

P456 Papers of Donald and Alexandrina MacKenzie

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number: GB1741/P456

Alternative reference number:

Title: Papers of Donald and Alexandrina MacKenzie

Dates of creation: 1860-2002

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Format: Paper, photograph

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators: Donald and Alexandrina MacKenzie; Their children Jess and Robert MacKenzie; Robert MacKenzie (Donalds brother); 1st Wick Boys Brigade; Various

Administrative history: Donald Bain MacKenzie (Don) was born in Kinnaird Street, Wick in 1913. Having entered the Post Office as a sorting clerk and telegraphist he later transferred to Wick Radio.

Alexandrina (Alice) Gunn was born in 1913 and grew up to be a skilled baker for her family's licensed grocers shop in Bank Row. Alice married Donald Mackenzie in 1936, after which the couple took up residence at 22 Bank Row in Wick, where they started their family.

While Donald was away on active service Alice and her son narrowly escaped with their lives from the German bombing raid of 1940. Donald served as a Radio Officer on H.M Cable ship Alert repairing submarine cables in the Atlantic. He was actively involved with the laying of the first communication cable across to France. At the end of active service Don was promoted to Radio Surveyor (Marine) and the couple settled in Glasgow.

With a keen interest in Scottish history and culture Donald joined and soon rose to become President of the Glasgow Caithness Society. In recognition of his work for his native county of Caithness the Toronto Caithness Association made him their honorary president in 1967.

After retiring in the 1970's Donald and Alice

returned to Caithness and settled in Latheronwheel where they were active within the community for many years.

Custodial history: Deposited by Jess MacKenzie, daughter of Donald and Alice MacKenzie

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description: Personal and work papers; Correspondence; Photographs; Postcards; 1st Wick Boys Brigade; Various; Published material

Appraisal:

Accruals: None expected

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Caithness Archive Service searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material: P685 - 1st Wick Boys Brigade
P294 - Records of the Glasgow Caithness Benevolent Association

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: Nov 2023

Ref.	Description	Dates
P456	Papers of Donald and Alexandrina MacKenzie	1904-2002
P456/1	Personal and work papers	1930-2002
P456/1/1	Confirmation of Mr D B Mackenzie's appointment as sorting office telegraphist (2 items)	27 Jun 1930

P456/1/2	Post Office Home Guard Volunteer card Highland Region for Mr D B MacKenzie (1 item)	1 Oct 1940
P456/1/3	Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy granted by the Postmaster General to D. B. MacKenzie (1 item)	11 Aug 1942
P456/1/4	Certificate awarded to Donald MacKenzie for passing technical qualifications exam. held in its original cardboard tube (2 item)	5 Jun 1945
P456/1/5	Completed travel expenses forms for D. B. MacKenzie as acting radio overseer at Cullercoats. Subsequent memo regarding Mr Mackenzie's promotion and permanent transfer to Cullercoats Radio on 1 Oct 1949 which include removal expense estimates for his move from Wick (4 items)	14 Jun 1947- 1 Oct 1949
P456/1/6	National Registration Identity Card for Alice MacKenzie (1 item)	10 Jun 1943- 20 Sep 1951
P456/1/7	The Royal Schools of Music certificates awarded to Robert MacKenzie for passing violin music exam (2 item)	Jan 1947 Nov 1947
P456/1/8	National Registration Identity Card for Donald B. MacKenzie (1 item)	10 Oct 1950- 20 Sep 1951
P456/1/9	Confirmation that Mr D. B. MacKenzie has passed the Radar Maintenance Examination on 30 Apr 1951 and the certificate awarded (2 items)	08 May 1951
P456/1/10	National Registration Identity Card for Jessie Gunn MacKenzie (1 item)	20 Sep 1951
P456/1/11	Card of authority issued to Donald Bain MacKenzie on his appointment as a Radio Surveyor for the Ministry of Transport (1 item)	18 Feb 1953
P456/1/12	National Health Service Medical Card for Jessie G. MacKenzie, Golf Road, Rutherglen (1 item)	31 Dec 1953
P456/1/13	Wick High School leaving certificate for Robert MacKenzie (1 item)	1955
P456/1/14	Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance card for Miss Jessie MacKenzie Golf Road Rutherglen (1 item) [Closed for 100 years]	c.1959
P456/1/15	Jordanhill College of Education Certificate awarded to Robert MacKenzie in relation to Primary School teaching and Mathematics for Secondary Schools (1 item)	Jun 1960

P456/1/16	Teacher of Mathematics Probation Certificate awarded to Robert MacKenzie (2 items)	1 Aug 1960
P456/1/17	Driving Licences issued to Donald B. MacKenzie when he resided in Rutherglen Glasgow and latterly in Latheronwheel Caithness (2 items)	1970-1976
P456/1/18	Post Office Staff Superannuation Benefits (2 items)	3 Feb 1973
P456/1/19	Typed obituary for Alice MacKenzie, wife of Donald Bain MacKenzie, as written by her daughter Jess (2 items)	4 Jun 2002
P456/1/20	Typed obituary for Donald Bain MacKenzie, Senior Radio Surveyor for the West of Scotland as written by his daughter Jess. Newspaper cutting of the obituary that was printed in the John O'Groat Journal (2 items)	4 Jun 2002, 16 Nov 2001
P456/2	Freemasonry records (including published material)	1860 - 2002
P456/2/1	Freemason certificates awarded to Donald B MacKenzie (5 items)	22 Jul 1942- 3 May 1945
P456/2/2	Donald B McKenzie life membership card for St Fergus Masonic Lodge (1 item)	30 Jan 1945
P456/2/3	Donald B MacKenzie life membership card for Royal Arch Chapter John O'Groats (1 item)	1 Dec 1947
P456/2/4	Correspondence from St Fergus Lodge of Freemasons regarding the nomination of Donald Bain MacKenzie as a prospective member and receipts for membership fees (5 items)	8 Apr 1942- 30 Jan 1945
P456/2/5	Receipts for payments made to Royal Arch Chapter John O'Groats (5 items)	19 Mar 1945- 1 Dec 1947
P456/2/6	Mysteries of Freemasonry by John Fellows (1 volume)	c.1860
P456/2/7	Manual of Freemasonry (1 volume)	c.1908
P456/2/8	St Fergus Lodge of Freemasons, The Principles of Freemasonry (1 item)	1915
P456/2/9	The "Standard" Ritual of Scottish Freemasonry (1 volume)	1927
P456/2/10	The Cryptic Degrees (1 item)	1927
P456/2/11	Bye Laws & Constitution of Lodge St Fergus (1 item)	1930

P456/2/12	The Constitution and Laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasons of Scotland (1 volume)	1942
P456/2/13	The Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland (1 volume)	1944
P456/2/14	Early Days of Freemasonry in Wick (1 item)	Apr 1945
P456/2/15	The Province of Caithness Masonic and other Orders Five Year Diary (1 item)	1979-1983
P456/3	Correspondence	1912-2002
P456/3/1	James MacKenzie, Kinnaird Street, invoice from John Hood & Son Monumental Sculptors (1 item)	22 Nov 1912
P456/3/2	Empty envelope addressed to Robert MacKenzie, Kinnaird Street Wick (1 item)	9 Jul 1930
P456/3/3	Two golden envelopes containing wedding telegrams sent to Don and Alice and one which Don and Alice sent to another couple in 1946 (10 items)	10 Jul 1936 9 Jan 1946
P456/3/4	Invoices relating to household purchases by Mrs MacKenzie Bank Row Wick from the retailer Geo. MacKenzie (5 items)	Sept 1936- 24 Jul 1937
P456/3/5	Income Tax Return (1 item)	5 Apr 1937
P456/3/6	Black rimmed letter to John Gunn and Son 36 Bank Row from Alexander McKain 9 Breadalbane Crescent Wick requesting their presence at his mother's internment (2 items)	16 Jun 1941
P456/3/7	Wedding invitation for Mr & Mrs D. B. MacKenzie and family to attend the marriage of Margaret Cowie and James Alexander MacKenzie on 17 Sept 1941 in Forfar (2 items)	1 Sep 1941
P456/3/8	Empty envelope addressed to R. MacKenzie from Fus. J MacKenzie, Wandsworth (1 item)	28 Nov 1942
P456/3/9	Letter to Alice, Don and the children from Fus. J MacKenzie, Wandsworth (1 item)	29 Dec 1942
P456/3/10	Typed correspondence to D. B. MacKenzie regarding a salvage claim for the H.M.T.S "Alert" which was sunk on 24 Feb 1945. Cable ships were a high priority target during WW2 and played a vital part in operation Pluto (2 items)	19 Jun 1946- 20 Jun 1946

P456/3/11	Receipts for purchases made for 24 Dunnett Avenue Wick, including a radiogram (2 items)	4 Sep 1947 12 Dec 1947
P456/3/12	H M Guide to Widows and dependants pension scheme sent to Mr D B Mackenzie with covering typed letter (2 items)	4 Jan 1950
P456/3/13	Correspondence covering claims for removal expenses from Cullercoats to Wick and the purchase of 24 Dunnett Avenue Wick (2 items)	12 May 1953- 2 Sep 1953
P456/3/14	Correspondence with D.W. Georgeson Solicitor on the purchase of property "Scaraben" Latheronwheel (13 items)	5 Jun 1974- 21 Apr 1975
P456/3/15	Empty Envelope addresses to Mr MacKenzie, G.P.O Ship Radio Inspection Office (1 item)	Sep 1963
P456/3/16	Circular from the Clan Gunn Society to its members. Addressed to Mr & Mrs D MacKenzie Rutherglen Glasgow (4 items)	2 Nov 1975
P456/3/17	Itemised cost of work carried out on Scaraben Latheronwheel by I H MacKenzie Building Contractors, Lybster (3 items)	Jun 1976
P456/3/18	Invoices sent to Mr D MacKenzie, Scaraben Latheronwheel from tradesmen in Wick covering work done on the property (9 items)	7 Dec 1976- 23 Feb 1979
P456/3/19	Letter and map from Highland Council concerning preparation for new sewerage scheme in the village (2 items)	14 Oct 1981
P456/3/20	Valuation Notice for Scaraben, Latheronwheel (1 item)	11 Apr 1989
P456/3/21	Mr and Mrs Donald Bain MacKenzie, congratulatory telegram from Queen Elizabeth to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (2 items)	9 Jul 1996
P456/3/22	Letter from the Glasgow Northern Highland Benevolent Society (1 item)	30 Apr 1998
P456/3/23	Typed letter to The Wick Society regarding donations gifted to them by Jess Mackenzie of Canada (1 item)	29 Aug 2001
P456/3/24	Letter from North Highland Archives to Jessie MacKenzie regarding a deposit of Freemason Material for St Fergus Lodge (1 item)	26 Jun 2002
P456/4	Photographs	1897-1985

P456/4/1	Black and white landscape postcard photograph of the Bain family from Sarclet. Names on reverse, Isabella Bain (nee Oag) Donald Bain (Donny) Francis Bain, May Bain, Stewart Bain and Jessie Bain (1 item)	c.1897
P456/4/2	Blank envelope containing 5 small black and white photographs, one of which has the name J Alexander on the reverse, and a newspaper clipping of fish salesmen at Lerwick 1914 (6 items)	c.1900
P456/4/3	Mounted black and white landscape photograph of Quoits team. John Gunn front second right is written on the reverse (1 item)	c.1900
P456/4/4	Mounted landscape black and white replica photograph of Frances and Kirsty Gunn at a croft near Achastle Lybster (1 item)	c.1910
P456/4/5	Black and white landscape postcard photograph of schoolgirls and teachers in Wick. On the reverse it reads "Alice Gunn, back row left" (1 item)	c.1930
P456/4/6	Mounted black and white wedding party photograph of Donald Bain MacKenzie and Alexandrina Gunn. Newspaper cuttings of the wedding announcement enclosed (4 items)	1936
P456/4/7	Black and white landscape photograph of five people in formal evening wear seated at a table (1 item)	c.1940
P456/4/8	Black and white landscape group photographs with Donald Bain MacKenzie ships radio surveyor who also worked at Wick Radio (4 items)	c.1940
P456/4/9	Mounted black and white wedding photograph of James MacKenzie and Margaret Henry (1 item)	17 Sep 1941
P456/4/10	Black and white photographs of Mr James MacKenzie at Jimmy Sinclairs dance at New Year before 1945. Newspaper cuttings of the announcement of his wedding to Miss Margaret C Henry on 17 Sep 1941 in Forfar and subsequent notice of his death on active service in Italy age 37 (6 items)	17 Sep 1941- Apr 1944
P456/4/11	Black and White landscape photograph of the Post Office Cable Laying Ship "Alert" with a separate handwritten sheet of information on her and newspaper clippings regarding her role in WW2 (5 items)	Oct 1943- 2 Oct 2023
P456/4/12	Black and white landscape photograph of the wedding of Ian Fraser and Margaret Gunn taken outside the Nethercliffe Hotel which had just been	1946

	purchased by the Gunns. Also pictured are Mr Briggs, Minister, Douglas Fraser, Essie MacKenzie, Mary Wares John Gunn and Jessie MacKenzie (4 items)	
P456/4/13	Mounted black and white landscape photograph of outdoor bowling match on the Rosebank bowling green. John Gunn, owner of the Nethercliffe Hotel pictured in the centre holding a bowl with Jessie Gunn and daughter Margaret Fraser and Ian Fraser (1 item)	1946
P456/4/14	Black and White landscape photograph of class IIA Wick High School with separate handwritten list of names (2 items)	1950
P456/4/15	Black and white mounted landscape photograph by J McDonald Wick showing a large gathering of people outside a house (1 item)	c.1960
P456/4/16	Mounted landscape black and white group photograph of the McKain family reunion. Named are Jessie McKain Gunn, Margaret McKain Sutherland, George Mckain of Thurso (1 item)	c.1960
P456/4/17	Mounted Landscape black and white photograph taken at the Mckain family reunion showing Granny Gunn, Jessie McKain George McKain and Margaret McKain (2 item)	c.1960
P456/4/18	Black and white portrait group photograph. Front is Jessie McKain Gunn, owner of the Nethercliffe Hotel, Jessie More Gunn, Alice Gunn MacKenzie, Donald Bain MacKenzie. Rear ?, John Gunn shoe shop in Wick? (1 item)	c.1960
P456/4/19	Mounted black and white solo and group photographs of Donald Bain MacKenzie as President of the Glasgow Caithness Association along with a newspaper cuttings introducing him to the public. Group photograph also shows Mr Sutherland ex British Consul in Cuba (7 items)	c.1965
P456/4/20	Black and white landscape photograph of a group of gentlemen standing with drinks. Taken at a WTS Conference in London. Left to right G Holmes, J. D. Luddell, D B MacKenzie, W Swanson, A R Mowat and T. Cuddenham (2 item)	Oct 1966
P456/4/21	Black and white photographs in an envelope marked "Essie" A handwritten note mentions Mrs Jessie Bain MacKenzie, wife of Robert MacKenzie, Ian MacKenzie and Isobel [no surname]. Reference to Essie Tait, Moray Street Wick. Only one photograph is identified as a William Stewart. (23 items)	c.1915-c.1999

P456/5	Postcards	1903-1980
P456/5/1	Bundle of postcards addressed to Miss Rachel Gunn, Glasgow. Include black and white images from around Caithness as well as coloured images and cartoons (36 items)	14 Dec 1903- 20 Sep 1910
P456/5/2	Postcards printed with the distress cases dealt with by Wick Radio. Symbols relate to casualty, lifeboat, medical service and location of radio station (2 items)	Jan 1937
P456/5/3	Postcards addressed to Mr and Mrs Don MacKenzie when they lived in Glasgow (13 items)	1951-1972
P456/5/4	3 postcards addressed to Miss J McKenzie and Mr Robert Mackenzie in Wick and Miss Jessie MacKenzie in Scarborough (3 items)	1906-1962
P456/5/5	Bundle of postcards depicting landmark scenes around Caithness. Includes Mailing novelty of a line of herring which opens out to display many small pictures from around the County. Many are produced by Valentines & Sons Dundee, Scotland's most successful commercial photographers (38 items)	c.1900-1980
P456/6	1st Wick Boys Brigade	1919-1930
P456/6/1	Membership cards for James MacKenzie Age 12 to Age 17 (5 items)	1919-1924
P456/6/2	Membership cards for Donald (Don) MacKenzie Age 12 to Age 17 (6 items)	1925-1931
P456/6/3	Boys Brigade Hymnal belonging to Pte D MacKenzie 1 st Wick Company (1 item)	1925
P456/6/4	The Boys Brigade Non-Commissioned Officers Appointment for Donald MacKenzie to the rank of Lance-Corporal in the 1 st Wick Company and thereafter promoted to Corporal (1 item)	Dec 1927- Dec 1929
P456/6/5	The Boys Brigade Non-Commissioned Officers Appointment for Pte Robert MacKenzie to the rank of Lance-Corporal in the 1 st Wick Company and thereafter promoted to Corporal (1 item)	Oct 1930
P456/6/6	John O Groat Journal article on the centenary celebrations of the birth of Sir William A Smith founder of the Boys Brigade. Includes a black and white landscape photograph of the torch being carried through Thurso by Robert MacKenzie. The torch was carried 470 miles from his birthplace in Thurso to Glasgow (2 items)	10 Sep 1954

P456/6/7	Robert MacKenzie appointed Lance-Corporal. Signed by Alexander Hood Captain (2 items)	1954
P456/6/8	Proficiency Certificate for written examination in Drill awarded to Robert MacKenzie (2 items)	15 Apr 1955
P456/6/9	The Boys Brigade Discharge Certificate for Robert MacKenzie stating he had served with good conduct from 1949 to 1955 (2 items)	6 May 1955
P456/7	Various	1951 - 1970
P456/7/1	Drawings and paintings by Jessie Gunn Mackenzie and Robert Mackenzie from their school days (56 items) [outsized]	1951-1957
P456/7/2	Wick Herring Queen Festival programme (1 item)	1953
P456/7/3	Great Britain Forecast Areas for Home Waters and North Atlantic Weather Bulletin (1 item) [outsized]	1970
P456/7/4	OS map of Edinburgh area (1 item)	n.d.
P456/8	Published material	c.1920-1987
P456/8/1	Fraser Ross Glasgow. The Centre of Highland Dress Production. Catalogue showing popular styles (1 item)	c.1920
P456/8/2	Rules of the Glasgow Caithness Benevolent Association (1 item)	10 May 1927
P456/8/3	Glasgow Northern Highland Benevolent Society Rules and Regulations (1 item)	1928
P456/8/4	Unused Motor Fuel Ration Book. Issued during the Suez Crisis which led to fuel shortages (1 item)	17 Dec 1956- 14 May 1957
P456/8/5	British Railways Clyde Coast Steamer Services timetable and prices (1 item)	30 Mar 1953- 29 May 1953
P456/8/6	D Napier & Sons Consulting Herbalists catalogue including price list(1 item)	Sep 1960
P456/8/7	The Wick and Lybster Light Railway by Iain Sutherland (1 volume)	1987