

## Victoriana Case 2: Town and Country

### Shelf 1 (top)

#### 1) Whisky Barrel

This wooden whisky barrel was worn across the body, secured by the leather strap. It held 'Old Banff Whisky' and was found prior to 1864 by Mr Jack MacMillan in the Bulkley Valley, located in the northwest central interior of British Columbia, Canada.

ELGNM: 1978.670

### Shelf 2

#### 2) Book, an 'Outline of the History of the Town of Elgin'

By John Lawson, 1st President of the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association (now The Moray Society) and an Elgin Banker, 1838-1850. The book is open on a page illustrating the Bishops Town House in 1838, referred to by the Victorians as Dunfermline House, near to Elgin Cathedral.

ELGNM: 1850.8



### Shelf 3

#### 3) Letter proposing a Museum for Elgin, 1838

The letter expresses the wish of a member of the Lord Fife's Trustees and that of Elgin Landowners to build a museum "*for the preservation of the accumulated collection of antiquities*". It was estimated that the building of a museum in Elgin will cost approximately £200 and that purchase of the site will cost no more than £50. Letter dated 13th March 1838.

#### 4) 'New Well' papers

An account of the yearly collections received for “*the use and keeping in repair*” the ‘new’ well, situated across the road from the Museum (a plaque is on the wall of the Moray Council building acknowledges its whereabouts).

This same well was the only water source that Mr Ingram, the first Curator of Elgin Museum, had to cook, clean and drink from. He had to transport it from the well to his cold room(s) in the Museum Tower where the original hearth can still be seen.

ELGNM: 2003.30.65.1 and .2

#### 5) Letter to Elgin Museum, 1887

Letter from a visitor to the Museum commenting on the decline of the use of church communion tokens in the late 19th century and of his donating a number of them to the Museum Collection; dated the 6th October 1887.

#### 6) Stagecoach Clock

In Moray, the word ‘Stagecoach’ makes us think of the bus company of that name but traditionally, a stagecoach is a four wheeled public coach used to carry paying passengers and light packages on journeys long enough to need a change of horses.

This coach clock, made by Edinburgh clockmaker David Murray circa 1780-1800 used for stagecoach journeys from Aberdeen to Peterhead, coach number 23, and possibly from there to Edinburgh, as the reverse is engraved ‘Edinburgh No.35’.

ELGNM: 1978.633



Internal clock workings

## Shelf 4 (bottom)

### 7) Jail Key

Key for the main gate to the cells at Greyfriars Police Station, Elgin.  
ELGNM: 1990.38

### 8) Key to the Gordon Monument, Ladyhill

The original key to the door of the monument situated on top of Ladyhill mound, honouring George, the 5th and last Duke of Gordon, which was proposed by the Morayshire Farmers Club.

The 80 ft high column was designed in 1839 by Architect William Burn of Edinburgh and surmounted by a 12 ft statue of George, designed by Mackenzie and Matthews of Elgin, erected in August 1855 with a £200 bequest from Alexander Craig.



In January 1858, a Russian cannon, donated by the Secretary at War, was situated on the mound at Ladyhill, adding a gun carriage in 1888. A platform was erected in 1892 for Lossie Volunteer Corps to practice big gun drills. The cannon was removed October 1940. An astronomical observatory was erected at Ladyhill from 1898 until pupils removed the telescope from the observatory to Elgin Academy in 1920.

A small number of archaeological excavations (with the earliest recorded being June 1858) have been carried out on the site of the old castle and chapel. A few of the objects uncovered during these works are on display in the main gallery People & Place “A Fertile Land” display.



The holder of the original key to the Monument was William Jack, grocer, merchant and candlemaker, Elgin. Born 6th Sept 1806 in Portsoy, Jack is mentioned in articles held by Elgin Library (see: *The Moray Council online genealogical 'Libindx' system*). One such account referred to an 1850 complaint against Jack for selling adulterated goods and food unfit for human consumption! Jack died 22nd March 1864, aged just 58 years, at 23 High Street, Elgin. Mr Jack's Granddaughter, Miss Marshal of Craigevar, donated to the key to Elgin Museum in 1924.  
ELGNM: 1924.3

**9) Key to Elgin Slaughterhouse**

The key to Elgin Shambles, or Slaughterhouse, which was located on Blackfriars Road, Elgin.

ELGNM: 1901.5

**10) Prison Key**

Original key to Fochabers first Prison.

ELGNM: 1938.11

- 11) **Padlock**  
Four ring brass combination lock from Mrs Levack of Rock House.  
ELGNM: 1978.27
- 12) **Drinking Horn**  
Drinking horn inscribed J. D. 1897 with a leaf spray, anchor and love heart.  
ELGNM: 1944.9
- 13) **Tankard**  
Small pewter measure, with Elgin makers mark.  
ELGNM: 1965.10
- 14) **Tankard**  
Tankard with Innkeepers ½ pint measure on the side, stamped V. R. with a crown and dated 1853.  
ELGNM: 1978.225
- 15) **Toddy Ladle**  
Used at the launch of vessels built at Findhorn, donated in 1881.  
ELGNM: 1881.1.2
- 16) **Katar or 'Jamdhar'**  
Indian knife and sheath, known as a katar, donated in 1873.  
ELGNM: 1873.6
- 17) **Field Glasses**  
Made by Negretti and Zambra, London; these field glasses may have been used in the South African War, also called the Boer War, to which many Moray men were sent between 11th October 1899 and 31st May 1902.

Also called the Second War of Independence, the war was fought between Great Britain and the two Boer (Afrikaner) republics – the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State.

The Boers had just 88,000 men against the strength of 500,000 British men, resulting in British victory. It proved to be the largest and most costly war in which the British



engaged between the Napoleonic Wars and World War I, costing more than £200 million.  
ELGNM: 1995.33