



## FINTRY MUSEUM

### FAMOUS PEOPLE 1

William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland and victor at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, is thought to have taken refuge in Balglass Castle when being hunted by Edward I.



#### William Wallace



#### Rob Roy McGregor

Rob Roy McGregor, romanticised by Sir Walter Scott in his Waverley novels, visited Fintry several times. He did so in raids at Broomhole Farm, to take rent money from the local factor, and likely came often to Balglass Castle from visits to Edinbellie Castle across the valley.



#### John Napier

John Napier often stayed at his son Robert's home, Culcreuch Castle, in the 1600s. John was the inventor of Logarithms (originally Napier's Bones). He was feared as a magician and sorcerer. Edinburgh's Napier University is named after him.



#### Peter Macnee 1769 - 1846

Peter was born in Croftinstilly, like his brother Daniel. A man of many mysteries. His birth year is a guess and seems wrong. He was a teacher in Glasgow and a supporter of the ideas of the French revolution. He claims to have enrolled in the French army and to have risen through the ranks to become Marshall Nee of France, Napoleon's right hand man. He says he faked his execution and was secretly transported to the USA where he became a teacher. Books detail all his claims and experiences and a museum in Carolina is dedicated to him.

#### Sir Daniel Macnee 1806 - 1882

Born in Croftinstilly Fintry. He became a well respected and fashionable portrait painter, living in Glasgow's West Regent Street, then Edinburgh. In 1876 he was elected President of the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy - Scotland's foremost Academy of Art in Edinburgh. He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1877. His works are displayed in The National Portrait Gallery, London and the National Gallery of Scotland.

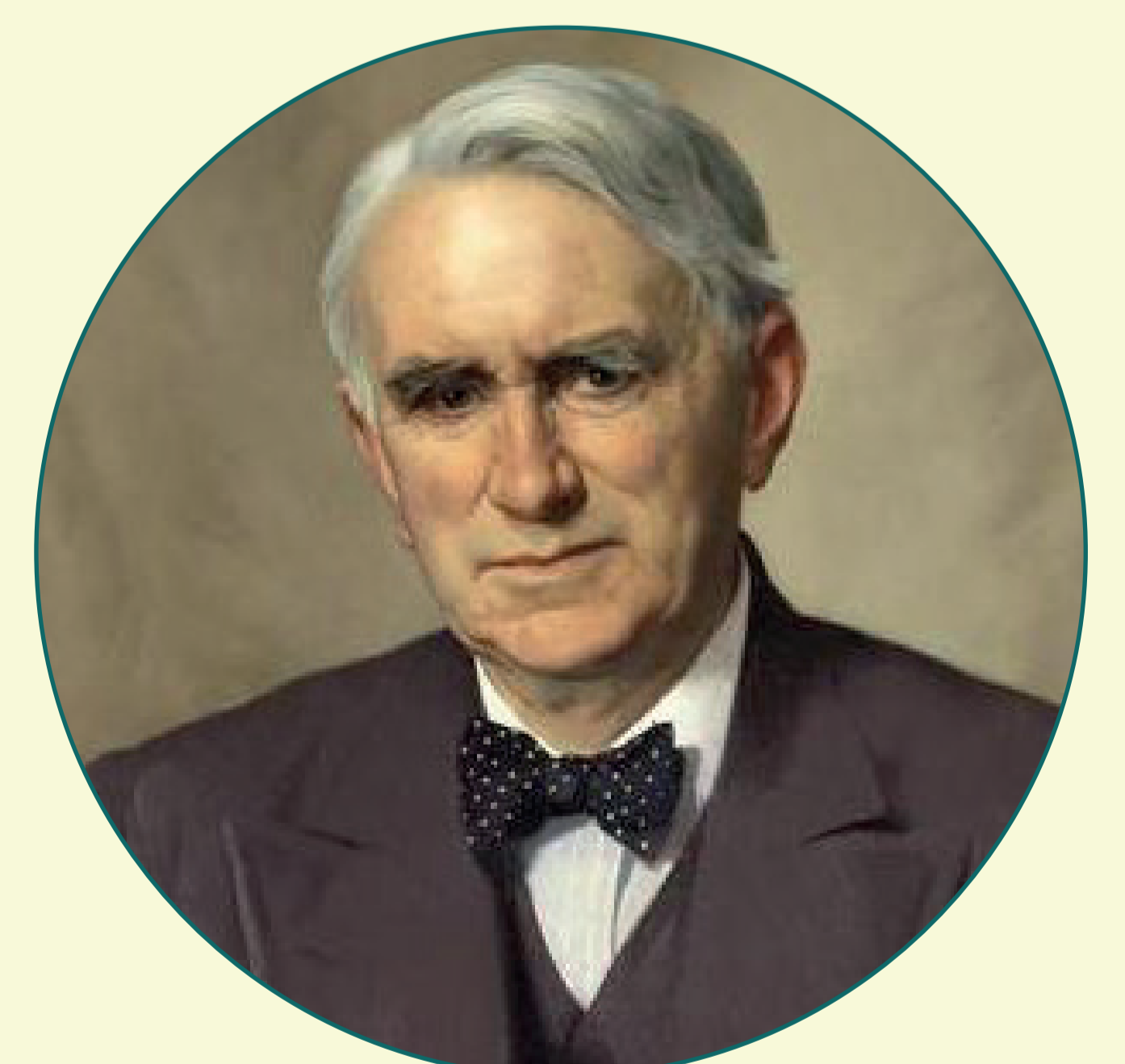


#### Sir Walter Menzies MP 1856 - 1913

He was member of Parliament for South Lanarkshire from 1910 until his death. He owned Culcreuch castle and estate and erected a fountain in the village in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. He built the Menzies Hall to celebrate the coming of age of his son, James in 1907.

#### Tom Johnston MP 1881 - 1965

He lived at 99 Main Street and then moved to Holm Cottage at the Clachan area. He became Secretary of State for Scotland in WW2 working closely with Churchill. He was known as Scotland's most respected citizen. He helped hide the crown jewels in the war and was the founder chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board. He also established the Scottish Hydro Electric Board.



#### Right Hon Julian Smith MP

**Born 1971** His family home is Croftinstilly. Julian attended Fintry Primary and Balfroon High. He was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in 2021. He was highly praised by all parties for his role in securing a cross-party deal to restore the Northern Ireland Executive after three years without a devolved government in Stormont. He was Government Chief Whip under Theresa May and has served as MP for Skipton and Ripon since 2010.