

Friends of Dundee City Archives

newsletter

Summer 2018

Thank You

Due to the vagaries of “the Beast from the East” the FDCA lunch at Dundee and Angus College, Kingsway Campus eventually took place on 4th May.

Thanks to Norma Watson for arranging and rearranging the event.

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. took place in the Glasite Hall, St Andrews Parish Church halls on 26th May.

Before the A.G.M. Bob Mac Dougall gave a presentation of slides from the Bede Pounder Collection (GD/X1384). Bob is currently digitising this collection for the Archives. Some of the images are unnamed and Bob sought some audience participation in the matter. To finish there was a quiz. Coultie’s Wynd, the Coffin Mill, Theatre Royal in Castle Street and a fish sign were all included in the quiz. Well done Bob.

Linda Nicoll has now taken over the Chair of the Committee and Bill Grant is the new Vice-Chair.

The A.G.M. appointed Dr Iain Flett as an Honorary President of the Friends of Dundee City Archives. Iain is well known to you all being one of the founders of the Friends organisation. He has always supported the Friends and since his

retirement has shown his continuing commitment to the group. He has shown a series of films of Dundee or people connected to Dundee at the Steps cinema with permission from the National Library of Scotland and other organisations. He is also involved in the Kolkata cemetery project.

Iain always says that everyone needs Friends and he certainly is a good friend to us.

Cake and Chat

We are holding a Cake and Chat on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 2 to 4 pm in Committee Room 4, 14 City Square. Bakers please get out your baking bowls and wooden spoons!

Please join us for some refreshments and a chance to catch up with fellow Friends.



A Dutch Dancing Master in Dundee?



The fourth Figure Representing the Contrast

Why would a Dutch dancing master settle in Dundee? Yet that is what Gillis Nozeman and his wife Maria van Duyven did. Little is known of their sojourn in Dundee, except that in late 1746 they bought real estate on the north side of the Nethergate, between the properties of James Ramsay and John Haliburton, and adjacent to the churchyard. It is likely that Nozeman stayed in Dundee for some length of time as memories of him lingered on into the nineteenth century. An 1822 publication, *Dundee Delineated*, provides a description of him: “Mr. Noseman was the only dancing-master. I shall ever remember him. He was a tall German; he wore a small silver-laced hat, diminutive round silver buckles, and cane, and walked upright as an oak; drank brandy, and was a thorough pedant in his profession.” Not a particularly flattering picture, but perhaps more information would shed a different light on him. At least, that is what I hoped for, when embarking upon a bit of desk research.

It is quite understandable that Nozeman was remembered as a ‘German’, rather than as a Dutchman, even though he was of Dutch ancestry. Gillis Nozeman and his brother, the composer Jacob or Jacobus Nozeman, were the sons of Johannes

Nozeman and Anna Rijndorp. In the late seventeenth century, they ran an acting group in the Hague, which is known to have also performed in Leiden. Johannes and Anna were scions of a travelling family of actors that had amused noble courts in the north of Germany and in Sweden in the seventeenth century. The grandparents of Jacob and Gillis may have been Gillis and Ariana Nozeman, the first professional actress of the Stadsschouwburg (Municipal Theatre) in Amsterdam in 1655, and the first Dutch ballerina. As she died in 1661, it is unlikely that she ever taught her grandsons any dance though.

Of the two brothers, Jacob is the better-known: he was born in 1693 in Hamburg, in Germany, but when his father died, sometime between 1710 and 1713, Jacob decided to settle in Amsterdam. He played the violin in the orchestra of the Stadsschouwburg and in 1719 was appointed as organist of one of Amsterdam’s churches, a position he kept until his death in October 1745. Apart from his work as a performer, he was an accomplished composer, whose works, including a string of sonatas for violin and basso continuo, were published by the famous music publisher Michel Corrette.

So our Dutch dancing master in Dundee descended from a well-known artistic and musical family. He was born in The Hague in February 1691 and so was two years older than his brother. In 1710, he enrolled at Leiden University. The addition of “Artis saltator” (dancer) to his name that there can be little doubt that it is the same man. His matriculation does not imply that he actually was a student; he may well have enrolled in order to benefit from tax exemptions, a usual practice at the time. Gillis Nozeman probably lived in Leiden for a number of years and met his wife, Maria van Duyven, there. He may have supplemented the fees that he drew from teaching students how to dance by occasionally playing the violin at gigs organized by his brother in Amsterdam. It is possible that the death of his brother in 1745 played a role in the decision of Gillis

and his wife to leave the Netherlands and settle in Dundee in 1746. But many questions remain as to the steps taken by Dundee's Dutch dancing master. He left little footprint and that makes him a hard act to follow.

Jaap Jacobs

Dundee Flower Shows

(Taken from a 1926 history of the DHS in GD/X1368)

Dundee Horticultural Society (DHS) was probably in existence in 1825, when it was mostly a fruit show with a few flowers and less vegetables. The A.G.M. was held on Wednesday 14th September 1825 in the Archers Hall attached to Mr Campbell's Hotel. Tickets cost 2/6 each.

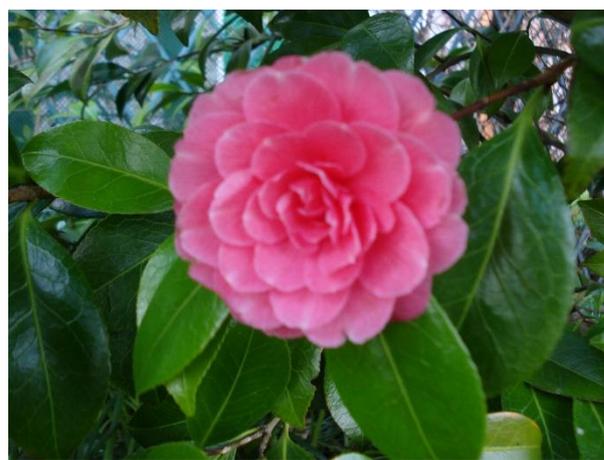
The prize list features the names of the head gardeners from many of the country mansions Arthurstone, Delvine, Cortachy, Camperdown, Ballindean but also from the gardens of Carolina Port, Mayfield and Ellengowan. Mrs Lindsay, Carolina Port received the prize for the best White Currant Wine while Mrs Martin, Roseangle won with her Black Currant Wine and Gooseberry Champagne.

In 1827 the show transferred to the Caledonian Hall, Castle Street, and the AGM was held in Merchant's Hall part of Merchant's Hotel.

The first Dundee Flower Show was held in 1864 in Baxter Park. The show was certainly popular in those Victorian days. In 1867 60,000 people attended a show with 5,000 exhibits. By 1876 the Earl of Strathmore suggested a Grand International Horticultural Exhibition to attract some of the finest gardeners and growers. In 1886 it moved to Magdalen Green, this venue was alternated from time to time with the Drill Hall. On the green there were often very many additional side shows which proved an added attraction. By 1903 shows were held in the Kinnaird Hall and in the Y.M.C.A. as available when

Lord Camperdown was President with W.P. Laird as Secretary and D. Croll, Treasurer.

Other societies Dundee Working Men's Horticultural Society, Broughty Ferry and Lochee Horticultural Societies, the Dundee Dahlia Society, Dundee Chrysanthemum Society and the Post Office Horticultural Society.



David Martin (1777-1863) started David Martin & Co and was also a partner of the London Shipping Co., which owned the ill-fated "Forfarshire" of Grace Darling fame. David Martin took possession of a piece of ground with the Tenement of land and Stable thereon at Rose Angle on 7 May, 1813 (Register of Seisins Forfar 1781-1820 entry 7094). David Neave built a house for David Martin at Roseangle in 1819. In the Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London Series 22 Vol. 1 Medals presented to Provincial Horticultural Societies in U.K. 1832 is an entry - Dundee Horticultural Society to David Martin, Esq., of Rose Angle, Dundee for the production of a new seedling Running Rose, a double purple variety of R. arvensis. "Several of the prettiest varieties have been raised from seed by Mr Martin of Rose Angle, Dundee (The Manual of Roses by W. Prince 1846). He is also mentioned in "Old Rose Adventurer" by Brent Dickerson.

Dates for your diary

Open Doors Day

Remember Open Doors day on 8th September 2018.

Lunchtime Lectures

Glasite Hall, St Andrews Church, King Street

The doors of the Glasite Hall open at 12:30pm with refreshments of tea/coffee and a biscuit available.

Please note that the speaker may change due to factors out-with our control.

Lectures commence at 1.00pm.

Thursday – 7th June 2018

Researching the History of your house

Sarah Aitken will discuss the records which are available to help you discover the history of your house.

Thursday – 5th July 2018

Valentines of Dundee

Rachel Nordstrum talks about Valentines of Dundee.

Thursday – 2nd August 2018

“Breakers Ahead ... hard a’ starboard”

Remarkable tales revealed by The McManus ship model collection.

Thursday – 6th September 2018

D’Arcy Thompson’s On Growth and Form – 100 (and one) years of Dundee’s most influential book.

Matthew Jarron discusses

Thursday 4th October 2018

The Howff Conservation Group

Simon Goulding brings us up-to-date with the work of the group and discusses its findings.

Thursday – 1st November 2018

Dundee and the Home Front 1914-1918

Linda Nicoll looks at the problems faced by those on the Home

Kolkata Cemetery Project



Many Europeans lived and worked in the Indian sub-continent during the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many died there. The Scottish Cemetery was opened in 1820 and about 3,000 people of Scottish descent are buried here. Men who came out to work for the East Indian Company, the Indian Civil Service, as merchants or later in the jute industry. Presently a team is trying to discover the stories behind some of the burial records. For more information just type Kolkata cemetery into your search engine.