

Source – History of Tayport by the late Sir James Scott. 1927

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## **CHURCHES**

The Parish Church has been referred to previously, but there are still some points regarding the property and parties responsible for its maintenance. It is a law of the Church that if there should be allocation of sittings by the heritor, then the heritor becomes liable for the maintenance of the church building. About the year 1864 a dispute arose between a gentleman who wished to sit in a certain pew and a lady and her daughter who had occupied the said pew for years. Their conduct met with a sharp rebuke from the Minister, Mr. Rose, publicly. The lady appealed to the Kirk Session who refused to interfere. She then referred the matter to the Admiral, who allocated the pew to her, thus fixing the ownership on Scotsraig. In like manner, about the same time, the Admiral was appealed to regarding some irregular conduct on the part of the sexton, who was suspended for six months, thus freeing the real rent heritors from any responsibility for the Churchyard. All the real rent heritors, are, however, responsible for the maintenance in a habitable condition of the manse.

In 1886, the Burying Ground surrounding the Church, which had served the parish for nearly 300 years, was declared to be crowded, and the parochial authorities resolved to acquire another site. Ground was taken on the Newport road, walled in and otherwise made suitable. It was declared open by the Sheriff in September, 1887, only those having claims on the old burying ground being allowed rights in the new ground. Besides the Established Church, there was in 1806 an Anti-Burgher Congregation who in 1809

ordained as their pastor, Mr. Adam Blair, a worthy man and an able divine, who was able to supplement his slender income by means of his literary talents, without in the slightest degree neglecting his ministerial duties or losing the affection or respect of his flock. We have read an estimate of this man's worth which said-His sunny smile gladdened any company and his broad humour was infectious and never offensive. It made him a cheerful companion and never created for him a single enemy or cost him one friend." It is no wonder that his flock came from far and near to hear him. The first church he occupied stood near the shore and opposite to Donaldson's Sawmill. It was taken down about 30 years ago. The wife of the Rev. Adam Blair was Elizabeth Henderson, who was said to be descended from a Dane who was wounded either at the Battle of Luncarty or that of Battle Law, west of Gauldry, and was left behind when the Danes retreated to their ships. This family is said to have lived at Nine Wells in the Parish of Forgan for about 800 years, but removed to Ferry-Port-on-Craig about the year 1785, taking with them the head or keystone of their doorway, but this heirloom disappeared about this time.

In 1843, Mr. Nicholson, who was then the Parish Minister, left the Established Church and formed a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. A new Church and manse were built in Queen Street. Mr. Nicholson soon after went to Australia and was succeeded by Mr. Falconer, who ministered to this congregation until his death in July 1886.

There was also a Baptist Meeting House in Broad Street, where Mr. Daniel Stewart, teacher, Broughty Ferry (a worthy man), officiated every Sunday, so long as the steamers sailed between Broughty and Tayport.