

## Extracts on the History of Tayport Parish Church.

(Most of these sources and books are available in the Local Tayport Library)

### Source - Fifeshire Directory

page 102:

### **PARISH OF FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG**

This parish, containing the large village of its own name, is situated in the extreme north-east of the County. It is bounded by the German Ocean on the east, by the parishes of Leuchars and Forgan on the south, by Forgan on the west, and by Firth of Tay on the north. Its length south-eastward is about four miles, and its breadth from half a mile to a mile and a half, its narrowest part being at the middle, to the south-east of the town of Ferry-Port-on-Craig. The north western district is comparatively high and rocky, forming the termination of the most northerly spur of the Ochils, which here sinks into the Tent's Muir, a low tract of level ground only about fifteen feet above high water mark, and which stretches from the terminus of the Ochils, in the parishes of Leuchars and Ferry-Port-on-Craig, to the German Ocean. All along the low ground the soil is light and sandy-, or with light loam on a sandy bottom, which in seasons not too dry, yields good crops of oats and barley. At the south-western extremity there is an extensive range of links, which affords pasturage chiefly for sheep, and are besides stocked with rabbits, the annual rent of the warren amounting to a considerable sum. In the north-western district the soil is a black loam on a whinstone bottom, and produces excellent crops of all kinds. There is an extensive salmon fishery along the whole extent of the shore of the Parish, which is in the hands of the proprietor

and still yields a handsome revenue, though not equal to what it was in the palmy days of the salmon fishery. The Dundee fork of the E. P. & D. Railway crosses the Parish, and has its ferry station at the town. The turnpike roads from Newport and St Michaels to Ferry-Port-on-Craig, also traverse the Parish.

The whole of the Parish is comprised in the estate of Scotsraig; and the mansion of the proprietor, a large and substantial edifice built in 1807, stands amidst pleasant enclosures near the north-west border. At an early period this estate belonged to the Bishops of St Andrews, by one of whom it was feued, during the reign of Alexander II, to Sir Michael Scott, of Balwearie, father of the famous Sir Michael Scott, and it was through that family that the estate received the appellation of Scotsraig. After that period, it several times changed owners, until, during the reign of Charles II, it became the property of Archbishop Sharp, from whose successors it was purchased by Mr Alexander Colville, the representative of the Lords Colville of Culross. From this family the estate was purchased by the Rev Robert Dalgleish who was Minister and proprietor of the whole Parish. The present proprietor is Captain W. M. H. Dougal.