

The McNaughtons and the University of St Andrews

By Alasdair McNaughton

In a previous article, I mentioned the large numbers of McNaughtons and relatives who have been students of the University of St Andrews. As the University is currently in the middle of celebrating its 600th anniversary, I thought it might be interesting to examine their time at St Andrews in more detail.



St Andrews University Hall.

The first member of the clan known to have studied at St Andrews was Donald McNaughton. He was, according to historians' estimates, born *circa* 1385 to an unmarried nobleman and an unmarried noblewoman. It is known that his uncle was Robert de Cardeny, bishop of Dunkeld. Therefore his mother was either Mariota de Cardeny (the favourite mistress of Robert II) or an otherwise unknown sister. It is likely that his father was the chief of the clan, but this is not known for sure. Various letters survive in the Papal archives which cast a great deal of light on Donald and his career within the church. In 1418, Donald was not only the holder of a Master of Arts but also of a Bachelor of Canon Law. He was also in his third year of lecturing in canon law. He was also the holder of the post of treasurer of the diocese of Dunkeld. In the letter from the Pope, the Official of St Andrews was instructed to provide a canonry of Aberdeen to Donald and to reserve a prebend to him. Given that the University of St Andrews was not officially founded by Pope Benedict until 1413, Donald must have been one of the first lectures in the study of canon law.

Between 1437 and 1440, further grants were made to Donald, by now a doctor of canon law, of a canonry of Glasgow and the prebend of Glasgow Primo. During this period Donald was not only dean of Dunkeld, but also holder of a canonry and prebend in Logie (in the diocese of Dunblane), a canonry and prebend of Invernochty (in the diocese of Aberdeen) and the parish church of Weem. Some scholars state that Donald was elected bishop of Dunkeld but

his election was overturned by the king. It is believed that the award of some of these posts was made in compensation of that fact. Donald died between May and October 1440.

In the late 15th century, and in the early years of the 16th, at least two McNaughtons were vicars of Inchadney. The first, Maurice, was vicar from at least 1468 as he appears as a witness to a charter in that year. The death of Maurice McNaughton, vicar of Inchadney, was recorded at Weem on the 8th April 1501. The mortal remains of Maurice were taken for burial at Inchadney. There may have been a second Maurice, vicar of Inchadney, as a charter dating from 1510 (where one witness was Alexander McNaughton of Dunderave) was notarised by Sir Maurice McNaughton, vicar of Inchadney. However many people named Maurice McNaughton who served as vicar of Inchadney there were, there was certainly a Duncan McNaughton who was vicar of Inchadney. Duncan died at Perth on November 6th 1523 and was buried at Inchadney. During this period there was also a McNaughton vicar of Fortingall. Donald McNaughton, vicar of Fortingall, died June 9th 1520. All ordained priests in this period had to be university graduates, and while I have not, at present, been able to find any graduation record of the vicars of Inchadney or Fortingall, it is possible that they were also graduates of St Andrews. Interestingly, both Fortingall and Inchadney were prebends of the dean of Dunkeld.

The next member of the family who is recorded at the university is Allan McNaughton (1794 – 1875), son of Alexander McNaughton of Remony and Janet McDonald. He graduated Master of Arts in 1815 having studied a course which included Latin, Greek, Logic, Mathematics, Ethics and Physics. He then studied in the Faculty of Divinity (St Mary's



St Mary's College.

College) where he remained until 1817. In 1818, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunkeld, and began his career in the church as minister of Hatton Garden Chapel, London. Over the following years, Allan served as minister of Campeltown 2nd charge, Campeltown 1st charge, Kilbride (Arran) and Lesmahagow. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by St Andrews in 1837, and tied for the post of Principal of St Mary's College in 1854.

The next member of the family attending the university was Phyllis Carruthers Campbell, the great-grandniece of Allan McNaughton. She matriculated in 1898 having studied Maths, French, English, Latin and Greek at school, Phyllis registered for the Arts degree and took the following courses: French, Maths, Latin, Logic, Education, English Literature, History, and Moral Philosophy. She had a bursary but it had lapsed by her final year. Phyllis moved to Australia where she married Donald MacArthur in 1925. By the early 1930s, after her husband's death, she had moved to New Zealand where she died in 1971.

Phyllis' sister, Jessie MacNaughton Campbell, matriculated in 1901, and enrolled on the medical degree course and held the Taylor Thomson bursary. Jessie graduated as MB [Bachelor of Medicine] and ChB [Bachelor of Surgery] in 1907. Her first employment was at Ochil Hills Sanatorium, but she had soon moved to London where she worked at a number of hospitals. Apart from her elder sister, Jessie was the only one of the siblings to marry. She married Alexander Russell in 1919 and had two sons – John and Richard. Alexander rose to become Permanent Under-Secretary to the Home Office and was knighted in 1936. Lady Jessie Maxwell died in 1965 aged 82.

In 1902, Phyllis and Jessie were joined at St Andrews by third sister Lizzie Mabel Renwick Campbell. Mabel, as she was known, graduated in Arts in 1906 and then in 1909 she graduated MB ChB. Mabel also held the Taylor Thomson bursary. According to 'College Echoes' (the university annual), Mabel, and, Adeline, her younger sister, represented the university at Hockey. Mabel was the team captain. Upon graduation, she moved to Newcastle where the family of her paternal uncle were in residence. Latterly, she worked as an anaesthetist. She died in 1939 at the age of 54. She was the only one not to enjoy retirement.

Adeline Herbert Campbell, the fourth sister, matriculated in 1905. She also held the Taylor Thomson bursary to a value of £30 for two years. During her time at St Andrews, Adeline stayed in University Hall. She graduated MA in 1909 and MB ChB in 1912, and gained 'Blues' in hockey in 1907-08. During WW1, Adeline served with the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia and won medals including the Order of Sava. After the war, she worked in England before returning to Scotland in 1923. Adeline died in 1965.

The next sister to matriculate at St Andrews, Margaret McGillewie Campbell, commenced her studies in 1908. She too had a grant, and, like her sister, lived in University Hall, the female only residence which had opened in 1896. She graduated MA in 1911 having studied Latin, Maths, English Literature, Logic, Modern History, Moral Philosophy, and Political Economy. Daisy, as she was known, also played hockey, and took an active role in extra-curricular student life serving as a committee member for the Women Students' Athletic Association, the Women's Athletic Club, and the Women's Debating Society. It is believed that Daisy moved to Croftdhuac, Newtonmore, where her parents had relocated on the retirement of her father, following the death of her mother in 1927. There she took an active part with the local Girl Guides. She died in 1986.

United College.

Annie Renwick Campbell, daughter number six, matriculated as a student of science and medicine in 1912, although her academic record shows a note that "she probably won't take science".

She too was a resident of University Hall. In her first year, Annie held the Malcolm Medical bursary, and part of her fees in her 1st and 2nd years was paid using



Carnegie vouchers. Annie graduated in 1917 and seems to have joined the WRAF as a medical officer almost immediately. Her only post war employment recorded in the Medical Directory was as a Medical Officer, North Islington Medical Centre and then as a House Physician and Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. In 1960, she was living in Crail, Fife. She died in 1972.

At the start of her final year, in 1916, Annie was joined by her sister Katherine McGregor Campbell. In her first two years as a medical student, Katherine was a resident of University Hall before moving to stay in Dundee for her final three years. In her second year, Katherine held the Taylor Thomson bursary. She graduated MB ChB in 1922 but did not update her information with the Medical Directory until 1944. From there, there is a gap until 1951 when she registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand. Her brother, Duncan McGregor Campbell, had moved to Dumgree Station on inheriting the property from their maternal great uncle, Dr Thomas Renwick in the late 1940s. Katherine joined him there, working at Wairau Hospital. She died in 1981.

After a year's gap – and a no doubt welcome, if brief, respite from supporting his daughters for the Reverend John Campbell – the youngest daughter, Isobel Grace MacNaughton Campbell, matriculated as a science student in 1923. Like her sisters, she lived in University Hall, and also held the Taylor Thomson bursary. She graduated with First Class Honours in 1927. In the following year, she – with the support of a Carnegie Fellowship in her final year – enrolled as a research student. Ishbel – as she was known – graduated PhD in 1930. At the time, she was on a Harkness Fellowship at Cornell University, and so graduated *in absentia*. Ishbel returned to St Andrews as a member of staff in 1932. In addition to her academic studies, Ishbel had time to serve as Honorary Secretary and then President of the Mermaids Society (the name given the drama group), represent the University at tennis, and sit on the Students' Representative Council. Ishbel held various academic posts in her career before retiring as Reader in Chemistry at the University of Southampton. She retired in 1971, and died in 1997.

In 1914, Annie and Katherine were joined at St Andrews by their 2nd cousin Christian Elinor Little. Christian had previously studied at the University of Oxford for two academic years and graduated from St Andrews in 1915. She then studied medicine and graduated MB ChB in 1921.

Since then, many more McNaughtons – those with ancestors from the Breadalbane heartlands of the clan and those who hail from other parts – and descendants have passed through the ancient University of St Andrews, and, no doubt, many more will do so in the next 600 years.

SOURCES:

Calendar of Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland

Black Book of Taymouth

University of St Andrews Muniments and Special Collections, student records

University of St Andrews website