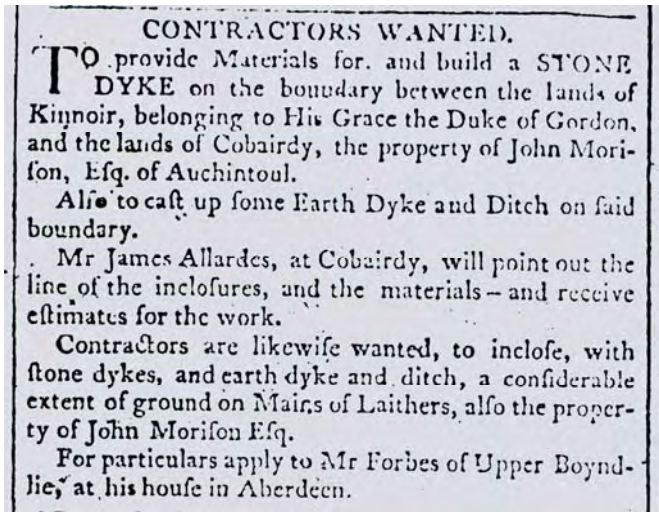
THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, "COBBIE" AND "THE KING OF FORGUE" 1800s

James Allardes had inherited Boynsmill Estate in 1800, but by 1802 was living at Cobairdy, where, although only the tenant of John Morison of Auchintoul, he lived very much the lifestyle of a laird and acquired the sobriquet of "Cobbie" as a result. One of his neighbouring landowners was the Duke of Gordon, and both men knew each other and had mutual dealings, especially when it came to improving the estate boundaries between lands at Kinnoir and Cobairdy.



CONTRACTORS WANTED.

TO provide Materials for, and build a STONE DYKE on the boundary between the lands of Kinnoir, belonging to His Grace the Duke of Gordon, and the lands of Cobairdy, the property of John Morison, Esq. of Auchintoul.

Alſo to caſt up ſome Earth Dyke and Ditch on ſaid boundary.

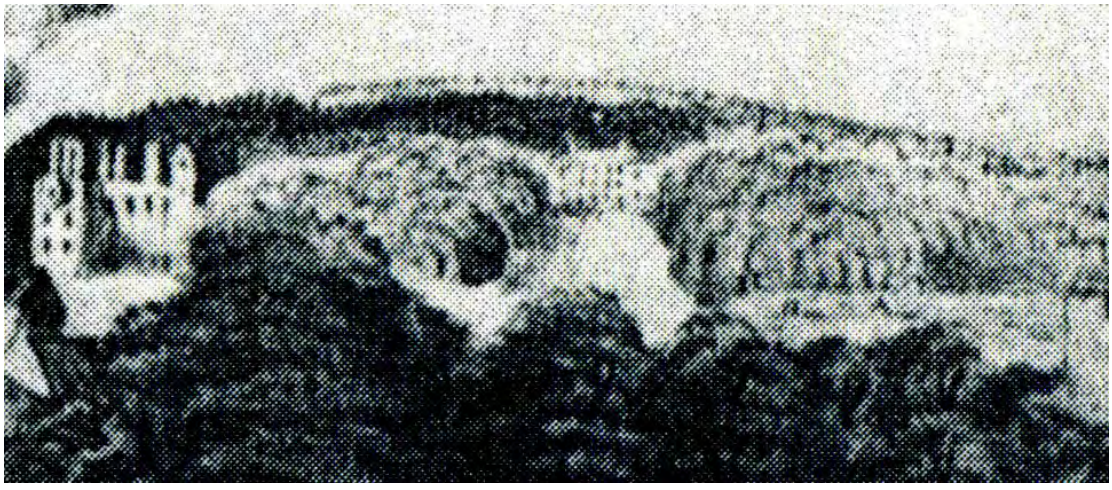
Mr James Allardes, at Cobairdy, will point out the line of the incloſures, and the materials – and receive eſtimates for the work.

Contractors are likewiſe wanted, to incloſe, with ſtone dykes, and earth dyke and ditch, a conſiderable extent of ground on Mains of Laithers, alſo the property of John Moriſon Eſq.

For particulars apply to Mr Forbes of Upper Boyndlie, at his houſe in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Journal 24 February 1802

The Duke's son and heir, George, Marquis of Huntly at this time lived at Huntly Lodge, and oversaw the running of his father's estates in the Huntly area, and became closely acquainted with James Allardes and also with Alexander Shand, in Conland. The outcome of these friendships was that these two prominent men of Forgue society were regular guests of the Marquis at his lavish parties.



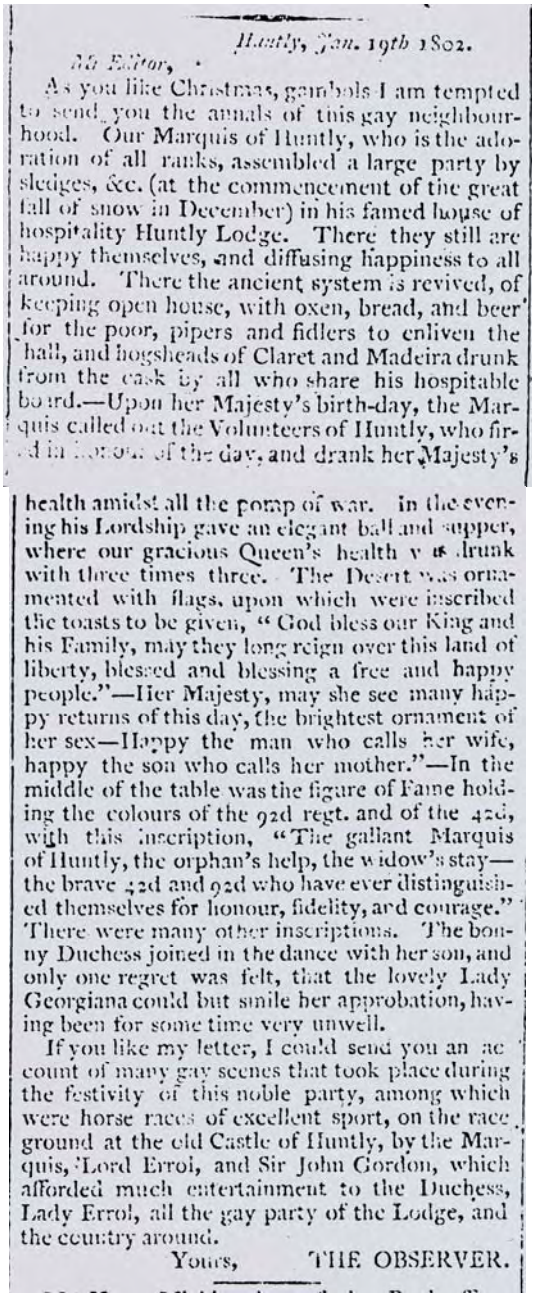
Detail of The Lodge and Castle from a drawing of Huntly

Huntly, Jan 19th 1802

Mr Editor,

As you like Christmas gambols I am tempted to send you the annals of this gay neighbourhood. Our Marquis of Huntly, who is the adoration of all ranks, assembled a large party by sledges, &c. (at the commencement of the great fall of snow in December) in his famed house of hospitality Huntly Lodge. There they still are happy themselves, and diffusing happiness to all around. There the ancient system is revived, of keeping open house, with oxen, bread, and beer for the poor, pipers and fiddlers to enliven the hall, and hogsheads of Claret and Madeira drunk from the cask by all who share the hospitable board. – Upon her Majesty's birth-day, the Marquis called out the Volunteers of Huntly, who fired in honour of the day, and drank her Majesty's health amidst all the pomp of war. In the evening his Lordship gave an elegant ball and supper, where our gracious Queen's health was drunk with three times three. The Desert was ornamented with flags, upon which were inscribed the toasts to be given, "God bless our King and his Family, may they long reign over this land of liberty, blessed and blessing a free and happy people." – Her Majesty, may she see many happy returns of this day, the brightest ornament of her sex – Happy the man who calls her wife, happy the son who calls her mother." – In the middle of the table was the figure of Fame holding the colours of the 92d regt. and of the 42d, with this inscription, "The gallant Marquis of Huntly, the orphan's help, the widow's stay – the brave 42d and 92d who have ever distinguished themselves for honour, fidelity, and courage." There were many other inscriptions. The bonny Duchess joined in the dance with her son, and only one regret was felt, that the lovely Lady Georgiana could but smile her approbation, having been for sometime very unwell. If you like my letter, I could send you an account of many gay scenes that took place during the festivity of this noble party, among which were horse races of excellent sport, on the race ground at the old Castle of Huntly, by the Marquis, Lord Errol, and Sir John Gordon, which afforded much entertainment to the Duchess, Lady Errol, all the gay party of the Lodge, and the country around.

Yours, THE OBSERVER.



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Aberdeen Journal 20 January 1802

George, Marquis of Huntly

The Marquis of Huntly, before he inherited his ducal title, used often to invite his neighbours in Forgue to Huntly Lodge. One tale of the revelries of that place concerned Alexander Shand, life-tenant of Conland, who, in those days of hard drinking, used to compete with the Marquis, (who prided himself on his prowess in that regard), as to who would send the other under the table. His Lordship was never successful with Shand of Conland, who always emerged the victor at the table, while the host had to retire to bed. The next day the Marquis asked his valet when the old carle from Forgue left, and was informed that when his Lordship withdrew, Mr Shand brewed himself another jorum of whisky toddy, then ordered his pony, rode off to Aberdeen to transact some business not a bit the worse. "Well," said the Marquis, "Shand is King of Forgue."

The following is a sketch of James Allardes from the pen of the late Mr McCombie of Tillyfour, the first Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire, who wrote,
"*James Allardes of Boynsmill, tenant of Cobairdy, was a great farmer. He was a friend of the late Duke of Gordon, who introduced him to Court. He always wore powder. Many were the stories he told of his journeys to London, and the great personages he was introduced to there. He was the best chairman of a public meeting I ever saw, and at a public sale it was a perfect treat to hear him. He was a master of the art of pleasing, and no man put a company into equal good humour. He had something to say in everyone's praise, and no one else could say it so well. He spoke the dialect of his own country, "the Kingdom of Forgue", and never affected the English language*".

Mr McCombie's Cattle Breeding Reminiscences, page 40

Charles Horne, in his work “The Kingdom of Forgue” wrote,
“Then, there was the Laird of Cobairdy, James Allardice was his name. He was a long-headed man, and he had a lot of good business qualities. He was not actually the Laird of Cobairdy, although he got that name, but the name he was known best by was “Cobbie.” He had a lease of Cobairdy for something like a lifetime. He lived in the House of Cobairdy, and occupied the home farm, and had the freedom of the Forman Hill, and according to his bargain, he could build as many stone and lime dykes and plant as many trees as he liked, and when he retired from Cobairdy, he had to get full value from every tree. He often said to his cronies that his trees were growing money to him every day and his dykes were always rising in value. And such was the case.

The Kingdom of Forgue, by Charles Horne, page 8

Mr Allardes made great improvements on Cobairdy in planting, reclaiming and building. He built no less than 10,590 yards of stone and lime dykes, 17,791 of dry stone dykes, altogether twelve and three-quarter miles; and there was paid to him at Whitsunday 1830, for ameliorations on the estate of Cobairdy. £7,452 19s 6d.

Many a good story is told regarding the sayings and doings of Mr Allardes. He had a very high opinion of the durability of his stone and lime dykes, and when these were building, a friend remarked – “Eh, Mr Allardes! These dykes ye are biggin’ will last for ever.” “For ever, man”, quo’ Mr Allardes, “a hantle langer!”

The following regarding a use of them is special:- Returning home late one evening from dining at a neighbour’s, Mr Allardes was much in the condition of the man, who complained not so much of the length of the road as the breadth of it. In coming up the avenues to Cobairdy, which had one of his stone and lime dykes on each side, he stumbles with considerable force against the one dyke then against the other to the danger of an ordinary erection, on which he exclaimed, “Braw dykies that I hae biggit; it is weel I biggit ye o’ stane and lime.”

Thanage of Fermartyn, by William Temple, pages 225, 226

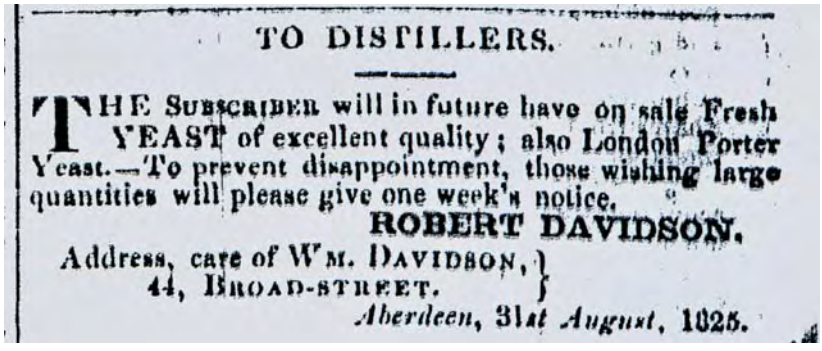
An example of a stone and lime dyke along the avenues at Cobairdy

JAMES ALLARDES
GLENDRONACH DISTILLERY 1826

About 1775 Boynsmill Estate was acquired by William Allardes in Placemill. His first wife Ann Henderson gave him four children, but she died in 1768. For his second wife, he married Katharine, daughter of William Stuart, in Little Forgue, by whom he had several sons and daughters. William Allardes died at Boynsmill on the 10th June 1800, aged 68 and was succeeded by his twenty-eight year old eldest son of his second marriage, James Allardes

James Allardes, besides being proprietor of Boynsmill, which was a rather small estate, rented nearly 800 acres from different proprietors, several farms and estates, in particular Cobairdy, which he held on a long improving lease from its laird, John Morison of Auchintoul. Mr Allardes was a very enterprising and public-spirited gentleman, and was the means of effecting many great improvements in Forgue.

Boynsmill was situated on the Frendraught burn which flowed into the Forgue burn at Mill of Forgue. That mill was the principal one of the area, to which many of the holdings of the parish were thirled. Upstream and nearby was the. Boynsmill could, therefore, not sufficiently compete as a mill against its privileged rivals. At this time, the 1820s, despite the fact that as many as 14,000 illicit stills were being confiscated every year, more than half the whisky consumed in Scotland was being drunk without being subject to excise duty. This flouting of the law eventually prompted the Duke of Gordon, on whose extensive acres some of the finest illicit whisky in Scotland was being produced, to propose in the House of Lords that the Government should make it profitable to produce whisky legally. After a lengthy Royal Commission, the Excise Act of 1823 was passed, which sanctioned legal distilling at a duty of two shillings and three pence per gallon for stills with a capacity of more than 40 gallons. There was a licence fee of £10 annually and no stills under the legal limit were allowed. The first distillery came into lawful existence in 1824 and thereafter many more distillers came within the law. By 1825, James Allardes's nephew Robert Davidson, son of William Davidson, merchant of 44 Broad Street, in Aberdeen, an enterprising and inventive young chemist, saw opportunities in the distilling industry, and was offering for sale fresh yeast and London Porter Yeast to supply to the new legal distillers.



TO DISTILLERS.

THE SUBSCRIBER will in future have on sale Fresh YEAST of excellent quality; also London Porter Yeast.—To prevent disappointment, those wishing large quantities will please give one week's notice.

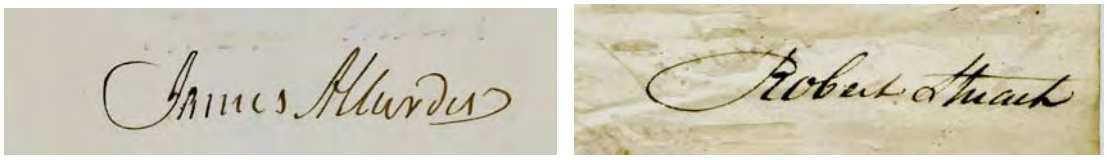
ROBERT DAVIDSON.

Address, care of WM. DAVIDSON,
44, BROAD-STREET.

Aberdeen, 31st August, 1825.

Aberdeen Journal 2 September 1825

The realisation by Robert Davidson and his father William, who was married to Elizabeth Allardes, that her brother possessed land, suitable buildings, and an adequate supply of water, which that could readily be used for distilling, prompted James Allardes to turn this notion into a reality. At that time, agricultural improvements were going on apace in Forgue and with barley growing already being undertaken locally, two capitalist farmers, James's cousin Robert Stuart in Little Forgue, and John Richardson Thain in Drumblair were persuaded to join the enterprise. And so in 1826, James Allardes along with Robert Stuart, William Davidson, and John R. Thain founded The Glendronach Distilley on the estate of Boynsmill. This enterprising coterie of gentlemen possessed the perfect blend of land, money technical knowledge and business acumen to build and run a distillery. They named their enterprise from the "Dronac" burn, which flowed through the place and with the suffix of an "h" and the prefix of "Glen", to make it sound more Highland and romantic, set about to produce whisky. It may have been that they invented the name as the burn which flowed through Boynsmill had previously always been referred to as the Frendraught burn.

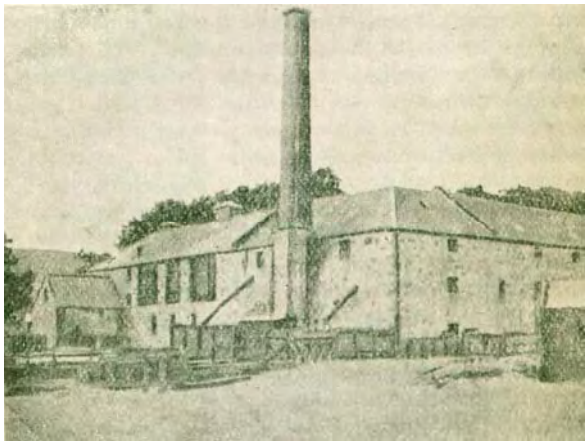


Signatures of James Allardes and Robert Stuart

The following is adapted from The Herd Loon's account of the founding of the distillery:

FOUNDER OF GLENDRONACH DISTILLERY

"Cobbie" was a very enterprising man. He was the founder of the Glendronach Distillery. He and three or four others formed themselves into a company, but "Cobbie" was the leading spirit. I may just tell you here that he was the first man in Forgue that had anything like, or in the shape of, a gig. I remember it well. The shafts at the back were turned up like half-cart wheel rings, the body or seat being hung with straps from the end of the half circles; and that was "Cobbie's" gig.



The Kingdom of Forgue by Charles Horne

The distillery being built, the still set agoing, whisky was brewed and stored in the bonds. This continued for some time, when "Cobbie" thought it was time to get some of the whisky sold. A traveller was sent out through the country to sell and take orders for whisky, and when he returned he told "Cobbie" that he could not sell any. "What for that?" said "Cobbie." "Because," said the traveller, "everyone is supplied already, and has a connection with other firms." "Oh, well," said Cobbie, "you will need to try another district." But in a short time the traveller returned with the same disheartening story. "Why," exclaimed "Cobbie," there is no use of us brewing whisky if it cannot be sold. I will go myself and sell it." So "Cobbie" made up his mind to go and sell it himself. He sent a fair-sized barrel of whisky to Aberdeen with the carrier. He took a large flagon filled with whisky into his gig, and set out for Aberdeen, calling at every public house, inn or whisky shop on the way, but he did not make any better of it than the traveller. He took a bottle of the whisky and a dram glass in his pocket, canvassed every shop and inn in the Granite City, begging them to taste his "guid Glendronach whisky," but they were all supplied, and had their stock in for the season. They promised, however, to keep him in mind in future. "Cobbie" was somewhat down in the mouth, but he would not give in, so he sent the barrel, per boat, on to Edinburgh, and took the flagon, bottle, and glass into the gig, and set out for the Scottish capital, not missing a whisky shop of any sort on the way. On arriving at Edinburgh, he engaged a room in one of the first-class hotels. He got his barrel and flagon stowed away in his room, and set out and canvassed the town. After a few days he got some small shops that would take a gallon or two, but "Cobbie" knew that that would not do – it was barrels and puncheons that he must sell.

From an engraving of Edinburgh by Thomas Dick

HOW "COBBIE" INTRODUCED "GLENDRONACH

At last he met in with a firm that was to take the whole of his stock, but the price offered was far too low. "Cobbie" knew that the whisky would not rot or go wrong, but that it would improve while lying in stock, so he would not sell save at market price. He was very much disheartened, and was contemplating returning north, when, coming up the Canongate with his hands at his back thinking what he would do next, two young women accosted him, and asked him to give them a dram. "A dram," says "Cobbie". "Dod, awite I'll gie ye a dram." "Come awa' wi' me, and I'll gie ye a dram o' guid Glendronach whisky." The two women wanted him to come

with them to a certain public-house, but he said, “Na, na, I’ve a room o’ my ain, and whisky o’ my ain brewing, so just come ye awa’, for I am sure ye never tasted better whisky.” The women followed him, but when they saw he was to go into a first-class hotel, they said that they would not be allowed in. “Come awa’,” said “Cobbie.” I would like to see fa wad haud ye out. I pay well for my room, and I’ll hae the use o’ it.” But as “Cobbie” marched in at the door of the hotel, followed by the women, the waiters demurred, and said to him, “Mr Allardes, are you aware who those two women are?” “No,” says “Cobbie,” “I dinna ken onything about them, but they are twa bonnie lassies, and I am just gaun tae gie them a dram o’ my ain guid Glendronach whisky; they’ll nae bide langer than they get it.” So, unlocking the door of his room, he put the women in, and the waiters were in a bit of consternation and listened at the door. “Sit doon,” said “Cobbie” to the women, “until I get my bottle.” He filled the glass and gave it to one, filled again and gave it to the other. “Now,” he said, “isna that guid whisky? That is whisky o’ my ain brewing.” The lasses said it was guid. “Well,” said “Cobbie” tell your frien’s that ye hae got a dram o’ the first Glendronach whisky that was ever in Edinburgh.” “Ye might,” said one of them, “give us some home with us to let our friends taste it.” “Cobbie” looked at them for a moment, then rang the bell, and told the waiter to bring a common bottle. He took the bottle and filled it out of the flask, corked it, and gave it to the women, saying – “Tak’ it wi’ ye, and treat your frien’s at home, and tell them that it is guid Glendronach whisky. And here is anither glass tae ye afore ye gang awa’.” One of the women took the glass offered, and drank the half of it, then handed it back to him, but “Cobbie” said, “Tak’ it out, it’s guid Glendronach.” The two waiters, who were listening at the door, were amused with their northern lodger and told Mr Allardes what sort of women his visitors were, and that they must not come back again.

THE RESULT

The two women took home the whisky, treated their friends, and made fun of their northern gentleman, by way of mocking him, saying – “Tak’ it out, it’s guid Glendronach whisky.” The bottle was soon emptied, and their friends not half “slockit,” so it was proposed that some of them should go back for more. But how were they to get into the hotel? At last, one of them, who was more lady-like than the others, was dressed up with a thick veil over her features, and made her way to the hotel, called for the waiter, and asked if there was a Mr Allardes, a gentleman from the north, staying there. The waiter told the lady there was such a man, but he was suspicious about the woman, and asked what she wanted with Mr Allardes. “I want to see the gentleman personally,” she said. “What name shall I say, madam?”, said the waiter. “A friend,” said the lady. The waiter went and told “Cobbie” that a lady wanted to see him. “Fa can that be?”, said “Cobbie.” “A friend,” said the waiter. “Bring her in here, then,” said “Cobbie”. The visitor walked into the room with lady-like mien, held out her hand, and asked about “Cobbie’s” welfare, looking round to be sure that the waiter was out and the door shut before she would say anything else. “Oh, Mr Allardes,” said the lady. “I have returned to thank you for the bottle of whisky we got from you, and to ask if you would be kind enough to give us another bottleful, as some of our friends that have not tasted it are very anxious to taste Glendronach whisky. We told them it was so good.” “Ay, ay,” said “Cobbie,” but you're nae ane o’ the lassies I gied the whisky till.” “Oh, yes I am,” said the lady, “but only I have put on another dress.” “Na, na,” said “Cobbie,” “I ken the lassies ower

weel tae be cheated, but since ye are anxious for anither tastin' o' Glendronach, and I am leavin' the morn for the north, ye may jist tak' the flagon an' a' that's in't."

The lady took up the flagon, which was of a fair weight, thanked Mr Allardes, and left the hotel. In about an hour or so a certain street in Edinburgh was seething with drunken women going about holding a dram glass in their hands, crying, "Tak' it out it's guid Glendronach whisky," and when anyone went into a public-house they asked for Glendroanch whisky.

"Cobbie" sold all his stock before he left Edinburgh, and for many a year placards were to be seen in nearly every public-house window bearing the inscription "Guid Glendronach Whisky."

JAMES ALLARDES'S SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Many a good story is told of Mr Allardes, and few that had a rencontre with him came off winners. Though sometimes "overtaken", according to the custom of the times, he was in general a very temperate man.

In a jibe at a proprietor in a neighbouring parish, who managed his estate rather too much on commercial principles, which led to frequent changes of tenantry, Mr Allardes remarked, "Mr – you must be a very large proprietor?" "Oh, no," was the reply. "Oh I thought you were; I see your farms so often in the newspapers to let."

Allardes was a society friend of the Marquis of Huntly, who on the death of his father in 1827 was afterwards the Fifth and Last Duke of Gordon, and several anecdotes survive of the social whirl which existed. Mr Allardes often dined at Huntly Lodge, and at Gordon Castle when the Marquis succeeded to the dukedom. On one occasion, he had partaken too much of the Glenlivet, and on retiring to the drawing-room, he found the Duchess playing on her piano, and complimented her Grace on her fine playing. Paying her other high compliments. Her Grace resented or seemed to resent this, for Mr Allardes was rather a privileged guest. Next morning, however, the Duke told him that the Duchess was much displeased with him last evening. Mr Allardes was very grieved at this, but he managed to get out of the difficulty. "Well, your Grace, it was just the trash of Glenlivet you gave me yesterday after dinner that did not agree wi' me. If it had been 'my ain gweed Glendronach' I would not have been ony the waur." The result was that a cask of Glendronach was ordered by his Grace.

Mr Allardes frequently visited London, and on his return on one occasion, he related his experiences to a neighbour. "When in London I called on his Grace the Duke of Gordon, and left my ticketty (card) with him. And I soon had an invitation from his Grace to dine with him, and sic a fine company, none but Earls and Lords; and sic hearty chiels as they waur. When the tae guffaw of lauchin; was dune, the tither began; and as for the chiels (the footmen) ahint our chairs, 'they just snickered and leuch'."

At another time a ball was given by his Grace, at which Mr Allardes was present and joined in the dancing. The Duke complimented him on his excellent dancing and enquired who had been his dancing master. "I never had one," quo' Mr Allardes. "I just imitate your Grace."

Mr Allardes was an early riser, and one time, when at Gordon Castle he had risen before his boots had reached the bedroom door. Seeing a bell-rope in the passage he rung it, and it being the fire-bell of the castle, he soon had plenty of servants, to whose enquiry as to what had happened, and where was the fire, he replied, “I was just wanting my beets!”

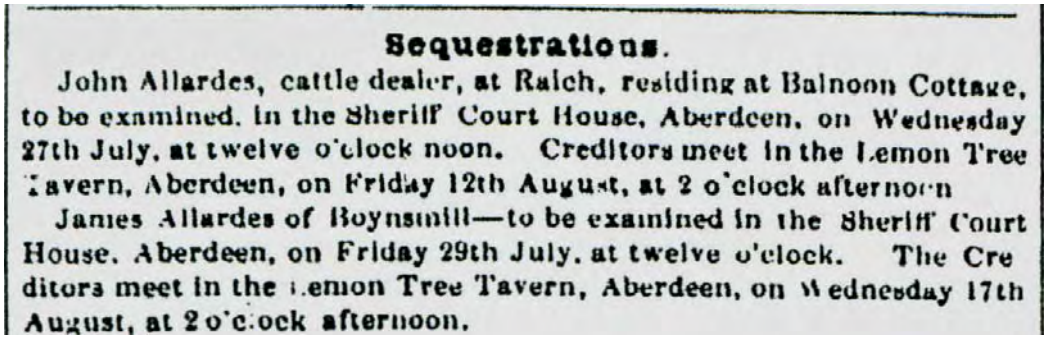
Mr Allardes was not only often at Huntly Lodge, but was also was much asked out elsewhere, and especially at Haddo in Forgue. Some of his neighbours were rather disappointed that a frequent invitation was not extended to them; but consoled themselves with the saying that Mr Allardes was only asked down to be made fun of. Mr Allardes on hearing this, remarked, “such and such a one says I am only asked down to Haddo to be made fun of: but none of them are ever there to see the fun.”

One day dining with James Blaikie, the factor of Bognie, after the half-yearly audit at Bogniebrae, there was champagne at dinner. The servant being careful of his master’s interests poured out the champagne so high that it frothed to excess, and the result was a meagre supply of Mr Allardes’ favourite beverage. The next time the servant came round Mr Allardes held up his glass, and the servant raised the bottle, he followed it, with still but meagre results. On this, Mr Allardes remarked, “Eh, Mr Blaikie, what a capital servant you have got; ye surely pay him good wages, for I never saw ane gar a bottle of champagne gang far’er.”

Thanage of Fermartyn, by William Temple, pages 228, 229

JAMES ALLARDES
BANKRUPTCY 1842

In 1842 James Allardes became very much reduced in circumstances, having become insolvent in the financial crisis of that year. He and his brother John Allardes, cattle dealer and farmer at the Raich, who resided at Balnoon Cottage, were both made bankrupt in the summer of 1842. John Allardes's financial affairs were examined before the sheriff at Aberdeen, on Wednesday, 27th July, at twelve o'clock noon. His brother James Allardes had his financial affairs examined in the same Court on Friday, 29th July, also at twelve noon. Their Creditors were advertised to meet at the Lemon Tree Tavern, in Aberdeen, for John Allardes, on Friday 12th August, at two o'clock in the afternoon and for James Allardes, on Wednesday 17th August, also at two o'clock.



Sequestrations.

John Allardes, cattle dealer, at Raich, residing at Balnoon Cottage, to be examined, in the Sheriff Court House, Aberdeen, on Wednesday 27th July, at twelve o'clock noon. Creditors meet in the Lemon Tree Tavern, Aberdeen, on Friday 12th August, at 2 o'clock afternoon.

James Allardes of Boynsmill—to be examined in the Sheriff Court House, Aberdeen, on Friday 29th July, at twelve o'clock. The Creditors meet in the Lemon Tree Tavern, Aberdeen, on Wednesday 17th August, at 2 o'clock afternoon.

Aberdeen Journal 27 July 1842

Shortly thereafter, the estates of Balnoon and Boynsmill belonging to the sequestrated estates of James Allardes were advertised for sale in the Aberdeen Journal on 24th August and were exposed for sale by public roup within the committee room of the Advocates' Buildings, Aberdeen on Friday 21st October 1842.

The greater part of the property was Balnoon estate, which extended to 520 acres of arable ground and 30 acres of wooded plantation. The arable land was divided into several farms of moderate size and which were let to substantial and industrious tenants. The estate of Boynsmill amounted to only 15 acres but contained a mansion house, which had been recently built and finished in a most substantial and elegant style. The Glendronach Distillery was described as far-famed and that the admirable supply of water and other local advantage ensured the permanency of the establishment. In addition to the buildings of the distillery there were two excellent dwelling houses and a meal mill with its machinery.

The advertisement also mentions that the new Turnpike road from Inverury to Bogniebrae passed through the lands and a coach from Aberdeen to Huntly ran every alternate day. The two estates were in the first instance to be sold as one lot, but if not sold as such, each property would be sold separately. Particulars of the property were available from John Jopp, W.S. Edinburgh; David Walker, Land-surveyor, Aberdeen; and John Stuart, Advocate in Aberdeen. John Stuart was the Trustee on the Estate. He was the son of Robert Stuart of Aucharnie, the cousin of James Allardes.

DESIRABLE ESTATES FOR SALE.

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the Committee-Room of the Advocates' Buildings, Aberdeen, on FRIDAY the 21st day of October next, at 2 o'clock afternoon,

THE LANDS of BALNOON and BOYNSMILL, belonging to the Sequestrated Estate of JAMES ALLARDES, Esq.

BALNOON is situated in the Parish of Inverkeithny and County of Banff, and consists of about 520 Acres of Arable Ground, and about 30 Acres of thriving Plantations. The Lands are divided into Farms of moderate size, and are let to substantial and industrious Tenants. The present Rental is about £513, but a rise of about £50 will take place in a few years. The quality of the soil is known to be among the best in the district, and the climate and locality are highly favourable. The Commutation Road to Turriff forms the boundary of the Estate for a considerable distance, and ready access to Inverury, (distant about 19 miles,) Banff, (distant about 15 miles,) and to Huntly, (distant about 9 miles,) is afforded by excellent Turnpike Roads. The vicinity of the Glendronach Distillery offers a ready market for Bear. There are about 31 Acres of thriving Plantations and Beltings on the Property, well laid out for shelter and ornament. The Lands hold of a subject superior for payment of an elusory Feu duty. The Land Tax is redeemed, and the other public burdens are moderate. On the whole, a more desirable and compact property is seldom to be met with. Along with Balnoon, there will be exposed to Sale, the Lands of BOYNSMILL, bounding with Balnoon, and situated in the Parish of Forgue and County of Aberdeen. Boynsmill consists in all of about 15 Acres, of which upwards of an Acre is in thriving Wood of various kinds. There is an excellent and commodious Mansion-House on the Property, the greater part of which has been recently built, and is finished in the most substantial and elegant style. The situation is highly desirable, and the surrounding woods afford ample shelter. There is also an excellent Steading of Offices, which have been recently finished in the best manner. The far-famed GLENDRONACH DISTILLERY stands on the south side of the Lands, and the admirable supply of water and other local advantages, ensure the permanency of this Establishment. The Buildings of the Distillery, as well as of two excellent Dwelling-Houses immediately adjoining, belong to the Proprietor. There is also a Meal-Mill on the property, the Buildings and Machinery of which belong to the Proprietor. There is payable to the Proprietor yearly, 41 B. 1 F. 2 P. of Meal of converted multures, payable at the Fiars price of meal. The present Rental of Boynsmill, Mill, and Distillery, is £198 16s.

The new Turnpike Road from Inverury to Bogniebrae passes through the Lands, and a Coach runs from Aberdeen to Huntly every alternate day.

Boynsmill and Balnoon, from their contiguity and the arrangement of the Lands, will form a compact and well-defined Property; and they will be exposed to Sale in one Lot. The boundary which divides them is, however, distinct; and if not sold in one lot, each Property will be afterwards exposed to sale by itself.

For particulars, application may be made to JOHN JOPP, Esq., W.S., 30, Albany Street, Edinburgh; DAVID WALKER, Esq., Land-Surveyor, Aberdeen; or to JOHN STUART, Advocate in Aberdeen, the Trustee on the Estate, who is in possession of the Title Deeds, Leases, and Rental of the Lands.

Aberdeen, 103, Union Street, 23d August, 1842.

Aberdeen Journal 24 August 1842

A further meeting of the creditors of John Allardes was held in the Lemon Tree Tavern on 25th October 1842. This was followed by the placing of an advertisement in the Aberdeen Journal selling by public roup on Monday 14th November the surplus stock and implements at the Raich and at Balnoon Cottage, which had belonged to John Allardes.

Sequestrations.

Creditors of John Allardes, cattle dealer at Raich, meet in the Lemon Tree Tavern, Aberdeen, 25th October, two o'clock.

Aberdeen Journal 12 October 1842

SALE OF SURPLUS STOCKING,
ON MONDAY FIRST.

There will be Sold, by Public Roup, at the Farm of RAICH, Parish of Forgue, upon MONDAY the 14th current, being the day before Martinmas Fair of Huntly,

10 TWO-Year-Old STOTS, in forward order.
2 Two-year-old QUEYS, in Calf.
6 One-year-olds, do.
4 Fat QUEYS, two and three years old.
2 Fat CALVES.
Some fat SHEEP.
2 Polled BULLS of the Aberdeenshire Breed—one, two, and the other three years old.
1 BULL CALF.
18 Young Stock, comprising CALVES and one-year-old STOTS.
2 Powerful DRAUGHT HORSES, one of them Five, and the other Ten years old.
1 Superior two-year-old FILLY.
1 One-year-old COLT, after a high-bred Horse.
1 FOAL, and a good DRAUGHT MARE.

Also, 2 Stacks of HAY, and a large quantity of POTATOES, in lots, to suit Purchasers.

Upwards of 20 Acres of TURNIPS, will be Let, in suitable lots, to be consumed upon the Farm; a sufficient quantity of Straw, will be afforded, while the Cattle are feeding, and good Accommodation of Houses.

Farm Implements.

Consisting of Horse Harness, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, and sundry other Articles.

There will be Sold, upon the same day, at BALNOON COTTAGE.
7 Superior MILK COWS.
2 Fat PIGS.
1 PONY, fit for light work.
1 Stack of HAY.

The Cattle are all of the Aberdeenshire Breed, have been selected with the greatest care, and are well worth the attention of Breeders.

Owing to the shortness of the day, the Sale will commence with the Farming Utensils, at 10 o'clock, A.M.; and with the Cattle, precisely at 1 o'clock, P.M.

Credit will be given on Security.

Balnoon Cottage, 7th Nov. 1842.

Aberdeen Journal 9 November 1842

As a consequence of their bankruptcies, the holdings of the two Allardes brothers in the Glendronach Distillery Company were bought over by the remaining partners, Walter Scott, George Smith and William Pittendreigh and the estate of Boynsmill was sold to George Thomson of Ellingham House, Cheltenham, a native of Forgue, who had made his fortune in England. So just sixteen years after having founded the Glendronach Distillery on his Estate at Boynsmill, James Allardes had lost them both.

Mr Allardes, like everyone else, found in the day of his adversity, in the 'winter of his need', that his many friends foresook him. An invitation to dinner became very exceptional, few and far between. His old friends at the Manse of Inverkeithney, however, occasionally asked him to dinner, probably when a fourteenth man was needed, and then the invitation came late as it were on a Saturday night and well did Mr Allardes know that his invitation was an afterthought. He, however, trudges down to Inverkeithney in good time, before any of the other guests had arrived, and greets his old friend and hostess with the exclamation, "Well, mem, I was last sought, but I am first here."

In his latter days, when much troubled with the state of his worldly affairs, he is said to have had recourse for comfort to the Book of Job. On perusing the troubles of this very patient and long-suffering patriarch, he one day remarked, "Ay, ay, Job, man, ye had many troubles in your day, but I doubt ye never had the trouble of a bill protested at the bank!"

James Allardes continued to live on at Boynsmill, but his status in the community was gone. In his younger days he had achieved so many things. In his enterprise he had transformed the estates over which he had control, acquired a reputation as a cattle breeder and had built a distillery of renown. In his personal life he had surrounded himself with a coterie of influential friends of the highest order in society, becoming a close friend of the Duke of Gordon, and had dined with the most powerful and influential in the grandest houses in the land. Yet, just like a shooting star that darts across the firmament in a blaze of glory, and in a moment burns out and and crashes down to earth, so it was with James Allardes. He lived out his final years in quiet reflection of what had been, continuing to live at Boynsmill until the end, and died there on 15th April 1853. He was buried in the grave of the Allardes family in the quiet Kirkyard of Inverkeithny, his name simply another inscription on his family's plain table stone.

Inscription of James Allardes on Gravestone in Inverkeithny Kirkyard