoming pageant and explained that the ladies of the sewing class are manufacturing 100 costumes each month! Mr Waring encouraged those not involved with the costumes to assist in preparing articles for a bazaar which was planned to take place simultaneously with the pageant.

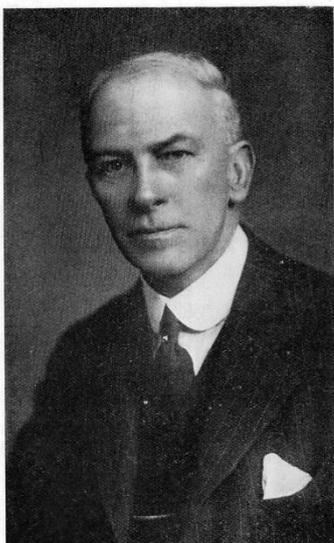
There followed a presentation by Mrs Latham, the oldest member of the congregation, to the Minister. It appears that the good Reverend had been recently married and the congregation presented an inscribed silver tea tray to the couple. Mr MacBean was in attendance and “He spoke of the stupendous task which they as a congregation had before them, to call up past congregations and make them live again. He congratulated the congregation on their progress and wished them all success on their work in the district”. The evening ended with entertainment by members of the congregation followed by a dance. Progress is certainly being made – the venue is organised, the libretto written, costumes are in the course of preparation, and rehearsals are underway.

Great news for schoolchildren was reported by the *Fifeshire Advertiser* on the 13th May 1911. At the meeting of the Kirkcaldy and



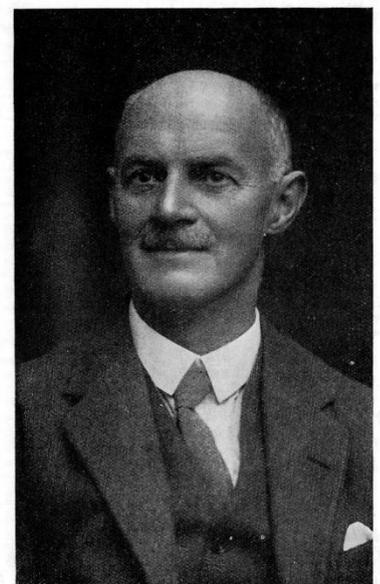
Dysart School Board it was agreed to grant an afternoon holiday on Wednesday the 28th June to coincide with the initial performance of the children's pageant. Without that gesture – the event might possibly have found itself short of cast members. The meeting saw Dysart Councillor Joe Westwood (Later Secretary of State for Scotland) agitating for free school books (yes, at one time parents had to pay). On this occasion he was unsuccessful although his motion found support.

The *Fifeshire Advertiser* of Saturday the 20th May 1911 shows that rapid progress has and is being made and rehearsals will soon take place. “Over 470 youths,



Mr. J. S. BREWSTER, Producer

maidens and children, take part in the performance and are all now busily training. They will be assisted by Mr J.S. Cooper of the Amateur Orchestral Society who is musical conductor of the



Mr. J. M. COOPER, Musical Director

pageant. All the leading roles; Kings, Queens, Warriors, Magistrates, and so on – have been apportioned to the likeliest actors and they are

all preparing their parts. Mr J.S. Brewster, the stage manager of the Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society, is to take charge of the staging. Meantime, the costumes (all of beautiful colours and carefully copied from the actual garments worn in the



different epochs) are being made by a ladies committee directed by Mrs Brewster, National Bank, and Miss Atkinson. These habiliments, along with the gay historic banners and shining armour, will make a spectacular show of a memorable kind”.

It is intended that a grandstand capable of seating 800 people will be erected for the performances. The article also alerts readers to the fact that the Boy's Brigade is to take part in one of the military episodes.

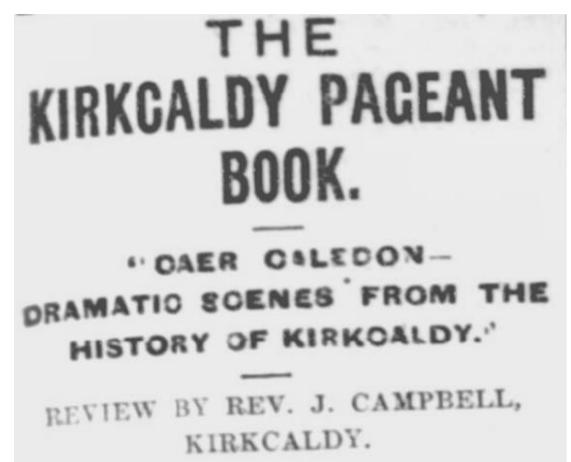
“The pageant book entitled ‘Caer Caledon – Dramatic Scenes from the History of Kirkcaldy’ is now in the hands of the bookbinders and will be available from Wednesday 24th May. It contains the full libretto of dialogues and stage directions, and the numerous choruses to be sung by the various choirs now being trained by the Rev. Mr Waring. We hope that the book will have a wide sale, not only for the sake of the pageant, but because it reproduces as faithfully as possible important scenes in the history of this historical burgh”.

The team secured access to a copy – in fact it was one carrying an inscription showing that it had been presented to Mrs Nairn by the author. It is a comprehensive work and presents the opportunity to reproduce some of the sections although ascertaining the tunes for the songs involved may be more problematic. The book also contains a raft of adverts some of which will be reproduced in the text and appendix – with the intention of giving a flavour of commercial and retail life in Kirkcaldy at the time. Not surprisingly, the book was published by the Fifeshire Advertiser and many of the advertisers also featured regularly in the pages of that newspaper.

The Pageant Book—“Caer Caledon, Dramatic Scenes from the History of Kirkcaldy”—has been issued this week, and a review from the pen of the Rev. John Campbell, minister of the Parish of Kirkcaldy, appears on page 7 of this paper.

The same newspaper was able to announce in its 27th May edition that the book of the pageant was now on sale and available. They were also

able to announce that a review of the book by the longstanding minister of the Parish Church, the Reverend John Campbell, appeared on page 7. The review was in reality no more than a comment on the contents but his view overall was that “the dialogue is bright and vivid, and not too elaborate, while the songs are in every sense happily expressed. The pageant has been prepared by Mr Lachlan MacBean and no one is more competent from his knowledge of the subject



and his literary skill. It is to be produced towards the end of June by the authorities of St Peter's and in aid of the organ fund; and if it is well organised, as we have no doubt it will be, should afford the lieges an opportunity of learning the history of the town in a way at once pleasing and impressive. We hope the weather will be propitious, for much will depend upon the sunshine for the fine effect of the antique dresses and decorations; and that the lieges will show their appreciation of this attempt to portray the varied and eventful story of the rise of the town of Kirkcaldy".

The item had started with a comparison "between those researching and uncovering the past with those looking eagerly to the future and energetically preparing for a new age of social and industrial improvement". Little could he know that only three years later the world, and his congregation, would be embroiled in a conflict which saw the deaths of so many of both the town and the church's young men.

The 24th June edition of the *Fifeshire Advertiser* gave considerable coverage to the upcoming event. Included in this coverage was that the final dress rehearsal would be taking place on Tuesday at 6.30pm when Kirkcaldy's schoolchildren were to be admitted as spectators. It was also reported that one or two photographs had been taken previously by a Mr King (photographer of Hunter Street) and had been

Modern : : W. KING, Art Photographer,
Portraiture. STUDIO—Opposite General Post Office,
HUNTER STREET, KIRKCALDY.

Portraits that are Pictures.

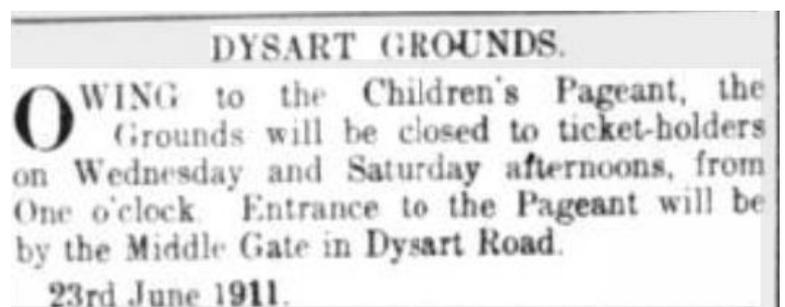
Mr King in his Portraiture works upon the assumption that it is possible by bestowing sufficient care and consideration upon its production to make every Photograph something more than merely "a good likeness." It can, and should be, made a Picture.

The Portraiture of Children.

Photographing Children is a very special feature of Mr King's business. Parents may rely upon his sparing no effort in his endeavours to obtain pleasing Photographs of their Children.

displayed in the High Street for the past week – attracting considerable attention. The *Forth Works Pipe Band* had, through Pipe Major Wallace, kindly volunteered their services in support of the dancing which was to take place on the Wednesday night. The item finished with a plea that, during the performance, silence should be observed as much as possible.

The edition also carried a list of the leading characters and the names of the actors playing them. A public notice indicating that, due to the pageant, the Dysart Grounds would be closed to ticketholders on both the Wednesday and Saturday from 1.00pm. It must have been possible to purchase a season/monthly/weekly ticket to walk in the grounds? The access to the pageant was to be via the middle gate on Dysart Road.



The front page of the same edition carried a large advertisement by St. Peter's Church outlining the times of the various events and a copy is shown below. There were some differences between the events of the two days.

On Wednesday 28th both the bazaar and the pageant were to

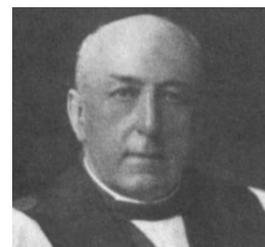
General Notices.
ST PETER'S CHURCH, KIRKOALDY
Centenary of the Congregation (Re-established 1811.)
In connection with the above there will be held
IN THE
GROUNDS OF DYSART HOUSE,
(By kind permission of Michael Nairn, Esq.)
ON
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28th
AND
SATURDAY, JULY 1st
A GRAND
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
Representative of the History of Kirkcaldy, and comprising 500 performers, aided by the members of the Kirkcaldy Amateur Orchestral Society under the direction of Mr J. M. Cooper.
TEAS will be served each day (price 1s and 6d in the adjoining Park.
There will be Stalls of Fancy Work, Foreign Ware, Household Goods and Pottery, Flowers and Sweets, &c.
Also Games and other Entertainments
Dancing after 7.
On Wednesday, June 28th, at Three p.m.,
The Bazaar and Pageant will be opened by Miss OSWALD, Dunnikier.
Chairman, - MICHAEL NAIRN, Esq.
Pageant Performance at 4.30 p.m.

be opened at 3.00pm, although the pageant itself was not scheduled to take place until 4.30pm. This would give patrons time to enjoy the bazaar which was advertised to include; fancy work, foreign ware, household goods, pottery and flowers etc. Games and other entertainments were also to take place and dancing was scheduled for 7.00pm. The pipe band had already offered to play at the dancing and as members of *Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society* were involved in the pageant – perhaps they provided a different style of dance music? Wednesday's events were to be opened by Miss Oswald with Mr Nairn installed as chairman.

On Saturday the 1st July both bazaar and pageant were again being opened at 3.00pm. However, this time the pageant was being performed twice at both 3.00pm and 6.00pm. There are no signs of any entertainments, games or dancing, on the

Saturday. Saturday saw the appearance of the Most Reverend the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the

most Reverend W.J.F. Robberds D.D. to declare the events open with Colonel Oswald of Dunnikier acting as chairman.



On Saturday, July 1st, at Three p.m.
 The Bazaar and Pageant will be opened by
 THE MOST REV. THE PRIMUS OF THE SCOTTISH
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (MOST REV. W. J. F. ROBBERDS, D.D.)
 Chairman, - COL. OSWALD, DUNNIKIER.
 Pageant Performances at 3 and 6 p.m.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

WEDNESDAY—
 Reserved Seats (Grand Stand) 4 6; Un-
 reserved Seats, 3/; Standing Room, 1/6
 6d less if taken before day. Children
 under 12 half-price.

SATURDAY—
 Reserved (Grand Stand) 2 3; Unreserved
 Seats, 1s 3d; Standing Room, 9d. 3d
 less if taken before day. Children under
 twelve half price.

All Pageant Tickets admit to Bazaar
 Motors, each day, 2s 6d—at owner's risk
ENTRANCE BY MIDDLE GATE ONLY, DYSART ROAD.
 No Cameras Allowed.

Tickets for the Reserved Seats can
 be obtained only from Messrs
 Deas & Hood, 263 High Street,
 Kirkcaldy. Telephone 267.

Other Tickets and Book of Words (price 1s and
 6d) on sale at,
 Messrs Deas & Hood, High Street; Messrs
 Davidson, High Street; Messrs Young, High St.;
 Miss Page, Harbour; Mr David Oowler, The
 Cross, Dysart; Mr D. Wood, Burntisland; The
 Pharmacy, Markisch; Malcolm's Salon, Leven.

N.B.—If the weather prevents a performance on
 Wednesday, Wednesday Tickets will be
 available on Saturday. If Saturday
 should be wet, other arrangements will
 be advertised.

There was an eye-watering difference in the admission prices between the two days and as will be shown in the newspaper snippet – the great and the good were much in evidence on the Wednesday. The higher prices must reflect the financial wherewithal of many of those attending, although entertainment and a dance were also available that day.

The admission prices are shown below:-

Position	Wednesday	Saturday
Grandstand - reserved	4/6d	2/3d
As above but unreserved	3/0d	1/3d
Standing	1/6d*	0/9d+
Under 12s	½ price	½ price

There was a discount of 6d*, on the admission cost, if bought in advance for the Wednesday performance and 3d+ if bought in advance for the Saturday. A pageant ticket gained admission to the bazaar.

Car parking was available at a cost of 2/6d per vehicle. To put things in context, Joe Westwood, in his impassioned plea for free school books, quoted the statistic that 85% of working people in the town took home £1:05:00 or less per week.

The adverts made it abundantly clear that cameras were not permitted which probably explains why there appears to be only two photographs of the event in existence. We have been able to retrieve both.

Not surprisingly, it was the *Fifeshire Advertiser* who offered a full report on proceedings in their edition of the 1st July.

As the Wednesday had an hour and a half between the opening ceremony and the start of the pageant, we will fill the time by, listening to the opening ceremony, touring the bazaar and spending some money, before embarking on the highlight of the day – the pageant itself.

The Opening Ceremony

Having bought the pageant book and studied the newspaper advertisement, we make our way over to the most spacious of the many tents erected on the site. Here the opening ceremony will unfold and we await Mr Michael Nairn saying the first formal words. His introduction was both simple and not over elaborate, during which he paid tribute to the Oswald family and Miss Oswald in particular. There seems little doubt



that Miss Oswald was connected with many good causes in the area and in particular was known for her work with the Victoria Nursing Association.

However in her opening remarks, if not apologetic, she was certainly a tad self-deprecating. She felt that the closeness of the coronation had meant that many of the “light and leading individuals who would have done justice to this occasion were in London” and almost by default the duty had fallen to her. When we learn her remarks included that four past generations of her family had been connected with St. Peter’s – it would seem, that despite the custom of the time being for a male preference, she was the ideal candidate. Her speech was certainly thought provoking and centred around two themes.



She was delighted the theme was historical as “in this present generation inventions and discoveries have followed one another so fast that the whole attention seems to be concentrated in the present – even the future and the respect for the past seems to be only lightly respected – as long as the pleasure and enjoyment of the present can be tasted to the full. Therefore never was there a time when it was more useful to be pulled up short and for a brief time to call upon one’s eyes and imagination to construct the past”.

She then moved on to her second theme which came as a surprise as her fashion views would be the opposite of what might have been anticipated. “ Perhaps what we are mostly looking forward to, and will open our eyes the most, is the dress of older times – a picturesque and for the most part more suitable and convenient mode after having to gaze with ever increasing wonder and well, certainly not admiration on the latest developments in fashion (laughter). I sincerely hope that the mothers will allow their children to appear in these clothes, from time to time, so they can see the difference between the fashions of the past and the present. It would show them how very much more graceful and becoming the fashions of the past were compared to the fashions of the present (applause and laughter)”.

There then followed a sincere appreciation of all the work done with tributes being paid to all those involved which included a “potential canonisation”. Mr MacBean in particular was singled out for praise. “No more when asked about the derivation of our town’s name shall we reply – “Oh, of course the Kirk of the Culdees”. No, Mr MacBean has taught us better than that – no kirk at all – but Caer, City of the Caledonian. Caer has been made familiar to our ears”.



The pageant and bazaar were declared open, and the Reverend Waring then mentioned, that although he “did not wish to interpose between the company and their buying capacity” – he had to thank Miss Oswald for her remarks and assistance. Mr Nairn was also accorded sincere thanks for providing the beautiful park for the function.

At The Bazaar

“In conjunction with the pageant, a bazaar and fancy fair was held in the magnificently situated park adjoining, which was dotted with tents for the display and sale of fancywork, foreign ware, household goods, pottery, flowers and sweets etc., while tea and other refreshments were served in the spacious tents.



Various games and amusements were also arranged and before the commencement of the pageant the scene was a bright and busy one.

At the close of the event it was found that the sum drawn was £58". (In 2022 this equates to £12,550)

The Stalls

Writing this portion feels like being a TV commentator at Royal Ascot. This is perhaps an unnecessary description of the dress

code on display, but it is included as it presents a snapshot of

CORONATION! Fireworks
Fireworks
Fireworks
SUPPORTED BY 'PHONE 55
Thomson Bros.,
EXPLOSIVE AGENTS,
238 High Street, Kirkcaldy.

life, for some, at the end of the Edwardian era. Some of the 'accessories' I have heard of, but have no knowledge of their purpose – others I simply never heard of – but here goes.

“At the stalls some pretty embroidery was displayed, the fancy work being presided over by Miss Oswald in China blue silk, draped with black lace, and a toque of mole crinoline, with touches of blue and amethyst.

Miss Mary Oswald, in dove grey, the panel front edged with silver lace and worn with a black silk coat and black hat wreathed in pink roses. The Misses Balfour also assisted. (there is no description of their outfits – that would not go down well in Balbirnie!)

At the Rectory stall were Mrs Waring in a blue linen gown with touches of black; Mrs Sclater in navy blue with a black plumed hat; Mrs Lumsden in a tossore costume, her black hat banded with dull gold.

At the foreign ware stall, where beautiful Indian curios were on sale, was Mrs Michael Nairn in a coat of fine navy serge, her straw hat wreathed with damask roses; Mrs G. Beveridge in a black and white striped gown and Mrs Robertson in black silk.

The Arts and Pottery stall was in the charge of Mrs Tod, Kirkcaldy, in a gown of mole minion; Mrs Dixon, Markinch, in an amethyst gown, with dull gold embroidery; and Mrs Beveridge in a cinnamon costume with a rose trimmed hat.

The Household Goods stall was in the hands of Mrs Lendrum in a navy coat, and assisted by Mrs Stocks in a white linen gown, with lace insertions, and by Miss Lendrum, Miss Fairweather and Miss Christian Stocks. At the Tea Stall was Mrs Pye in a grey silk gown, with hyacinth blue hat; and Mrs Cameron in a black and white toilette; and at the Sweet Stall were Mrs Scott, Mrs Stewart Smith and Mrs Cameron.

Among the visitors were Lady Nairn in a dove grey costume, braided, with a dull yellow plume in the hat, Mrs Spencer-Nairn in an amethyst toilette; Mrs Black, St. Mary's, in a black costume, braided, and a black hat with white plumes; Miss Nairn, The Priory, in a mole costume and a mole toque, trimmed with shaded roses; Mrs Ogilvy Shepherd in black silk and a black chip hat with white plumes; Mrs Russell in pale blue foulard worn under a biscuit coloured coat, and a turquoise blue straw; Mrs Fairweather, Mrs Dixon, etc."



Time has passed and as we approach 4.30pm, it is time for the pageant.

Banner headlines were the order of the day and seismic ones at that:-

Historical Drama in Kirkcaldy

The Pageant of the Past

A Magnificent Performance



The morning of the 28th had seen threatening weather but by the afternoon it had given way to sunshine. The arena was described as a wide oval with a gravel path which traversed the area

from end to end acting as a natural “barrier” between the spectators and the “stage”. The grandstand was in place and all seats were occupied.

The writer (possibly Lachlan MacBean) believed “that the attendance reflected not only the utmost credit on the Rev. Waring who had; planned, organised, trained and led the project, but also on his band of devoted helpers who, as it transpired, had proved a very talented group”.

“The respect in which the congregation are held in town was shown by the large attendance; many coming considerable distances to enjoy what they were sure would be a memorable afternoon. They were not disappointed as there was not a dull

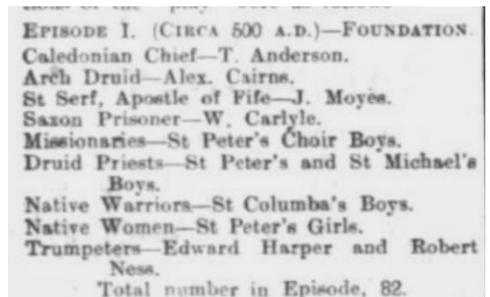
moment from the minute that the pretty little trumpeters sounded their first fanfare until the close. The dresses and banners were rich in beauty, both the singing and acting was good, and there was no hitch in the whole performance”.

The different sections of the ‘play’ and the *Advertiser’s* comments were as follows:-

Episode 1 (circa 500 A.D.) – **Foundation**

The characters in this episode form the chorus throughout the rest of the episodes.

“A scene of barbaric pomp representing the founding of the city and to grace the occasion and handsel the Druid’s alter a Saxon prisoner was about to be slaughtered by the Arch Druid. Then, St.



EPISODE I. (CIRCA 500 A.D.)—FOUNDATION.
Caledonian Chief—T. Anderson.
Arch Druid—Alex. Cairns.
St Serf, Apostle of Fife—J. Moyes.
Saxon Prisoner—W. Carlyle.
Missionaries—St Peter's Choir Boys.
Druid Priests—St Peter's and St Michael's
Boys.
Native Warriors—St Columba's Boys.
Native Women—St Peter's Girls.
Trumpeters—Edward Harper and Robert
Ness.
Total number in Episode, 82.

St. Serf the Apostle of Fife and his band of white robed missioners appear on the scene. In the altercation that follows the prisoner is released but a Christian is slain and his blood becomes the seed of the church. The scene ends with the Caledonians being Christianised”.



Photo by [Mr. Kiso, Hunter Street.]
KING MALCOLM III. and QUEEN MARGARET.
 And now sweet Queen
 Come, let thy city, given to God, be seen.

Episode II (A.D. 1075) – **Dedication**

“This was a simple and idyllic scene in which King Malcolm the hunter, at the request of St. Margaret the Queen,

presents Kir-Caldyn as a gift to God and His Church. The hymn “This is a City of God” was finely sung”.

EPISODE II.—DEDICATION.
 (A. D. 1075).
 King Malcolm III.—Arch. Robson.
 Queen Margaret—Ella Russell.
 Ivo, Abbot of Culdees—Bertie Capel.
 Earls and Ladies—St Michael's S. School.
 French Priests—St Michael's Sunday School.
 Total number in Episode, 15.

Episode III (A.D. 1451) - **Restoration**

“A gorgeous King and Abbot were confronted by the democratic Town Council, who obtained restoration of the town's liberties from the Abbey of Dunfermline. The acting of the Councillors discussing “the town's affairs” was excellent and the Symbol Song was sung with vim”.

EPISODE III.—RESTORATION.
 (A. D. 1451).
 King James II.—J. Inglis.
 Richard, Abbot of Dunfermline—J. Galloway
 Bailies of Kirkcaldy—P. White and R.
 Clephane.
 Councillors—St Columba's Sunday School.
 Total number in Episode, 12

Episode IV (A.D. 1559) – Reformation

“A riotous scene in which townsfolk were harried by the French soldiers of Mary of Guise and led to the appearance of Sir William Kirkcaldy, The Queen Regent, Argyll, Lord Balnaves, etc. After an interlude in which the East Mill of Kirkcaldy was sold by the Church a herald announced both the death of the Regent and the ascension and approach of Queen Mary riding a white pony, followed by ladies on horseback and French soldiers. The sun at this moment shone brightly, and the scene was very striking. Mary was very queenly indeed”.

EPISODE IV.—REFORMATION.	
(A.D. 1559-64).	
Queen Regent, Mary of Guise—	Vera Beatson
Mary, Queen of Scots—	Gwendolyn Lendrum
Earl of Argyll—	Eric Dow.
Lord Balnaves, Kirkcaldy—	Robert Forsyth.
Sir William Kirkcaldy—	Andrew Forbes.
George, Commendator of Dunfermline—	Geo. Denholm.
Robert Richardson of St Mary's Priory—	W. Miller.
Bailies—	John Nicol and John Maclean.
Herald—	Fred. Hodgkinson.
Page—	Hettie Pont.
Townswomen—	Margaret Christie, Jane Johnstone, Louisa Pryce, Lizzie M'Phail, Aggie Simpson.
Townsmen—	Frank M'Millan, W. Blyth, A. Simpson, J. Thomson, W. Miller, F. Osborne.
Lords—	V. Kirk, G. Marshall.
Ladies—	Phyllis Beatson, Charlotte Beatson, Isabel Thompson.
French Soldiers—	D. Stevenson, J. Inglis, J. Lawson, G. Bogie, H. Clark, J. Robertson, Ian Macrae, G. Dorward, J. Bogie, M. Bogie.
Total number of characters, 39.	

Episode V (A.D. 1640 - 50) – Desolation

“A harsh and stern scene in which the townsmen are being drilled for the Civil War duties. Covenanter soldiers were made honorary burgesses and amid the storm Charles granted Kirkcaldy its charter. The dramatic element was heightened by the pride of the magistrates, in their fleet of ships, which had been the subject of a witch's curse when she had been executed the previous year and the punishing of a townsman who had refused to doff his bonnet to a magistrate. Three messengers

EPISODE V.—DESOLATION.	
(A.D. 1640-50).	
King Charles I.—	J. King.
Oliver Cromwell—	R. Ross.
Marquis of Argyll—	J. M'Tavish.
Macdonald of Glengarry—	G. Martin.
Lord Elcho—	A. Mair.
Bailie Robert Whyte—	G. Henderson.
Bailie Alex. Herd—	H. Brooks.
Saunders Robertson, Independent Burgess—	J. Adamson.
Independent Burgess.	
Town's Officer—	R. Goodsir.
Capt. John French—	P. Carson.
Covenanting Drillmaster.	
Quartermasters and Townsmen—	Members of Boys' Brigade.
Cromwell's Troopers—	Members of Boys' Brigade.
Townswomen—	St Peter's Sunday School.
Widows of Slain at Kilyth—	St Michael's and St Columba's Sunday Schools.
Messengers—	David Taylor, Andrew Fraser, J. Henderson.
Sailors—	D. M'Tavish, John Mair, A. Blyth, Robert Motion, John Bryce, W. Butterfield.
Total number of characters, 87.	

brought successive tales of disaster – the battle of Kilsyth, the arrival of Cromwell, and the capture of the town’s ships”.

Episode VI (A.D. 1689) – **Jubilation**

EPISODE VI.—JUBILATION.
(A.D. 1689).
Provost James Crawford—G. Butterfield.
Duke of Perth, Chancellor of Scotland—G. Thomas.
Bailies of Kirkcaldy—W. Capel and Alex. Butterfield.
Councillors—St Michael’s Sunday School.
Burgesses—St Michael’s Sunday School.
Sailors—St Michael’s Sunday School.
Lord Melville of Raith—Wm. Crombie.
Lady Melville—Yvonne Descamps.
Total number of characters 15.

“Here was a contrast. In place of Cromwell’s Ironsides and the sorrows of war, here was an outburst of joy when William and Mary were proclaimed at the cross. Lord and Lady Melville,

whose son fought at Killiecrankie, then brought news of the death of Bonnie Dundee; and finally Kirkcaldy’s enemy, the Duke of Perth, was lodged in the old Tolbooth. “Give him the inmost cell, 300 of our townsmen will guard him well”.

Episode VII (A.D. 1745) – **Invasion**

“A Skirl of pipes brought on the Jacobite Highlanders to demand tribute from Kirkcaldy, and the action of buying them off through a rascally lawyer was made very amusing”.

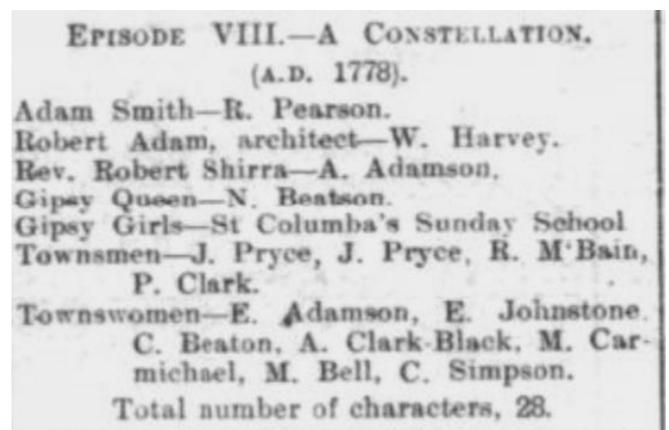
EPISODE VII.—INVASION.
(A.D. 1745).
Earl of Kellie—A. Miller.
Provost Robert Whyte—R. Bell.
Old Scotch Lawyer—A. M’Ara.
Town’s Officer—A. Higgins.
Jacobite Highlanders—High School Boys.
Councillors—St Columba’s S. School.
Total number of characters, 22.

Episode VIII (A.D. 1778) – A Constellation

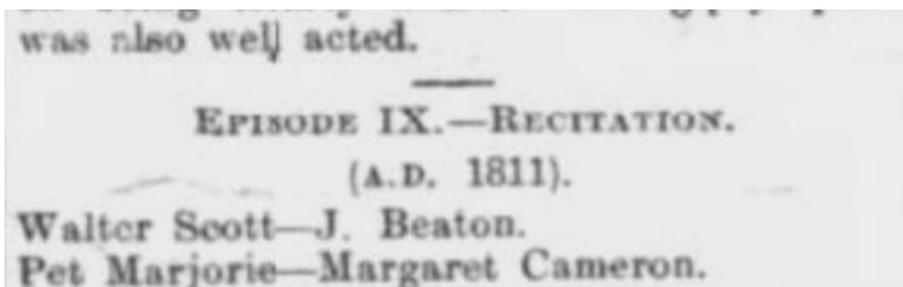


“A very attractive part of the scene was the gypsies’ dance, especially arranged for it. The girls, all from St. Columba’s Sunday school, were grace itself. Adam Smith, with his “Wealth of

Nations” under his arm, was a fine old philosopher, and the Rev. Robert Shirra in his black clerical gown did well, his remarks about the Pathhead weavers and so on being clearly heard. The Gypsy Queen was also well acted”.



Episode IX (A.D. 1811) – Recitation

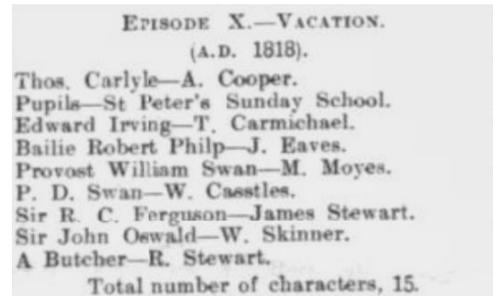


“Many liked this episode best of all, the dialogue being distinct, and Sir Walter’s

deerhound enjoying the proceedings. The Pet Marjorie song was beautifully sung”.

Episode X (A.D. 1818) - **Vacation**

A young Scotch dominie in a long black coat, high white collar and black stockings, looked every inch to be Thomas Carlyle, and he wielded his tawse well. The butcher and his cleaver caught the fancy of the spectators the most”.



EPISODE X.—VACATION.
(A.D. 1818).
Thos. Carlyle—A. Cooper.
Pupils—St Peter's Sunday School.
Edward Irving—T. Carmichael.
Bailie Robert Philp—J. Eaves.
Provost William Swan—M. Moyes.
P. D. Swan—W. Castles.
Sir R. C. Ferguson—James Stewart.
Sir John Oswald—W. Skinner.
A Butcher—R. Stewart.
Total number of characters, 15.

Grand Finale and Procession

Fife Towns

“A magnificent tableau at the close was a splendid entertainment in itself worth going far to see. All the 500 actors in their various costumes from the savage Caledonians to the modern butcher in his blue stripe apron came on in one long procession, arranged in a wide semi-circle with the Queens and other leading characters, horses and all, in the centre. The colouring and grouping were beautiful and impressive.

Then followed another procession comprising “The Ancient Towns of Fife with Old Romance and Modern Life”, represented by maidens richly arrayed, each with trains and train-bearers, banners and attendants, and when each had mounted her pedestal Kirkcaldy, fairest and grandest of all, slowly paced to her station on the Druidical alter that still stood in the centre”.

Cupar - Elizabeth Christie – with an emerald green train, borne by girls in white with emerald green sashes. Attendants – 3 girls in standard flags; 3 boys dressed as lawyers. The banner was orange and green.

St. Andrews – Elizabeth Clark Black - robed in sky blue. Attendants were 3 girls wearing University caps and gowns and three golfers in red jackets carrying golf clubs. Banner was a white cross on blue background.

Falkland – Kate Derrick – in rose pink with attendants of 3 Queens, 3 pages and one King. The banner was blue with a brown stag, green trees and grass.

Anstruther - Helen Adamson – was dressed in grey and covered with fishing nets. The attendants were 3 fisher girls carrying creels along with 3 fisher lads. Anstruther's banner was a white anchor on deep red.

Dunfermline - Violet Pocklington – robed with a purple train. Attendants – 3 girls representing the linen trade and 3 little monks with black cowls carrying rosaries. The banner was white lions with a tower on blue.

Leven – Rosina Hodgkinson – robed in a sand coloured train attended by 6 'beach paddlers' who were wearing sun bonnets and carrying spades and pails with their dresses tucked up. The Leven banner was the cross of St. Andrew with red devices.

Burntisland – Alice Harvey – robed in sage green, attended by 3 little sailors and 3 girls with Union Jacks. The banner was blue with white ships and green grass.

Buckhaven – Phoebe Cooper – robed in grey, covered with fishing nets and attended by 3 girls dressed to represent cockle-shells with another 3 in green seaweed dresses carrying mussels and whelks. The banner was a white ship on a background of dark and saxe blue.

Kinghorn – Mary Downie – robed in deep red, with 6 soldiers, dressed in Khaki, trundling a cannon behind them. The banner was dark blue with a white tower, green grass and orange stars.

Dysart - Nellie Ryder – robed in black velvet and attended by 3 girls in sparkling dresses to represent salt. There were 3 boys who were dressed in black carrying miner's picks and lamps. Dysart's banner was a brown tree on white.

All of the above had 6 train-bearers and 3 banner-bearers.

Kirkcaldy – Valentine Beatson – preceded by a blue banner with the town's arms. Kirkcaldy herself was arrayed in a train of gold over white. Attendants – 3 little boys representing St. Peter's, St. Columba's and St. Michael's. 3 little girls represented the linen industry wearing linen clothing and 3 boys representing the linoleum industry in white costumes with linoleum borders. A further 3 girls represented the earth-ware (pottery) manufacturing industry whose outfits were

embroidered with the rose and thistle and some with cocks and hens. The banner is simply described as dark blue and white.

12 train bearers and 5 banner-bearers.

Then the audience and actors joined in the grand “Old Hundred” and the National Anthem, and the Pageant shortly dissolved.

We were intrigued to ascertain if the organisers had involved the other towns mentioned, or if the parts had been played by members of the Kirkcaldy congregations. Fortunately, 1911 was a Census year and it was fairly easily established that it was local girls/ladies who represented the Fife towns. It also became rather obvious that these representatives were played by those in their late teens/early twenties. A little further research showed that ‘sister towns’ were in fact places where there was an Episcopal church or mission. For this reason at that time Leslie, for example, was not represented as their church only came into existence after the First World War.

The more the reports are read, the more impressive are the efforts to stage this extravaganza. An army of helpers/assistants were involved and where possible we are pleased to be able to highlight their contribution. Given the fact it was such a local event, perhaps it may be possible for some readers to trace members of their families (especially the less common surnames).

Designers

“The study of ancient costumes and arms occupied the committee for months and the chief contributors were as follows:-

Head-dresses – Mrs Stewart Smith and Miss Sang.

Banners – Miss Frances Dixon*, Markinch, who not only designed, but provided and made the lovely and rich banners of the various towns. *The daughter of the Markinch Provost.

Burgh Trains – Mrs Brewster and Miss Atkinson designed the lovely robes worn by the ladies representing towns.

Armour – The same two ladies designed and made the armour and the Men’s Club painted it.

Accessories – The altar, shields, halberds, swords, spears, battle axes, etc., were designed by Mr J.M. Brewster and Mr Sproston and the Men’s Club made them up”.

Dresses

“The dresses were a feature of the whole pageant. No colours on so extended a scale has ever been seen in the district before and we congratulate; Mrs Brewster, Miss Atkinson, Mrs Sproston, Mrs Waring, Mrs Sclater and the other ladies on the remarkable taste and skill shown in this important department. Their number included; Mrs Baillie, Miss Beatson, Mrs Irvine, Miss Snell, Miss Taylor, Mrs Scott, Mrs Capel, Mrs Storey, Mrs James Aitchison, Miss Lizzie Aitchison, Miss Sang,

Mrs Alexander, Mrs Sharman, Miss Bunker, Miss Taylor, Mrs Meiklejohn, Mrs Studley, Mrs Leck, Mrs Moir, Mrs Anderson etc.”.

The Training

The training of the little actors for the different episodes reflected great credit on their teachers, who also managed the preparations for placing the different scenes on the stage. The gentlemen who performed these duties with the utmost success were; Messrs R Hodgkinson, A Hodgkinson, Pearson,



Rev Mr Sclater

Hoddy, Scott, Buist, Jack, McKenzie, Bell, Robertson, Wilkie and Ingram.

The children of St. Peter’s were trained by Mr Waring, those of St. Michael’s by the Rev. Mr Sclater and those of St. Columba’s by the Rev. Mr Kewley.

The great success of the performance was very largely due to the stage management of Mr J.S. Brewster who unobtrusively superintended it all. Mr J.M. Cooper and his excellent orchestra supplied the accompaniments, and Mr Cooper not only conducted the singing but wrote practically the whole of the varied and tuneful music (except the beautiful number composed by Mr Harrison Cooper). Mr W.T. Leck was a most capable secretary and his arrangements were universally satisfactory. Mr J.M. Brewster not only arranged the financial details but gave every help in the overall management. Mr J.E. Sproston not only gave valuable aid in the general

management but attended specifically to the more artistic accessories.

Saturday the 1st July 1911

The Fifeshire Advertiser of the 8th July carried a report on the events of the previous Saturday. The column inches devoted to the story were much reduced and for the purposes of this narrative we will only provide an outline of the afternoon and evening performances.

Yet again, a lengthy list of ‘celebrities’ were present and for interest the names appearing in the newspaper are shown. As can be seen, they are fairly representative of the county and beyond. It would seem quite safe to assume that Colonel Oswald had returned from the coronation celebrations in the capital. It was he who was in the Chair and introduced the Bishop of Brechin who had accepted the invitation to open the event.

Amongst those present we observed:—The Most Rev. the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Bishop of St Andrews; Colonel Oswald and the Misses Oswald, Dunaskier; Mr and Mrs M. Nairn, Dysart House; Mr, Mrs, and Misses Traquair, Balmuto; Mr A. Watt, Balbarton; Mr and Mrs P. Pye, Bogie House; Mr and Mrs R. W. Brown, Leslie; Rev. Wm. Todd and Miss Todd; Mr Alex. Davidson and Miss Davidson; Mr J. B. Davidson; Bailie Dishart; Mr W. Williamson, senr.; Mrs Mason; Mr J. Rae Mason; Mr and Mrs J. L. Lumsden; Mr Joseph Thomson; Mr and Mrs John Rough and Miss Rough; Miss Douglas; Mr W. D. Sang, C.E., Cepar; Mrs Reid, Mr John Reid, and Miss Reid, Gallatoun; Mr G. F. Scott; Miss M'Laren, The Laurels; Mr and Mrs George Pirie; Mr and Mrs Robert Blyth; Mrs J. M. Cooper; Mrs T. B. Hood; Mr and Mrs George W. Whyte; Mrs H. Harley; Mr Keith B. Hoddy; Councillor Sinclair; Mr W. Birrell; Mr and Mrs Geo. Taylor; Mr L. Grant, jun.; Mr John C. M'Leod; Mr and Mrs Henry Reid; Mr and Mrs Flack, Richmond, Surrey; Mr and Mrs James M. Young; Rev. E. Marr; Dean of Guild and Mrs Syme; Mr Baxter of Teases; Mr J. Banks, Sunnyhill; etc., etc.



WALTER JOHN FORBES ROBBERDS
Primus 1908 - 1935
Bishop of Brechin 1904 - 1935

Colonel Oswald was delighted that such a hardworking man had been able to spare the time to attend and open the function. It was his sincere hope that the Bishop would enjoy his visit and that he would make an early return to Kirkcaldy.

The Most Rev. W.J.F. Robberds D.D. rose to speak and after a few general remarks he admitted that, while he lived in Dundee and made frequent rail journey's to Edinburgh, until today he had never set foot in the town. He was delighted to be present as he had never seen a pageant before. To be taking part in the centenary celebrations, especially when so many children were involved, was something he was looking forward to.

“He had never known so much about Kirkcaldy as he did when he read the extremely able and literary libretto which had been produced in conjunction with the pageant. He never dreamt that so many distinguished people had been native or connected with Kirkcaldy.

He could only conclude by saying how heartily and sincerely he congratulated Mr Waring and the large band of helpers he must have had in setting up the pageant”.

The Rev. Waring thanked the public for their magnificent participation and then offered the congregation's thanks to both the Bishop and Colonel Oswald. His final duty was the call for three cheers, for firstly Mr MacBean and then Mr Cooper – they were most certainly loudly given!

The weather, bar a short shower, had been excellent and the seated accommodation had been fully taken up with the standing areas also thronged. “The acting, the singing and the procession, all appeared to give the greatest pleasure and, at

the close, a lovely bouquet was presented to Miss V. Beatson who portrayed “Kirkcaldy” in the closing spectacle.

The Evening, and to Date, the Last Performance

Once again, there was a good attendance and the *Advertiser* reported that there was no falling-off in either the acting or the singing and the spoken word could be distinctly heard.” At the close when the grand grouping of performers had taken place amid bravery and pomp – two verses of the “Old One Hundred” were sung.

The Reverend Waring then spoke the closing words “expressing his thanks to all who had witnessed the pageant and to Mr Nairn for the beautiful grounds so generously granted. He also expressed thanks to Mr J.S. Cooper and his admirable orchestra for the assistance given. Mr Cooper had not only conducted but had composed and arranged the greater part of the music.

They were also greatly indebted to their friend, Mr J.S. Brewster, who had managed the singing so well – and they were due a debt of gratitude to Mr MacBean who had placed at their disposal the words of his book. He believed that Mr MacBean was present and they ought to ask him to come forward to receive their thanks (cheers).

Mr MacBean, having acknowledged the compliment, said “No author had ever got for his poor words so magnificent a setting. It was through the genius of Mr Waring and his

splendid band of helpers that the bygone generations had risen and passed before them (applause). The taste and skill shown by Mrs Brewster and Miss Atkinson and the other ladies, backed up by the handicraft of the Men's Club, was a revelation and he had pleasure in asking the audience to give them a hearty cheer. (Great cheering).

Then the assembly, to the number of 500, led by their tuneful choir of Druids and Christians, heartily sang the National Anthem and slowly the pageant drifted away.

After the Dust had Settled

It is probably only fair and proper to leave the last words and final review to the August edition of *St. Peter's Church Magazine*.

It was the Reverend Waring who produced the article and his opening remarks indicated that, in his view, at least six items were necessary for a complete success.

- A good site
- A dramatic Libretto
- Bright and tuneful music
- A large and extensive wardrobe
- Careful and patient training
- Fine weather



1) The minister went on to say that it “would be difficult to imagine a spot more directly adapted for the purpose than the gardens of Dysart House”. The spontaneous offer in the Autumn of Mr and Mrs Nairn to use the grounds relieved us of much anxiety”.

2) “Mr MacBean’s share in the pageant is beyond all computation. As a congregation we have no conceivable claim* on him but, from the first, he threw himself heart and soul into the project and produced a work of real literary excellence. The dramatic touch was in evidence from the first episode. The lyrics were instinctive with the fire of true poetry and, when set to Mr J. M. Cooper and Mr Harrison Cooper’s music and adaptations, were as happily wedded as any Gilbert & Sullivan combination”.



*He was a member of St Brycedale’s congregation.

3) “Nor must we stint with our tribute to the Kirkcaldy Amateur Orchestral Society for their wholly gratuitous services. There was not a single Episcopalian among them and the depth of our obligation increases twofold by their well-known efficiency under Mr J.M. Cooper’s conductorship”.

4) “But there was something homemade in the pageant – the dresses and the properties. Only a lady’s pen could do justice to the former but even a mere male can appreciate the enormous trouble, thought, work and skill, invested in their

production. Almost a mile of material was used, another mile of bindings and trimmings, over 3,000 buttons and fastening – all for under £60. These facts are ample testimony to the courage, energy and economy, of our lady workers.

The premiere place in our thanks and congratulations belong of right to Mrs Brewster and Miss Atkinson who have slaved since Christmas in studying, designing, cutting out and preparing, the various costumes. But even their zeal would have been unequal to the task without the aid of a large staff of workers.

One hundred dresses each month is a formidable order, not to speak of hats, trimmings and accessories, but it was duly executed and carried through with a heartiness and goodwill which makes us regret that we do not have enough space to pay individual compliments. A sectional reference must suffice. Let Pathhead be famed for its millinery and head gear, the Links for the good honest sewing, and St. Peter's for its private industry and enterprise. Markinch, too, deserves to be embellished on one of its own banners.

Nor must the men be deprived of their share of the credit. There were sandals to be made, the swords, the spears and the cutlasses to be fashioned. The Druidical altar had to be built and painted along with the accessories.

Everyone gave of their best and the result was a surprise to us as well as to the town at large. It is wonderful what a little paint and ingenuity can achieve”.

5) “Our fifth requisite for success was ensured when Mr J.S. Brewster consented to act as Master of the Pageant. Under his initial instruction a good deal of the spadework was done by those entrusted with the charge of the different episodes.

The choir, which formed such a pleasing feature of the performances, began practicing early in February and attended faithfully and regularly their weekly drilling.

It was well into May before a start was made on the acting and every night there might have been heard, in the vicinity of the hall, cries of “Caer Caledon” – “French Sodgers” – “Jones the Pirate,” mingled with bugle calls and lusty cheers.

For nothing are the children and teachers to be more congratulated on than the easy way in which they fell into their places at Dysart.

Four full rehearsals had been arranged. At the first, half the numbers of children were absent owing to trips and other



engagements, at the next two the weather was impossible, rendering an adjournment to the theatre* necessary; at the final dress rehearsal a noisy audience of 2,000 schoolchildren disconcerted both the orchestra and performers and yet, on the Wednesday, there was not a single hitch and some people found it difficult to believe that the final procession and tableau had only been adjusted the night before. Really, it was little short of

a miracle. All the more honour to the youngsters for rising to the occasion so nobly; the gallant 500 might easily have become a mob; as it was they were an orderly army resplendent with their banners. *(probably/possibly *The Kings*)

This reflects all the more honour on Mr Brewster and his lieutenants for their effective and persuasive coaching. To discriminate between the individual episodes would be hazardous and invidious. The chief merit was its uniform equality. It was a homogenous whole, not a series of disconnected pictures. The chief characters were drawn mainly from our children, but the High School and the Boy's Brigade furnished us with a large contingent of warriors in the Reformation and Cromwellian scenes.



For the very popular item – the Gypsy Dance in Episode V111, we must thank Miss Taylor for much sacrifice of time and patience.

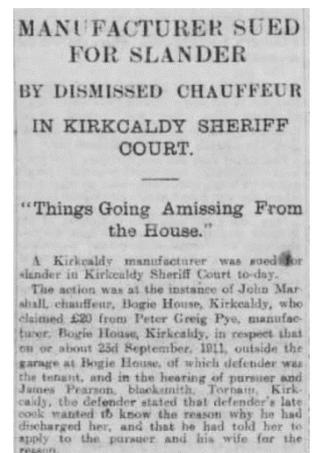
Mr Robertson supplied us with the deerhound which was so much at home with Sir Walter and Pet Marjorie. The horses and ponies, also kindly lent for the occasion, added to the regal touch to the Kings and Queens seated thereon”.

6) “And now that commonplace question – what of the weather? How the weather glasses were tapped that week! The outlook was by no means promising and we trembled for our finances. But our pessimism was rebuked! Jupiter Pluvius mercifully hid his face except for a few brief moments on

Saturday, though he seems to have bestowed a generous amount of patronage on the whole countryside around and King Sol shone forth with lavish effulgence to our complete and utter relief”.

The one regret covered in the remainder of the review was that a performance was not given the following Wednesday. It appeared that there had been a significant number of people who had had to be turned away on the Saturday.

It was accepted that the Pageant itself had made a loss and that this had been turned into profit by the efforts of Mrs Grieg Pye and the stall-holders. He accepted that it was an inspired decision to hold a bazaar in conjunction with the Pageant. Specific thanks were directed by the Minister in their direction. Mrs Grieg Pye might have basked in the reflected glory, but her mood would doubtless have changed in the November when her husband was sued for £20 by his chauffeur for slander!



The Minister however saw much more than profit in the exertions. “While they had come out on the right side, he believed that the effort and teamwork had bound the congregation together as never before which was the real achievement in his eyes.

“But the best reward undoubtedly had been the genuine commendation by which the Pageant had been greeted by press and public alike. It was a worthy celebration of our centenary and it has added to our prestige in the town”.

The Final Act

Proposed Production As Festival Contribution

"Caer Caledon" by Lachlan Macbean

THE production of "Caer Caledon," an historical drama of Kirkcaldy, the work of the late Lachlan Macbean, editor of the "Fifehire Advertiser" from 1889-1930, has been proposed by the Town Council as part of the burgh's contribution to the Festival of Britain.

"Caer Caledon"—the fortified place of the Caledonians—is also the source from which the town's name sprang, and in his ten-episode story, Mr Macbean has traced the rise of the town from its foundation to the beginning of the 19th century.

The Pageant in whole or part never again seems to have seen the light of day from the 1st July 1911 until today. In 1951 there was a brief attempt to revive the pageant as part of the celebrations of the Festival of Britain. The idea was mostly driven by the

Fifehire Advertiser but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

The words of the *Dundee Courier* reporter written in 1911 probably still ring true today:- "Few of the present inhabitants of the "Lang Toun", it is safe to say, were aware that the town possessed such an interesting collection of historical episodes and with such immortal characters as Queen Margaret, Mary Queen of Scots, Charles 1., Cromwell, Adam Smith, Thomas Carlyle and Pet Marjorie etc., contributing to its annals, the whole effect combined to produce a most picturesque and instructive representation".

Caer Caledon remains in 'existence' – if only in print. The episodes are available – the songs are available – the stage directions are available! Might it not be possible to update the episodes to include the last 111 years and bring the rich, but incredibly well hidden, history and heritage of Kirkcaldy back to life – in music, song and words?

We are convinced that it can and probably should be done at some future high point in the Town's history. Sometimes you can only reach the future through the past.

Appendix

Most assuredly events do not just happen. No matter the size, there are many elements which need to be brought together to make an event

a success and there can be no doubt that this was the case with St Peter's Children's Pageant. No matter the reader's standpoint this was a gigantic extravaganza where a multitude of individuals came together to produce an astonishing result. There will always be leaders and there will also be those who, although making a major contribution, remain in the background unsung and unmentioned. Although in the reports it was the 'executive' who received the bulk of the plaudits – it was good to see that, if not by name, the industrious army received solid mentions. Make no mistake – for all the planning and leadership – without the

'workers' it would never have got off the ground or, if it had, it would have been a less spectacular and colourful event.

The Reverend Waring did not spend much longer in Kirkcaldy. It was only two years later that he left St

The following is a list of the various committees and helpers in connection with the Pageant and Bazaar:—
Executive.—Chairman, Rev. H. T. Waring, B.D.; Secretaries, Mr W. T. Leck and Mr Sproston; Treasurer, Mr J. M. Brewster; Mrs Pye, Mrs Dr Smith, Mrs Browster, Mrs Waring, Mrs Sproston, Miss Atkinson, Rev. H. G. Sclater, Messrs J. L. Lumsden, W. Butterfield, A. Henderson.

PAGEANT.
 Dress Committee and Work Party.—Mrs Brewster, Mrs Sproston, Miss Atkinson, Mrs Aitchison, Mrs Story, Mrs Capel, Mrs Irvine, Mrs Meiklejohn, Mrs Alex. Black, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Middlemass, Miss Johnston, Miss R. Johnston, Miss Young, Miss Snell, Miss Taylor, Miss Hodgkinson, Mrs Carmichael, Miss Adamson, Miss Aitchison, Miss Sang, Miss Vera Beason, Miss Sclater, Mrs Scott, Mrs Stewart Smith, Mrs Pearson, Miss Moir, Miss Bailie, Mrs P. Stevens, Mrs Laing, Mrs Arthur, Miss Clarke Black, Mrs Sharman, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Ross, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Brown, Miss M'Ar, Miss Bunker, Mrs Studley, Miss Powell, Miss Hayes, Miss Stewart, Mrs Hunt, and members of Girls' Guild.
 Episode Training Committee.—Rev. H. T. J. Waring, Rev. H. G. Sclater, Rev. G. H. Tugwell, Mr W. Kinley, Messrs F. Scott, A. Neill, J. Cox, R. Hodgkinson, A. Hodgkinson, D. Buist, J. Pearson, J. Ingram, A. Cairns, A. Robertson, G. Wilkie, D. Bell, K. Hoddy, M'Kenzie, J. Jack.
 Instructor of Gipsy Dance.—Miss Taylor.
 Property Committee.—Messrs J. M. Brewster, J. Sproston, J. Aitchison, P. Stevens, M. Meiklejohn, T. Carmichael, W. Moir, F. Scott.
 Ticket Committee.—Messrs W. Butterfield, G. Cooper, E. Gibson, W. Cooper, D. Story, A. Brown, J. Brown, R. Bailie, D. Bell, A. Adamson, D. Patullo, Mooney, Gibb, and Ross.
 Ground Committee.—Messrs A. Henderson, A. Barclay, G. Irvine, G. Wilkie, C. Ross, G. Buchan, A. Ramsay, A. Seath, W. Barclay, J. Latta, G. Goldsborough, A. Sheach, O. N. Sheather.

THE PAGEANT HELPERS.—The following is a list of the various committees and helpers in connection with the pageant and bazaar:—
Executive—Chairman, Rev. H. T. J. Waring, B.D.; Secretaries, Mr W. T. Leck and Mr J. Sproston; Treasurer, Mr J. M. Brewster; Mrs Pye, Mrs Dr Smith, Mrs Brewster, Mrs Waring, Mrs Sproston, Miss Atkinson, Rev. H. G. Sclater, Messrs J. L. Lumsden, W. Butterfield, A. Henderson. **Bazaar**—Convener, Mrs Greig Pye. **Stalls**—Miss Oswald, Miss M. Oswald, Mrs Waring, Mrs Lumsden, Mrs Sclater, Mrs Tod, Mrs Dixon, Mrs Michael Nairn, Mrs Geo. Beveridge, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Berridge, Miss M. Beveridge, Mrs Stocks, Mrs Lendrum, Miss Fairweather, Mrs Scott, Mrs Stewart Smith, Mrs Carron, Miss L. Scott. **Teas**—Mrs Macnab, Mrs Ostlere Smith, Mrs L. Grant, Miss Birrell, Miss Neish, the Misses Hudson, the Misses Johnston, Miss Thompson, Miss Meyer, Nurse Barratt, Nurse Whieldon, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Harvey, Mrs King, Mrs Millar, Miss Pocklington, Miss Smart, Mrs Bell, Mrs Innes, Mrs M'Kenzie, Mrs Jack, Mrs A. Cairns, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Irvine, Miss Simpson. **Strawberries**—Mrs and the Misses Traquair. **Games**—Mr W. Carron, Mr C. Searle. **Pageant**—Dress Committee and Work Party—Mrs Brewster, Mrs Sproston, Miss Atkinson, Mrs Aitchison, Mrs Story, Mrs Capel, Mrs Irvine, Mrs Meiklejohn, Mrs Alex. Black, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Middlemass, Miss Johnston, Miss R. Johnston, Miss Young, Miss Snell, Miss Taylor, Miss Hodgkinson, Mrs Carmichael, Miss Adamson, Miss Aitchison, Miss Sang,

Miss Vera Beason, Miss Sclater, Mrs Scott, Mrs Stewart Smith, Mrs Pearson, Miss Moir, Miss Bailie, Mrs P. Stevens, Mrs Laing, Mrs Arden, Miss Clark Black, Mrs Sharman, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Ross, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Brown, Miss M'Ar, Miss Bunker, Mrs Studley, Miss Powell, Miss Hayes, Miss Stewart, Mrs Hunt, and members of Girls' Guild. **Episode Training Committee**—Rev. H. T. J. Waring, Rev. H. G. Sclater, Rev. G. H. Tugwell, Mr W. Kinley, Messrs F. Scott, A. Neill, J. Cox, R. Hodgkinson, A. Hodgkinson, D. Buist, J. Pearson, J. Ingram, A. Cairns, A. Robertson, G. Wilkie, Bell, K. Hoddy, M'Kenzie, J. Jack. **Instructor of Gipsy Dance**—Miss Taylor. **Property Committee**—Messrs J. M. Brewster, J. Sproston, J. Aitchison, P. Stevens, M. Meiklejohn, T. Carmichael, W. Moir, F. Scott. **Ticket Committee**—Messrs W. Butterfield, O. Cooper, E. Gibson, W. Cooper, D. Story, A. Brown, J. Brown, R. Bailie, D. Bell, A. Adamson, D. Patullo, Mooney, Gibb, and Ross. **Grounds Committee**—Messrs A. Henderson, A. Barclay, G. Irvine, G. Wilkie, C. Ross, G. Buchan, A. Ramsay, A. Seath, W. Barclay, J. Barclay, C. Latta, O. Oldsborough, A. Sheach, C. H. Sheather.

Peter's to take up a position in St Mary's Episcopal Church in Broughty Ferry.

There was a convivial gathering in the church hall on the evening of his departure, with Mr J.M. Brewster in the Chair. In his remarks Mr Brewster made mention of the organ and in particular the Pageant. In the few years he was with the congregation he certainly seems to have left his mark.

Miss Oswald then presented a "handsome" typewriter to the Minister, while Mrs Pye (presumably none the worse for her husband's court appearance) presented Mrs Waring with a lovely gold and amethyst necklace set with pearls. We see excellent news with the next presentation. This time it was Mrs Sproston presenting a silver spoon to 'baby Waring'.

There followed entertainment contributed by Mrs Rupert Thomson, Miss Carmichael, Miss Beatson, Mr Lumsden, Mr Williams and members of the choir.

**KIRKCALDY MINISTER'S
FAREWELL.**

HANDSOME TOKENS OF ESTEEM.

On the occasion of his leaving St Peter's Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy, to take up duties in St Mary's, Broughty Ferry, the Rev. H. T. J. Waring was last night made the recipient of farewell tokens by his congregation in the "Lang Toon."

Mr J. M. Brewster, who presided over a convivial gathering in the church hall of St Peter's, took occasion to refer, among other things, to the splendid work which the rector had done at St Peter's, which comprised the raising of St Columba's Mission, the centenary pageant, and the building of the new organ in the church.

Miss Oswald, Dunnikier, afterwards presented the rector with a handsome typewriter, while Mrs Pye of Bogie gifted Mrs Waring with a lovely gold and amethyst necklace set with pearls, and from Mrs Sproston baby Waring received a token in the form of a silver spoon.

A nicely varied programme was contributed by Mrs Rupert Thompson, Miss Carmichael, Miss Beatson, Mr Lumsden, Mr Williams, and members of the choir.

The Rev. Mr Waring replied at great length, and took an affectionate farewell.

The Reverend Mr Waring then replied at great length and then took his affectionate farewell. (Reported in *Dundee Courier* of 6th November 1913)

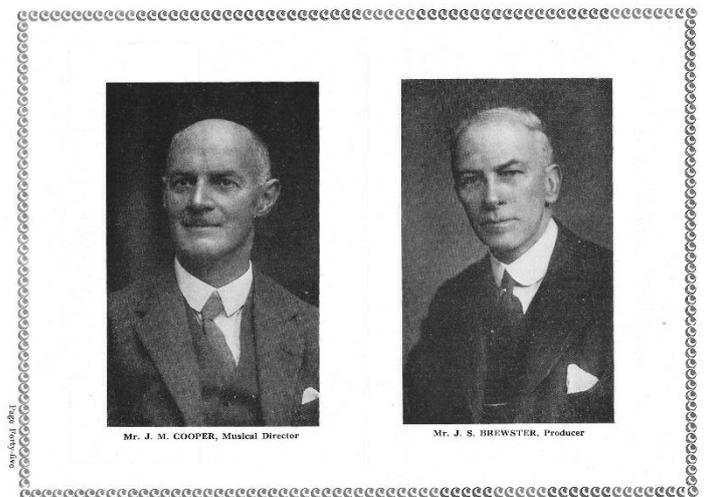


One of the vital components in the event has to be the part played by the Pageant Master. We need to fast forward to 1937 when, in the *Dundee Courier* of the 2nd December, we learn "that a remarkable record in amateur theatrical circles will be attained this

week by Mr J.S. Brewster of Edinburgh when, for the 25th successive year, he will act as producer to Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society.

The Society is performing the Desert Song. Mr Brewster's thoroughness and enthusiasm as a producer has played no small part in the society's continued success and progress.

At the start he was partnered by Mr J.M. Cooper, Kirkcaldy, one of the best known *Lang Toun* music teachers, who was musical director. Mr Brewster and Mr Cooper remained together as producer and musical director for 26 years. Four years ago, Mr Cooper was succeeded as musical director by Mr Drake Rimmer, Kirkcaldy, when the society produced a comic opera, for which Mr Rimmer composed the music and Mr D.M. McIntosh, Kirkcaldy, wrote the words.



It was *The Scotsman* on the 28th January 1931 who broke the news nationally that Lachlan MacBean had passed away. He had died in his home at 14 Townsend Place. Born in 1835, close to Beauly on the Black Isle, he came to Kirkcaldy in 1877 as an assistant in the management of the *Fifeshire Advertiser* with which he remained all his working life.

“His fame was not simply a local one, an enthusiast in everything pertaining to the spread of Gaelic; he made many translations and wrote much in the original tongue himself.

He was a typical Celt – sentimentalist – poet, visionary – and his pleasant manners made many friends for him. In Kirkcaldy he associated himself with the literature of the town and the “Kingdom” and did much research in these channels. He was the author of “Pet Marjorie”, well known to admirers of Sir Walter Scott. In everything connected with the welfare and the community of the “Lang Toun” Mr MacBean bore a worthy share and in the work of the Church of St. Brycedale he found an outlet for a sincere and charitable spirit.

As a final thought, while this story is one of perseverance, celebration and enjoyment it should be borne in mind that the event took place in 1911. Just a little over three years later, the world changed for ever, with the outbreak of the Great War and all the pain and tragedy which flowed from it.

Men of the cloth - Waring, Campbell, Robberds and many more would no longer be involved in celebrations, but ministering to the countless fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who had lost their loved ones.

We finish by using a photograph of the war memorial which combines the names of those from the three congregations who did not make it home. You cannot help but ponder on how many of those involved in the pageant made the supreme sacrifice.

We suspect that 2nd Lieutenant B. Beaton was not the only one.

ST MICHAEL'S	ST PETER'S	ST COLUMBA'S
PTE ALEXANDER BELL R.H	SGR ALF ADAMSON A & SH	PTE JAMES ALEXANDER
SGT SAMUEL BISSET K O S B	CPT JOHN BALFOUR M C S G	CAN. INF
PTE ALEX BLACKWOOD R.H	CPT ROBT F BALFOUR S G	PTE ALEX ANDERSON R.H
PTE W BUTTERFIELD R.S	2ND LIEUT B BEATSON R.H	PTE JOSEPH BATCHELOR
TPT BERTIE CAPEL M G C	PTE ROBERT BLACK R.H	CAN. INF
P.O. WILLIAM CAPEL R.N.D	PTE ANDY CARMICHAEL R.H	PTE DAVID BOAG K O S B
PTE THOMAS COULL R.H	SGT HENRY CHALMERS R.S.F	PTE JOHN CALDER R.H
PTE JOSEPH GALLOWAY R.H	PTE JOHN COLLINS G.H	PTE THO CARLYLE R.H
PTE PETER GRAHAM K O S B	MAJOR JOHN A COX H.L.I	PTE ANDREW GLEN S.H
PTE ANDY HENDERSON R.H	PTE HENRY CLEPHANE R.A.M.C	CPL NIGEL GRAHAM CAM.H
PTE HARRY KING M.G.C	LIEUT A O EGERTON S.H.I.N.F	PTE NEIL HARRISON S.G
PTE WILLIAM LANGSLOW R.H	CPT JOHN FAICHNEY R.G.A	PTE ANDY HENDERSON R.H
CPL PAUL LIRONI R.H	SGT W.B HONEYMAN R.D.F	PTE DUNCAN IRVINE R.H
PTE THOMAS MILLER K O S B	2ND LT C MCINTYRE R.F.A	PTE DAVID MACARA CAM.H
CPL ROBT MITCHELSON R.H	SGR ROBERT MCPHEE S.G	PTE ARCHD MILLAR R.H
PTE ARCHD ROBSON K O S B	PTE THOMAS MOONEY R.H	PTE THOMAS SHEACH R.H
PTE GEORGE THOMAS R.F	PTE REGINALD PALMER I.R	PTE CHA TAYLOR CAM.H
PTE GEORGE WATSON R.H	PTE WILLIAM RICHMOND R.H	CPT PETER J WHYTE R.G.A
PTE LEVI BELL R.S	PTE CHARLES ROSS R.H	PTE A.R CHAPMAN R.A.M.C
	PTE BERNARD TOD L.S	

Acknowledgements

We offer grateful thanks to the following

"The Redress of the Past" - without whose website we would never have known of the subject.

Reverend Cannon Christine Fraser of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for enthusiasm and encouragement.

Mrs Maria Page, Vestry Secretary at St. Peter's, for provision of both material and Images.

Mr D. Walker, the Press Office of the Scottish Episcopal Church

Richard Fawcett's "The Church of St Peter. Kirkcaldy - A Brief History.

Bill Fiet for the provision of a number of Photographs.

As always, the "British Newspaper Archive" was a source of vital material.

Tom Reid for painstaking proof reading.

And especially everyone who has supported us in reaching the milestone of 25 objects - so far!

Selection of Adverts of Kirkcaldy Businesses in 1911

Choice Bedding - Out Plants.

Ageratums, Alyssum, Begonias, Calceolarias, Centaureas, Cress, Dactylis, Echeverias, Geraniums, Gazanias, Heliotropes, Lobelias, Marquerites, Petunias, Pyrethrums, Salvias, Verbenas, Violas, &c.

Bedding - Out Annuals.

Antirrhinums, Asters, Beet, Dianthus, Everlastings, Lobelias, Marigolds, Perillas, Petunias, Phlox, Saponarias, Stocks, Scabious, and others.
Chrysanthemums, early flowering; Dahlias, Fuchias, Pansies, Pentstemons, Phloxes.
Tomato Plants. Vegetable Plants for Competition.
Celery, Leeks, Onions, and Parsley.
Cucumbers, Egg, Gourd, and Vegetable Marrow Plants.
Popular Greenhouse and Room Plants in many sorts.

All at Moderate Prices. Catalogues Free on application.

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NURSERIES—BEVERIDGE ROAD, KIRKCALDY. TELEPHONE 6Y.**

The Place to Buy

Books, Stationery,
Fancy and Leather Goods

AND THE PLACE TO

Book your Passage

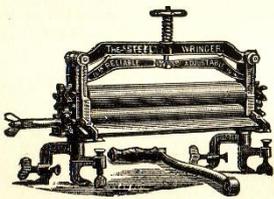
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