

**George Dun (1800-1874): A Fife Farmer Remembered**  
**By His Distant Cousin, Michael T. Tracy**

The Grange of Lindores farm is situated in Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland and has been in the Buist and Dun families for many generations. George Dun was a tenant farmer of Hattonhill since the year of 1824 and later the Grange of Lindores since 1838. Dun was a notable farmer with a well-ordered mind and a wonderful capacity for business.<sup>1</sup> He married Margaret Landale and they had nine children who were all born in Abdie Parish, Fife. He was a keen curler and a founding member of the Abdie Curling Club.<sup>2</sup> George Dun carefully recorded his memories of the Grange of Lindores, farming and other events during his lifetime. This then is the narrative of the life and times of George Dun.

**Early years**

George Dun was born on Saturday, 25 January 1800 in Kettle Parish, Fife, Scotland.<sup>3</sup> He was the fifth child of David Dun, a tenant farmer of Bankton, Kettle Parish, and Jean Buist. George Dun was baptized on Friday, 31 January 1800 in Kettle Parish.<sup>4</sup>



*Fig.1. Baptismal Record of George Dun, 31 January 1800, Kettle Parish Records, Crown Copyright*



*Fig.2. Kingskettle, Kettle Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

<sup>1</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>2</sup> Tracy, Michael T. *The Ancient Scottish Game of My Ancestors of Abdie Parish, Fife*. 2015 p. 1

<sup>3</sup> Baptismal Record of George Dun, 31 January 1800, Kettle Parish Records, Old Parish Records 435/0030 0152

<sup>4</sup> Baptismal Record of George Dun, 31 January 1800, Kettle Parish Records, Old Parish Records 435/0030 0152

After growing up in Kettle Parish he relocated to Abdie Parish, Fife whereby in about 1824 he was a tenant farmer of Hattonhill which later was owned by his uncle, Henry Buist (1771-1865) from 1834.

**Hattonhill, Abdie Parish**

Dun registered to vote on Friday, 21 September 1832 and is shown as being a tenant farmer at Hattonhill.<sup>5</sup>

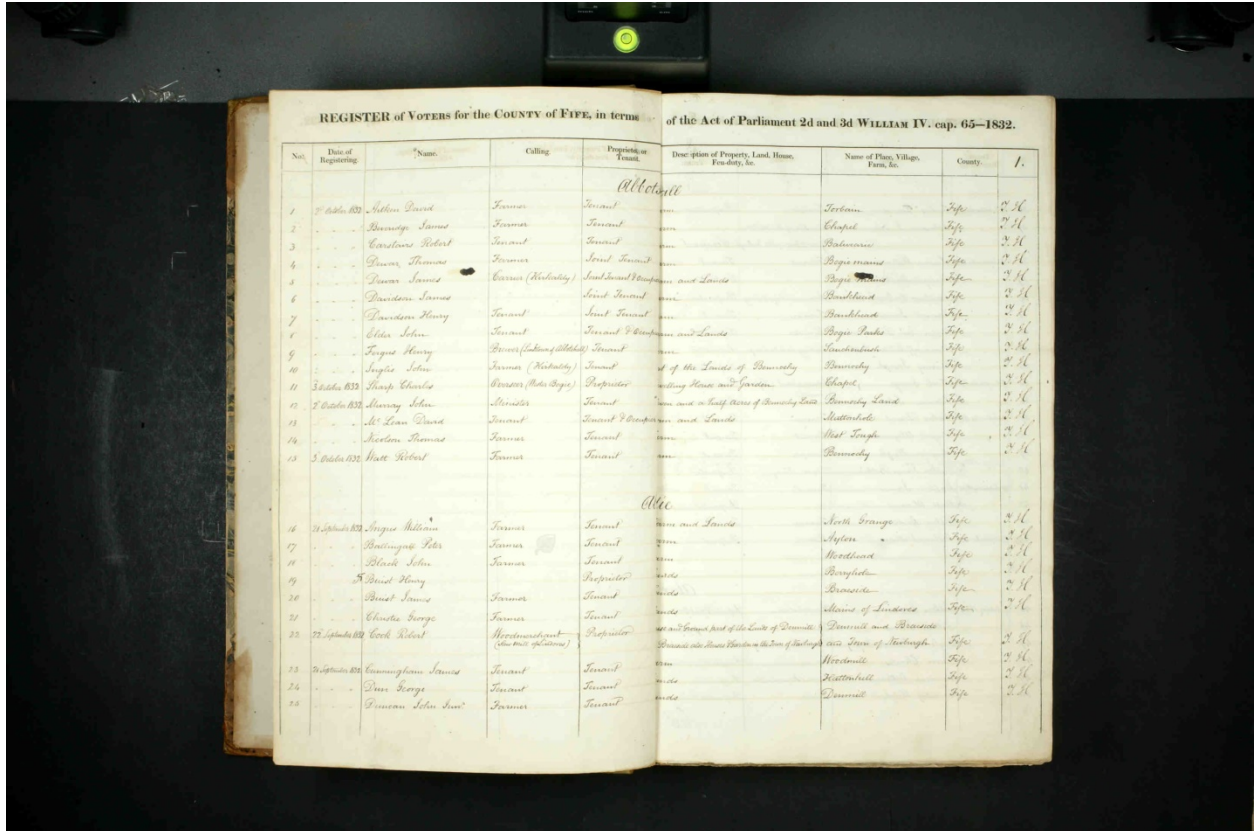


Fig.3. 1832 Fife Voter List for George Dun of Hattonhill (Second to last entry)

He would continue to farm the lands of Hattonhill well into the 1840s.

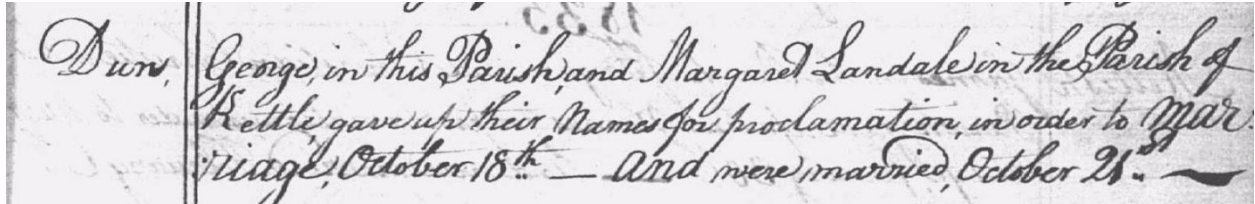


Fig.4. Hattonhill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

<sup>5</sup> Fife, Scotland, Voters Lists, 1832-1894. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

## Marriage and Family life

George Dun met and later married Margaret Landale who at the time of their marriage was residing in Kettle Parish, Fife, on Tuesday, 21 October 1834 in Abdie Parish.<sup>6</sup>



Dun, George, in this Parish, and Margaret Landale in the Parish of Kettle gave up their Names for proclamation, in order to Mar. riage, October 18<sup>th</sup>. — And were married, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Fig.5. Marriage Record of George Dun, 21 October 1834, Abdie Parish Records, Crown Copyright



Fig.6. Abdie Parish Church, photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

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<sup>6</sup> Marriage Record of George Dun, 21 October 1834, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0110

The couple had nine children who were all born in Abdie Parish. They were:

David born on Thursday, 14 January 1836<sup>7</sup> and died on Saturday, 8 April 1899;<sup>8</sup>  
Janet born on Monday, 23 October 1837<sup>9</sup> and died on Wednesday, 26 October 1892;  
Andrew Landale born on Friday, 8 March 1839<sup>10</sup> and died in January of 1915;<sup>11</sup>  
Jane born on Friday, 4 September 1840<sup>12</sup> and died on Thursday, 26 August 1880;<sup>13</sup>  
George born on Saturday, 12 February 1842<sup>14</sup> and died on Friday, 11 July 1930;<sup>15</sup>  
Margaret born on Friday, 12 May 1843<sup>16</sup> and died as an infant in 1843;  
Walter born on Thursday, 25 April 1844<sup>17</sup> and died as an infant in 1844;  
James born on Monday, 19 May 1845<sup>18</sup> and died on Friday, 24 October 1924;<sup>19</sup>  
Isabella born on Wednesday, 12 August 1846<sup>20</sup> and died on Saturday, 8 February 1908.<sup>21</sup>

### **The Grange of Lindores**

The Grange of Lindores, commonly known as “Grange,” is recorded in a rental of the Abbey Lands of about 1480.<sup>22</sup> According to the Ordinance Survey Name Books of 1853-55 the Grange of Lindores was described as: “A small village consisting of a number of detached and irregularly situated rows of dwelling houses from one to two stories generally all in good repair and occupied by tradesmen and agricultural labourers chiefly the former. Also a farm house and house and office houses, with a large farm of ground attached to it...”<sup>23</sup> The Grange of Lindores is located a very short distance from Berryhill farm which was occupied and owned by George Dun’s uncle, Henry Buist.

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<sup>7</sup> Baptismal Record of David Dun, 2 March 1836, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0031

<sup>8</sup> *Matura Ensign Newspaper*, 11 April 1899 p. 2

<sup>9</sup> Baptismal Record of Janet Dun, 17 November 1837, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0035

<sup>10</sup> Baptismal Record of Andrew Landale Dun, 31 March 1839, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0038

<sup>11</sup> Death Record of Andrew L. Dun, January 1915, England & Wales, Death index, 1837-1915. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006

<sup>12</sup> Baptismal Record of Jane Dun, 22 September 1840, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0040

<sup>13</sup> Death Record of Jane Dun, 26 August 1880, Dysart Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 426/00 0150

<sup>14</sup> Baptismal Record of George Dun, 14 March 1842, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0044

<sup>15</sup> Death Record of George Dun, 11 July 1930, Upper Largo Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 443/00 0013

<sup>16</sup> Baptismal Record of Margaret Dun, 27 May 1843, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0046

<sup>17</sup> Baptismal Record of Walter Dun, 16 May 1844, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0048

<sup>18</sup> Baptismal Record of James Dun, 6 June 1845, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0050

<sup>19</sup> Death Record of James Dun, 24 October 1924, Edinburgh Morningside Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 685/70 0668

<sup>20</sup> Baptismal Record of Isabella Dun, 13 September 1846, Abdie Parish Records, Old Parish Records 400/0030 0053

<sup>21</sup> Death Record of Isabella Goodenough, 8 February 1908, Edinburgh Newington Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 685/50 0119

<sup>22</sup> Grange of Lindores. Accessed at: [Canmore.org.uk/site/30025/grange-of-lindores](http://Canmore.org.uk/site/30025/grange-of-lindores)

<sup>23</sup> Ordinance Survey Name Books, Fife & Kinross Name Books, 1853-55

By 1838 Dun had leased the property known as the Grange of Lindores and moved his growing family from Hattonhill to the larger farmhouse at the Grange of Lindores. According to the 1846 Fife Voters List it listed George Dun as a farmer on the tenant farm of the Grange of Lindores.<sup>24</sup>

Duncan, Rev. John, minister, occupant glebe and premises, Abdie.—  
1840.  
Dingwall, Peter, joint-tenant, joint-tenant farm and lands, Braeside of  
Inchrye.—1841.  
Dingwall, John, joint-tenant farm and lands, Braeside of Inchrye.—  
1841.  
Dun, George, farmer, tenant farm, Grange of Lindores.—1845.  
Gray, John, tenant, tenant farm, Lindores.—20th August 1835.

Fig.7. 1846 Fife Voter List for George Dun of Grange of Lindores

Dun was a notable farmer with a well-ordered mind and a wonderful capacity for business.<sup>25</sup>

### **Dun's Journal Books**

George Dun kept diaries or journal books related to farming since the late 1830s while he was leasing Hattonhill and later the Grange of Lindores. In these journals Dun recorded harvests, his farming machinery and weather conditions affecting his crops. When interviewing his son, George (1842-1930) the *Courier and Advertiser Newspaper* on Thursday, 6 September 1928 referenced entries his father had written pertaining to: "Harvests of Other Days," "Happy on Low Wages," "A Bad Year," and the "Hungry Forties." It is worth noting these.

#### **"Harvests of Other Days"**

"There he [George Dun] finds that farmers in bygone times had the same worries to contend with as they have today. The weather then, as now, was fickle, and there were extremes of cold and heat and winds that blew soft and angry. Of the early harvesting days when the hook and the scythe were the reapers and handloom weavers were the bandsters [a binder of sheaves] and stokers, there was more stir about the toons than there is in these modern days with only reapers and binders and one or two hands at work. Before he began farming Mr. Dun 'grieved' the harvesters at Grange and Hattonhill, when scythemen were paid 9s [shillings] per acre, and shearers with hook 13s [shillings] per acre. The average time occupied in hand cutting was about twenty days. It was all fine work, and there was no lazying. There would be about a score of brought in shearers at Grange and the regular farm hands, besides the scythemen on the farm."<sup>26</sup>

#### **"Happy on Low Wages"**

"Generation of ploughmen after generation lived contented and happy on less than 20 [pounds] a year, with the usual perquisites of free house, meal, milk, and potatoes. Having a day off was done at St. James's Market on the first Tuesday of August, which, together with Hansel Monday, was about the only holidays the farm workers had."<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Fife, Scotland, Voters Lists, 1832-1894. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

<sup>25</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>26</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>27</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

### **“A Bad Year”**

On Wednesday, 20 October 1841 George Dun wrote in his journal: “The crops are only half in, and what is in is in very bad condition. There are several fields of wheat to be seen standing out which will be unfit for any purpose except feeding, and a great deal of peas and beans are still exposed which will be almost lost. This day has rained throughout. About 8 P.M. thick snow set in, and fields covered about two inches thick. Potatoes all in fields. Stooks and ricks of corn to be seen in all directions. The west end of Lindores Loch coated with ice.”<sup>28</sup>

### **“The Hungry Forties”**

In 1846 Dun wrote: “Turnips everywhere where not stored terribly shot: in many cases yellow with flower. Immense quantities of potatoes gave way this season with dry rot, which have been largely supplied to cattle...”<sup>29</sup> On Tuesday, 11 August 1846 he wrote the following: “When the harvest commenced, there was scarcely a green field of potatoes to be seen, and a week or two later all potato fields were as black as in the end of October in ordinary seasons, although up to the month of July they were looking uncommonly healthy everywhere. Hundreds of acres were never lifted from the ground.”<sup>30</sup>

### **Death of Margaret Dun**

Margaret Dun, his wife of over 13 years died on Monday, 15 May 1848 at the age of 38 at the Grange of Lindores. The cause of her death is not known and not recorded in the Abdie Church registers. She was buried in the Abdie Churchyard and her gravestone reads: “In Memory of Margaret Dun, wife of George Dun, farmer, Grange, who died 15 May 1848 aged 38.”

### **The Census and Valuation Rolls**

George Dun is listed in the 1851 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife as being 51 years of age, is a widower and working as a farmer with the following children: David age 15; Andrew age 12; Jane age 10; George age 9; James age 5 and Isabella age 4.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>29</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>30</sup> *The Courier & Advertiser Newspaper*, 6 September 1928

<sup>31</sup> 1851 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 4, Page 16, Lines 7-13

Parish of <i>Abdie</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of	Within the limits of the Parliamentary Burgh of		Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of		Town or Village of <i>Grange</i>		
No. of Inhabitants	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house on the Night of the 30th March, 1861	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
					Males	Females			
		Charles Martin	son		7		Scholar	Perth; Auchtermuchty	
		John Do	son		2			Perth; Auchtermuchty	
51		Robert Wilson	Head	Mar	25		Ag. Labr.	Per; Dundee	
		Ann Do	Wife	Mar	24		Do; Do	Per; Dundee	
54	Welly at Green	David Ogilvie		W	18		Do; Do	Per; Dundee	
		John Mathewson		W	18		Do; Do	Perth; Abernethy	
10	Farm House	George Dun	Head	Wid	61		Farmer of 400 Acres	Perth; Auchtermuchty	
		Janet Do	son	W	16			Per; Do	
		Andrew Do	son		12		Scholar	Per; Do	
		James Do	son		10		Do	Per; Do	
		George Do	son		9		Do	Per; Do	
		James Do	son		5		Do	Per; Do	
		Isabella Do	Daughter		4		Do	Per; Do	
		Grace Merton	Wife	W	25		Widow	Edinburgh	
		Elizabeth Davie	Servant	W	18		House servant	Perth; Auchtermuchty	
		Janet Robertson	Servant	W	24		Do	Per; Auchtermuchty	

Fig.8. 1851 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland listing George Dun and Family

By 1861 Dun is residing at the Grange of Lindores, Abdie Parish and is listed as being 61 years of age, a widower and working as a farmer of 400 acres along with the following children: Janet age 23; Andrew age 22; George age 19 and James age 15.<sup>32</sup>

26	Farm House	1	George Dun	Head	Wid	61	Farmer of 400 Acres	Perth; Auchtermuchty	9
			Janet Dun	Daughter	W	23	Widow, employs 2 Boys	Perth; Auchtermuchty	
			Andrew Dun	son	W	22	Farmer, son	Per; Do	
			George Dun	son	W	19	Do	Per; Do	
			James Dun	son	W	15	Do	Per; Do	
			Isabella Anderson	Servant	W	19	Domestic servant	Per; Auchtermuchty	
			Janet Ferguson	Do	W	21	Do	Per; Auchtermuchty	

Fig.9. 1861 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland listing George Dun and Family

During 1862 Dun is recorded in the 1862 Fife and Kinross Directory as being a farmer at Grange in Abdie Parish.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> 1861 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 3, Page 7, Lines 19-23

<sup>33</sup> Westwood's Parochial Directory for the Counties of Fife and Kinross. Cupar-Fife: 1862 p. 9

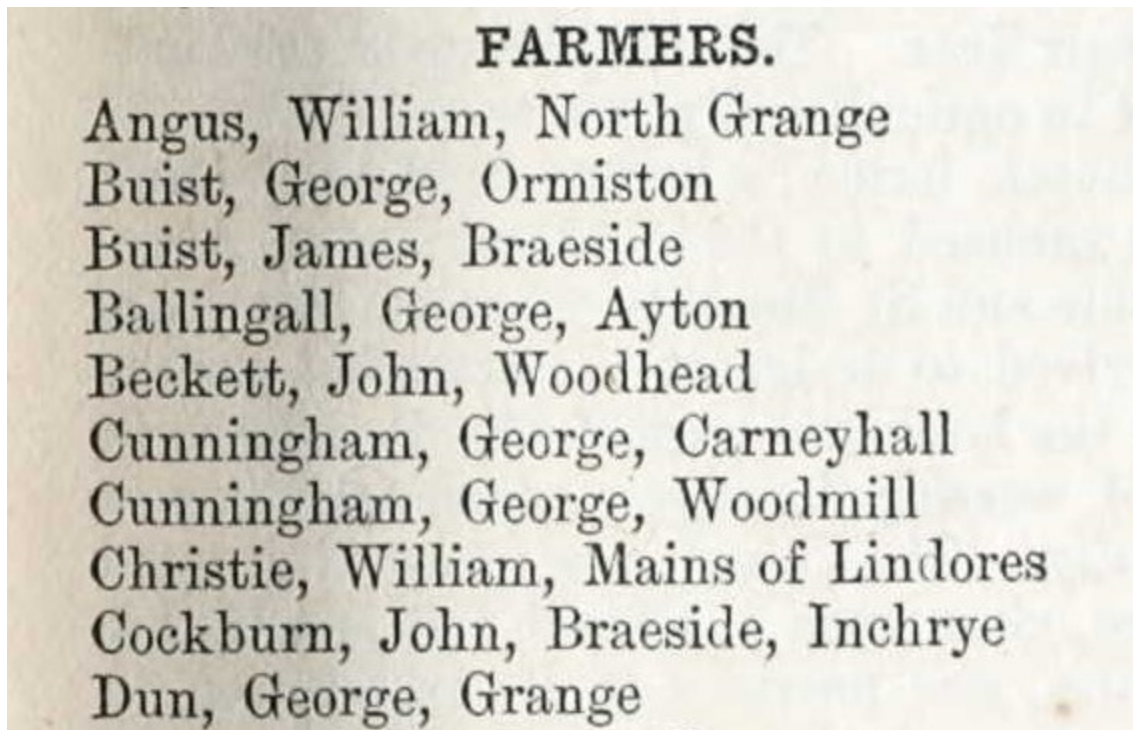


Fig.10. 1862 Fife and Kinross Directory listing George Dun

According to the 1871 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife George Dun is 71 years of age, a widower and working as a farmer at the Grange of Lindores with the following children: Jane age 30 and Isabella age 24.<sup>34</sup>

44	Grange, Lindores	George Dun	Head	Widow	71	Farmer (employing 10 laborers)	£4. 10s. 0d.	12
		Jane D.	Daughter	Married	30		£. 0s. 0d.	
		Isabella D.	Daughter	Married	24		£. 0s. 0d.	
		Mary Dunsay	Servant	Married	22		£. 0s. 0d.	
		Isabella Dunsay	Servant	Married	18		£. 0s. 0d.	

Fig.11. 1871 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland listing George Dun and Family

The Scottish Valuation Rolls are lists of persons who owned or occupied property in the country. They record the name and designation of the owner of a property, the name of the tenant, the name of the occupier and the annual rateable value. The first Valuation Roll that George Dun is recorded in is in 1855. He is shown as being a tenant in the Farm of Grange and the yearly rent or value is 528 pounds.<sup>35</sup> He is also shown as being a tenant of Grange Hill and the yearly rent or value is 120 pounds.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>34</sup> 1871 Scotland Census for Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District Number 3, Page 1, Lines 20-22

<sup>35</sup> 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for the Farm of Grange of Lindores and the Farm of Grange Hill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland (VR101/1/2) National Records of Scotland

<sup>36</sup> 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for the Farm of Grange of Lindores and the Farm of Grange Hill, Abdie Parish, Fife, Scotland (VR101/1/2) National Records of Scotland

VALUATION				ROLL.			
County of Fife.				Abdie Parish.			
Number	DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF HEREDITARY	PROPRIETOR	TENANT	OCCUPIER	Yearly Rent or Value		OBSERVATIONS
					As Rated in 1850	As Rated in 1855	
54	Farm of Grange	Robert Cathcart Esq of Hattonhill	George Dun, Grange	and George Dun	519	519	
55	Farm of Grange Hill	do	do	do	79	79	
56	Farm of Hattonhill	do	do	do	203	203	
57	Part of Hattonhill	do	do	do	30	30	
58	Part of Hattonhill	do	do	do	212	212	

Fig.12. 1855 Valuation Roll for Grange of Lindores (Line 54) and Grange Hill (Line 58) Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Dun, Crown Copyright

As reported by the 1865 Valuation Roll, George Dun is the occupier of the Farm of Grange and the yearly rent or value is 519 pounds.<sup>37</sup> He is also shown as being the occupier of the Farm of Grange Hill with the yearly rent or value being 79 pounds as well as the Farm of Hattonhill recorded as being 203 pounds.<sup>38</sup>

39	Farm of Grange	Robert Cathcart Esq of Hattonhill	George Dun, Grange	and George Dun	519	519	
40	Farm of Grange Hill	do	do	do	79	79	
41	Farm of Hattonhill	do	do	do	203	203	
42	Part of Hattonhill	do	do	do	30	30	
43	Part of Hattonhill	do	do	do	212	212	

Fig.13. 1865 Valuation Roll for Grange of Lindores, Grange Hill and Hattonhill (Lines 39-43) Abdie Parish, Fife listing George Dun, Crown Copyright

<sup>37</sup> 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for the Farm of Grange of Lindores and the Farm of Grange Hill and the Farm of Hattonhill (VR101/11/1) National Records of Scotland  
<sup>38</sup> 1865 Scotland Valuation Roll for the Farm of Grange of Lindores and the Farm of Grange Hill and the Farm of Hattonhill (VR101/11/1) National Records of Scotland

## **A Founder of the Abdie Curling Club**

In the old minute book of the Abdie Curling Club it recorded the following: "... the winter of 1830-31 a match was undertaken to be played between the Married Men and Bachelors, the losers being bound to give a Dinner to the winners, this match was played on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1831... Whilst those who upheld the honour of the Single life were: ... Dun of Hattonhill... On that day however Mr. Simson was unfortunately called to Edinburgh on business and it was agreed to by both parties that Mr. Dun should play one of his Stones and Mr. George Buist the other."<sup>39</sup> Thus the very first match was played and the founding of the Abdie Curling Club would be established.

The very first meeting of the newly established Abdie Curling Club took place on Monday, 3 December 1832 at Hattonhill, George Dun's residence in which Henry Buist of Berryhill was chosen as the club's President.<sup>40</sup> George Dun, a nephew of Henry Buist was also chosen as the club's Secretary.<sup>41</sup> Dun produced the Abdie Curling Club's first regulations and rules in curling which basically are still followed to this day. According to the minutes of the Abdie Curling Club: "The following regulations have been drawn out by the Committee and approved by the members of the club: (1) That a general meeting of the Club shall take place annually upon the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January (Sunday exempted) being the anniversary of the Institution when a Committee shall be chosen to consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, and a Secretary to manage the general affairs thereof. (2) The admission of Members to the Club to be 2/6 each. Each Member providing Stones for himself. (3) No person to be admitted into the Club before he is proposed by a Member and approved by the Committee."<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 28 January 1831, p. 2

<sup>40</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 3 December 1832, p. 5

<sup>41</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 3 December 1832, p. 5

<sup>42</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 3 December 1832, p. 5

## LISTS OF LOCAL CLUBS.

### ABDIE CLUB.

Capt. WEDDERBURN of Wedderburn, *President.*

PETER HAY PATERSON, Esq. of Carpow, } *Vice-*  
ANDREW BROWN, Esq. Banker, } *Presidents.*

GEORGE DUN, *Secretary.*

#### *Ordinary Members.*

John Pitcairn.	Capt. Lyon.
Henry Buist.	James Ogilvy Dalgliesh.
D. Maitland Makgill.	Andrew Brown.
Sir Fred. Maitland.	Andrew Buist.
Robert Walker.	George Nicol.
James Walker.	Capt. Wedderburn.
David Pitcairn.	Peter Hay Paterson.
George Buist.	Hope Pitcairn.
Alexander Russell.	R. G. Wilson.
George Dun.	Rev. Dr Anderson.
Andrew Landale.	Capt. A. Ogilvy Dalgliesh.
Alexander Simson.	James Nicol.
Dr Burton.	James Thomson.
Dr David Lyell.	Taylor Cathcart,
Dr Guthrie.	Henry Buist.
Thomas Anderson.	Fred. Johnston.
David Landale.	Dr John Lyell.
George Moodie.	David Gillespie.
George Russell.	Capt. J. Wilson.
James Buist.	

Fig.14. 1839 Annual of the Grand Caledonian Curling Club listing the Abdie Curling Club Members, Photograph Courtesy of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club © The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

A rematch was scheduled between the Bachelors and Married members of the Club and was played on Lindores Loch on Saturday, 26 January 1833. The Abdie Curling Club minutes of Wednesday, 30 January 1833 recorded the results of the match as: "... The Bachelors were again so unfortunate as to lose the day, the Benedicts having a majority of nine shots in a game of twenty seven, the players on the side of the fathers were: Alexander Simson of Hallhill, Alexander Russell of Parkhill, James Buist of Kirktonbarns and George Dun of Hattonhill."<sup>43</sup>

Many of the Abdie Curling Club's matches were for charitable purposes, the losers paying double what the winners did. One such charitable match was played on Saturday, 20 January 1838 at Lindores Loch.



*Fig.15. Looking across Lindores Loch, Abdie, Fife, Scotland, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy*

This particular match was played on behalf of the School of Lindores. The winners of the match were recorded as follows: Henry Buist, Captain Lyon, Paterson of Carpow, R. Walker, George Russell, T. Anderson, George Buist and George Dun with the sum of two guineas being collected from the winning team and three guineas from the losing team.<sup>44</sup>

Dun played in many matches throughout his many years as the Club's Secretary. In an incident that had occurred during the summer of 1842, the *Perthshire Advertiser Newspaper* reported on Thursday, 7 July 1842: "Newburgh. An Ill-Looking Affair. On the afternoon of Monday last week, a circumstance took place in our immediate neighbourhood which has created a very unwanted sensation throughout the district, and, in the meantime, promises to be followed by very serious results. So far as can be learned, the matter stands thus: The Abdie Curling Club recently erected, near the Loch of Lindores, a small house in which to keep their stones during the summer. The question being a novelty, and at the same time, low and of easy access to the top, two or three little boys occasionally diverted themselves by riding on the roof. On the afternoon of the day mentioned, three little fellows were amusing themselves in that matter, when the neighbouring farmer came suddenly on them and, catching hold of two, struck their heads together by way of punishment. One of them, by struggling, effected his escape; but the other, a weakly boy, came in, it is said, for a more severe castigation. Be that as it may, the latter, on reaching home, took to bed and was a corpse before night. An investigation has been made by the fiscal into all the circumstances connected with the case; but none of the facts thereby elicited have yet been made public. However, heavy recognizances, it is said, have been

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<sup>43</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 30 January 1833, p. 12

<sup>44</sup> Abdie Curling Club, First Minute Book, 31 January 1838, p. 25

entered into by the offending party to appear when called upon. It is but justice to Mr. Dun, the individual referred to, to add, that he denies having harmed any of the boys in the smallest, and that there was no outward mark on the body of the deceased or any injuries inflicted.”<sup>45</sup>

George Dun served as Secretary of the Abdie Curling Club until he resigned on Tuesday, 6 February 1849.<sup>46</sup> In his letter of resignation dated Wednesday, 31 January 1849 he wrote: “I find I cannot be present at the Annual Meeting of the Abdie Curling Club on Tuesday next and beg to intimate that I hereby resign into your hands the Office of Secretary and Treasurer which I have held for upwards of 16 years. I will be ready to hand over the effects of the Club to whom you may honour with the appointment at the same time I beg to state that being situated in the locality where the Club generally meets I shall be happy to render any assistance in my power in promoting the interest of the Club. Signed George Dun.”<sup>47</sup>

### **Death of George Dun**

George Dun died on Tuesday, 25 August 1874 at this farm at the Grange of Lindores at the age of 74.<sup>48</sup> The cause of his death was listed as an obstruction of bowels which lasted for one week.<sup>49</sup>

18	George Dun	1874	M.	74	David Dun	Obstruction of Bowels	1874
	Farmer	August	74	Farmer	one week	At Abdie	August 26 <sup>th</sup>
	Widower of Margaret Landale	2 h. P. M.		Jean Dun	as cert. by Henry Gordon		
	Grange of Lindores	Abdie		M. S. Buisht (Dec?)	M. B. & C. M. Edin		John Cameron Registrar.

Fig.16. Death Record of George Dun, 25 August 1874, Crown Copyright

He was buried in the family burial lot in the Abdie Parish Churchyard on Thursday, 27 August 1874. Incidentally, at the top of his gravestone is the inscription of the year 1849 on it. This was the year he resigned as Secretary and Treasurer of the Abdie Curling Club and reads: “The above George Dun died 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1874 aged 74 years.”

<sup>45</sup> Perthshire Advertiser Newspaper, 7 July 1842, p. 3

<sup>46</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 6 February 1849, p. 102

<sup>47</sup> Abdie Curling Club First Minute Book, 6 February 1849, p.102

<sup>48</sup> Death Record of George Dun, 25 August 1874, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/0000 0018

<sup>49</sup> Death Record of George Dun, 25 August 1874, Abdie Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 400/0000 0018



Fig.17. Grave of George Dun and Family, Abdie Parish Churchyard, Abdie, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

George Dun was a respected farmer of Abdie Parish, Fife for many years and typified the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit in Scottish farming in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He had meticulously kept journal books recording the weather, harvests and other matters relating to farming while at Hattonhill and the Grange of Lindores which gives us a glimpse into farming of the past. Dun was an avid curler and a founding member of the Abdie Curling Club. Fife can be very proud of one of its own, George Dun, a tenant farmer and keen curler of Abdie Parish. He is warmly commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant cousin, Michael T. Tracy. This work is dedicated to the Memory of George Dun.

*Memoratus in aeternum* (Forever Remembered)

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