

## Robert Philp Industrialist and Philanthropist



Robert Philp is another Kirkcaldy “great” who to a large extent has slipped under the radar. He is remembered by a hall named after him which stands on Links Street, a Civic Society plaque, and also by the thoroughfare Robert Philp Road. He has recently had his profile raised by being featured on *Kirkcaldy's Famous Folk Board* in the Town House. This information board is to be commended and the team hope that it may be replicated and placed at various vantage points around the town. It is well designed, informative, and probably should be more accessible to public view.

Robert Philp, like another illustrious son, has had a municipal hall raised as a memorial to his name. In fact the original Philp Hall pre-dated the Adam Smith Hall by 8 years. The current hall is further to the west than the first which had originally been built as a school before being transformed into a hall in 1891. The clock which stood outside the first building still stands in perfect working order on its original site.

KIRKCALDY'S FAMOUS FOLK		
ROBERT ADAM (1728–1792) ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER COURT ARCHITECT TO KING GEORGE III BURIED WESTMINSTER ABBEY	MARJORIE FLEMING (1803–1811) “PET MARJORIE” CHILD PRODIGY, POETESS	SIR SANDFORD FLEMING (1827–1915) CIVIL ENGINEER AND SCIENTIST INVENTOR OF STANDARD TIME CHIEF ENGINEER OF CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY
MICHAEL NAIRN (1804–1858) INDUSTRIALIST SCOTLAND'S FIRST FLOORCLOTH MANUFACTURER		DR. JOHN PHILP (1775–1866) MISSIONARY IN SOUTH AFRICA FIRST SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY
BAILIE ROBERT PHILP (1751–1828) LINEN MANUFACTURER HIS REQUEST ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM OF FREE EDUCATION FOR POOR CHILDREN	ADAM SMITH (1723–1790) FATHER OF POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHER AUTHOR OF ‘THE WEALTH OF NATIONS’	JOHN McDONALL STUART (1815–1866) EXPLORER, MADE SEVERAL EXPEDITIONS INTO THE AUSTRALIAN INTERIOR MOUNT STUART NAMED AFTER HIM

With the introductions dispensed with, we can move onto the story and understand why Robert Philp came to be featured on *Kirkcaldy's Famous Folk Board*. Let us examine Robert Philp, both in terms of his business acumen and philanthropy, although a

warning has to be given. As he was born in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, facts can at times be hard to come by/substantiate and supposition and guesswork have to feature at some points in the narrative.

Robert Philp was born in Kirkcaldy, the son of William Philp and Alison Heggie. William was a merchant in the town and Alison was the daughter of a James Heggie, also a merchant, but in Kinglassie. William and Alison were married on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1750 in Kirkcaldy. Four children were born to the couple and these were:-

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| • Robert Philp | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 1751. |
| • James Philp  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 1753.    |
| • Isobel Philp | 12 <sup>th</sup> May 1754.   |
| • Rachel Philp | 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 1755.   |

The four children were born in Kirkcaldy, although the dates for the last three may be the dates of their baptisms rather than their birth. Relying on Church Registers, which until 1855 were the prime source of information prior to the introduction of Statutory Registration, means that information can sometimes be open to doubt/error.

Sadly, James was not destined for a long life and we find his death being registered, in Kirkcaldy, on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1758.

Knowing that Robert did not marry and that James had died before his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday for no more than restless curiosity some research was undertaken in relation to his sisters.

Rachel was the least problematic as there were only two possibilities. She first married an Andrew Seath on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1780 at Abbotshall. There were certainly a significant number of children born to this couple, mostly in Dysart. They were as

follows:-

• Margaret Seath	02/10/1783
• Helen Seath	23/10/1785
• Rachel Seath	31/08/1787
• Agnes Seath	10/02/1789
• James Seath	09/03/1793
• Andrew Seath	20/05/1795
• Mary Seath	24/06/1798

Certainly, plenty of nephews and nieces are available if this is indeed Robert's sister.

However, there is another Rachel Philp who probably better fits the bill with this lady marrying a David Armour in April 1771 in Kirkcaldy. This would have Rachel being just under 16 at that point. This however was not illegal, as from 1753, with the passing of *Lord Hardwicke's Wedding Act* in England, elopements to Scotland, particularly Gretna Green, came into vogue. The reason being that in Scotland it was legal for a boy to marry at 14 with a girl only requiring to achieve the age of 12.

There was one child, a James, born on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1772. Rachel Armour died in 1811 and at her death we find, from the Register entry, that her husband had predeceased her. In fairness this second Rachel seems to be the best option as Kirkcaldy parish features on her birth, marriage and death records. It would also help give credence to Robert having no immediate family on his own death.

Eventually, our initial Rachel Seath 'target' was found to have died in Dundee in 1849 at the age of 86 meaning she would have been born around 1863. So, by a process of elimination, the only remaining option for Robert's sister is Rachel Armour. James

Armour died at age 16 on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1788. Only scant information is given but he was interred at Abbotshall where his parents were married/banns called.

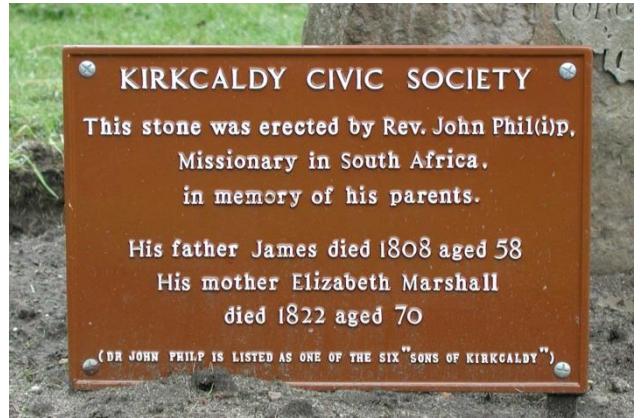
Attention was then focussed on any issue of Isobel. While an Isobel Philp was unearthed marrying a James Anderson in 1771 this individual was discounted as the parishes for the banns and marriage were Dysart and Markinch. This was considered to be unlikely. Three children were born to this couple but they, after further research, were safely eliminated by the discovery of an Isobel Philp dying in May 1761. This Isobel was buried in Kirkcaldy with William Philp as her father which makes her the most obvious choice.

On the basis of our research this sees the three siblings all having passed away prior to Robert's own death in 1828. As mentioned previously, when dealing with old Parish Registers, certainty is not a currency. However, the team are as certain as they can be that Robert Philp was indeed the last survivor of the immediate family and that may to some degree account for the terms of his Will.

The reason advanced for his Will being primarily one based around charity may be true or simply an urban myth. It is said that some members of the family had changed the spelling of their surname to Philip. Robert is said to have remarked that "*if ma name is na guid enough fa them then neither is ma siller*".

Given that this could not be the case with either of his sisters, the quote must refer to another individual/s with the surname Philp. The wheel does not require to be re-invented and Kirkcaldy Civic Society had previously carried out some research into this and, in turn, we were able to build on their initial findings. It transpires that the culprits, in Robert's eyes at least, appear to be brothers John and James Philp. Their parents were James Philp and Elizabeth Marshall. The connection being that Robert Philp's

father and John/James Philp's grandfather were brothers. Both John and Elizabeth lie in the Old Kirk graveyard under a stone erected by John Philip and a commemorative plaque from Kirkcaldy Civic Society.



Their research almost temporarily derailed the narrative as John Philp/Philip turned out to be a very interesting figure and most certainly worthy of some further research. In the meantime, we will limit his appearance in this narrative but people who are remembered 100 years after their death almost certainly have had some substance to their lives.

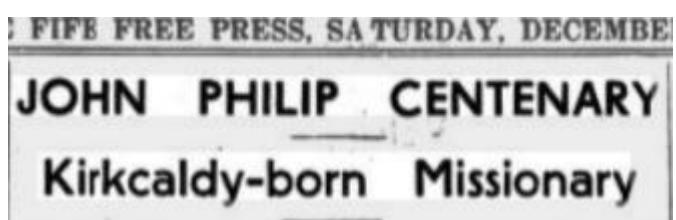
John's birth was registered in Kirkcaldy on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1775 with brother James two years later on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1777. The Civic Society brochure indicates that Robert Philp was present at John's baptism. It goes on to say that John secured his initial employment with a linen factory in Leven followed by a later move to Dundee as a clerk. It then indicates that it was, when in Dundee, that John and his brother altered the spelling of their surname to Philip stating that "this greatly angered Robert Philp".

So why did this happen? No reason is advanced in the Robert Philp brochure but it records "When 15 years old John Philp was offered a clerkship by his cousin Robert Philp in the West Indies, but declined the offer partly because of a suspicion that much of Robert Philp's fortune was made as a result of using slave labour and dealing in slaves there". We then turn to an item in the local newspaper.

*The Fife Free Press* of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1951 ran a major story on Dr John Philip under the head and strap lines of:-

## John Philip Centenary Kirkcaldy-Born Missionary

*The Fife Free Press reported* that two brochures on Dr John Philip's life had been sent to the Town Clerk – Mr Charles D. Chapman. They were “connected with a scheme to perpetuate the name of one of Kirkcaldy's most famous sons, Dr John Philip, the missionary-statesman who in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fought unceasingly for the rights of the coloured people of the Dominion.



“The centenary of his death was celebrated in South Africa by the John Philip Centenary Sunday on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1951 and it is now proposed that a more permanent

memorial be established”. The proposal was that the fund have two aims, firstly, to take forward the work already begun at the *Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre* in the Transvaal and there was also an idea to erect a memorial building.

The second brochure was *A Salute to the Memory of Dr John Philip* by a Dr Horton Davies, Professor of Divinity at Rhodes University. The brochure discloses that Philp/Philip was the son of a weaver and at the age of 26 was appointed Works Manager of a Dundee firm but after 6 months he resigned on a *point of conscience* - “for he refused to allow mere children to work long hours for a mere pittance”.

If he was 26 then this puts the year at 1801 and the article states that he was soon called to the ministry. When in Kirkcaldy the family were members of the Parish Church but, on moving to Dundee, John became a member of the Congregational Church. He underwent training at Hoxton, London, before becoming an

assistant at Newbury Congregational Church in Berkshire in 1802. Two years later he was called to the Great George Street Congregational Chapel in Aberdeen where he remained for 14 years. In 1809 he married a Jane Ross in the *Granite City* with the couple having four children. While in Aberdeen he was appointed Resident Director of the London Missionary Society. He made a trip to South Africa to inspect the affairs of the Society in 1819 and then spent the remainder of his life, in that country, fighting for the betterment of the native population. Three further children were born in South Africa.



He died in South Africa in 1851 but a number of his descendants were certainly still living in the country in the 1950s. His personal papers were the backdrop to a book "The Cape Colour Question" which was written by W. M. MacMillan in 1927. There appears to be a very strong argument that it was the 1951 correspondence which led to the "discovery" of Dr John Philip by Kirkcaldy.

Prior to 1951 only one reference could be found to John Philip in the local press and that was in 1919. That item had also emanated from South Africa leaving the distinct impression that Kirkcaldy would remain unaware of its famous son were it not for outside intervention.

An item carried in the *Fifeshire Advertiser* on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1952 created a jaw-dropping surprise – "when David Livingstone landed in Africa in 1841 he made straight for the home of Dr John Philip and spent the first month of his time on the Continent in that house". A Kirkcaldy man on close terms with one of Scotland's most enduring and heroic figures from the Victorian era! Livingstone was of course also a figure from the London Missionary Society. Even the limited research carried out to date shows that Dr John Philp well deserves his place on Kirkcaldy's

*Famous Folk Board* and certainly demands further investigation.

DR. JOHN PHILP  
(1775-1851)  
MISSIONARY IN SOUTH AFRICA  
FIRST SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

When we take John's 'suspicions' relating to Philp's possible connection with the slave trade and add in his non-acceptance of child labour, allied to 30 years working on behalf of the downtrodden, it is not a great leap of faith to believe that he might have wished to be at arm's length from Robert Philp – hence the alteration to the name. Additionally one of his children born in South Africa was christened Wilberforce. That is no family name and must be a nod to slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce. Whatever the truth the simple fact is that when Robert Philp drew up his will in 1820, eight years before his death, John Philip/Philp was not mentioned. What was mentioned however was a £5 per annum bequest to the London Missionary Society who employed his cousin. The above may or may not be the reason why the family did not get 'his siller' but it seems a reasonable proposition. James, the brother, has all but been left alone on the basis that, with the paucity of knowledge of his movements, it would be a herculean task to try and identify his death.



There is little or nothing recorded of Robert's early years but it is a reasonable guess that he would be educated at the Burgh School. At that time it was situated close to the junction of Hill Street and Kirk Wynd and would certainly accommodate children from the merchant classes.

The school was opened in 1725 and, over the years, a host of famous Kirkcaldy names were educated there. These included Adam Smith, Michael B. Nairn, and Provost Partick Don Swan amongst others. The site of the school which closed in 1843 is marked by a plaque. Thomas Carlyle taught at the school for a brief period but that was long after Robert Philp's attendance.

At the time of his death Robert was an extremely wealthy individual whose business premises were housed in the Links. He owned a large spinning works, bleachfield and dyeworks collectively known as the West Mill/West Bridge Mill.

An advert which might relate to these premises was uncovered in the *Caledonian Mercury* of the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1758. Confusingly there were two complexes known as the West Mill. This advert in all

in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, is to be held this Year as usual, upon  
Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, being the first Tuesday after the seventeenth  
old Style, for Black Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Merchandise, &c. as formerly

That the WEST MILLS of KIRKCALDY  
consisting of three separate Mills, one for Meal, another for Malt, and  
a third for Flour, having an extensive Thirlage, and well watered in the  
driest Seasons, of 130l. Sterling, yearly Rent, is to be set in Tack for  
any Number of Years commencing at Martinmas next. For Particulars  
enquire of James Rutherford Writer in Kinghorn, Factor for Mr. Fer-  
guson of Raith, the Proprietor.

probability relates to the mill in the aptly named Mill Street as it makes its way towards the railway viaduct. The advertisement is well

worth inclusion as it represents a piece of industrial history and acts as a reminder that part of Kirkcaldy was once in Kinghorn Parish. The fact that “it was well watered in the driest seasons” confirms that it was water power which drove the mills. It is also a salutary lesson that as people pass the Tiel Burn on a gentle stroll along the Esplanade that that innocuous stream once powered some of Kirkcaldy's industry.

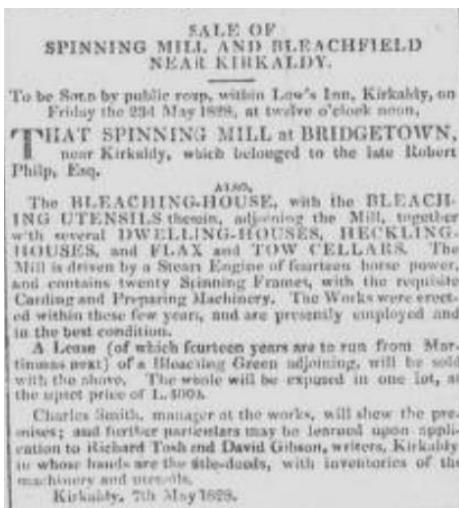
Records show that Robert Philp took possession of the mills in 1815 and until that point he had operated on the cottage industry basis. Robert Philp and his father were both said to be master-weavers but they did not work at the trade – instead they employed weavers who operated from their own homes. Robert and his father would set out delivering yarn to the weavers and then collecting the finished material and taking it to market. Through time it was shown that spinning and weaving could be more profitable if it were carried out in factory conditions run by, first water power, and later by the use of steam. It was to take advantage of this enhanced production method that Robert Philp bought West Bridge Mill in 1815. It had at one time been a meal mill and it is said to have been in operation since the first bridge

was built over the burn in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. So, Robert's business had developed from a home based industry to a factory environment with its bleachfield and dyeworks. There is no doubt that Philp's mill, dye works and bleach-fields, attracted many workers who settled in the Invertiel and Bridgeton areas. It can be argued that he was not just a philanthropist but a man who offered employment to many.

The mill was the centre of Robert Philp's operations until his death in 1828. The fact that the family worshipped at Kirkcaldy's Parish Church and Robert Philp spent almost two decades as a merchant councillor and/or Bailie in Kirkcaldy indicates that he must have lived in the Royal Burgh itself. There were no census records to guide us until 1841. We have been able to locate an item from the Caledonian Mercury of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1793 where the principal figures in Kirkcaldy's new council are mentioned with Robert Philp's name included.

*KIRKCALDY, September 30. 1793.*  
This day the election of Magistrates for this Burgh took place, when the following Gentlemen were unanimously chosen :  
**WALTER FERGUS, Esq. of Strathore, Provost.**  
**Mess. John Ford,** Michael Beveridge, jun. **Bailies.**  
Robert Philp, Dean of Guild,  
John Thomson, Treasurer.

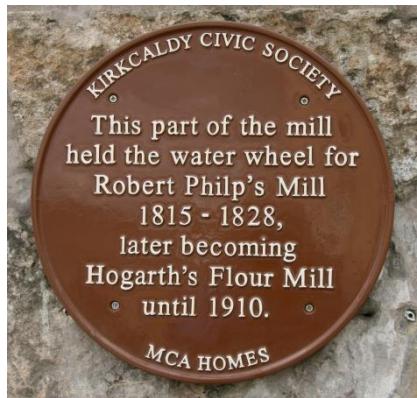
Walter Fergus, whose time as Kirkcaldy's Provost, is only bettered by Patrick Swan. The snippet was part of an article which in the case of some towns showed the Deacons of the Incorporated Trades which gives an indication of their place in the running of towns and burghs. Unfortunately, Kirkcaldy's entry is restricted or it might have shown the names of the Town's Deacons of Trades at the time.



When Robert Philp died in 1828 the mill was bought by the brothers J.&W. Hendry and they converted the mill from water power to steam power. Initially, the mill was of a modest size working 400 spindles and driven by a 16 horse power engine. The owners gradually increased the number of spindles

but still used the same modest engine. In 1841 it gave up the ghost and the mill was closed for seven months while a new beam engine was installed.

As mentioned in *Object 26* the engine was fitted by J.&C. Carmichael of Dundee and John Key was part of the installation team. John Key eventually settled in the town and founded both Whitebank Engineering Works and the Abden Shipbuilding Company.



In was in 1855 that William Hendry built the new and current building with Philp's original mill continuing to operate in various guises until it closed in 1910, At that stage it was John Hogarth's Flour Mill and the spindle for the water wheel has been saved and retained by being built into the wall in front of the Pratt Street flats. The Civic Society plaque to Robert Philp, alongside the spindle, was unveiled on the 7<sup>th</sup>



March 2007 by Ann Watters, the Society's then Chair. Evidence of the industrial importance of the area is demonstrated by another Kirkcaldy Civic Society plaque on the Hendry Mill which closed in 2007. It has been extensively renovated and it is good to see part of the town's industrial heritage being saved.



We find that probably the most ostentatious purchase made by Robert was his country mansion. Having admitted that his addresses in Kirkcaldy are unknown, what is known is that he bought Pitlochie House and grounds in Gateside. When he bought it is another

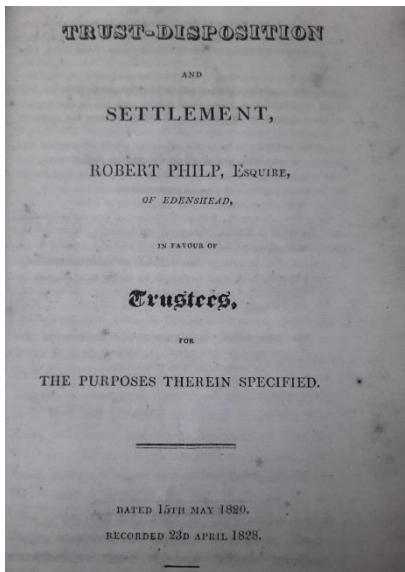


matter but his Will drawn up in 1820 carries Edenshead as his address. At the time the village of Gateside was known as Edenshead. He lived there until his death in 1828. While resident, he gave a piece of ground to allow a church to be built for the village. This would save the lengthy walk to Strathmiglo (and back) to attend services. There is no suggestion that he contributed to the building which was a United Succession Church. The church closed in 2007 with services now held in Strathmiglo/Auchtermuchty on an alternative Sunday basis.

Pitlochie/Edenshead House is a Category C listed building as are its Dovecot and Gardener's House.

Scanning newsprint failed to find any mention of Robert Philp's time in Edenshead. However, a later resident, a Mr David Senior, was the proud possessor of a white crow which had been abandoned by its parents. It was captured and cared for by a daughter of the house and apparently was named *Prince Albert*. "It was visited by all classes and denominations from nigh and from far" (*Fife Herald* 30<sup>th</sup> June 1842).

The above paints a modest, if not fully detailed, account of Robert Philp's life. Born into a reasonably well off family, receiving a good education, building up a substantial business, and ending up as a wealthy country gentleman, we can move on to what made him famous – his death; or more precisely – his Will.



Old Photograph - Edenshead House, Gateside c. 1920

## The Will

Robert Philp drew up the Will which came into effect on his death some time before the event. It

was prepared in 1820 and came into effect in 1828.

It was not anticipated that an obituary would be located but in fact one did appear in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1828. The article suggested that he had died in Kirkcaldy, not Edenshead, and reported that “the death followed a long and distressing illness and severe distress”. Interestingly “he was born to business under his father and was the last surviving partner of William Philp & Son”. This would suggest that this was the style of business name used right up until the end. The article described Philp as a kind friend and noted “in times of distress and depression when work was scarce many found great benefit from his extensive employment”. That he was a good master was evidenced by many close servants and domestics having been “with him from being young men to grey haired”. One had served him for upwards of 40 years.

**Died, at Kirkaldy, on the 14th curt., after long declining health and severe distress, ROBERT PHILP, Esq. of Edenshead, merchant in Kirkaldy, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. Mr Philp was bred to business, under his father, who took him into partnership, when a young man, and he was the last surviving partner of the firm of William Philp & Son. For the last thirty years he manufactured linen goods to a great extent, and, in times of distress and depression, when work was very scarce, many found great benefit from his extensive employment. He was conscientious in his dealings; a devout Christian; affable, instructive, and entertaining in conversation; indeed the effusion of his mind was benignity and benevolence to all mankind. His exertions, in business, were long directed to the laudable purpose of promoting the welfare and happiness of his own species, after his decease; he, therefore, by his deed of settlement, after having bequeathed a few legacies and annuities to relations and domestics, and a small yearly payment to the Bible and Missionary Societies, directed the annual income, arising from his fortune, to be applied for the instruction of children in Kirkaldy and the neighbouring parishes. This annual income, it is supposed, will amount to between two and three thousand pounds. That he was a kind friend and a good master is evinced from several of his domestics having, from being young men, become grey headed in his service, one of whom has served him upwards of forty-four years. He will, by many, be long recollectcd with feelings of veneration and esteem.**

There were two annuities mentioned. £400 was laid aside to be invested in bonds and the interest used to provide an annual payment of £15 to the *British and Foreign Bible Society* in London. £5 was also to be provided each year to *The London Missionary Society*. If the interest fell short, the annuities were to be proportionally reduced but if the income increased so too could the payment.

No funds were left to any member of the wider family and his proposal/instruction was that a Trust Fund should be established. The interest from the fund was to be used “for the purpose of giving education in the different districts, after mentioned, to that class of children, who, from the poverty of their parents or guardians, are the most likely to be deprived of that blessing – the

most needy to always have the first claim, and care being taken that none who are in circumstances to enable them to procure education to their children shall be admitted to the benefit hereof”.

Philp decreed that all his possessions were to be sold with the proceeds being placed in the Trust. The Will instructed that this should take effect as soon after his death as possible with all sales being made by”public roup or private bargain”. He did offer the concession that there could be delays in the sale of heritage if it was felt a delay would produce a better price. His body clothes were authorised to be gifted by the Trustees to those of their choice.

There is a possible misconception that the following were the first trustees of the Trust. They were not – they were his executors who were to carry out the terms of the Will and make over the proceeds to the Governors of the Trust,. His executors were:-

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Simon Dempster   | Merchant, Kirkcaldy.           |
| • James Bogie      | Linen Manufacturer, Kirkcaldy. |
| • Alexander Bogie  | Linen Manufacturer.            |
| • George Aitken    | Merchant.                      |
| • Douglas Morrison | Merchant.                      |
| • Frederick Hitt   | Warehouseman to Robert Philp.  |

The Will stated that any four would constitute a quorum.

The terms of the Will were seemingly fairly straightforward, although there were any number of terms and conditions which had to be complied with.

- Governors and managers to be elected to manage the funds.
- 2/8 of the annual income to educate 100 Kirkcaldy children.
- 3/8 of the annual income to educate 150 children in Dunnikier (Pathhead), St. Clairtown (Sinclairtown) and

## Hauklymuir.

- 2/8 of the annual income to educate 100 children in Linktown of Abbotshall including Newtown and Bridgetown.
- 1/8 of the income to educate 50 children in Kinghorn.
- In naming the Governors, Robert Philp included the Parish Church and the Dissenting Church.
- If any of the schoolmasters is deemed not suitable the Governors may appoint one of their own choice.
- If other students could be catered for this was permitted.
- The terms included a condition that no child should attend school before reaching the age of 6 or beyond 15.
- The Trust decreed that the order of provision was to be Kirkcaldy, Dunnikier, Linktown and Kinghorn.

The basic education programme was the teaching of English, writing and arithmetic. Material and equipment was to be provided for each child and included:- books, pens, paper and slates. Religion was to be included and in time Peter Purves was appointed to teach religion at Linktown. The good Robert Philp set so much store on the influence of the Sabbath that he directed Sunday evening schools were to be set up in the four centres. He wished if it was possible that the teachers could also instruct the pupils in Church music.

Peter Purves was another interesting figure in the Town's history. A native of Dunbar he trained as a gardener and continued in that trade on arriving in Kirkcaldy. He was an elder of Bethelfield Church and Superintendent of their Sunday School. He was interested in acquiring knowledge on a range of subjects and from the 1830s he supervised the teaching of religion in the Philp Schools. He was also a well



115. P. Purves's School

known local poet and wrote a lengthy poem when the statue to Robert Philp was unveiled. He was encouraged to open his own school which he did on the corner of Bell Wynd and Sands Road. It is claimed that it was on the Sands Road, opposite the school, that the laddies who went on to form Raith Rovers first kicked a football. Purves died in 1880 with his widow following a few years later. The advert for the sale of the property is shown in this segment for interest.

If, after the above instructions were established and money remained available, each child was to be given £1:10:00d (£1.50) for clothing per annum. On the other hand, if funds proved insufficient the Governors had the power to reduce the numbers of pupils. There was also a condition stating that if funds permitted, then on leaving School at the age of 15, scholars could be granted a sum between £2 and £5 to help them make a start in life.

So, who were the Governors and how were they chosen? It was Philp's own instruction that they should be drawn as follows:-

- The three senior Ministers of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy.
- The Minister and the four senior Members of the Kirk Session of Kirkcaldy.
- The two senior Justices of the Peace resident in Kirkcaldy.
- The eight senior members of the Council elected by the inhabitants of Kirkcaldy.

His Will dictated that 6 persons would be sufficient for a quorum and that seniority was not based on age but time in office. Philp went as far as directing the lengths of term and re-election of the Governors. He took as his starting point the 1811 Act which redefined the Burgh boundaries and set out the timetable for elections to the Council. The 8 Council members were those in post at his death and they would continue until the first elections

after his death which the Will discloses were held on the last Monday of January every two years. Similarly, with the Presbytery, they had to meet within 14 days of the Council elections to make their choice of Governors for the next two years. The exact same procedure applied to the Kirk Session. There was a little leeway in that two of the number from each grouping did not have to be re-elected in the interests of continuity but could not serve more than four years at any one time. A further condition in terms of the Council ensured that a candidate had to have served for at least two years on the Council to be eligible.

This was not all – even more details and layers of management were set out. These were put in place "in order to lessen the trouble to the said Governors and Managers, and for greater convenience" - district managers were appointed albeit reporting to the Governors.

- For Pathhead – six respectable inhabitants of Dunnikier and four from St. Clairtown and Hauklymuir.
- For Linktown – three of the elders of the Parish Church of Abbotshall and two elders of the Dissenting Presbyterian Congregation. Plus four inhabitants of Linktown, two inhabitants of Newton and two inhabitants of Bridgetown.
- For Kinghorn – Members of the Session of Kinghorn Parish Church, members of the Dissenting Presbyterian Church in Kinghorn, plus six inhabitants of Kinghorn.

The Will declared that for all three groups six persons would be sufficient for a quorum. Once again there was the stipulation of elections every two years and directions on what was to happen in various circumstances – such as the closing of a church or if a manager moved out of the area. The Will was specific that managers had to live in

PHILP'S TRUST—MEETING OF GOVERNORS.  
—A general meeting of the governors and managers of this Trust was held within the Governor's Room, Kirkcaldy, on Monday at noon—the Rev. M. J. Bryden presiding. After the minutes of former meeting had been read and sustained, communications were submitted from the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, the Kirk-session, and the Burgh Trustees, intimating the appointment of the following new managers, viz.:—*Ex-officio*—

the area they were serving.

Moving slightly out of the timeline for a short spell, a random test was carried out to ascertain if these proposals did indeed come into effect. *The Fife Free Press* on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1872 carried a report of a general meeting of the governors and managers which had been held the previous Monday with the Rev. Bryden presiding (Parish Church Minister). The two senior J.P.s were J.N. McLeod and P.D.Swan.

The meeting was advised of the names of the Presbytery representatives who had been elected: – Revs. Andrew Johnstone. (Kinglassie), J.L. Rose, (Markinch) and J.T. Scott, (Invertiel). So far so good and this was followed by the names of the elected representatives of the Kirk Session: – Messrs. James Brownlee, John Key, R.B. Heggie and J. P. Aytoun. The four did indeed make up the specified number so, what about the Councillors? We find that Messrs. William Yule, A Lawson, D. Beatson, D.Storrar, G. Beveridge, Jnr., J. Quorton, J. Hunter and R.B. Beveridge had been elected.

This demonstrates that the members were exactly as laid out by Philp and there is clear mention that they were elected for a two year period when forming the *School Committee* consisting of the Rev. M.J.Bryden and Messrs. Yule, Storrar, Lawson and R.B. Beveridge. The *Farm Committee's* elected members were Rev. M.J. Bryden and Messrs. McLeod, Quorton, Aytoun and Hunter.

ELECTION OF MANAGERS TO PHILP'S TRUST.—The biennial election of managers to this important Trust took place in the Schoolroom on Thursday night. Considerable excitement was prevalent, and after some confusion as to the election of a Chairman, the following were elected :—Mr Eadie, Mr Beveridge, Mr Brown, Mr Turner, Mr Ingram, and Mr Shepherd. For the St Clairtown district Messrs S. Davidson, jun. ; Thomas Kay, Henry Aitken, and G. Arnot were elected.

With the same intention the *Fifeshire Journal* of the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1872 was used to look at one of the district elections – Pathhead. “The biennial election of managers to this important

Trust took place in the schoolroom on Thursday night. Considerable excitement was prevalent, and after some confusion as to the election of a Chairman, the following were elected:- Mr. Eadie, Mr. Beveridge, Mr. Brown, Mr. Turner, Mr. Ingram and Mr. Shepherd (6). For the St. Clartown district, Messrs. S. Davidson, Jnr., Thomas Kay, Henry Aitken and G. Arnot, were elected (4)". This shows again that the terms and conditions were being followed in 1872 and there is no reason to suspect that this would have been any different in the past. What is also clear is that it was the Governors who both managed the overall Trust as well as acting as managers for the Kirkcaldy School.

Returning to the main narrative the Executors had set about and completed their task with Philp's possessions being sold and incorporated into the Trust. His gravestone tells us how the monies were invested and also gives the total sum which amounted to £70,700. Investments these days are thought of in terms of bonds, stocks and shares, but these were not the vehicles used initially for Robert Philp's monies.



These investments were made in lands and buildings in Fife with the exception of the £700 which was placed in heritable bonds. The breakdown of the remainder was as follows:-

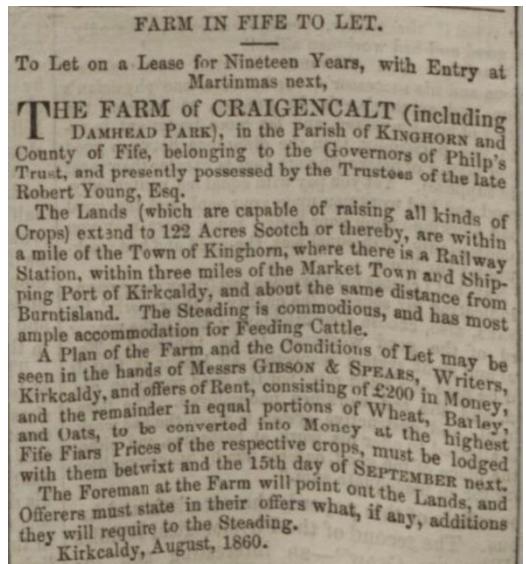
• In the Parish of Strathmiglo	20,000
• In the Parish of Collessie	10,200
• In the Parish of Kinghorn	<u>39,800</u>
• Total	<u>£70,000</u>

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE VERNOES OF ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST ESTATE AND SCHOOLS, AND DISTRICT MANAGERS OF THE TRUST, For the Year ending 30th December, 1871.						
I.—GENERAL FUND. I. Income and Expenditure.						
CHARGE.						
Rents of Farms, &c.:-						
Bauchey and Craigencalt, Crop 1870, ...	...	...	...	...	£1052	2 10
Interest on Rent, ...	...	...	...	...	191	6 2
Part of Kinghorn Acre Land, ds., ...	...	...	...	...	* 16	8 6
Nether Pittochrie, ds., ...	...	...	...	...	853	14 4
Lomquhat, ds., ...	...	...	...	...	400	0 0
Part of Emsbhead, w. D. Menzies House, for year ending March 1st, 1871, ...	...	...	...	...	1 20	0 0
Feu-Duties—Edenshead, Gatefield, ...	...	...	...	...	425	16 6
Others, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1 1
					26	17 7
Interest on Heritable and other Securities, and Bank Interest, ...	...	...	...	...	123	15 3
Arrears paid during year, ...	...	...	...	...	2932	4 3
					8	18 2
					<u>£2293</u>	<u>2 10</u>

Here are some historical examples of how the monies were invested. They are from various dates but give a flavour of how the Trust operated. The 1871 extract from the

annual accounts shows the properties/farms under the control of the Trust and the annual income derived from these investments. If the capital employed is based on £70,000 - then the return is working out at around 4.00% in that example. There were of course no guarantees with land – a bad harvest could severely damage the return.

The advertisement for the tenancy of Craigencalt Farm gives details of both the farm and the terms and conditions of the lease. Craigencalt farm which is perched above Kinghorn Loch was for many years the site of a lint mill before becoming a farm towards the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What is fascinating in this 1860 advert is that £200 of the rental is to be paid in cash with the remainder being paid in equal portions of wheat, barley and oats at the highest price available at the Fife fairs. By 1872, when it was next exposed for lease, the rental had changed to all cash.



PLANS WANTED.

WANTED, a complete set of PLANS and SPECIFICATIONS for two FARMHOUSES, one to be erected at NETHER PITLOCHIE, in the Parish of Strathmiglo, occupied by Mr James Blyth—rent from £300 to £350: the other at LEMWHAR, in the Parish of Collessie, occupied by Mr William Thom—rent from £400 to £430—belonging to the Governors of Philip's Institution, Kirkcaldy. The Houses to be substantial and commodious, and the cost in proportion to the rents. A probable estimate of the whole expense of each to be given.  
Four per cent on the cost of the Erections will be allowed for the Plans and Specifications chosen by the Governors, and will be paid on the completion of the works; but no remuneration is to be given to any other Competitor.  
The Tenants will point out the Farms and present buildings.  
The successful Architect must inspect the carrying on of the works so far as to be able to certify that they are properly executed. The Specifications must embody an arrangement for placing the old Farm-houses in such a state as shall be most fitting for utility in the other purposes of the respective Farms; and the sites of the new houses must suit this object.  
The Plans, &c., to be transmitted to Mr JONES R. GRAY, Writer, Kirkcaldy, Convener of the Committee of Governors appointed for this purpose, previous to 1st May next. The Competitors, or their Clerks, are required to be present at Kirkcaldy on the 2d May next, at 6 o'clock P.M.  
Kirkcaldy, 29th March 1842.

Finally, we have an advertisement for architects to provide plans and specifications to build two farm houses on Trust properties in the parishes of Strathmiglo and Collessie. It is noted that the costs has to be proportionate to the rents charged. We can only assume that Mr Blyth, with his higher rent, will get the better specification to his house. The winning architect will obtain a fee of 4% of the cost, and then, only on completion! If it is not enough to plan the house, the architect is also charged with converting the existing house for use on the farm.

The three examples give a clear lesson that there was a huge and wide range of responsibilities for the Governors.

Pitlochie/Edenshead House was not sold but remained as an asset via rental income as would be the case of the David Senior mentioned above. *The Fife Free Press* carried a report on a meeting held that week of the Philp Governors where they accepted a suggestion of the Farm Committee that the property should be sold as the income could be bettered by using the capital. The sale took place in June 1898 and the *Fife Free Press* reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1898 that the upset price had been set at £1,850 but £2,050 had been achieved from a James Bruce W.S. Edinburgh. A copy of the advertisement is shown here for interest.

**FIFESHIRE.**—To be exposed for SALE by Public Roup, within Dowell's Sale Rooms, No. 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July next, at Two o'clock afternoon.  
The VERY DESIRABLE RESIDENCE called EDENSHEAD HOUSE, with 20 Acres or thereby of Land and Policies attached, situate in the PARISH of STRATHMIGLO and COUNTY of FIFE.  
The Dwelling-House, with Garden and Orchard adjoining, is beautifully situated on the Banks of the Eden, and contains Dining-Room, Drawing-Room, Five Bed-Rooms, Kitchen, &c., and other accommodation.  
There is a very compact Steading, consisting of Stable, Coach-house, Byre, &c. The property, which is close to Gateside Station of the North British Railway, and about 4 miles from Leuchieven, is let on a lease expiring at Martinmas 1899.  
UPSET PRICE, £1850.  
For further particulars apply to Messrs BEVERIDGE & AJTKEN, Solicitors, Kirkcaldy, who hold the Title-Deeds and Articles of Roun.

## The Schools

### Kinghorn School

The Will had set about providing schooling covering the four areas and that is exactly what happened. The first school to open was

the one established in Kinghorn and true to the terms of the Will it had 50 pupils. This school was not purpose built but was incorporated into the new Burgh School. Kinghorn was a new school which was only opened in 1830. Some



accounts suggest that Philp's Kinghorn School opened in 1828 but as he only died in April of that year – 1830 is far more likely. This Philp school was unique from the others as it had no home of its own – rather the Trust paid for the children to be educated at the Parish School. The children still received the allowances and materials which were available under the terms of the Trust.

*The Scotsman* had waxed lyrical in its edition of the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1830 when it covered the opening of the Kinghorn schools on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The architect was a Mr Hamilton and it was said that he “displayed his usual taste for elegance combined with utility”. The building contained an infant school room, a common school room, a female school room, a library and a museum. The building has the rare accompaniment of a steeple, which is to be provided with a clock and a bell. The school was opened at 2.00pm in front of a select gathering of figures from; the Council, the Church, Parliament and the heritors of the area. The children along with their teacher had marched in procession from the former school to the new.

#### OPENING OF THE KINGHORN SCHOOLS .

In this small burgh the public spirit of the people seems to be well worthy of the imitation of more wealthy corporations—the improvement of their minds as well as of their town seems to occupy a great part of their attention ; and although the burgh is possessed of a very small free revenue, yet by strict economy, private subscription, and what is most honourable to the working classes, their voluntary aid after work hours, they are securing as far as in their power the comfort which was much wanted, of good roads, passable streets, public libraries, and schools which would do honour to a city, and they are in the progress of erecting a gymnasium for the recreation of their children, and a botanic garden for their amusement and instruction after the labours of the day are over.

It was a Mr Barclay, the Town Clerk, who was given the credit for pulling all the strands together to provide the new school. It was the “townspeople and their friends who subscribed among themselves £200 for the erection of the buildings, the corporation gave the ground and also another £150, and the heritors of the parish gave a further £150”. There was certainly no Philp monies involved in the building of the school.

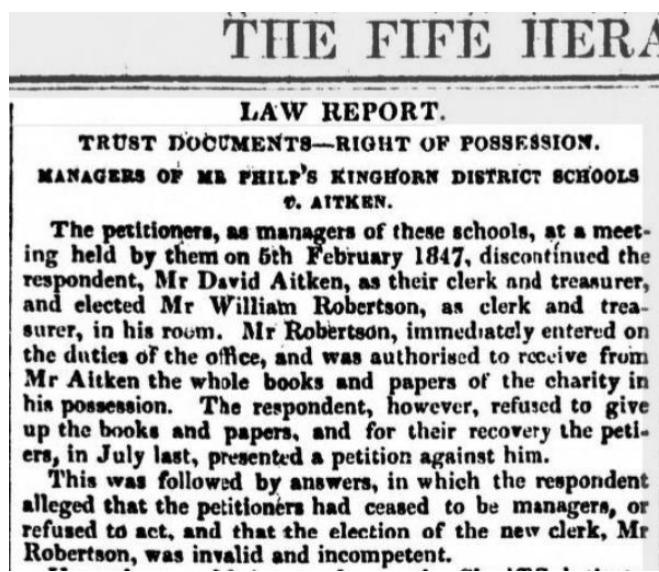
One of the features on the building was that it housed a museum containing minerals and fossils. It was further enhanced by plaster casts of the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon building in Athens.

There were eight plaster casts in all from the Marbles and there were also casts from busts of Isaac Newton and Benjamin Franklin. All in all it seemed to be a worthwhile enterprise. The museum was still receiving exhibits in 1929 as the *Dundee Evening Telegraph* of the 21<sup>st</sup> January indicated that a Dundee man, George Williamson, who was a native of Kinghorn, had presented the museum with a model of the town's harbour which was made in "perfect proportion and an interesting piece of work".

In the *Fife Herald* of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1836 "the Incorporation of Hammermen of this burgh, a few days ago voted a donation of five pounds from their funds to assist in the purchase of additional items of natural history for the Kinghorn Museum".

The schoolmaster appointed to the new school was a Mr Alexander Beatten and among his charges were 50 "Philpers" although as we shall see the numbers grew with 73 being recorded on the roll in 1862. Harking back to the Will we find that of the 73 scholars only 5 were not regularly attending Sunday School.

The road for the Kinghorn Philp Trust was anything but smooth with seemingly "too many cooks being involved". It is doubtful if Robert Philp ever envisaged his school being inextricably linked with a burgh/parish school and all its attendant plethora of managers. The Town Council was involved, the Kirk Session, the heritors, as well as the Philp Trust, must have made easy decision making a near impossibility. All too often disputes appeared to arise.



However, they managed to surpass themselves in an unfortunate legal case in 1847/48. It would appear that the Kinghorn managers decided to dispense with the

This was followed by answers, in which the respondent alleged that the petitioners had ceased to be managers, or refused to act, and that the election of the new clerk, Mr Robertson, was invalid and incompetent.

services of their Clerk and Treasurer, one David Aitken, on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1847. They immediately replaced him with a William Robertson. However, Aitken refused to hand over any of the books and records by counter-claiming that the said managers had previously ceased to be managers or refused to act as managers – therefore his dismissal was invalid and incompetent.

If that was a poor example to set worse was seen and reported by the *Fife Free Press* on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1885. This of course relates



to the School Board\* who were discussing the potential retiral allowance (pension) for the Headmaster who was in post when the Kinghorn Philp School closed. John Forbes, had provided exceptional service and there was a suggestion that he be paid a pension of £25 per annum. Some board members were against this and a petition was raised amongst the ratepayers supporting this stance. It appeared that there was a worry that this £25 could cause a rise in the rates!

The Chairman pointed out, after a heated discussion, that it would “cost not a farthing on the rates” as the new younger and less expensive headmaster was being paid at least £25 less than Mr Forbes – the pension was paid!.

It does seem that Kinghorn was law unto itself as evidenced by another article in the same edition. A letter had been read from a Mr Hughes, the Clerk to the Philp Trust. The Trust were unhappy that the Kinghorn Board had authorised a Mr Mann to withhold books from Philp scholars if he thought they were being abused. They had to reverse the decision as the Will was specific in regards to the provision of books etc., although Mr Mann was asked to report any flagrant cases.

\*The Education Act of 1872 was the start of the death knell for the

Philp Schools and after the passing of the Act the Trust was excluded entirely from the new Kinghorn School Board. The school buildings served as a school until the current Kinghorn Primary School was completed in 1896. The original school is still serving Kinghorn as a community centre and library. Although the Philp School itself closed in the town the children remained integrated with the other scholars and still received the financial benefits of the Trust, for the time being.

## Kirkcaldy's Philp Schools

There is a misconception that the Philp School which served Kirkcaldy begins and ends with the building which is now *Society*. It certainly ends with that building but it is not the start. Although there is little available information easily to hand the first school was set up in Charlotte Street or Thistle Street. The opening year is normally given as 1830. We are rather caught in a dilemma with this one as we can see a school on Thistle Street between Glasswork Street and Charlotte Street. This is shown on the 1855/56 ordnance survey map where the 'new' Philp School is also shown. We suspect that the former was the original school especially as we discovered a school known as Mr Wise's Academy in Thistle Street. We suspect that Mr Wyse had moved into the original Philp School. Our suspicions are strengthened by discovering that when a property in Thistle Street was demolished in the 1960s there was a plaque on one of the buildings stating that it was the site of the first Philp School. Whether that building was the site or the actual physical location we do not know and of course the plaque itself disappeared. We are on far firmer ground when we look at the



second school which has had many guises since the Philp School closed in 1891. It was in 1850 that the new building was erected. The Will had specified that 100 children were to be educated but times and legislation had changed since 1820.

The first mention of the new school came in the Fifeshire Journal of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1850. The contractors were excavating the site and it was hoped that the foundation stone would be laid that month or the start of the next. The ceremony, we understand, is to be performed with a public procession and all the old ordinary honours which can be done by the "brethren of the mystic tie" and our municipal authorities. It will also, we trust, combine with other and more appropriate ensigns to mark the benevolent and characteristic nature of the institution".

**PHILP SCHOOL.**—The contractors are now employed in their excavations to make a site for the new Philp school, the foundation stone of which is to be laid at the end of the present, or about the beginning of the ensuing month. The ceremony, we understand, is to be performed with a public procession and all the old ordinary honours which can be done by the "brethren of the mystic tie" and our municipal authorities. It will also, we trust, be accompanied with other and more appropriate ensigns to mark the benevolent

All became much clearer on consulting *The Fifeshire Journal* of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1851. The 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Robert Philp had been

celebrated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. "The managers of the Trust celebrated with unusual rejoicings and ceremonies,

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNDREDTH BIRTH-DAY OF THE LATE BAILIE PHILP.**—Wednesday last being the 100th anniversary of the birth-day of the late Bailie Philp, the Managers of the Trust celebrated the occasion with unusual rejoicings and ceremonies, including the opening of their splendid New School in Thistle Street, which is calculated to afford accommodation for about 400 children. The morning was wet and lowering, but fortunately cleared up about

including the opening of their splendid new school in Thistle Street, which it is calculated to afford accommodation for about 400 children. The morning was wet but it dried up at 11.00am which was the time the procession of children marched from the old school to the new. "There were 610 children in the procession from the various schools of the Trust, all of whom were clean and comfortably clad, and each holding a bouquet of flowers". The paper then went on to reproduce the programme for the day which

is abbreviated here:-

- All Philp's school children to meet at the Parish Church at 11.30am.
- A short ceremony at noon by the Rev. Bryden.
- Accompanied by their teacher each child would file past Philp's tomb and lay a flower.
- The procession then walked past the manse and down Coal Wynd and thence to the Pathhead School. This was followed by a walk back along the High Street to their new school where they were met by the governors and the managers of the district schools.
- The school was opened by a prayer by the Rev. Bowie of Kinghorn followed by an address by some of the governors and managers.
- A Hymn was sung by the children and then buns were distributed to them by the Rev. Mr Black.
- The children were then dismissed.

The article commented that “it is but justice to the Rev. Mr Bryden, the teachers and managers of the Institution, to say that they exerted themselves throughout the day in the most laudable and most praiseworthy manner, and we are happy to have to record that everything went off during the whole proceedings in a manner calculated to do the greatest credit to all concerned”. There was then a dinner for 43 gentlemen in the Town Hall with Mr John Drysdale of Pitteadie in the chair.



The Civic Society booklet on Robert Philp indicates that a Mr Chalmers was the first headmaster. Research found that Andrew Bruce Chalmers was buried along with his wife in Bennochy Cemetery following his death on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1881. His gravestone confirms that he had been the Headmaster of Philp's School in Kirkcaldy. By the time of the new school opening he had been replaced

by William P. Sheriff whom we were able to locate in the 1851 census when he was living in Thistle Street. We can not be certain if there was a house attached to the school or if he lived in one of the many properties which lay along the thoroughfare. The school continued until 1891 when it closed with the pupils being transferred to the Board's West Primary School.

**PROPERTY FOR SALE.**

To be Exposed for Sale by Public Roup within  
the GOVERNORS' ROOM, PHILP'S SCHOOL,  
THISTLE STREET, Kirkcaldy, on TUESDAY,  
22nd October, at 3 o'clock P.M.,

**PHILP'S SCHOOL, KIRKCALDY,** with  
Playground, Janitor's House, &c., adjoining,  
having a frontage to Thistle Street, of 140 feet  
or thereby and to Charlotte Street of 112 feet or  
thereby.

The Property being held Burgage there is No  
Feu-Duty.

Upset Price, £1650.

For further information apply to Messrs  
BEVERIDGE & AITKEN, Solicitors, Kirkcaldy,  
who hold the Titles and Articles of Roup.  
Kirkcaldy, 4th October, 1901.

The school's end of the road as an asset of the Philp Trust was reached on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1901 when the *Fife Free Press* carried an advert for the sale of the building. £1,650 was the upset price and the roup was to take place in the Governor's Room inside the school at 3.00pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The advertisement is

shown for interest and it will be noted that the school was build on a burgage plot which mean that there would be no feu-duty to pay – which was a consideration at the time. A janitor's house is mentioned – was that at one stage the Master's abode?

The purchasers were, it would appear, the recently formed Kirkcaldy Unionist Club.

An advert was traced in the *Fife Free Press* in November of 1901 asking potential members to attend an inaugural meeting in the old Philp School. More evidence was unearthed in the *Fife Free Press* of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1903. An article indicated that a three day bazaar had been opened in the Adam Smith Halls with a view to extinguishing the debt in altering and equipping the “handsome

**PROPOSED KIRKCALDY UNIONIST CLUB.**

A MEETING of UNIONISTS will be held in  
the LARGE HALL, PHILP'S SCHOOL, on  
WEDNESDAY, 6th November, at 8.30 p.m.,  
for the purpose of forming a Unionist Club.

All Unionists in the Burghs are cordially  
invited.

J. W. LAWRIE,  
Organising Secretary.

Unionist Rooms,  
Kirkcaldy, 2nd November, 1901.

and commodious club". We learn that the rooms had been opened in 1902 by the Earl of Dalkeith.

## Linktown Philp's School



This was a purpose-built school erected to serve the Links, Invertiel and Bridgetown areas. The building was a landmark for over 130 years on Links Street and after its days as a school were over it served as a community centre. A substantial plaque on the front of the building declared that it was:-

Erected by the Local Managers  
of Linktown New Town & Bridgetown  
Under the Trust Disposition of the Late  
ROBERT PHILP Esq AD 1832

It opened in 1833 and served as a school until 1891. On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1849 a statue of Robert Philp was unveiled having been set on a plinth above the plaque. The statue was flanked on either side by an angel and all were carved from sandstone. If the gravestone of Pet Marjorie is set aside then this statue was and remains the only one erected in memory of any of Kirkcaldy's sons or daughters. Its fate which shall be covered later reflects very badly on the former Kirkcaldy Town Council.

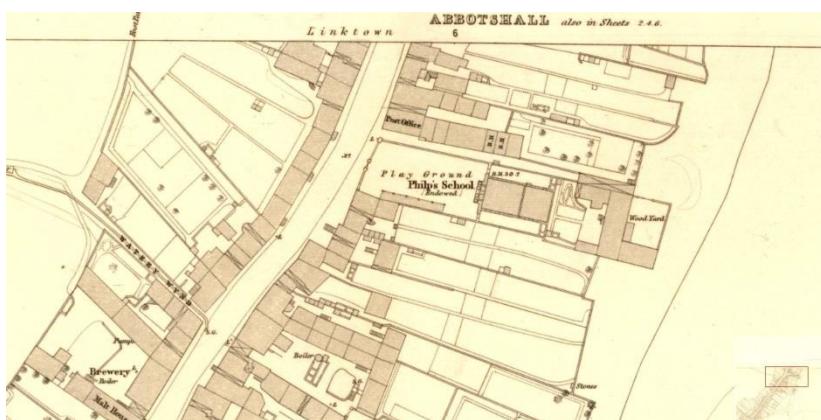


The 1872 Education Act changed everything with School Boards now charged with providing free education for all. This will be gone into in greater detail but with free education now available it

took away the central purpose behind the Trust. In 1891 the new Abbotshall school was opened and the children from the Philp school were moved there. There is however no doubt that the Links was an area where poverty was rife and, during its history, that particular school played a major part in giving an education and opportunity to children whose background would otherwise have made it unlikely/impossible.

Choosing the site of the new Abbotshall school was not a formality. In fact strong arguments were raised to support the

Philp School at least being considered as the potential site. The *Fife Free Press* of Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1888 reported on the vexations of the School Board as they discussed the subject. “There had been



consideration and debate the previous month as to whether the Philp School and its adjoining properties should be purchased or if a new site should be considered”.

The previous month the Board had commissioned an architect to give them an idea of the value and the board members had all visited the school to inspect its suitability. Given there were only eight members present, albeit major figures, they appear to have come up with a plethora of options. Michael B. Nairn was in the Chair and his main issue was with the amount of light which would be available using the Philp school. Others thought that, given what was a limited space, it would have to be built on two storeys unlike their prestigious East and West Schools. Mr Harcus believed that a Master could not control a school on two levels as easily as he could on one. Bailie Downie thought that building the school at the head of Wattery Wynd would be ideal but the

narrowness of the Wynd discounted that notion.

In the end there were two motions – Mr McIntosh wished to write to the Philp Governors and thank them for the offer but that the area was too small for a school of 600 pupils. However, a counter-motion from Mr Young that the Governors should not be contacted as and until a site was chosen won the day.

“The Clerk was then instructed to write to Mr Ferguson of Raith's Factor, ascertaining what site might be available and at what price”. The choice eventually fell on a new build and Abbotshall school opened its doors in 1891 and the children from the Link's Philp's school were transferred there. The building was soon put to other uses. It would appear that the property was rented out as a charitable mission. One was certainly the Navvy Mission and that seems to have been followed by the Links Mission.

There had always been a belief that the western area of the town suffered from the lack of a public meeting place. *The Fife Free*

*Press* of the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1899 first mooted the possibility of the school being purchased from the Governors and converted into a public hall. The article indicated that several enterprising local men were in negotiations with the owners. Whatever transpired the property was not purchased at that time being left as a charitable mission.

A purchase of the building was secured in 1910

THE PHILP HALL, LINKTOWN.	
APPEAL TO OLD PHILPERS.	
T <small>HE</small>	O <small>LD</small> P <small>HILPERS</small> S <small>CHOOL</small> is for Sale. It can be acquired for £750.
S <small>ubscriptions</small>	are being collected to purchase it, and to enlarge and improve it, so that it may become a suitable Public Hall for the Links District, when it will be handed over to the custody of the Town Council as a LASTING MEMORIAL to one of the greatest benefactors of the town of Kirkcaldy, the late Baillie Philp.
D <small>onations</small>	, large or small, will be welcomed by the Editor, and will be duly acknowledged week by week in our columns; or may be intimated to the Treasurer, R. C. LOCKHART, Allantank.
	S <small>econd</small> L <small>ist</small> .
J. Lockhart Innes	£10 0 0
Charles Maxton	10 0 0
J. & W. Hendry	50 0 0
Barry, Ostler, & Shepherd	50 0 0
Linktown Works Employees	3 6 0
'A Links Laddie'	5 0 0
Swan, Mackie, & Co.	0 10 6
Wm. Ogilvie	0 2 6
Miss M'Gregor	0 5 0
Alexander Beattie	3 0 0
A. Cameron	2 0 0
Wm. D. Rinton	0 5 0
Adam Dow	0 5 0
Mrs Spittal	0 5 0
J. C. Miller	0 5 0
Councillor Herd	3 0 0
D. Inglis	1 1 0
Anonymous	5 0 0
Previously announced	£144 5 0 705 17 6

## KIRKCALDY, SATURDAY

LOOK HERE!  
**SALE OF WORK  
TO-DAY,**  
in Town's Mission Hall,  
(Old Philp's School),  
In Aid of LINKTOWN WORKING MEN'S CLUB.  
**COME!**  
All will be made Welcome.  
"NOW" FOR THE WEST END.

and an advert which was primarily an appeal to “old Philpers” to purchase and enlarge the school into a public hall is featured here. Annoyingly, the appeal comes from the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1910. Annoying, is used, as the article contains the second list of subscribers – all efforts to locate the initial list have ended in failure – but the sum pledged by the publication date was £850:2:6d.

The hall was purchased and, as indicated by the advertisement, put into the hands of the Town Council. A rather furious letter, from *Ravenscraig*, three years later, was unearthed in the *Fifeshire Advertiser* of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1913. This heartfelt appeal/complaint from an “Old Philper” included:-

What has become of the enlarging of the Philp Hall? The public was appealed to and responded for the purchase of this hall for the town. This has been done, and the matter has been allowed to drop. The proposal was to erect on the site of the school a hall as a memorial to one of Kirkcaldy's noblest sons, a man who felt for his less fortunate fellow-townsmen. It would be superfluous on my part to recapitulate the great boon his munificence has been felt and appreciated, and yet this is the reward for his memory. There is not a town in Britain would have tolerated this negligence.

“What has become of the enlargement of the Philp Hall? The public was appealed to and responded for the purchase of this hall for the town. This has been done, and the matter allowed to drop. The proposal was to erect, on the site of the school, a hall as a memorial to one of Kirkcaldy's most noble sons, a man who felt for his less fortunate towns-men. It would be superfluous on my part to recapitulate the great boon of his munificence which has been felt and appreciated, and yet this is the reward for his memory. There is not a town in Britain which would have tolerated this negligence. Surely there is some public spirit left in the town, most especially that part thereof named Linktown. This spot, where many of our townsmen received their start in life by a good education, clothing etc., enabled them to climb the ladder of success. Where are they? Have they no gratitude left for their

benefactor? A spot which should be hallowed by grateful memories of the past being allowed to remain in such a dilapidated condition is not just a disgrace to the Council but to the community and ought to be at once rectified. The place having been converted into a Smallpox Reception House is enough to cause the bones of the great benefactor to turn in their coffin. If the recipients of his benevolence have a spark of the soul of honour left in their body they should at once be up in protest against the present state of matters and force the Town Council into action. It can be done! Will they do it?

Work was done and the 'hall' served the community in the west of the town right through until its replacement and eventual demolition in the 1960s.



In terms of the teachers this school was quite remarkable in that its first Master stayed in the post for 32 years. Thomas Hill Westwater was this man and he died on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1886 being buried in the Old Kirk graveyard five years after his wife.

His large shoes were filled by one of the most illustrious names in the early years of Kirkcaldy School Board. John Ogilvie, a native of Perth, taught in Kirkcaldy for 45 years. A keen musician and at one stage President of Kirkcaldy Choral Union he arrived here to teach at the Links Music Hall School where a Mr Hope Thomson was Master. From there he graduated to the West School followed by 8 years as Master of the Link's Philp School. He went with his pupils to the new Abbotshall School in 1891 again as Master. From there in 1906 he took on the post of Master at the Board's new North School, retiring, as he had to, at age 65 in 1919. Having to give up his tied house he moved to Ava Street where he died in 1930.



Another task when number 50 is reached will be to find the site of the Music Hall School\*. At present what is known is that at John Ogilvie's retiral function, Provost Robert Lockhart, indicated that it stood on the site of Mr Francis's church. It was noted that a former Philp Trust Governor, a Mr Gerrard, was also on the platform to pay his respects on behalf of the Trust.



\* alone, a little research showed that this was indeed the building which became the Raith Parish Church. Having been a church it became a music hall then a music school before being reconsecrated as a church. The building had

been purchased by Daniel Hendry and others and was used as a hall as well as a music school. It could take up to 600 persons.

SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.—The first of a series of Saturday evening entertainments came off in the Music Hall, Linktown, on the evening of Saturday last—Mr Daniel Hendry, manufacturer, in the chair. This was the first meeting in the new Music Hall, formerly the Links Free Church. Mr Hendry, with a few other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, bought the church, and have fitted it up for a music hall. It is also well adapted for public meetings, being comfortably seated and well ventilated, as well as being in a central position. The entertainment on Saturday evening consisted of singing and reciting, and the large audience seemed thoroughly to enjoy the bill of fare. The hall accommodates about 600 persons.

The Revered Francis had arrived from Paisley High Church in 1880 and remained at his charge until his retiral – a ministry of 38 years. Sadly, like so many other parents, he lost his son on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 during World War 1. It is strange to ponder as to why we go off at tangents but – this one led to the discovery, from his obituary, that the Rev. David L. Francis was a Manager of the Link's Philp Trust!

## Pathhead Philp's School

This was of course the area which secured the largest portion of the funds equating to 3/8ths of the Trust's income. The area had a number of schools prior to the advent of Robert Philp's Will.



Writing around 1860, in his book *Historical Sketches of Pathhead and Vicinity*, Robert Brodie, makes a strong claim that towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the inhabitants wished to have their children educated locally and after some hiccups a subscription school was established. The cost of building a school was to be raised by *a general subscription among the inhabitants and any donations wherewith they might be favoured*. This new school opened around 1811 and served the community for 47 years. Once



again we are able to produce a portion of an 1855 map showing the site of the school.

It was in 1858 that another new and larger burgh school was built at the junction of Factory and Smeaton Roads. A close

examination will show one of the gate pillars still stands and once again, for clarity, a map detailing the site, is reproduced later in this section. This school in turn was replaced by a new Pathhead School in Cairns Street which opened in 1915. The headmaster, one John Christie, secured fame through marching the staff and pupils from one school to the other carrying all the equipment thereby saving on removal costs. His name is remembered by nearby Christie Place. It was the same Mr Christie who, in November of 1915, welcomed Robert Dunsire to his former school when he was home on leave following his award of the Victoria Cross.

It had been in this landscape that Robert Philp's school was opened in late 1831 on a site which at the time was in splendid isolation. It would not be until 1847 that Michael



### PATHHEAD.

All the outside building of the school-house in Pathhead, granted to the inhabitants by the will of the late Robert Philp, Esq. of Edenhead, is now finished, and certainly adds much to the appearance of the town. The building stands upon an eminence, and has attached to it a large steeple or tower, which is in fine keeping with the venerable ruins of Ravensheugh Castle, which stands in the immediate vicinity, mentioned, as our readers are aware, by Sir Walter Scott, in one of his novels.

Nairn constructed his "folly" and this in time came to almost surround the school. Diligent research traced an article which was published in the *Fife Herald*

of the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1831. The article informs readers that all the outside work on the building is now completed" and certainly adds much to the appearance of the town. The building stands upon an eminence and has attached to it a large steeple or tower, which is in fine keeping with the venerable ruins of Ravenshaugh Castle which stands in the immediate vicinity mentioned, as our readers are aware, by Sir Walter Scott in one of his novels. The managers have acted very wisely and have given great satisfaction to the public in their choice of a teacher. Instead of going to the metropolis for some raw inexperienced strutting boy, who very probably imagines there was contained in the cavity of his own 'small head' all the learning of the land, they have elected Mr William Tod, who has taught at a private school in the town for upwards of 20 years, much to the satisfaction of his employers. What shows the manly and independent conduct of the managers is that Mr Tod has been brought up among them, thus showing in some cases a prophet shall have honour in his own country and among his own kindred".

On the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1832 the *Fife Herald* covered the opening of the school. The opening took the form

of a grand concert given by Mr Henry Christie, the precentor in the new church. He was assisted by Mr Justice of Pathhead together with Messrs Martin and Wood along with a Miss Frazer. The latter three it would seem hailed from Edinburgh. "The whole went off finely,

### PATHHEAD.

The elegant school-house erected here by the trustees of the late Robert Philp, Esq. was opened, on Wednesday evening last, by a grand concert, given by Mr Henry Christie, precentor in the new church: He was assisted by Mr Justice of this place, Messrs Martin and Wood, and Miss Frazer, from Edinburgh. The whole went finely off, and was attended by nearly 200 individuals. The singing of Miss Frazer was perfectly enchanting.

and was attended by nearly 200 individuals. The singing of Miss Frazer was perfectly enchanting".

An item carried by the *Fife Herald* on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1832 gives a picture of that first year of operations. The first annual examination of the school had taken place the previous week. In it

The Philp Institution in this town, for the education and clothing of 150 poor children, was publicly examined on Tuesday last week. It now consists of two schools—one under Mrs Hill, where the girls are taught to sew and knit, the other under Mr Tod, which they attend for half the day, and, along with the boys, are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. On the present occasion the sewing school was a sight "worth gaun a mile to see." Here were some 50 or 60 fine girls—though reputedly the poorest of the poor—all neat and clean, and wearing the clothes which they had sewed for themselves at the school, their faces radiant with health, and a profusion of fine curls—flaxen, auburn, or jet,—covering

we learn that it consisted of two schools - one under a Mrs Hill, where the girls were taught to sew and knit for half the day. For the other half they joined with the boys and were taught reading,

writing and arithmetic. "On the present occasion the sewing school was a sight "worth gaun a mile to see". Here were 50 or 60 fine girls – though reputedly the poorest of the poor – all neat and clean, and wearing the clothes they had sewed for themselves at the school, their faces radiant with health, and a profusion of fine curls – flaxen, sunburn, or jet – covering their brows. They were knitting the stockings intended for them next year, having completed the sewing work some weeks before. Every girl first makes her own clothes and then the shirts and stockings of the boy she likes best comes next. But how fares the boy who happens to be disliked by all? Why, he must speedily mend his manners, else he will have a stocking prepared for him as unshapely as he is rude and overbearing, or perhaps a collar to his shirt which will grip him like a St. Johnston's cravat. Thus every boy has a direct interest in studying their goodwill and they, on the other hand, can at small expense, raise themselves in the estimation of the boys. Both influences go a great way to promote the well-being of the Institution.

One of the dangers to health at the time ended the life of Mr Tod which was reported in the *Fife Herald* on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1839.

His life was lost to typhus fever which had claimed several victims in the past week. Mr Tod left a widow and children and was the sole teacher to the boys in the school - "there can be little doubt that the laborious and unremitting performance of his professional duties in that extensive establishment, of which he was the sole teacher, injured his constitution, and predisposed it to the fatal attack".

#### PATHHEAD.

*Typhus fever* is very prevalent at present in this place and neighbourhood. Several individuals, within these last eight days, have fallen victims to this dangerous disease, and among the number Mr William Tod, the respected teacher of Philp's school. There can be little doubt but that the laborious and unremitting performance of his professional duties in that extensive establishment, of which he was sole teacher, injured his constitution, and predisposed it for the fatal attack. His widow has to mourn the loss of a steady and affectionate husband, his children of a most indulgent father, and the scholars of the institution of a kind, attentive, and assiduous teacher. The directors of that institution will feel it difficult to find a successor to the late lamented incumbent, of such entire devotedness to his duty, and possessing equal enthusiasm and perseverance in performing it.

Matters seem to have got no better for masters when the *Fife Herald* of the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1849 is consulted. There would be a bit of comedy about the report if it were not so serious. It had been decided that the Local Managers would treat the children to an evening soiree. This was a very positive gesture which had taken place the previous Monday. There was music which was

conducted by Mr Christie, the music teacher, and several speeches. The children were treated to fruit, confectionery etc., and the article assured readers that it had gone off "in a very agreeable manner". However, almost as an afterthought, we find - "We regret to state that Mr Anderson, head teacher in the institution, was prevented from being present, in consequence of being confined by an attack of fever, of which he has since died.—On the evening

SOM: ES.—The local managers of Philp's Educational Institution of this place having resolved to give the pupils of said institution a soiree, it accordingly took place in the school-room, on the evening of Monday week, when the pupils attending the day school, as well as those that attend the Sabbath evening class, met under the direction of the managers. The children were treated to fruits, confections &c. Several addresses were delivered, while some pieces of sacred music, conducted by Mr Christie, teacher of that department, served as interludes. The whole entertainment passed off very agreeably. We regret to state that Mr Anderson, head teacher in the institution, was prevented from being present, in consequence of being confined by an attack of fever, of which he has since died.—On the evening

Institution, was prevented from being present, in consequence of being confined by a bout of fever, from which he subsequently died"! Strangely the same article mentioned another soiree held on the Wednesday which was aimed at liquidating the debt incurred in altering a house into a school for the St. Clartown area.



At the time of its closure it was a Mr Arthur who held the post of Head Teacher. The Mr Brodie, whose book on Pathhead was mentioned previously, suggested that the Philp's Institution was surpassed by none and brought much needed education in the area where “it was so badly needed owing to the carelessness of the parents” – a trifle harsh?

The 1872 Education Act which set up school boards saw Pathhead Philp's School being managed by Dysart School Board while the two Kirkcaldy schools fell under the remit of Kirkcaldy School Board.

The Pathhead school was closed in 1892 and was in time bought by Michael Nairn and Co. It was not immediately demolished, in fact the expanding factory was built around it. It was finally demolished in 1964 along with the factories. Forgotten for decades an inscription was uncovered during the demolition. It was placed above the entrance door and stated:-

ERECTED  
BY THE LOCAL MANAGERS  
UNDER THE WILL OF THE LATE  
MR ROBERT PHILP  
MANUFACTURER, KIRKCALDY  
FOR THE EDUCATION OF  
250 CHILDREN  
IN DUNNIKIER AND ST.CLAIRTOWN  
A.D. 1831  
GEORGE SMITH ARCHITECT.

It raises a question as to when the plaque was put in place. Certainly in 1831 it was designed for 150 children and that figure held good until the 1840s.

When the school was closed the



pupils were transferred to the school mentioned previously at the junction of Factory Road and Smeaton Road. It was mentioned earlier that a stone pillar which held the entrance gate can still be seen but the ordnance survey map reproduced here gives a clearer picture of where the building once stood.

## The Former Philp School Buildings in 2023

All four of the buildings continued to stand in the living memory of some readers. It was not until the 1960s that redevelopment saw the end of two of the former schools. Nothing remains of either of the demolished buildings but it is possible to find their former locations.

The Kinghorn school still stands serving as both a community centre and a library. It is perhaps incorrect to refer to Kinghorn as a Philp School – in reality it was a school which Philp scholars attended.



The Kirkcaldy school in Charlotte Street also still stands, now in the guise of *Society*, as a reminder of Robert Philp and his school. A Civic Society plaque was unveiled in 1993 and it is reproduced here. It is fitting that there is still a tangible memorial standing in Kirkcaldy to the man and his legacy. Time has moved on and the inestimable value of his legacy has all

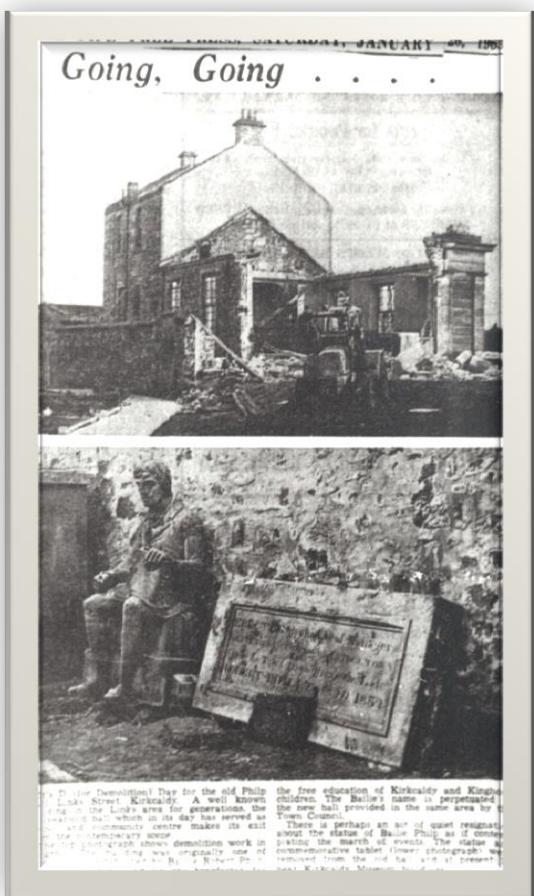
but been forgotten.

In 1964 the Pathhead school was swept away along with the extensive Michael Nairn & Co. factories which had straddled Nether Street. A huge swathe of



Kirkcaldy's industrial history vanished along with the school. A photograph is shown of the demolition in progress and from it readers can establish the exact location of the school as Flesh Wynd is in the foreground. It is both disturbing and disappointing

that the inscription tablet above the door has simply vanished but as we will see that is not a unique situation.



The Link's school was demolished in 1963. A new hall had been built for the area and the clock still stands marking the spot of the original school/hall. Two photographs from the *Fife Free Press* of the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1963 are reproduced here. One shows the demolition in progress and the other shows the statue and commemorative tablet which had adorned the hall. The fate of the tablet is unknown but the statue was placed in the Memorial

Gardens close to the Art Gallery. This, please keep in mind, was the only statue ever erected to a son or daughter of Kirkcaldy in the town. It was vandalised by the head being knocked off. The statue was repaired but vandalised again. Ultimately, the Council Minutes show that the Burgh Engineer was instructed to have the statue thrown onto the coup – and that was what was done. The flanking angels did not suffer the same fate. It was noted that the Council Minutes show that they were gifted to the



wife of the Provost of the time – H. A. Nicholson. Where they are now is unknown, but perhaps a reader may be able to provide an answer.

## Milestone, Alterations and Reflections

By and large the Philp schools worked well from their inception until the passing of the Education Act of 1872. This Act offered free education for all and so to a large degree removed the very and some examples will be reproduced later in the narrative.

Kirkcaldy Town Council's responsibility for education was removed on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1873. At that point 15 schools came under the new Kirkcaldy School Board, with a further 8 being controlled by the Dysart Board, The School Boards functioned until 1918 when they were replaced by an Education Committee. In turn, these were replaced in 1929 when County Councils took over the responsibility for education.

The Philp schools and the operation of the Trust were quite correctly very much driven by the terms of the Will. Throughout the history of the Trust situations arose which could not have been foreseen when the Will was written. The one which stands out is the value of his estate at Philp's death. Once the initial building costs of the three schools were accounted for it became a question of how to spend the funds rather than “if monies allowed”. A huge amount of credit has to be given to the Governors who, after building the schools and religiously adhering to the terms of the Will, found that the fund was increasing not decreasing! When the Trust came to an end the value was not £70,000 but closer to £75,000. This underlines the prudent management after the initial building costs were met as there was never an occasion when the terms of the Will could not be met through lack of funds. We will see the position in 1927 later in this narrative which is a far

different one to that the Governors maintained and handed over.

By the mid 1840s the interest derived from the capital was not being spent and so steps were taken to rectify the situation. The *Fifeshire Journal* of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1845 explained the background and the proposed steps. “We understand that the Governors of the Philp Institution have the intention to apply to Parliament next session to alter or amend certain primary rules or provisions contained in the benevolent educational trust-deed bequeathed to poor children in the burgh and its vicinity by the late Bailie Philp. As the funds of the institution are rapidly on the increase, it is in particular proposed to take in an additional number of poor children, which, however, cannot be legally done without an alteration of the original trust-deed by act of Parliament. The contemplated alteration of the deed to extend the benefits of the institution will meet with the cordial assent, and, if required, the co-operation of a majority of the inhabitants.”

PHILP'S INSTITUTION.—We understand that the governors of the Philp Institution here have the intention to apply to Parliament next session to alter or amend certain primary rules or provisions contained in the benevolent educational trust-deed bequeathed to poor children in the burgh and its vicinity by the late Bailie Philp. As the funds of the institution are rapidly on the increase, it is in particular proposed to take in an additional number of poor children, which, however, cannot be legally done without an alteration of the original trust-deed by act of Parliament. The contemplated alteration of the deed to extend the benefits of the institution will meet with the cordial assent, and, if required, the co-operation of a majority of the inhabitants.

Nothing was done in a slapdash manner. Rather the proposed alterations were clearly laid out and forwarded to two eminent legal minds for their opinions. The queries were:-

- Was it possible to take in more children if funds permitted and/or were they allowed to clothe children above the numbers shown in the Will? If insufficient children were available in the areas served by the schools – could they be taken in from other towns?
- Did the children who had attended and left school when the building costs precluded the payment of the leaving bounty now have a claim on the surplus funds?
- Did the District Managers have the right, without the permission of the Governors, to dispose of the surplus after educating and clothing the specified number of children?
- Did they have the right to dismiss children who had gone to

live outside of the boundaries permitted by the deed? Did they have the permission to dismiss children whose parent's financial position was so improved that they should be able to educate their children?

- The ten managers for Pathhead school are chosen in the ratio of 6 from Dunnikier and 4 from St. Clairtown and Hawklymuir – does this mean that a greater portion of the children should come from Dunnikier?

The major result was that, yes, additional children could be taken on and if insufficient numbers were forthcoming from inside the boundaries it was possible to go outwith. What was very clear was that the original conditions had to be met before anything not specified in the Will could be undertaken. Parliament gave its consent primarily allowing more children to benefit from an education and clothing from the Trust. It is well nigh on impossible to see this as anything but a welcome step and allowed the Trust to both continue and extend the valuable assistance for the most vulnerable. The Trust, its Governors and Managers, continued their excellent work until legislation that Bailie Robert Philp never dreamt of came to pass.

An outline has already been given in terms of the Education Act and in 1869 and 1873 Endowed Schools Acts were passed. A Schools Enquiry Commission had reported that there should be a national system of secondary education and it should be part funded by restructuring the endowments to help transform secondary education. The outcome was that The Endowed Schools Commission had extensive powers over the endowments of individual schools – Philps being one. It became possible that a Boy's School in the north of the country could see their endowment funds being diverted into a girl's school in the south. The famous case came when an endowment, derived from land for Aidenham School in London, saw the land being compulsorily purchased to allow the building of St. Pancras railway station. The

purchase figure amounted to £91,000 and instead of the funds going to Aidenham – the Commissioners sent more than half of the money to other schools. £91,000 in the late 1860s was a huge sum and the case caused consternation. It is very possible that Philp's £70,000 in 1828 might have been close to £91,000 by 1870. Philp's position did not become 'celebrated' but it still roused some to fury in the Lang Toun.

*The Fife Free Press* of the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1885 gave extensive coverage to the proposals for the future management of the Trust. The Trust had spent some time putting their proposals together realising that they had to bend given the new environment. The proposals were put to the Educational; Endowments Commission in their board-room at 46 George Street Edinburgh. The commissioners were Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Earl of Elgin, ex-Provost Ure, Glasgow, and Sir Thomas Boyd, Edinburgh. The paper reported that there was a large representation from the Trust.

It was the Clerk to the Trust – W.R.Spears (also Kirkcaldy's Town Clerk) who spoke first, outlining the history and the proposals. The history has in the main been covered previously but there is always something new to learn. On this occasion it centred around the leaving bounty and a return to the Will confirmed that the wording included “of between £2 and £5 each scholar being the sum contemplated”, although it was directed that the payments to be increased to “whatever more the fund will afford, the better to enable them to begin in the world”. Prior to 1846 with the funds more than required to meet the school expenses and clothing – those leaving were securing comparatively large sums as their bounty. This certainly helps explain the changes made at that

#### THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN PHILP'S TRUST.

Locally, no question has received more attention during the last few month than Philp's Trust. The new scheme has now been prepared by the Commissioners, and submitted to the Scotch Education Department. The interest of our readers in the subject being so great, there is no excuse for reproducing the scheme here. We do so *ad litteram* as follows:—

#### EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (SCOTLAND) COMMISSION.

Scheme, under the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Act, 1882, for the Administration of the Endowment in the County of Fife and Burghs of Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn, known as Robert Philp's Trust Estates and Schools, hitherto held and administered, and Trust Disposition and Settlement by Robert Philp, dated 15th May, 1820, and recorded in the Books of Council and Session 23rd April 1828, and Act of Parliament, 9 and 10 Vict. c. 24, entitled 'an Act to incorporate the Governors and Managers appointed under the Trust Disposition and Settlement of Robert Philp of Edenshead, deceased, and to explain and extend the Powers and Provisions contained in said Deed.'

point. The changes to the Will also allowed the employing of women teachers for sewing and knitting and as medical attendants. After providing certain sums to deserving scholars, authority was given to employ the surplus, if any, for making provision for additional schools and/or taking in more children.

**The capital of the Trust consists of (1) certain land standing in the trust books at £72,006 2s 7d, (2) £2,022 0s 2d of floating capital, and (3) the school buildings in the first, second, and third districts. Were the landed estates sold it is estimated that the price and the floating capital would amount to at least £100,000, with a margin for expenses of realising the estates, and if that money were invested in Government securities a free yearly income would be secured of at least £3,000; on heritable security (which was the investment contemplated by the will) the income**

Mr Spears quoted figures showing that the value of the Trust was £72,000 with a further £2,022 of floating capital plus the value of the three schools. The plan seemed to be that the land should all be sold as it was

thought that this, including the floating capital, would produce the sum of around £100,000. If the money were invested in Government Bonds the income would be around £3,000 and if property was bought and rented out an income of £4,000 would be anticipated. Working on an average of £3,500 this was compared to recent financial returns.

Year	Income £	Distributed to Districts £
1877	2950	2434
1878	2942	2366
1882	2666	1960
1883	2684	1965
1884	2376	1926

This was the financial argument in favour of a change of direction and one which can be reflected on later. The Trust had increased from the original £70,000 to £72,000 and this will be contrasted later when the position in 1927 is shown – an almost unbelievable change!

Another reason advanced for the suggested new footing was that any school established under the recent Education Act would get funds from an annual Government Grant. There was also a suggestion that the management which had been put in place by the Will should be altered and that the school buildings belonging to the Trust should be handed over to the new School Board. If that was not enough the recommendation that secondary, technical and university education, be provided for the class of children mentioned in the Will. It was also recommended that the clothing allowance for children in elementary education be increased to £2 with the introduction of a £5 allowance for those in secondary education.

This would result in no Philp Schools but rather, like Kinghorn, children being sent to Board Schools for their elementary education and secondary schools for further education. The Governors clearly supported the plan but this was not the case with the districts. It was thought that the Commission's deliberations would be known by the end of the year.

**There is, however, another benefit which would flow to the first, second, and third districts were the Trust conducted on a different footing, and that is the Government grant now given to the Public Schools established under the recent Education Act.**

It was not until the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1886 that the *Fife Free Press* gave notice of what was intended. The principal

recommendations were:-

1. The new governing board to consist of only 11 members – 3 being elected by the Town Council, 2 by the local Justices of the Peace, 2 by the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, 2 by the School Board of Kirkcaldy and 2 by the School Board of Dysart.
2. No fixed bodies of district managers but governors have the power to appoint committees.
3. The whole of the funds of Philp's Trust to be handed over to the governors, with the power to dispose of the land and otherwise invest the money, having first obtained the sanction

of the Board of Education.

4. The schools were to be sold with the exception of the Kirkcaldy School which it was suggested would become a technical school.

For the next few weeks the local newspaper columns were awash with angry letters protesting on what was seen as the confiscation of this important Trust. It must be doubted if up until that time anything has produced such an emotive response from the population at large. There was also universal annoyance that the religious aspect of the schools – Sunday School attendance etc.. had been simply discarded.

Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1886 saw the *Fife Free Press* report on what it termed “a procession through Floorcloth City. The processionists, several thousand strong, marched to swelling strains of music, with streaming banners held well aloft, was to demonstrate against the proposals of the Endowed Schools Commission, whose designs on Philp's legacy to the poor of the district, as far as they yet appear, do not by any means meet with public favour. It is a fact – of which their doings with other trusts present ample proof – that the Commissioners have a direct interest in secondary education. Their interest in this direction is perhaps nowhere more manifest than in their dealings with Philp's Trust, left to give primary education, and also supply clothing to the children of the poor. **They propose to appropriate annually half the proceeds of the estate to higher education and kindred objects, mention of which is not so much as made in the four corners of the donor's will, leaving the remaining half for primary education and clothing.** It is no wonder that the general community and the Commissioners do not see eye to eye in all this, and that the class

THE POOR AND PHILP'S TRUST.

A PROCESSION quite as showy and imposing as that which annually accompanies his Grace the Lord High Commissioner through the streets of Edinburgh on the opening of the General Assembly, and a great deal more in earnest, passed through the streets of Floor-cloth City on Saturday afternoon last. The purpose of the processionists, several thousands strong, who marched to swelling strains of music, with streaming banners held well aloft, was to demonstrate against the proposals of the Endowed Schools Commissioners,

of poor that Bailie Philp, by a last and most generous act, desired to benefit in perpetuity, should offer the most emphatic opposition to the scheme, and designate it by every so many hard names. Now, while we admit the principle of secondary education, we must still join in the protest against diverting from its original purpose such a large portion of the funds to establish a secondary school, ditto a technical school, and also to found bursaries for higher and university education. The scheme is extravagant".

The paper genuinely believed that the poor were at present having as hard a time as when the Will was drafted. "**The wonder is that popular indignation has not risen to a higher pitch. But the fire has now been lit and perseverance by the Commissioners on the lines of their draft scheme, as now submitted, will lead to more hostile opposition than has yet been displayed**". The paper ended with the wish that the matter be taken to Parliament.

#### **PHILP'S LEGACY TO THE POOR.**

**THE Endowed Schools Commissioners have now before them all the statements with reference to the management of Philp's Trust, past and prospective, and we believe they will be disposed to give attention to certain of the arguments placed before them, some of them with considerable weight. If the pro-**

*The Fife Free Press* was again in trenchant mood in its leader on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1886. It painted a reverse psychology picture advocating that the Endowment School Commissioners would see the depth of local feeling and water down their

proposals. A well written piece, it did not miss its target. Even the headline was a pointed one :-

**Philp's Legacy for the Poor** – the issue was quite straightforward with the Commission intending to channel part of the funds away from Philp's original intention and use a considerable portion to help with secondary education. The traditionalist were not having this - "If the proposed changes have awakened a large amount of

interest in the district, induced a considerable outflow of eloquence, lay and clerical, and has also led to many pointed communications in our correspondence columns, there has been good reason for the activity displayed. A local public Trust, unsurpassed in point of importance as far as this district is concerned, has been, and still is, at stake. There is no legacy in our community to be compared with that left by Bailie Philp for its munificence, no legacy that has been so useful during the last 50 years, to so many of our poor, and no legacy, we venture to say, which the extended burgh could so ill afford in times like the present, when all progress seems to be drifting towards poverty, to be withdrawn.

We hope however, that the public voice has not been raised in vain against the proposal to send a great part of the funds into a different channel. We believe no expression of public opinion would be strong enough to prevent the Commissioners laying hands upon the Trust, and carrying out their own ideas with regard to it to some extent”.

That said, it was hoped that public opinion would cause the Commissioner to modify the changes – the paper accepted that “it seemed the intention was to advance the cause of Secondary Education in the district, and thereby carve a way to the higher spheres of life. But while some stepping stones for persevering and promising lads may thus be provided, we hope the main purpose of the donor, which was to help the numerous poor which he saw around him to educate and clothe their children, will not only not be ignored, but hold the first place in the new scheme for the administration of the Trust”.

The belief of many was that the class that the Trust was designed to help could not think about further education. Helping sustain the family by becoming a breadwinner was far more likely. Children could start work as young as 12 and while for the very

brightest secondary education and assistance to attend university was welcome – for the majority it was, at best, an impossibility or a pipe dream. The reality of survival was higher on poor families agendas.

Even a brief glance at the local newspapers of the time convey the depth of public feeling. Passion is one thing and very welcome, but put simply legislation was going to win the day – the world of education had changed.

On Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1887 the *Fife Free Press* reported on what all the arguments had resulted in and two local figures were lauded for their contribution. The paper however could not resist championing the Trust in its introduction:- “The scheme for the future management of this excellent Trust, one of the best of our local bequests, and one in which a deep interest exists, and long we hope will, has received more attention at the hands of Parliament than the majority of schemes dealing with educational endowments in this part of the kingdom”.

Sir George, it will be seen, succeeded in enlisting a large amount of influence in favour of his resolution to this effect. Through the local connection with the district of Mr Barry, M.P., and out of sheer contempt for the Government on the one hand, and in sympathy with the poor on the other, he could reckon on the solid Irish vote ; and in addition he had the promise of support from some Radicals, particularly from Mr Chamberlain, and Mr Jesse Collings, who

The article made it clear that whenever the “Commissioners” interfered it was for the purpose of furthering of secondary education and rightly what was termed to “broaden out charities, which, in some cases, especially when money was accumulating for no apparent end, or being misapplied, was the right thing to do”.

This was certainly not happening with the Philp Trust but they and similar charities found it impossible to get any leeway in their arguments. However, “the Governors of Philp's Trust now find

that they did wisely in urging upon Government, through the member for the burghs, that the sum to be set aside for free primary education, £500 annually, should have preference over money applied to higher education, or any other purpose. It was Sir George Campbell who fought for this measure and enlisted sufficient support to procure the agreement that:- "it should stand as a first charge on the nett income of the Trust, irrespective of the amount left for other purposes after the deduction".

There is a paragraph where the paper relates that "through the local connection with the district of Mr Barry M.P., and out of sheer contempt for the Government on the one hand, and in sympathy with the poor on the other, Campbell, could rely on the solid Irish Vote".

Sir George had hoped to press the point that another £500 should be set aside for the clothing of the poor children but was afraid that in pressing for more he might have ended with nothing.

As the conclusion to this narrative looms there were two items that it was felt would add depth to the story. It is sometimes possible to move forwards to get a clearer picture of what went before. In this case consulting the *Fife Free Press* of 26<sup>th</sup> December 1908 and also the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1927 gives an indication of what had transpired in the intervening years.

The 1908 item was a report of a reunion of children who had attended Philp's Pathhead School. The event was held in Pathhead Hall and was attended by over 400 individuals. George Smart of Michael Nairn & Co was in the chair and Treasurer Kilgour was the



principal guest. In the audience was 87 year old Mrs Fyffe, a resident of Pathhead, who had been the first pupil enrolled in the Nether Street school.

The gathering included many old *Philpers* who had travelled from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leith, and towns and villages throughout Fife. A large painting of Bailie Philp was hung in the hall – this may well be the one which normally hung above the fireplace in the Council Chambers. There was also a neat model of the school on the platform. After the singing of the 100<sup>th</sup> psalm the party enjoyed a tea before the speeches commenced, but not before telegrams of congratulations from old Philpers Mary Knox and Jane Nicol were read. Former teacher, Miss Trail, wrote from Dalkeith School offering her congratulations and apologising for not being able to attend. A letter from Mr Ryrie Orr of the *Greenock Telegraph* was read out. The letter full of memories of both inside and outside the classroom and provoked much laughter, in particular, with Mr Arthur's tawse!

It was the chairman who spoke next and the portion relating to Philp's birthday is well worth a mention :- “In his school days he was taught to keep his memory green, and his birthday was a red letter day in the school. Who, he asked, did not remember the Philper's Walk? For weeks before the scholars were drilled up for the great occasion and he assured them that had there been territorials in those days every Philper boy would have passed for admission to the ranks! The walk was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and that was the day boots were cast aside and they all ran barefooted. They would all remember too, the banners, flowers and rosettes, and how proud the boys were when they got their belts for carrying the flags and marched from Nether Street through Pathhead to Gallatown and back, singing the praises of the donor of the school. Then, on being dismissed, they remembered the “bap”. There was no “baps” like those now-a-days and the circumference was not so large by the time they got home!

He went on to mention some of the famous teachers – Mr Rennie, Mr Anderson. Mr Storrar and above all Mr Arthur. He also drew attention to “Mr Black” with its four tails and a hoop which was well used by Mr Arthur. Despite that, great applause was elicited by “Mr Arthur had the love and respect of every pupil”.

Treasurer Kilgour spoke next giving a history of the Trust and his pride in being, as far as he knew, the only Pathhead Philper who became a Governor of the Philp Trust. He added “there is one thing in Robert Philp's Trust – which must strike everyone present – the small amount of interest and the small part it seemed to play in the educational life of Kirkcaldy compared with what it did when they and he were at school. The points made by a man who subsequently served the town as Provost for 19 years included:- his belief that the establishment of free and compulsory education had a marked effect on the Trust. The fact that the population had risen from around 9,000 to nearer 40,000 meant greater numbers to assist which led to less for each. “Then they had the Endowment Commissioners coming down and collaring the fund, which was originally left for primary education, and was now being used for

Treasurer Kilgour, the next speaker, dealt with the great benefaction, and the history of that benefaction, a subject which he considered would not be inappropriate on an occasion like the present, and might not be inappropriate coming from him not only as an old Philper, but as a governor of Philp's Trust, in which he confessed he took some pride. He believed he was the only Pathhead Philper who ever was a governor of Philp's Trust. (Applause.) There was one thing in connection with Robert Philp's Trust which must strike everyone present—the small amount of interest and the small part it seemed to play in the educational life of Kirkcaldy compared with what it did when they and he were at school.

Philp would never dream of such an act being passed as the Free Education Act forty years after his death. This, no doubt, had revolutionised education. Then they had the Endowment Committee coming down collaring the fund which was originally left for primary education and using it for the High School bursaries. Another change, too, was that the lands in the hands of the Trust had depreciated very much, so that now instead of a capital sum of £75,000, it was only estimated to be about value for £50,000, which had made a great inroad into the benefits of the Trust; while along-

High School bursaries”, He then revealed that the value of the Trust was now instead of £75,000 closer to £50,000 which meant - far less income being available. It is difficult to easily explain how the capital sum was eroded – put simply the value of the investments

had fallen or the capital sum was being spent – which was in direct contravention to the terms of the Trust.

Three other speakers followed and provided nostalgia, memories, and above all that, on leaving the school they were able to face the world with a solid education.

Treasurer Kilgour made a suggestion, which was taken up, that this meeting should send heartiest congratulations to Mrs Arthur, the widow of their late revered teacher, who was still alive and residing in Aberdeen. It was to “record the deep appreciation of the old Philpers assembled here for the valuable tuition they had received from her late husband”.

“The music and elocutionary talent given during the evening was of a first class kind, the efforts of the performers being highly appreciated. The vocalists were Mrs Campbell, Mr C. Mitchell, Mr D Howie and Mr George Gray, while the reciters were Miss Bartlett and Mr A. Forrester. Mr Peter Dryburgh played

### THE PHILP TRUST.

#### Provost Kilgour's Interesting Address.

On Thursday, after lunch, the members of Kirkcaldy Rotary Club listened with great interest to an address by Provost Kilgour on Bailie Philp's Trust. Particulars and knowledge of this great bequest are now being forgotten by many in the district, while the younger generation are quite ignorant as to its existence. The Provost, however, brought all these particulars before the members of the Club.

that “particulars and knowledge of this great bequest are now being forgotten by many in the district, while the younger

This proposal was carried with acclamation, and the secretary of the re-union, Mr John Rougvie, was instructed to draw up a resolution to that effect and forward it to Mrs Arthur.

The musical and elocutionary talent given during the evening was of a first-class kind, the efforts of the performers being highly appreciated. The vocalists were Mrs Campbell, Mr C. Mitchell, Mr D. Howie, and Mr Geo. Gray, while the reciters were Miss Bartlett and Mr A. Forrester. Mr Peter Dryburgh played the accompaniment to the soloists.

On the call of Mr Wm. Kilgour, the Chairman was awarded a cordial vote of thanks for presiding, while a similar compliment, proposed by Rev. Mr Weipers, was accorded the committee in charge of the arrangements, the stewardesses and stewards, and the performers.

The singing of “Auld Lang Syne” by the company concluded a memorable and happy evening.

accompaniment to the soloists. The evening ended with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” which concluded a memorable and happy evening”.

The second article, from 1927, was a report of a talk given by Provost Kilgour (formerly Treasurer Kilgour) to the Rotary Club the previous Thursday - when his subject was the Philp Trust. In his opening remarks mention was made

**generation are ignorant to its existence". (Where does that leave us in 2023?)**

The background which the Provost gave has been covered already but what was interesting was his statement that “before 1846 Trust funds which were for educational purposes, and not for the provision of schools, had to be applied in providing school buildings, and Parliamentary powers existed for that purpose”. This explains why three schools were built despite their not being mentioned in the Will – the Governors, it seems, had no option.

“When the Education Act came into force it did exactly what some of the Trust funds had been used for. In 1882 an Act was passed endowing School Commissioners with powers for educational purposes, which practically rendered the same benefits all over the country as had been conferred in this district by the Philp Trust, except clothing. “In 1885 a great commotion took place in the town when it was proposed to alter the benefits under the Trust so that these would be administrated more in line with the then constituted School Boards. It was not until 1888 that this alteration took place, when the funds were diverted from their original purpose and applied to secondary education, university education, books, bursaries, and, one of the original objects, clothing, while £250 was to be applied to the High School to improve efficiency, surely a far cry from the original intentions”.

The Provost then quoted figures which appear to have related to 1926:- “The present capital has become reduced to between £48,000 and £49,000, and how the Provost did not exactly know, but possibly through the reduced value of investments, which had originally been on land. The present income was £2078 per year,

The present capital has become reduced to between £48,000 and £49,000, how the Provost did not exactly know, but possibly through reduced value of investments, which were originally on land. The present income was £2078 a year, of which was spent on clothing, £322; bursaries, £474; to Fife Education Authority, 335; and on even-  
ing classes £335.

of which £922 was spent on clothing, £474 on bursaries; to Fife Education Authority, £335 and on evening classes, £335".

The Provost went on to say:- "The present Education Authority is empowered to do what the Philp Trust did at one time, and the funds from the Trust were obviously now being used to relieve that Authority and pay taxes possibly outside the districts mentioned by the donor.

- If any new scheme were to be proposed the Provost thought that the first object should be to administer the funds in the proper districts.
- The second to see that the proper class received benefit, namely, the deserving poor.
- The third object, clothing, could be further extended, while grants to the High School and evening classes could very well be left off".

It seems clear from both speeches by Kilgour, made 19 years apart, that he was unimpressed with what had become of the Trust and the movement away from its original purpose.

It was Oliver Melville, the founder of Kirkcaldy Rotary Club, who

"In moving a vote of thanks to the speaker, Past President Oliver Melville said that he, like the Provost, had experienced the benefits of Philp's Trust, and would be for ever grateful. Not only was a thorough education given, but something along with it that seemed wanting at the present time, "discipline." With regard to the Sunday Schools, he mentioned that "Philpers" had to attend the church twice a day, and Sunday School as well, or they would feel the consequences on Monday morning. He also agreed that a rearrangement of the benefits was required now, and should be looked into. The vote of thanks was heartily given."

moved the vote of thanks. Very much like the Provost he felt the benefits needed rearranged and should be looked into now. It seems Melville, a self made man, had "experienced the benefits of Philp's Trust and would be forever grateful". He also made mention of the Provost also

being a Philper and a little research showed that the Provost's

mother had also been one of the very first children enrolled at Nether Street.

It can be seen that, even close to one hundred years ago, the Trust was being forgotten and did not have the importance and impact that it had prior to the introduction of the various Education Acts. Those Acts changed everything but that should not dilute the memory of Robert Philp.

From today's perspective no one can doubt the value of secondary and university education and to that end it was probably only right and proper that the monies from the Trust were channelled in fresh directions. At the time however, many felt that it was the confiscation of funds whose sole purpose was the basic education of the poor. That viewpoint was probably understandable at the time.

The Trust monies turned into bursaries to assist able students to follow courses in further education. The reorganisation of Local Government in 1975 saw Trusts being brought together into two funds. These are the East and West Fife Educational Trusts. Robert Philp's legacy (or what was left of it) is part of the East Fife Educational Trust.

The Philp Trust is now but a memory whose outstanding benefits are entrenched in the past – Robert Philp and his legacy played a major part in the lives of generations of local children giving them the opportunity of an education and a solid start in life. He should not be forgotten!

# Appendix

## PHILP'S TRUST BURSARIES.

THE GOVERNORS offer Three Senior Bursaries, tenable at Kirkcaldy High School, and Three University Bursaries for Competition this year.

Application Forms, which can be had from the Subscriber, must be filled up and lodged with him not later than 13th prox.

DAVID BEVERIDGE, Clerk.

Kirkcaldy, 27th May, 1927.

## ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST.

THIRD DISTRICT—FIRST WARD.  
PARENTS and Guardians wishing their Children to be admitted to the Benefits of this Trust for the Session 1927-28 will be supplied with Application Schedules on applying to Michael Nicol, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy, on or before WEDNESDAY, 14th current. All Schedules must be filled up and returned not later than FRIDAY, 16th current.

Note.—The Benefits of this Trust are confined to children whose Parents or Guardians not being in receipt of Parochial Relief are in such circumstances as to require aid for providing Clothing.

N.B.—Those at present on the Roll must also make application.

Kirk Wynd.  
Kirkcaldy, 6th September, 1927.

## ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST.

### THIRD DISTRICT—FIRST WARD.

ESTIMATES Wanted to Supply Clothing and Boots for the Boys and Girls on the Roll of the Linktown District. Made-up samples for the Boys to be submitted, and the price per Suit stated. A List of Clothing and Boots required may be seen at the Office of the Subscriber, by whom any further particulars will be given.

Offers, marked "Philp's Trust," will be received up till 6th April, 1927.

MICHAEL NICOL, Solicitor.  
Kirk Wynd.  
Kirkcaldy, 19th March, 1927.

## THE GOVERNORS OF ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST.

### EVENING CLASSES FOR SCIENCE AND ART INSTRUCTION.

APPlicants for admission to the above Classes for Session 1927-28 under Section 36 of the Scheme, must lodge applications with Mr David Beveridge, Clerk to the Governors, 220 High Street, Kirkcaldy, on or before SATURDAY, 10th inst.

Former Pupils who intend rejoining the Classes must lodge fresh applications.

Applicants desiring to be admitted for the first time must present, along with their application, a Merit Certificate, or a Certificate of having passed the examination held by the Education Authority in connection with their Evening Continuation Schools, or must pass an equivalent examination.

Forms of Application can be had from Mr Beveridge, and from Mr George Wright, First District Clerk, Pathhead.

Kirkcaldy, 2nd September, 1927.

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Forms of Application can be had from Mr Beveridge, and from Mr George Wright, First District Clerk, Pathhead.

Kirkcaldy, 2nd September, 1927.

## PHILP'S TRUST BURSARIES.

THE GOVERNORS offer Three Senior Bursaries, tenable at Kirkcaldy High School, and Three University Bursaries for Competition this year.

Application Forms, which can be had from the Subscriber, must be filled up and lodged with him not later than 13th prox.

DAVID BEVERIDGE, Clerk.  
Kirkcaldy, 27th May, 1927.

## ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST. FIRST DISTRICT—THIRD WARD.

PARENTS or Guardians (not receiving aid from the Parish Council) desirous of having their Children receive the Benefits of the Trust, may have Forms of Applications at either Pathhead or Gallatown Post Office. These Forms, carefully filled up, must be returned not later than 4th January, 1928.

### THE GOVERNORS OF ROBERT PHILP'S TRUST.

#### INTERMEDIATE OR JUNIOR BURSARIES.

THE GOVERNORS offers Three of the above Bursaries (value £5 for first year, £5 for second, and £10 for third) for competition this year.

The Bursaries are tenable at Kirkcaldy High School for Three years, and except for reasons deemed satisfactory to the Governors, applicants must have passed the Control Examination, or must pass it before 1st September, 1927.

Application Forms may be obtained from the Headmasters of the several schools within the area of the Endowment, or from the Subscriber, and must be filled up and lodged with the latter on or before 16th May, 1927.

DAVID BEVERIDGE, Clerk.  
220 High Street, Kirkcaldy,  
29th April, 1927.

identified. The ballot papers having been all counted, added, and checked, he found and now declared that each of the twenty candidates nominated received the number of votes annexed to his name:—

John Burnet, upholsterer,	1331
David Storrar, druggist,	684
Michael B. Nairn, floorcloth manufacturer,	641
Patrick Don Swan, merchant,	630
John N. McLeod, bank-agent,	604
John Hagarson, miller,	472
William Roy Spears, writer,	443
Henry Goodall, book-keeper,	437
John Peter Atoun, merchant,	393
William Dowie, basket-maker,	386
John Lockhart, manufacturer,	362
Alex. Davidson, merchant,	301
Robert Douglas, engineer,	276
George Anderson, factory manager,	258
Robert Herron, grocer,	247
John Findlater, bank-agent,	198
Wm. Robertson, merchant,	168
Robert R. Duncan, manufacturer,	37
James Pye, manufacturer,	32
William Gow, teater,	23

The returning officer having declared the nine highest duly elected, said he had only to state further that there had voted in —

Kirkcaldy 596, in Links 302 : total 898 ; rejected, 15 — leaving 883 legally filled papers ; while the total number of votes given and admitted was 7,921. Mr. Gibson also stated that

Provost Swan then opened the discussion upon the scheme proposed for the extension of the Trust. He said—Chairman and gentlemen, in the few remarks I have to make I desire at the outset to say that Mr. Spears, our clerk, deserves great credit for having produced this scheme, which is certainly highly creditable to his head and heart. He has taken a comprehensive view of what is needed in the interests of this district, and I am quite certain of this, gentlemen, that the more this report is considered by us the more will it be approved of. The majority of the managers, and of the governors too, perhaps, may be hostile to it, but I am quite sure that when the public at large come to consider the scheme they will not only express themselves pleased with it, but will willingly give what assistance lies in their power with the view of carrying it into effect. Mr. Spears in his very excellent report shows that he has the good of the community and the institution at heart, and I think we are bound to give him every encouragement in our power in this matter, and to feel thankful to him for having prepared in this way a scheme for our consideration. With regard to the will of Baillie

### THE PHILP BEQUEST.

The objects of the Philp Trust, its very name indeed, appear in danger of dropping out of the ken of Kirkcaldy folks; more especially the younger generation, who hear occasionally the expression "Philper" without realising at all what it means. It is one of the finest benefices which the town of Kirkcaldy possesses, and many who to-day enjoy positions of importance and respect in the community recall with gratitude the part this Trust played in their worldly advancement. Provost Kilgour took occasion at the Rotary Club the other afternoon to refresh the public memory, and the facts and figures he submitted are recorded in another column. These will be found of vast interest to many who had but a hazy idea of the work made possible by this Trust; and a point seems to have been reached when the Governors are seriously concerning themselves about the road they have travelled since the inception of the fund. Changing times rather than original intention, shaped the destiny of this great benefaction; with the result that it seems to have branched out into activities widely apart from those it was primarily instituted to undertake. There is still a substantial sum on hand despite quite a heavy drain on the fund, and those concerned are taking an introspective view. The feeling has gained prevalence that the poor of Kirkcaldy, Pathhead, and Kinghorn, should have more consideration, since it was for them the money was left. One result of the changed conditions was that the Philp Bequest has practically subsidised rates in districts which had no call to benefit. No doubt custom has stereotyped to some extent the objects on which the money was expended, but if the Governors should ever decide on a policy of revising its benefactions we have no doubt the original intention will be given much more consideration.

### KIRKCALDY PHILP TRUST.

To a meeting of the Higher Education Committee a letter was submitted from the Kirkcaldy Philp Trust asking the Authority what sum was desired by way of grant from the Trust for science and art classes in Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn, and to state for what purposes the grant would be applied. It was explained that the grant made last year was £370 for Kirkcaldy and £30 for Kinghorn.

It was resolved to ask the same amount as last year, to be allocated as follows:—  
(a) £50 for library of new Technical School;  
(b) £25 each for Continuation Schools Technical Libraries in Kirkcaldy High and Viewforth Schools; (c) £50 each for day school libraries in Kirkcaldy High and schools in the interests of general and technical education; (d) £55 each for special equipment (including lantern slide equipment), fees and instruments for Philp Trust students in Kirkcaldy High and Viewforth Continuation Schools; (e) £30 for conveyance, etc., of evening class students of Kinghorn to Continuation Classes in Kirkcaldy.

THE EXAMINATION of the Pupils attending the School in Kirkcaldy under the Management of Philp's Governors will take place on Wednesday First. The public are respectfully invited to attend. The examination will commence at 11 A.M.

Philp's Institution,  
Kirkcaldy, 15th July, 1881.

PHILP'S INSTITUTION, LINKTOWN DISTRICT.—The Annual Examination of the Pupils will be held in the SCHOOL-ROOM, LINKTOWN, on Tuesday, the 19th inst., commencing at Eleven o'clock Forenoon. The Public are respectfully invited to attend.

Linktown, 15th July, 1881.

PHILP'S SCHOOL, PATHHEAD.—The Annual Examination of the Pupils attending the above School will take place on Tuesday, the 19th current, commencing at 12 o'clock noon. The public are respectfully invited.

## Pathhead

*1st Class*—1. John Stoddart, English grammar, &c.; 2. Thomas Hamilton, 1st in writing, 2nd in Euclid.  
2d Class—1. William Kilgour; 2. William Clark; 3. John Rougvie; 4. John Wespers.  
3d Class—1. David Howie; 2. Sophie Doig; 3. Maggie Lindsey; 4. Isabella Gibb.  
4th Class—1. Joan Pringle, English, 2d reading; 2. Maggie Clark, 1st writing; 3. Robert Beveridge, 3d English, 1st writing; 4. Jessie Steedman, 3d English.  
5th Class—1. James Walker, 1st English and writing; Christina Forbes, 2d English; 3. Euphemia M'Nab, 3d English; 4. Jane Weir, 1st writing.  
6th Class—Christina Hitchen, 1st English; 2. Agnes Howie, 2d English; 3. Agnes Martin, 1st writing, 2d English; 4. Jessie Steedman, 2d writing.  
7th Class—1. Andrew Braid, 1st English and writing; 2. Mary Rodon, 1st writing, 2d English; 3. Peter Mair, 4th English; 4. James Baird, 1st arithmetic.  
*Divine Economy*—1. Helen Numbers.  
*Ecclesi*—1. Thomas Hamilton; 2. George Williamson; 3. James Forbes.  
*Drawing*—1. Jas. Anderson; 2. John Ingolia.  
*Ornamental Lettering*—1. Geo. Williamson and James Forbes, equal; 2. David Galloway, John Baird, and James Beveridge, equal.  
*Reciting*—“May Queen”—(1) Isabella Wardlaw; (2) John Wespers; John Stoddart; (3) Geo. Williamson; Peter Dryburgh, equal.

## Kirkcaldy

### The following is the prize-list :—

Thomas Goudie (dux last year, except in arithmetic)—Dux in I. Arithmetic. James Stark—Dux in reading and Bible, geography and history, grammar and composition, and map-drawing; 2nd in writing. Thomas Brown—Dux in music; 2nd in reading and Bible, geography and history, and arithmetic. Henry Glass—2nd in arithmetic, music, and ornamental painting. Charles Goudie—1st in arithmetic; and music, equal with T. Brown. Annie Penn—1st in reading and Bible, geography and history, and 2nd in II. Arithmetic. Jessie Rennie—2nd in geography and history, 1st in writing, and 2nd in II. Arithmetic. Lizzie Beveridge—1st in arithmetic. Maggie Gibb—1st in reading and Bible, and writing. Mary Galloway—2nd in arithmetic. James Sharp—1st in writing, and 2nd in map-drawing. Angus M'Naughton—2nd in II. Reading and Grammar. Arithmetic, Music, and Geography. Andrew Heron—1st in II. Geography. Frank M'Arthur—1st in II. Writing. Lizzie Gibb—1st in II. Reading and Grammar. Janet Campbell—1st in dictation. Catherine Muir—2nd in II. Writing. John Halliday—1st in III. Reading and Grammar. Arithmetic and Dictation. Thomas Nicol—1st in III. Writing, and 2nd in Reading and Grammar. Peter Beaton—1st in II. Dictation, 1st in III. Geography, 2nd in III. Arithmetic, and 2nd in IV. Reading. Annie Lawson—1st in III. Arithmetic. Isabella Henderson—2nd in III. Arithmetic. Maggie Harper—2nd in III. Writing. Lizzie Bowmas—1st in IV. Arithmetic (equal with J. Drummond). George Neas—1st in IV. Reading. John Drummond—1st in IV. Arithmetic, 2nd in IV. Writing. Alexander Nicolson—2nd in IV. Arithmetic. Andrew Arnott—1st in V. Arithmetic. John Campbell—1st in V. Writing. Cecilia Halliday—1st in V. Reading. Mary Ireland—2nd in V. Reading. Susan Taylor—1st in V. Writing. Maggie Douglas—2nd in V. Writing. Alexander Robertson—1st in VI. Reading. Robert Kirk—2nd in VI. Reading and Writing. Andrew Knight—1st in VI. Writing. Jessie Hodge—2nd in V. Arithmetic. Alexander Settle—1st in VII. Reading. Robert Christie—2nd in VII. Reading. Robert Thurnburn—1st in VIII. Reading. William Simpson—2nd in VIII. Reading. Sewing—1st. Annie Penn; 2nd. Jessie Brown. Good behaviour (awarded by the votes of their schoolfellowes)—Susan Taylor and James Sharp.

## Linktown

The following is a list of the principal prizes:—  
English—1 William Pringle; 2 William Jarvis; 3 Agnes Spence. English Grammar—1 William Pringle; 2 William Jarvis; 3 Martha Barclay. Arithmetic—1 William Jarvis; 2 Jessie Williams. Geography—1 Andrew Paton; 2 James Young. Scriptural Biography—1 Andrew Paton; 2 Agnes Spence. Solution of Problems on Globe—1 William Pringle. Writing—1 Agnes Spence; 2 Peter Miller; 3 Peter Anderson. Music—1 Andrew Paton. Sabbath School—1 Andrew Paton; 2 Barbara Lambert.

## KIRKCALDY.

**PHILP'S INSTITUTION.**—Monday, the 23d instant, being the anniversary of the birth-day of the late Robert Philp, Esq., the children attending the respective schools founded under his trust in the parishes of Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Abbotshall, and Kinghorn, assembled in the Town Hall here, and proceeded in procession, accompanied by several of the governors and their respective teachers, to the tomb of their late patron, where they testified their feelings for the memory of the deceased by strewing flowers upon his grave; after which they proceeded to the parish church, where a very impressive and suitable discourse was addressed to them from 2 Chron. i. 10, by the Rev. John Alexander, the clergyman of the parish. This assemblage of 400 poor children, who, but for the benefits of this institution, it is to be feared, must have gone into the world without education, or any moral training whatever, must have struck every one who witnessed it with the deepest concern; and we may also venture to say, that if the inhabitants of the land of spirits be capable of taking cognizance of, and sympathizing with, the terrestrial drama of human life, the feelings of the departed donor at that moment must have been an ample recompence for the benefits he has conferred, by the munificent gift which he left behind him. We must not neglect to mention how the admirable manner in which the Fete-day was performed by the band, which, we understand, consisted of a quota from each of the schools, and had been trained under the excellent tuition of Mr. Sheriff, teacher of Philp's institution in Kirkcaldy; they did him the highest credit. A refreshment awaited the children in the Town Hall, whither they repaired after Divine service. They were afterwards dismissed, evidently delighted with the events of the day—having elicited from the numerous spectators who turned out to witness the affair many encomiums upon their decent and orderly demeanour throughout.

In the evening, the Rev. J. Alexander, the Rev. J. Reid of Invertiel, governors, and teachers of the seminaries belonging

## IN MEMORIAM.

Beautiful Large Litho Chalk Portrait of Baillie Philp, with Views of Philp's Schools, &c., and excellent life-like portraits of the late Wm. P. Sheriff, Esq., the late A. B. Chalmers, Esq., the late Thomas Westwater, Esq., W. F. Arthur, Esq., and the late John Forbes, Esq., respective Teachers of above Schools; also, View of Baillie Philp's Tombstone, Extracts from Will, &c. The full-size of this magnificent Plate is 2½ in. by 17 in. Price One Shilling—by Post, carefully packed to any address, for 14 stamps, by the Publisher—

**DUNCAN,**  
**19 HIGH STREET,**  
**KIRKCALDY.**

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We acknowledge the valuable assistance given by *On-Fife Local Studies Team* by providing a copy of Robert Philp's Will from 1820.