

MORAY IN TIMES GONE BY

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELGIN ON DISPLAY IN ELGIN MUSEUM SIDE HALL

Left-hand wall: upper row

1. **Town Centre, Elgin High Street.** Surrounded by railings, towards the right of the picture is the fountain, designed by Thomas Mackenzie, which was erected in 1846. Of Grecian design, it occupies the site of the old Tolbooth, which housed the courtroom, council offices and town jail. This building was the place where the last execution in Moray took place, when William Noble was hanged for murder on 31st May 1834.



Above: Elgin High Street, Town Centre

Behind the fountain, the property on the corner of North Street was designed for the Royal Bank by A. and W. Reid in 1856 and extensively re-modeled when acquired by Woolworth's, in 1928. The Assembly Rooms (on the corner, opposite what is now 'Poundland') were built in 1822 by the Trinity Lodge of Freemasons; the building was demolished in 1969 and is currently occupied by Café Écosse. It was known for its wooden sprung floor, designed for ballroom dancing.

ELGNM: 2009.67.7

2. **Town Centre, Elgin High Street.** This photo was taken between 1868-1872 and shows numbers 147 to 149 High Street, Elgin. Clydesdale's store was built in 1970 on the site of the Assembly Rooms, which, in turn, had been erected in 1822 on the site of the reputedly haunted Calder House. The demolition in 1969 of the Assembly Rooms with its famous dance floor aroused considerable controversy.



Above: Elgin High Street and the corner of North Street

In 1857 the North of Scotland (now the Clydesdale) Bank built a branch on the site of Drummur House, location of the Theatre Royal. This building was in turn replaced by a new branch, designed by W. Ashley Bartlam in 1969. The building occupied by Batchen the shoemaker may possibly date from as early as 1619 but was demolished c.1880.

ELGNM: 2009.67.9

3. The Bishop's Palace, Elgin. Popularly known as 'the Bishop's Palace' this building was in fact the Precentor's Manse, the only one of a group of more than twenty manses in the precincts of the Cathedral to remain in something like its original form. The building was inhabited until towards the end of the 18th century when it was partially demolished. In 1891 most of the south wing collapsed so that what remains now consists largely of the east wing that is dated 1557.

ELGNM: 2009.67.34

4. Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin. The foundation stone of Dr Gray's was laid on the same day (in 1815) that news of the Battle of Waterloo reached Elgin. Dr Alexander Gray, a native of Elgin, died in Calcutta in 1807 leaving £20,000 for a hospital "for the sick and the poor in the town and county of Elgin". Designed by James Gillespie Graham, the hospital was opened in 1819, with 30 beds.



Above: Dr Gray's Hospital from the High Street

The clock installed was repaired in 1836 and then converted to electric operation. Additions and alterations to the original building have been many. A new wing with a theatre, outpatients and X-ray departments was opened in 1939 and in 1970 there was a major internal reconstruction and a building was erected linking Dr Gray's with Bilbohall (previously known as the Elgin Pauper Lunatic Asylum).

The West End fountain was erected in 1892 by the Elgin Amenities Association and removed and replaced by a roundabout in 1949. A further extensive refurbishment, providing new facilities and at a cost of £22 million, was completed in 1997.

ELGNM: 2009.67.1

5. **Ladyhill Close, Elgin.** Robert Young built Ladyhill House in 1811. It was much altered by the famous Elgin architect Thomas Mackenzie in 1853. Mackenzie collected heraldic and sculptured stones from demolished buildings and incorporated them into his rebuilding. Popularly known as 'The Castle', it was the home of John Foster, the author of 'The Bright Eyes of Danger'. After his death in 1946 the house had a succession of occupants before becoming a hotel; it is now a private house. The property in front of the house was demolished in 1974.

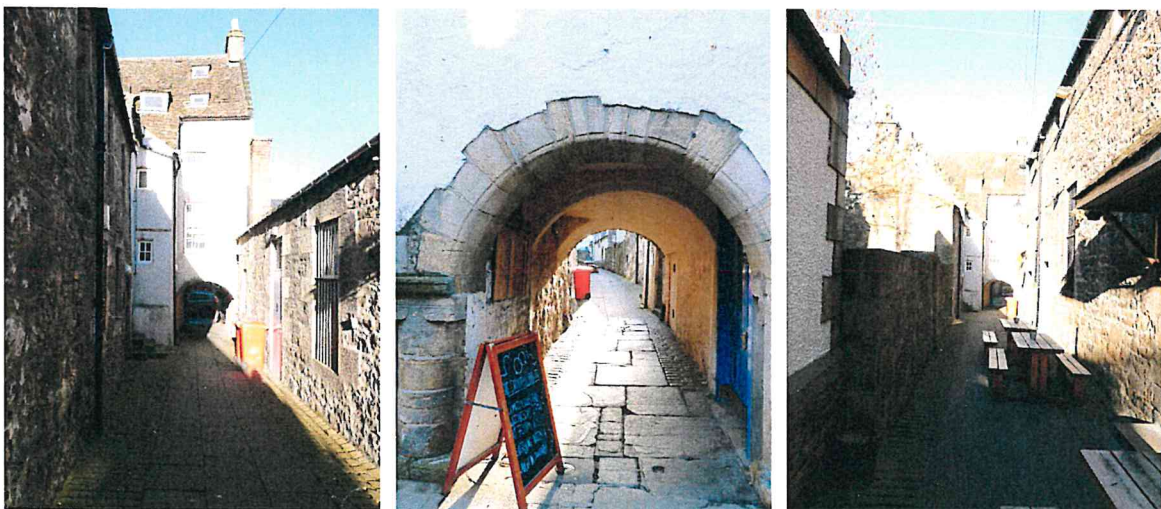
ELGNM: 2009.67.2



Above: Ladyhill House, Hill Street, Elgin

6. Craigellachie Close, Elgin extended from the north side of the High Street opposite St Giles Church to North Lane. This picture is wrongly named – it is **Shepherd's Close** at No50 High Street. The frontage is 17th century bearing the date 1694 (see also No39b).

ELGNM: 2009.67.26



Above: Shepherd's Close, 48-50 High Street, Elgin (far right, The Drouthy Cobbler)

7. **Elgin High Street looking west** c1893. Railings surround St Giles church. Paraffin lamps can be seen throughout the town centre, as can children with bare feet. There is an old Bank on the right-hand side of the photo. This picture shows the shop fronts with awnings, the Muckle Cross, St Giles Church with railings and sandbags (?) and window cleaners at work near the corner of Commerce Street.
ELGNM: 2009.67.19



Above: Elgin High Street looking West (and Commerce Street, just showing to the left)

8. **South Street, Elgin.** Here at one time were the stables of the Fife Arms Inn. The first talking picture to be seen in the north of Scotland was shown in the Picture House, built between June and December of 1926. It was followed soon after by the construction of the block containing the Lido Café and with this the transformation of Fife Arms Close was complete. A 'bingo' hall now occupies the site.
ELGNM: 2009.67.29



Above: The Lido and Carlton Bingo Hall, South Street, Elgin

9. **South College Street, Elgin.** The main entrance to Elgin from Aberdeen and the east was along South College Street. Here in former times was situated the East Port which was removed in 1792. This gateway possibly dated from the early 15th century when there was a general rebuilding following the raid of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, more familiarly known as the 'Wolf of Badenoch' (1343-1405, third surviving, illegitimate son of Robert II, King of Scots).

In 1935 the properties on the south side of the street were demolished and the appearance of this part of the town was altered still further with the building of Alexandra Road in 1981.

ELGNM: 2009.67.43

10. **Deanshaugh Mill, Elgin** was set up in the mid 18th century by John Ritchie for the processing of tobacco into snuff and for processing and bleaching linen. In the course of time the building was turned into the sawmill shown here. The pantiles (a roof tile curved to form an S-shaped section, fitted to overlap its neighbour) would probably have come from the brick and tile works at Windyridge, between Elgin and Lossiemouth.

ELGNM: 2009.67.51

11. **Town Centre, Elgin High Street.** The building on the right of the church was opened by A. L. Ramsay in 1904 as a drapery store. A. L. Ramsay had started business in 1845, later being joined by his son William. William, a fine example of the Victorian work ethic, became a partner in 1869 and from that date "did not miss a day at the counters for seven years".



Above: Elgin High Street, Town Centre

The building in the centre without the blinds is the British Linen Company's Bank, in former times the site of the manse and garden of the Vicar of St Giles. It is now the local branch of a building society.

ELGNM: 2009.67.12

12. The **crossroads** here at the top of **Commerce Street, Elgin** was the site of the South or Smithy Port, which was taken down in 1792. Hereabouts too, in the latter part of the 17th century, were the Grammar and Sang Schools, which gave Commerce Street its earlier name of School Wynd.



Above: Yeadon's of Elgin, Bookseller, on the corner of Commerce Street

This photograph was taken shortly before the buildings shown here were demolished to be replaced by Christie's Buildings, opened in 1931. The building has been occupied by Yeadon's Bookshop since the 1930s. The photo shows the end of Souters Garage' on Greyfriars Street. On Commerce Street can be seen 'Maybole Boots'. On the corner of South Street was the Post Office Buildings.

ELGNM: 2009.67.27

13. South Street, Elgin. The 'Cinema' sign advertises the location of the Picture House, now the Bingo Club in South Street. The cinema had seating for over 700 and included in its original equipment a Mustel Celesta orchestral organ costing £600. The first film shown here was 'Kiki', starring Norma Talmadge.



Above: South Street, Elgin

This photo shows the 'Buttercup Dairy', 'James Black Hairdresser and Perfumer' and 'The Eagle Hotel'. In the distance, in front of St Giles Church hall, can be seen demolition work to the old building, prior to Christies building, which opened in 1931. The window frame is all that is left showing the view of the Church Hall behind it.

ELGNM: 2009.67.28

14. **High Street, Elgin.** The building in the foreground is the **Sheriff Court House**. The Court House and Council Rooms were completed in 1839. The County Building was designed by the architect William Robertson in 1838 in the fashionable neoclassical style, on the site of the former town house of the Andersons of Linkwood. The building was used not only by the magistrate but also by the School Board and the County Council for their meetings.



Above: Elgin Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court, High Street and corner of Glover Street, Elgin

There was also a room for a Burgh Court Room and rooms for county sanitary officials and a savings bank. This building was added to in 1866 by a separate Sheriff Court, designed by A&W Reid, completed at the same time as Glover Street was formed, immediately to the east. Work started on a new block of council offices to replace this building in 1937 but the intervention of war and subsequent financial problems postponed completion until 1952. The interior of Elgin Sheriff Court was extensively renovated in 2006 to accommodate The Justice of Peace Court.

ELGNM: 2009.67.48

15. **Elgin, looking south east from the Town Hall.** **Elgin South Parish Church**, just off Moray Street. The South Church congregation was an offshoot of the High Church formed at the Disruption in 1843 by Reverend Alexander Topp. They held their first service in 1851 and in 1854 opened this building.



Above: 'SpireRoxx' Rock Climbing Gym, formerly Elgin South Parish Church, 27 Moray Street, Elgin

Designed by Alexander Reid in a gothic revival with buttresses, lancet windows, finials, crockets; its spire rises 130 feet and is a notable feature on the city's skyline. Following the ecclesiastical unions of 1900 and 1929, the South Church became a charge, first of the United Free Church and then of the Church of Scotland. In 1938 the congregation united with that of the Moss Street Church.

ELGNM: 2009.67.37

16. Grant Lodge, Cooper Park, Elgin. Grant Lodge was commissioned by Sir James Grant from architect Robert Adam as a home for his aunt Lady Innes. It was built between 1766 and 1769, and the rear wing was added in 1790-91 to form an L-shaped building. It was used to host a reception for Prince Leopold of the Belgians when he received the Freedom of the City of Elgin in 1819.

In 1820, an election row between the Duff and the Grant interests brought 700 Highlanders of the Clan Grant to Grant Lodge to protect Lady Ann Grant. Although the townspeople armed themselves in self-defence, a pitched battle was narrowly averted.

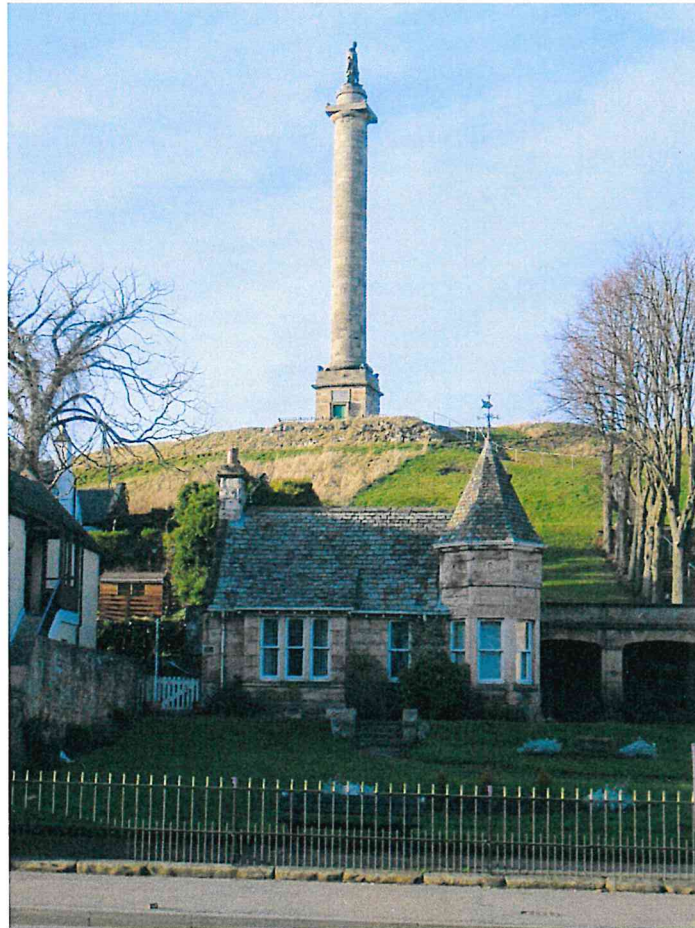
The house was further enlarged in the mid nineteenth century by architects A&W Reid for the Countess of Seafield. In 1889 it was sold to Colonel George Cooper for £5,500. In 1903 Cooper gifted the Lodge and its 40 acres to the inhabitants of Elgin: prior to this, the town's park was a small area at Borough Briggs/Lossie Green bought from the Seafield family in 1888.

The Lodge subsequently became the public library and housed the town's archives. The library was moved to a modern building in the park adjacent to the old Territorial Army Hall in 1996 but the building continued to be used as a local history and heritage centre until a small fire in 2003. Since then the building has been boarded up. The heritage collection is now in Elgin Library.

The photo, c1903-1910 shows Grant Lodge when it had a conservatory on either side of it, and four young children, carefully dressed.

ELGNM: 2009.67.40

17. **Ladyhill, Elgin.** This was the site of Elgin Castle, which after the destruction of its wooden buildings in 1297 ceased to be a royal residence, though its stone keep, chapel and other buildings were maintained for at least another 150 years. The name 'Ladyhill' derives from The Chapel of Our Lady, attached to the castle.



Above: Ladyhill and the Gordon Monument

The column, to the memory of George, fifth (and last) Duke of Gordon was erected in 1839 with the 12ft high statue of the Duke by Thomas Goodwillie being added in 1855. The column is 80 ft high and has a wheel stair to the top. For many years a Russian cannon taken at Sebastopol and presented to the town in 1858 was sited here. In 1870 a series of open-air evangelistic meetings were held here. The present approach from the High Street was opened in 1920.

Ladyhill House, in the background, was built in 1811 by Robert Young and much altered by the Elgin architect Thomas Mackenzie in 1853. It is now a hotel. The property in front of Ladyhill House was demolished in 1974.

ELGNM: 2009.67.3

18. The **Elgin Brewery** was established in 1784 by a consortium of local businessmen. In the early 19th century it was sold to Alexander Young and remained with his family for many years, with a good reputation throughout the north of Scotland for its ale, beer and porter. It was bought for the town in 1912 for £700 and the buildings, many of which dated only from a fire at the Brewery in 1898, were then demolished to reveal an uncluttered view of the Cathedral.

ELGNM: 2009.67.47

19. Town Centre, Elgin High Street, looking east. There was a market cross as early as 1365 close to the site of the present Muckle Cross, which is a replica of one erected in the reign of Charles I and demolished about 1792. The only piece surviving this demolition was the Lion Rampant, which was placed on a wall near the Panns Port and returned to its rightful place when the cross was rebuilt in 1888, the gift of William Macandrew of Essex (a member of an old Elgin family). The interior of the upper part of the 17th century cross was often used by the boys of the town to hold the collected materials for a bonfire on the King's birthday.

ELGNM: 2009.67.14



Above: The Muckle Cross, centre of Elgin High Street, and St Giles Church

20. Lossie Wynd. Before the opening up of North Street c1821, Lossie Wynd was the principal entrance to the town from the north. In early times, the North Port stood about halfway up this street until its removal in July 1787. The floods of 1915, shown here, were the worst in the area since 1829 with the whole area from Blackfriars Haugh to Newmill being one large expanse of water thereby cutting off all communications between Elgin and Bishopmill. Showing workers from 'W. Hay and Sons' aerated water and manufacturers on a cart being towed by horse through the floodwaters.

ELGNM: 2009.67.44



Above: Lossie Wynd, Elgin

21. Town Centre, Elgin High Street. The parish church of Elgin has occupied this site since the 12th century. The original church was reconstructed in 1684. The transepts were removed about 1740 and the chancel or 'Little Kirk' in 1800. The nave or 'Muckle Kirk' remained until 1826. In that year it was demolished to make way for the present church, St Giles, designed by Archibald Simpson. This was also the site of the town's graveyard and many of the flagstones that covered the graves were used to make side pavements on the High Street in the early 19th century.

On the south side of the High Street, the building occupied by Batchen the shoemaker dates from very early in the 17th century but it was demolished circa 1880. In 1936 Burton's took over the ground floor of the Gordon Arms Hotel which no longer functions as a hotel. At this time the Plainstones was the venue for the Friday corn market and for the feeing markets.



Above: Elgin High Street, Town Centre, view of the Fountain and St. Giles Church

The formation of an open-air exchange was first proposed by the Town Council in 1785 and the laying-out of the 'Plainstones' as it came to be known followed shortly thereafter. For many years the Plainstones was level with the roadway, until in 1953 it was raised to the present height.

This picture may have been taken in the 1950s (?). It shows an early bus, sailors, the war memorial, the telephone kiosk and railings and stairs to the toilets situated below ground level, the fountain and St Giles Church with railings all the way around.

ELGNM: 2009.67.11

22. The Lake, Cooper Park, Elgin c1903 showing boys and girls playing in the pond with Grant Lodge, Elgin Cathedral, the Bishops Palace and the Pavilion in the background. The park was included in Sir George Cooper's gift to the people of Elgin (see image No16) and was designed by A. Marshall Mackenzie.

ELGNM: 2009.67.42

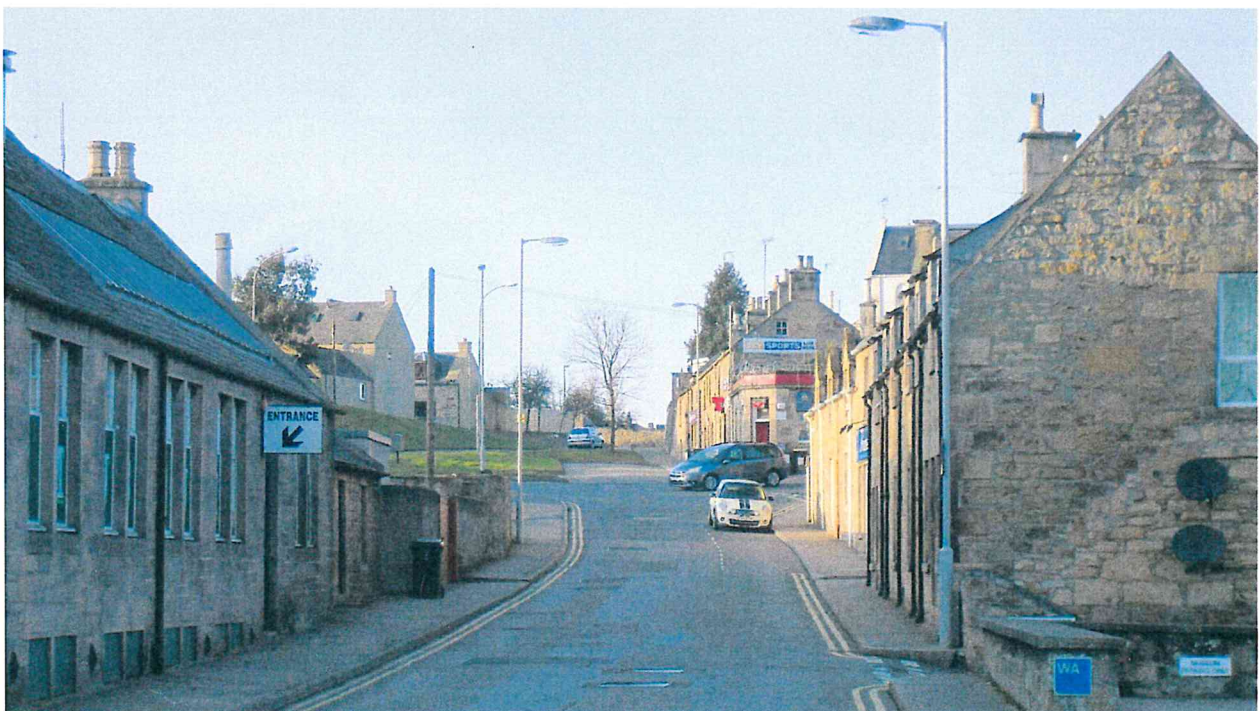


Above: The Pond at Cooper Park (looking towards Grant Lodge and Elgin Cathedral)

23. **The village of Bishopmill** was planned and started towards the end of the 18th century. In 1821 a new road from Elgin to Lossiemouth was made through the village, involving the digging of a deep cutting and the subsequent construction of a bridge to re-connect the divided High Street. By 1898 this 'Dry Brig' had become such an obstacle to traffic that it was removed.

The sawmill at Deanshaugh on the River Lossie initially had been set up for the processing of tobacco and linen with machinery for bleaching. By the beginning of the 20th century this sawmill had fallen into disuse.

ELGNM: 2009.67.49



Above: Bishopmill (from the entrance to Decora Ltd.)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELGIN ON DISPLAY IN ELGIN MUSEUM SIDE HALL

Left-hand wall: Lower row

24. **Anderson's Institution.** On 31st March 1830, the trustees of General Andrew Anderson (1745-1824), a local boy of humble origin who made a fortune in India, "took by public roup [a sale of property by public auction] three acres and ten falls Scots measure of the lands of Maison Dieu, at the yearly feu-duty of £42 17s 6d", on which they were to erect the building to be called 'Anderson's Institution'. The institution opened in 1832, forming a home for the destitute, young and old, in three distinct sections: a hospital for those over the age of 55, a School of Industry and Anderson's Free School. Children still boarded at Anderson's until after World War II.

In 1891 the School of Industry was taken over by the Burgh School Board and renamed East End School. The school now has modern buildings and part of the old building was used as the Local Heritage Centre until 2015. The Institute is now 'Anderson's', a voluntary sector care home for older people in Elgin; its well kept gardens are open to members of the public to visit.

ELGNM: 2009.67.36

25. **Elgin Train Station.** On 6th September 1872 Queen Victoria passed through Elgin on her way from Balmoral to Dunrobin. The Highland Railway station (site of the present station) was specially decorated for the event with spectators being admitted at prices ranging from sixpence to half-a-crown. Punctually at two minutes before two o'clock in the afternoon the royal train drew up beside the local dignitaries assembled on the platform. The Queen's attendant, John Brown, opened the carriage door so that she might receive the addresses of the Town Council and the Presbytery of Elgin. After a stay of seven or eight minutes the train pulled away towards Forres through "two walls of cheering spectators".

ELGNM: 2009.67.46

26. **The Tower, town Centre, Elgin High Street.** There is a tradition that this property originally belonged to the Knights of St John, but the tower itself is the only remaining portion of the house built in 1634 by Andrew Leslie and Jean Bonyman. Isaac Forsyth, who established the first circulating library in the north of Scotland in 1789, purchased the tower building in 1811 which was then used as a bookshop for many years. It became a temperance hotel in 1904. Shows 'Dundee Equitable' and 'Boot Depot'. This building now houses a shoe shop and Yeadon's Accountants.

ELGNM: 2009.67.16



Above: The Tower, Elgin High Street

27. **No205-207 High Street, Elgin.** This building was at one time the home of General Anderson, the founder of Anderson's Institution (see image No24). After his death, the Commercial Bank bought the property in 1826, taking down the front of the house in 1852 and rebuilding it in the ornamental Italian style seen here. The sculptured female heads with floral wreaths between the first and second storey windows represent the four seasons.



Above: The Royal Bank of Scotland Building

Between the bank and the adjoining property on the east ran the common gutter which in former times carried all the surface sewage of the western part of the town down to the Borough Briggs. In 1969 the Commercial Bank merged with the Royal Bank, who replaced this building with the present one in 1971. ELGNM: 2009.67.25

28. **West End of Elgin High Street.** The building on the south side of the High Street with the curvilinear gable is the White Horse Inn, which dates from the 17th century, although the frontage is a reconstruction. In the early part of the 19th century this was a much-frequented house presided over by the famous Elizabeth 'Lucky' Innes, celebrated by the local poet, William Hay, in the lines:

*'Her name is Mrs. Innes and the White Horse is her sign
And happy is the man or beast that chances there to dine;
For all her provender is good, her whisky, ale and wine'.*

Adjoining the White Horse are the premises, 164 High Street, built for the Caledonian Bank c1845, on the site of Elchies House (built c1670 for the Cummings of Lochtervandlich and demolished to make way for the bank).

ELGNM: 2009.67.5



Above: The White Horse Inn

29. **West end of Elgin High Street looking towards Dr Gray's Hospital.** The businesses that can be seen are Singers' sewing machines, George Raitt, Baker and Confectioner and The White Horse Bar. ELGNM: 2009.67.4



Above: West end of Elgin High Street

30. **Elgin Academy.** Elgin's first academy was built in 1801 on that part of Academy Street between Moray Street and Francis Place. After many delays and difficulties a new academy was opened opposite the recently built Town Hall in 1886 (which later burnt down in 1939). The Academy was designed by local architects A&W Reid to accommodate 350 pupils. The first sod for the new academy on Morrision Road was cut in 1966; this building was demolished and replaced by a new school in 2012.



Above: Moray College of Further Education

In August 1971 the Moray Street buildings opened as the Elgin Technical College, since 1978, the college's name was changed to Moray College of Further Education. As part of the conversion from the Academy to Technical College, the fee-paying school, Springfield House was demolished.

ELGNM: 2009.67.35

31. **View of Elgin from 'The New Walk'**. These fields were developed for housing in the 1970s.

ELGNM: 2009.67.52

32. **Blackfriars Wynd** was one of the streets of medieval Elgin leading to the monastery of Blackfriars. Later named Ragg's Wynd, it has been known as Murdoch's Wynd since the 1950s. Recent road building had led to the almost complete obliteration of this street and its buildings. The spire in the distance is that of the Mission Hall, demolished in 1979 only a few weeks before its centenary.

ELGNM: 2009.67.30



Above: Murdoch's Wynd

33. **Shepherds Close, No 50 High Street, Elgin** – this photo has been mislabeled as Red Lion Close. It is Shepherds Close, Elgin.

ELGNM: 2009.67.21

34. **Red Lion Close** is well known for its associations with the old Red Lion Inn. In 1773 Samuel Johnson and James Boswell dined here in the course of their famous 'Tour to the Hebrides'. The building fronting the close onto the High Street is inscribed with the date 1688. The image shows No 42-46 High Street, Elgin (see also 39a).

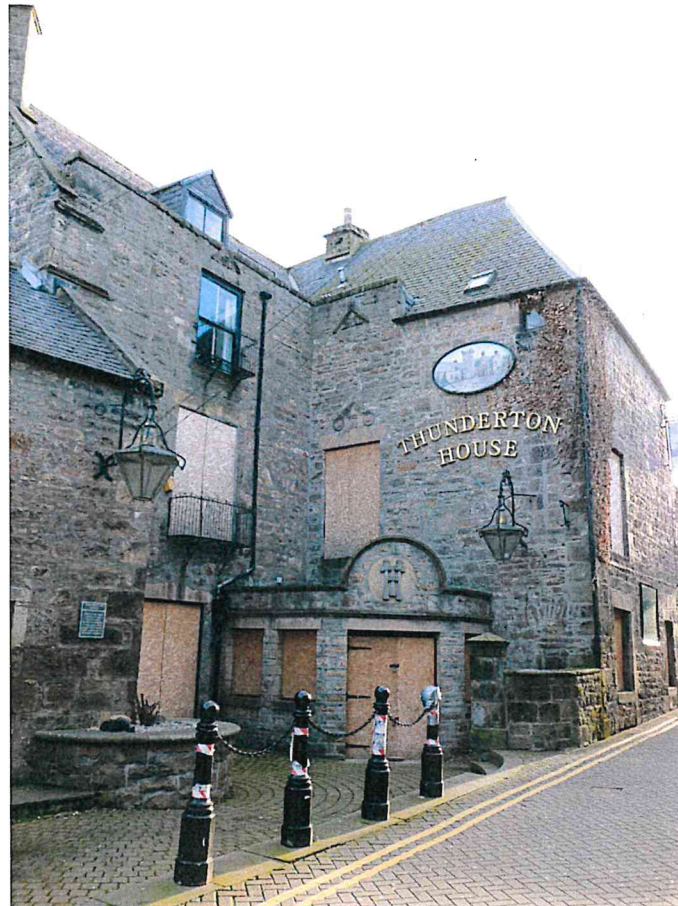
ELGNM: 2009.67.23



Above: Red Lion Close, Elgin

35. **Thunderton House, Elgin**, taken when the building was in use as a 'Temperance Hotel' (the Temperance Movement developing in 1830s in opposition to excessive alcohol consumption or to promote complete abstinence).

Thunderton House, dating from the early 14th century, was once a royal residence with orchards and a bowling green. It was then the town house of the Dunbar family. It was visited in 1746 by Bonnie Prince Charlie who stayed here for several days prior to Culloden; his ghost is said to still haunt the building. In 1800 it was sold to John Batchen who feued off some of the grounds to form Batchen Street and later removed part of the house itself to form Batchen Lane (renamed Thunderton Place in 1910). Since then it has been a church, a furniture warehouse, a printing office, a Masonic lodge, an aerated water factory and a hotel.



Above: Thunderton House

In 1929 it came into the ownership of Elgin Town Council as part of the bequest of John Munro. The two stone statues, or 'savages' which used to stand on either side of the main doorway, are on display in Elgin Museum. The Thunderton is currently boarded up and closed to the public.

ELGNM: 2009.67.6

36a. **Grant Lodge, Cooper Park, Elgin.** This picture depicts the opening of Cooper Park, Elgin in 1903. The whole town has gathered in their finery to witness the event.

ELGNM: 2009.67.41

36b. **Elgin Train Station.** On 6th September 1872 Queen Victoria passed through Elgin on her way from Balmoral to Dunrobin. The Highland Railway station (site of the present station) was specially decorated for the event with spectators being admitted at prices ranging from sixpence to half-a-crown.

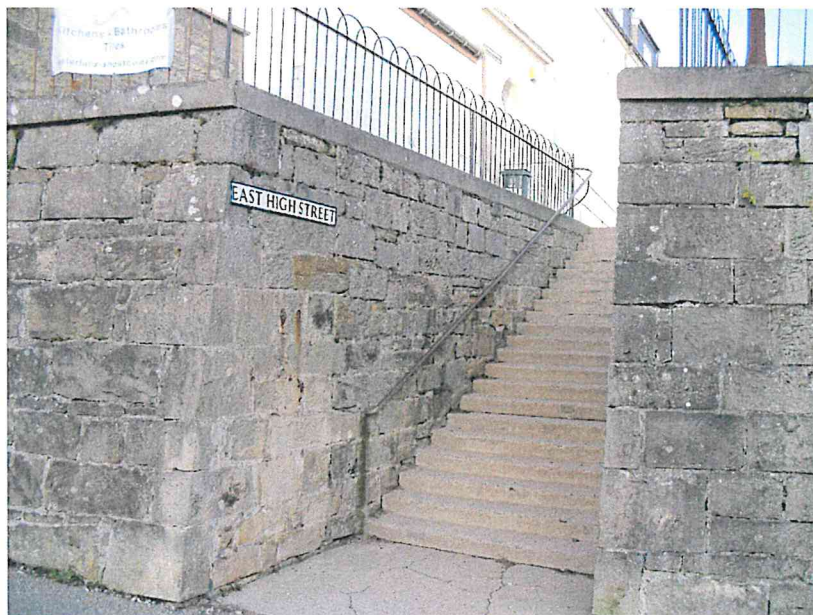
Punctually at two minutes before two o'clock in the afternoon the royal train drew up beside the local dignitaries assembled on the platform. The Queen's attendant, John Brown, opened the carriage door so that she might receive the addresses of the Town Council and the Presbytery of Elgin. After a stay of seven or eight minutes the train pulled away towards Forres through 'two walls of cheering spectators', the Queen continuing on her way to Dunrobin Castle.

ELGNM: 2009.67.45

36c. Town Centre, Elgin High Street. Showing a celebration marking the marriage of Princess Louise (Queen Victoria's grand-daughter) to Alexander Duff, the Duke of Fife, marked at the Muckle Cross, High Street, Elgin, on 27th July 1889.

ELGNM: 2009.67.13

37a. The village of Bishopmill was planned and started towards the end of the 18th century. In 1821 a new road from Elgin to Lossiemouth was made through the village, involving the digging of a deep cutting and the subsequent construction of a bridge to re-connect the divided High Street. By 1898 this 'Dry Brig' had become such an obstacle to traffic that it was removed.



The sawmill at Deanshaugh on the River Lossie initially had been set up for the processing of tobacco and linen with machinery for bleaching. By the beginning of the 20th century this sawmill had fallen into disuse. The picture shows 'R. Melvin' baker and confectioner.

ELGNM: 2009.67.50

37b. Elgin High Street, looking west. Photographed c1881-1884 showing St Giles Church prior to the erection of the Muckle cross, and St Giles Church with railings all the way around and an old building to the right that was later demolished, and 'James Falconer and Son'.

ELGNM: 2009.67.17

38a. The North side of Elgin High Street, 1867-1872. Showing the High Street buildings prior to 1876. This image shows No123-137 High Street and the corner of St Giles (with railings) and No131-133 A.F. Maitland, gun and fishing tackle maker and No127 Miller's.

ELGNM: 2009.67.10

38b. **Town Centre, Elgin High Street.** This photo was taken between 1868-1872 and shows No147-149 High Street, Elgin. Clydesdale's store was built in 1970 on the site of the Assembly Rooms, which, in turn, had been erected in 1822 on the site of the reputedly haunted Calder House. The demolition in 1969 of the Assembly Rooms with its famous dance floor aroused considerable controversy.

In 1857 the North of Scotland (now the Clydesdale) Bank built a branch on the site of Drummuir House, location of the Theatre Royal. This building was in turn replaced by a new branch, designed by W Ashley Bartlam in 1969. The building occupied by Batchen the shoemaker may possibly date from as early as 1619 but was demolished c1880.

ELGNM: 2009.67.8

39a. **Red Lion Close** is well known for its associations with the old Red Lion Inn. In 1773 Samuel Johnson and James Boswell dined here in the course of their famous 'Tour to the Hebrides'. The building fronting the close onto the High Street is inscribed with the date 1688 (see also No34)

ELGNM: 2009.67.22



Above: Red Lion Close, Elgin

39b. **Shepherds Close, No 50 High Street, Elgin** – this photo has been mislabeled as Red Lion Close (see also No6).

ELGNM: 2009.67.20



Above: Shepherds Close, Elgin

40a. **North side of the High Street, Elgin**, showing No103-109, c1859-1869. The businesses that can be seen in and near the building that is known as 'The Tower' are as follows: G. Jamieson's and Robert Hay, Carver and Gilder and Elgin Boot and Shoe Warehouse and Robert Hay, Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer. ELGNM: 2009.67.15

40b. **Elgin High Street looking west, c1893**. Showing St Giles church (with railings), paraffin street lights can be seen throughout the town centre, as can children with their feet bare. There is an old Bank on the right-hand side of the photo. This photo has been taken by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s). ELGNM: 2009.67.18

41. **Elgin Museum, No1 High Street, Elgin**. Designed and built by Elgin architect, Thomas Mackenzie in 1842 to house the collections of The Elgin and Morayshire Scientific and Literary Association (now 'The Moray Society') which were previously kept at 55 High Street. One of its rooms was occupied by the Savings Bank until 1882. The museum was much extended in 1896 by the addition of two halls.



Above: Elgin Museum, 1 High Street, Elgin and The Little Cross

The Victorians who built the museum collected a wide range of objects and artefacts – local, national and from the remote corners of the world; 10% of the collection is recognized to be of international significance. From the beginning, fossils were an important part of the collection. Many of the fossils are unique to Moray. The museum remains independent and Moray Society volunteers manage the museum today. It is thought to be the oldest, purpose built, independent museum in Scotland.

In the foreground of the photo is **the Little Cross**, probably erected in 1402 as part of a penance by Alexander Macdonald of the Isles. Its sundial, a facsimile of 1941, is dated 1733 and probably marks a rebuilding of that time. At one time this was a place of punishment with stocks and a pair of jugs. Nearby was the site of one of the town's three public wells, covered during road resurfacing as recently as 1956. The photo also shows Braco's Close and No3 High Street, Elgin (the latter is owned by The Moray Society).

ELGNM: 2009.67.24

42. **Greyfriars.** The Franciscans, or Greyfriars, came to Elgin in the 13th century and established themselves opposite the Little Cross (see image No41). In the 15th century they moved to the present site. Following the Reformation the property came into secular hands, and in 1818 into the ownership of the Stewarts of Lesmurdie. Captain James Stewart feued off some of the land to form Queen Street and Abbey Street in the mid-19th century. In 1859 he had the wall in front of the ruined church taken down and replaced by a railing to allow a better view.



Above: Greyfriars Convent, 15-19 Abbey Street

After some three centuries in private hands it was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in 1891. The Marquis of Bute funded its restoration, and the architect John Kinross provided the elegant barrel-vaulted timber roof, the rood screen and the carved oak stalls. The first mass for 300 years was held in Greyfriars Church in October 1898, with a congregation of 800 inside and 2-300 outside, the first time since the Reformation.



Above: Greyfriars Convent from Greyfriars' Street

The Sisters of Mercy, who trained young women in the religious life and ran schools throughout Moray, finally left Greyfriars in 2010, due to declining membership, and the convent reverted to the Diocese of Aberdeen. In 2013, four Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia took up residence in the convent, for the purpose of bringing back the religious life to this historic building.

ELGNM: 2009.67.31

43. **The Morayshire Railway**, from Elgin to Lossiemouth opened in 1852 and despite being several years in the completion, was still the earliest north of Aberdeen. Its station at Elgin was 'completely metamorphosed' in 1863 when links were established with the Great North of Scotland Railway's line from Aberdeen.

In 1881 the Morayshire Railway and the Great North of Scotland Railway were formally amalgamated, an event soon followed by the opening of another line into Elgin, that along the coast from Portsoy. After many delays, the Great North of Scotland Railway built a new station in Elgin. Completed in 1902, it was for many years used only by goods traffic.

There is no longer a railway line between Elgin and Lossiemouth, or between Elgin and Portsoy. Offices now occupy the old station in Elgin.

ELGNM: 2009.67.38

44. **Lossie Green** was Elgin's playground for many years until the gift of the Cooper Park in 1903 and is still the site for travelling amusements. Here we can see the young boys sitting by (or in!) the water-barrel which they filled from the River Lossie and which was used for the steam-powered contraption behind them.

The old gasworks was demolished in 1933 following construction of new works at Pinefield in 1931. During World War II, Units of the Polish Army were encamped here.

ELGNM: 2009.67.33

45. **The Haugh, Elgin.** The monastery of **Blackfriars**, erected in the 13th century, was situated to the east of the Haugh. In the 17th century the property comprised a 'manor place, houses, biggins, yards, orchards, etc'. The present house was built by Alexander Grigor Allan, a prominent lawyer, and completed in 1883. After being used in both World Wars as accommodation for service personnel, it was gifted to the town of Elgin by Mrs. H.C. Bibby in 1946. Since then it has seen service as a pre-nursing training centre and as temporary classroom accommodation for Elgin Academy.

It was sold to Moray and Nairn Joint County Council in 1969 and fell into disrepair and was targeted for vandalism. In 1983 it was valued at £93,500 but was bought for just £35,000 within a month of its valuation and the name was changed to 'The Mansion House Hotel'. It's conversion to a hotel cost in the region of £145,000; it continues to thrive as The Mansion House Hotel and Country Club today.

ELGNM: 2009.67.32

46. **The Cathedral** of the Bishopric of Moray was transferred from Spynie to Elgin in 1224. In its original form, Elgin Cathedral was a simple cruciform building but after it was damaged by fire in 1270 the choir was doubled in length with aisles added on each side and a Chapter House built opening off the north aisle. The burning of the Cathedral in 1390 by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, more familiarly known as the 'Wolf of Badenoch' (1343-1405), necessitated much rebuilding including the central tower and the western gable.

After the Reformation the building gradually fell into disrepair with the choir roof collapsing in 1637 and the central tower falling in 1711. The process of decline was not arrested until 1807 when an enclosure wall was built and the first steps taken to preserve the medieval architecture. This picture was probably taken c1900, before the foliage was cleared away. A boy can be seen in the picture with a gentleman wearing a top hat and modelling a walking stick.

ELGNM: 2009.67.39

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPEYSIDE
ON DISPLAY IN ELGIN MUSEUM SIDE HALL**

Right hand wall: Upper Row

47. Craigellachie train station depot.

From the 1860s Craigellachie was an important railway junction linking the Great North of Scotland Railway from Aberdeen with the Morayshire railway which served Elgin and Lossiemouth and the Strathspey railway to Boat of Garten. The line from Elgin to Craigellachie and beyond to Strathspey was closed in 1968.

ELGNM: 2009.67.54

48a. Victoria Street, Craigellachie, c1900.

ELGNM: 2009.67.56

48b. Craigellachie (see image No51 for similar picture). This fine panoramic view of The Craig from the Telford Bridge shows well the village's position on a promontory above the Spey. The Fife Arms Hotel on Victoria Street was purchased by Alexander Edward for demolition and reconstruction in January 1892, soon to be replaced by Charles Doig's Craigellachie Hotel in 1893 in the design of an Austrian hunting lodge, as seen to the right of the picture. After varied ownership, and following extensive renovation, the Craigellachie Hotel reopened for business in May 2014.

ELGNM: 2009.67.55

49. Maggielknockater, Boharm. Showing an old croft building housing 'Robert Hendry's' store. Robert Hendry (c1849-1923) was a postmaster, merchant and forester.

ELGNM: 2009.67.89

50. Craigellachie Bridge is a graceful cast iron single arch bridge designed by Thomas Telford and opened in October 1814. This crossing of the Spey transformed communications in the area. The metal work was cast at Ruabon in North Wales and transported to Moray by sea. The castellated abutments were designed by Telford's assistant John Simpson. The whole structure cost £8,200. It is the oldest surviving iron bridge in Scotland. It was closed to traffic in 1972 when the present road bridge was opened.

ELGNM: 2009.67.59

51. Craigellachie (see also image No48b for similar picture). This fine panoramic view of The Craig from the Telford Bridge shows well the village's position on a promontory above the Spey.

ELGNM: 2009.67.53

52. Craigellachie Railway Station, showing a well-dressed woman shaking hands and politely addressing a gentleman (perhaps at the formal opening of the station?). See 47 above

ELGNM: 2009.67.57

53. Dalbeallie Station. Development of the railways south from Elgin and up Speyside took place in the 1860s. Dalbeallie Station (pronounced Dal-bee-allie) was opened in 1899. After some local controversy it was renamed Knockando in 1905. Extremely well preserved, the station is now part of the visitor centre of Tamdhu Distillery.

ELGNM: 2009.67.73

54. **Dufftown**, planned by James Duff, Earl of Fife from 1817, is arguably the most distinguished of Moray's planned villages. Instead of the grid pattern of Fochabers or the single main street with lanes leading off of it to Aberlour or Rothes; the planner here has 4 main streets radiating as gently curving spokes from the hub of the Clock Tower square. The Tower, built in 1832 as burgh chambers and town jail, was completed as a clock tower in 1847. It holds (allegedly) the clock – or part of the clock – that had, in Banff, been put 'a quarter afore' in order to hang James McPherson, the freebooter and fiddler. The Clock Tower carries a fine memorial plaque erected by Canadian Pacific Limited to George Stephen, Lord Mountstephen, a Dufftown boy, born in 1829, who was a key figure in the creation and development of modern Canada.

The laying of water pipes for the inhabitants of Aberlour in 1897, brought across the Spey from the Braes of Elchies. Charlestown of Aberlour was founded in 1812 by Charles Grant of Wester Elchies. The railway came to Aberlour in 1863 but by 1965 passenger services had ceased. The photo was taken by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s) and shows the main street with its wide roads, and a horse and carriage taxi belonging to G. Gray, Commercial Hotel, Dufftown c1900.

ELGNM: 2009.67.77

55. **Kirkmichael Established Parish Church** dates from 1807, Bridgend of Glenlivet.

There was a pre-Reformation chapel on this site, dedicated to St Michael and used as a mensal chapel by the Bishops of Moray. The new kirk of 1747 was already in a "lamentable condition" by 1794 and was completely reconstructed in 1804-7. It was restored after a fire in 1951, but closed in 2003.

ELGNM: 2009.67.72

56. **Archiestown, Knockando**. Archiestown was founded by Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk in 1760 to improve the bleak Moor of Ballintomb. It consists of a principal street running through a square with several by-lanes on each side. The settlement suffered a disastrous fire in 1783. The most important buildings are the Hotel (1900), the Old Free Church Manse, Old St Andrews and the Cottage (1790), a grand single storey laird's house built of Rinnes granite. A War Memorial was erected in 1919 and a further memorial plaque was unveiled in 1948 to remember those who fought in World War I and II.

ELGNM: 2009.67.102

57. **Ballindalloch Castle Lodge**, built by Thomas Mackenzie of Elgin in 1850, bearing the motto of the Macpherson Grant family: *touch not the cat bot a glove*. The Castle itself dates from 1542 and was built on lands gifted to John Grant of Freuchie by James IV in 1499. The castle has been altered and enlarged over the centuries from stark tower house to comfortable Victorian country house. It is still the home of the Macpherson Grant family; the castle is open to the public.

ELGNM: 2009.67.95

58. **Ballindalloch bridge**. The old Bridge of Avon was built in 1800-1 by George Burn: one high wide arch and a smaller flood arch to the right. A plaque marks the height of the floods on 4th August, 1829 – the Muckle Spate (photograph taken by George Washington Wilson 1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s).

ELGNM: 2009.67.74

59. **Gordon Castle, Fochabers** in its splendor, as photographed by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s) from the southeast. The oldest remaining part of Gordon Castle is the lowest few feet of the old tower, said to date from the 12th century. It was considerably enlarged and remained with the Gordon family until 1938 when, following crippling death duties, Frederick Gordon Lennox, 9th Duke of Richmond, 4th Duke of Gordon was forced to sell Gordon Castle and all his Scottish estates.

Following World War II, Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, grandson of the 7th Duke of Richmond, brought back the Castle and began its renaissance from crumbling mansion into a beautiful family home. The Castle had deteriorated to such an extent that much had to be demolished. His son, Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox, continued the good work and today his grandson Angus and wife Zara are the successful guardians of Sir George's legacy. Today, part of the castle can be hired and the formal gardens are open to the public with a café to cater for visitors.

ELGNM: 2009.67.65

60. **Fochabers High Street**, looking east. Fochabers was created a Burgh of Barony in 1598. The original village stood within the policies of Gordon Castle. The present village dates from 1776, laid out by John Baxter. The view is from the square looking east with the church visible on the left (which is now Fochabers Folk Museum and Heritage Centre). The building on the left is now the Grant Arms Hotel and on the right, previously a butchers and is now a pizza shop.

ELGNM: 2009.67.64

61. **Fochabers Bridge**. By the Turnpike Acts, passed at intervals throughout the 18th century, commissioners in each county were authorized to construct and improve roads and to levy tolls for their maintenance by means of turnpike gates. An interesting legacy of this system is to be seen in the tollhouses that survive along the main road from Fochabers to Forres, constructed about the year 1815. The original two bays are the right; that on the left replaces the part washed away in the Muckle spate. The foundation stone of the Spey Bridge at Fochabers was laid in June 1801 and it was opened in the autumn of 1804. Destroyed in the floods of 1829, it was replaced first by a timber arch and then, in 1852, by this single span cast iron bridge that echoes the similar structures at Craigellachie and Carron.

ELGNM: 2009.67.100

62. **Roths**. Founded by the Earl of Findlater in 1766 as a crofting township. Each tenement was given an 1/8 acre at an annual rent of ten shillings. The poet laureate, Robert Southey liked the *neatly built cottages* but disliked *their mournful uniformity*. The Seafeld Arms hotel is the oldest in Roths. In the distance can be seen the copper 'whisky pipe' which used to connect Glen Grant and Caperdonich distilleries, c1900. The town is still an important centre for whisky distilling and has an animal feed factory.

ELGNM: 2009.67.94

63. **Knockando Parish Church** was erected in 1757. It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by Law Dunbar-Naismith in 1992/3. Margach Hall in Knockando was opened in December 1910; it was designed by Elgin architect, Charles Doig.

ELGNM: 2009.67.98

64. **Boat o' Brig, Orton** – this suspension bridge was built in 1830 and replaced by the present bowed steel truss in 1904. The present town of Roths was founded in 1766 by Lord Findlater. In 1840, the first distillery, Glen Grant, was set up.

ELGNM: 2009.67.101

65. **The Tugnet Salmon Fishing Station.** The Tugnet salmon fishing station, Kingston, is described in *The Statistical Account of 1842* as follows: 'A spacious mansion for the gentlemen holding the lease, with an extensive court and range of buildings commodiously fitted for every purpose connected with the fishing's, occupies a prominent station on the beach near the mouth of the river. The greater part of the fish is sent to London, covered with ice, in boxes peculiarly constructed for the purpose. At this time 12 crews each of 8 men manned the cobs. The icehouses are thought to be the largest in Scotland. There is no longer any commercial salmon fishing on the Spey.

ELGNM: 2009.67.66

66. **Church Street, Garmouth,** showing old crofts and the 'Boot and Shoe Shop'. Garmouth, the port of the Innes family was elevated to a Burgh of Barony in 1587. It grew rapidly and by the end of the 18th century was one of the largest centres for the timber trade in Scotland. Its harbour was badly damaged in the Muckle Spate of 1829 and never rebuilt. The alteration to the course of the Spey left it literally high and dry. Charles II landed here on his return from exile in Holland and was persuaded to sign the Solemn League and Covenant. The village is labyrinthine with many narrow streets. Many of the old houses are built of clay-bool, sea-washed stones mixed with sand and straw.

ELGNM: 2009.67.68

67. **Spey Bay Hotel.** Designed by the legendary Ben Sayers, Spey Bay golf course was opened in 1907; the first Labour Prime Minister, James Ramsay Macdonald being a member of the club. The grand Richmond Gordon Hotel stood overlooking the eighteenth green and was a favourite retreat for the gentry of the day. The hotel was burned to the ground in the great fire of 1965 (see also image No92 below).

ELGNM: 2009.67.87

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPEYSIDE ON DISPLAY IN ELGIN MUSEUM SIDE HALL

Right hand wall: Lower Row

68. **Victoria Bar, Rothes.** The Victoria bar is still in existence (see 62 above).

ELGNM: 2009.67.93

69. **Main Street, Rothes,** showing 'James Jack, Chemist and Druggist' and 'No35 Alex Gordon' and showing Church and Spire. The Church is a simple Georgian box dating from 1781; the steeple was added in 1870 to accommodate the donation of Nairn's former town clock.

ELGNM: 2009.67.92

70. **Unknown** - a small village or hamlet with houses on the roadside somewhere rural with chickens feeding on the road , possibly Bridgend of Glenlivet.

ELGNM: 2009.67.97

71. **Knockando Hall,** designed by Charles Doig of Elgin, 1909/10, still in use as the village hall.

ELGNM: 2009.67.91

72. The famous **Lecht Road to Tomintoul**: at the Well of the Lecht is a tablet recording the construction of the road from there to the Spey in 1754 by five companies of the 33rd Regiment.

ELGNM: 2009.67.80

73. **Archiestown**, was laid out in 1760 by Archibald Grant of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire and by 1881 the population had reached a peak of 374 (see 56 above).

ELGNM: 2009.67.88

74. **Craigellachie Bridge** was designed by Thomas Telford and opened in October 1814. It was replaced by the present box girder construction in 1972. Victorian line drawing with man fishing (see 50 above).

ELGNM: 2009.67.58

75. **Unknown** - men fishing in the Spey alongside a fine house (possibly Aberlour?)

ELGNM: 2009.67.96

76a. **Dandaleith Station** (between Rothes and Craigellachie). In 1864 the original Craigellachie station was renamed Dandaleith. The station serving the Strathspey railway became Craigellachie station.

ELGNM: 2009.67.75

76b. **High Street, Aberlour**. Showing 'Charles Murray' and 'John Munro's' shop, now 'The Larder' delicatessen and the café. The original community was situated at the mouth of the Lour Burn and consisted of a church, manse, some cottages and a schoolhouse. In 1812 the new town was laid out by Charles Grant of Wester Elchies – hence the town's full name of Charlestown of Aberlour. The High street is a mile long, wide and spacious. Most of the buildings in the High Street are Victorian.

ELGNM: 2009.67.82

77a. **Fochabers** from the west, panoramic view of the town. Taken by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s).

ELGNM: 2009.67.61

77b. **Fife Street, Dufftown** as taken by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s), shows the clock tower, wide streets and shops on either side including Robert Nicoll, Baker and Confectioner on right.

ELGNM: 2009.67.76

78. **Tomintoul High Street** showing the Square, looking east towards Aberdeen. In 1775 the 4th Duke of Gordon, already engaged in planning the new town of Fochabers, turned his attention to providing a focus for the scattered communities in his upland estates. The result was Tomintoul, with its wide main street and rather grand buildings. At 1150 feet, it is the highest village in the Highlands. The picture shows a very early fine coach/car outside the hotel.

ELGNM: 2009.67.78

79. The winding road through the moors, looking from **Grantown towards Tomintoul**.

ELGNM: 2009.67.79

80. **Rothes** from Chapel Hill, an elevated view of the town. The railway came to Rothes in 1858. However, the first station, which was constructed in wood, was struck by lightning in 1895 and set on fire. The new station was opened in 1907.

ELGNM: 2009.67.90

81. Possibly Craigellachie Railway Station (?).

ELGNM: 2009.67.85

82a. The old ferry boat at Aberlour.

ELGNM: 2009.67.83

82b. The High Street, Aberlour looking towards the Church, showing 'W. Mackintosh' draper and clothier, 'Charles Grant's' shop and the Aberlour Hotel.

ELGNM: 2009.67.84

83. The ferry across the Spey at Blacksboat was still in use until November 1908.

ELGNM: 2009.67.81

84. The Square, Fochabers, showing the fountain, church and streetlights: designed by John Baxter for the 4th Duke of Gordon dates from 1776. In the regular grid pattern of the village, Baxter's Bellie Kirk (1798) faces Archibald Simpson's Episcopal Chapel of 1834 (with its Burne Jones stained glass) across a generous tree-lined square.

ELGNM: 2009.67.63

85a. Fochabers Bridge. By the Turnpike Acts, passed at intervals throughout the 18th century, commissioners in each county were authorized to construct and improve roads and to levy tolls for their maintenance by means of turnpike gates. An interesting legacy of this system is to be seen in the tollhouses that survive along the main road from Fochabers to Forres, constructed about the year 1815. The original two bays are the right; that on the left replaces the part washed away in the Muckle spate.

The foundation stone of the Spey Bridge at Fochabers was laid in June 1801 and it was opened in the autumn of 1804. Destroyed in the floods of 1829, it was replaced first by a timber arch and then, in 1852, by this single span cast iron bridge that echoes the similar structures at Craigellachie and Carron.

ELGNM: 2009.67.99

85b. Fochabers Railway Station with train parked. Line connects London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

ELGNM: 2009.67.62

86. Fochabers from the Established Church (Bellie Kirk) Tower. Aerial view of the town, taken by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893, well known artist and photographer in Aberdeen from the 1850s). Wilson. On the far right, in the distance, the large building is now Milne's Primary School.

ELGNM: 2009.67.60

87. Craigellachie, view from the road.

ELGNM: 2009.67.103

88. Garmouth from the South with a view over the fields from the railway line.

ELGNM: 2009.67.71

89. Kingston. From 1795 until the end of the 19th century Kingston was a thriving ship building centre and busy port at the mouth of the Spey. The icehouse at Tugnet was built in 1830 to keep the winter ice throughout the salmon season. It was last used for storage in 1968 and is now an exhibition centre.

ELGNM: 2009.67.70

90. **The bridge over the Spey at Garmouth** was one of the major engineering works involved in the building of the Moray Firth Coast Railway in 1886. Garmouth was created a Burgh of Barony in 1587 and until the Spey changed its course was an important port.

ELGNM: 2009.67.69

91. **Men with rowing boats at Tugnet salmon fishing station**, described in 'The Statistical Account' of 1842 as follows: 'A spacious mansion for the gentlemen holding the lease, with an extensive court and range of buildings commodiously fitted for every purpose connected with the fishing's, occupies a prominent station on the beach near the mouth of the river. The greater part of the fish is sent to London, covered with ice, in boxes peculiarly constructed for the purpose. At this time 12 crews each of 8 men manned the cobs. The icehouses are thought to be the largest in Scotland. There is no longer any commercial salmon fishing on the Spey.

ELGNM: 2009.67.67

92. **Spey Bay Hotel** was built in 1907 and unfortunately gutted by fire in 1965; the present one was built in the same year. Spey Bay Golf Course was one of Ramsay Macdonald's favourites; he is standing on the extreme right of the photograph. A crowd is gathered for the occasion (see also image No67).

ELGNM: 2009.67.86