

fine trees that were there, and a splendid wood below the town was swept down, as one man said, like a scythe-cutting corn. Then there is loss by fire of which we have had many examples. All these things have to be taken into consideration before pronouncing the sweeping condemnation owners of estates have to listen to in not going on with afforestation.

In a district such as this, where the ground is dotted over with plantations and woods, the want of trees is not realised. But, if you were to go to the West of Ireland, and run through Connemara, you would see a bare and desolate part of the country. In the forty-nine miles from Galway to Clifden, the capital of that district, scarcely a tree is to be seen—little else but stones, bog, peat, and water—though at Clifden there is a fuchsia hedge from ten to eleven feet high.

One other very noticeable feature in that district is the absence of small birds. Not one is to be seen, as without trees there is neither food nor shelter for them. What a difference from here, where in the month of June the birds are piping forth their song from every tree. Yet, strange to say, the magpie is held in reverence. Though they pick the eggs and the chicks under their owners' very noses, they won't kill one as they say it is unlucky.

Nothing has been done by this Society to make a record of the larger trees growing in the county, to know where they are, and to note every two or three years how much they increase in girth, so as to make a comparison with those growing in other parts of the country. For instance, in the Clyde area trees increase their girth from five-eighths to seven-eighths of an inch per annum, though the same tree may vary in different years according to the season.

The grounds from Duff House to Bridge of Alvah are very suitable for trees, being sheltered to a great extent from the north winds, and watered by the evaporating clouds from the Deveron and the Moray Firth; and a comparison of a few of the trees growing

there with those recorded from other parts of the country will give an idea of what can be done by the members of the Banff Field Club.

In "Old and Remarkable Trees of Scotland," published by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland in 1865, the information as to the size and position of the trees was supplied by head gardeners and foresters on the estates in the various counties and parishes in Scotland.

Duff House grounds contain a number of very fine trees, and can bear comparison with most localities in the North of Scotland—excepting perhaps Gordon Castle. The trees, with two exceptions, are all in the Duff House policies. There are larger trees in some cases than Mr Yeats and I measured, but this, we trust, will form a basis for future measurements.

The paper went on to detail measurements as follows:—

	Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , L. The Ash.						
One, on the main walk, measured in July	1915	9	0	5	0	10
One, do.,	1915	8	4½	5	0	12
From "Old and Remarkable Trees"—						
Parish of Deskford, at Kirton	1864	12	2	4	0	—
Parish of Forglen, on Estate	1864	10	3	4	0	—
Parish of Gamrie, at Tore of Troup	1864	9	0	6	0	—
Parish of Gamrie, at Tore of Troup	1864	8	0	20	0	—
						35
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , L. The Beech.						
One, on the main walk, measured in July	1915	13	4½	5	0	—
One, do.,	1915	12	10½	4	0	—
One, on lower walk, measured in July	1915	11	9	5	0	10
One, do.,	1915	13	5½	5	0	—
From "Old and Remarkable Trees"—						
Parish of King-Edward, Craigston Castle	1864	9	6	13	0	13
Parish of Forglen, on Estate	1864	14	0	4	0	—
Parish of Gamrie, Tore of Troup	1864	9	6	—	—	—
						45
<i>Esculus hippocastanea</i> , L. The Horse Chestnut.						
One measured on main walk, July	1915	7	10	3	9	—
From "Old and Remarkable Trees"—						
Parish of Cullen, one at Cullen House	1864	11	2	5	0	—
						63

Ulmus glabra, Huds.	Scotch Wych	or	Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
Mountain Elm.								
One at corner on main walk, July			1915	11	2	5	0	10
One do., do.			1915	10	0	3	9	—
In "Old and Remarkable Trees," there is only one record for Banff, at Cullen House			1864	16	6	3	0	—
It is stated that in 1745 a fugitive prisoner from the Duke of Cumberland's Army took shelter in this tree.								
One at Balvenie House, Dufftown, occupied by Major Grant, measured in July			1915	20	9	5	0	10
This fine tree has remained unnoticed, either in "Old and Remarkable Trees," or by Mr Hutchison, of Inverness, who gives records of many fine trees for the Highland and Agricultural Society.								
The largest elm given is from the Parish of Kinfauns, Perth, but the height at which the girth was taken is not stated			1864	23	0	—	—	90
The largest given in the Fauna and Flora of the Clyde area, is at Tulliechewan Castle, at Balloch, Dum-								
bartonshire			1894	19	1	2	5	—
At the time the "Old and Remarkable Trees" was published, this fine elm at Balvenie must have been about			—	19	0	—	—	—

and at present is, as far as we know, the largest in Scotland.

The pinetum in the grounds of Duff House is far older than most people imagine. The Rev. Robert Bremner, LL.D., for long minister of Banff, in his report in the "Old and Remarkable Trees," page 245, says—"A great part of Lord Fife's Park at Duff House being in this Parish, we can show some good forest trees. Among these are, especially, a few large silver firs admired by judges, and which the then Earl of Fife liked to show his visitors." He gives no size of any of them, that we could now tell their rate of growth. In going along the main walk, one sees a number of small fir trees, and thinks little about them; but the larger trees behind are not seen till one gets close to them, and one gets a pleasant surprise. The pine trees are now botanically separated. The silver firs are *Abies* and the spruce firs *Picea*. In the pinetum, we measured three spruce firs, *Picea Menziesii*, 1 of Lindley, now *Picea sitchensis*, Carriere.

Menzies Pine, or the Warted Pine.

Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
One measured in July 1915	14	3	5	0
One do. do. 1915	13	1	5	0
One do. do. 1915	14	6	5	0
				71
				39
				34

Mr Elwes writes—In Scotland, the largest we know of, probably the largest in Great Britain, is at Castle Menzies, said to have been 46 years old in October 1890. Mr Renwick measured it carefully in April

1904	13	2	—	—	110	—
------	----	---	---	---	-----	---

Abies Nobilis, *Lindley*. Noble's Silver Fir.

We measured three—

One measured in July 1915	9	11	5	0	—	—
One do. do. 1915	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	0	—	—
One do. do. 1915	6	8	5	0	—	—

Mr Elwes writes—The Noble silver fir generally succeeds better in Scotland than in England. A tree growing at Ballindalloch Castle is said to be the finest in the North of Scotland. It measured in August

1907	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	94	—
------	---	------------------	---	---	----	---

and was said to be 47 years planted.
 One at Buchanan Castle, measured by Mr
 Renwick in
 From these records it will be seen that
 the pines growing in Duff House grounds
 compare favourably with those from any
 district in Scotland.

Abies pectinata, L. The Silver Fir.

We measured three trees on the lower walk
 at the Ferry to Kirkside. One of them
 branches the very same as those called
 Adam and Eve at Roseneath.

One measured in July

One do. do.

One do. do.

From "Old and Remarkable Trees"—

The largest tree in the County of Aber-
 deen is in the Parish of Rayne

One tree at the Tore of Troup measured

One tree in a decaying state measured

Two trees at Ballindalloch Castle—

No. 1 measured

No. 2 measured

Mr Hutchison records two fine trees, one in
 Oyne

Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
1908	7 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 0	—	81	—
1915	14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0	—	—	—
1915	12 10	5 0	—	—	—
1915	10 10	5 0	—	—	—
1864	13 0	—	—	80	—
1864	9 6	—	—	55	36
1864	12 0	—	—	80	60
1864	10 10	10 0	—	100	—
1864	10 5	6 0	—	98	—
1882	13 6	5 0	14	95	—
1882	12 2	—	14	108	—

It would be interesting to know if these trees are still there, and the same as those measured in 1882.

Mr Hutchison also records one from Morayshire, Findhorn Woods, in

The two giants, Adam and Eve, at Rose-neath, Dumbartonshire, the last time I saw Mr Renwick measure them

Adam measured in June

Eve do. do.

Araucaria imbricata, *R. and P. Monkey's*
Puzzle.

We measured two trees in the pinetum.

One measured in July

One do do.

The lower branches were decayed.

The largest of these trees in the Fauna and Flora of the Clyde area was growing at Glendoune, Girvan.

It measured in July

We measured two in Erskine policies in September of this year

Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
1882	13 0	5 0	—	105
1912	21 11	—	—	—
1912	21 8	—	—	—
1915	4 4	5 5	—	—
1915	4 5	5 0	—	—
1898	5 9	—	—	36
1915	5 11	4 0	—	51 6
1915	4 6	4 0	—	—

Quercus Robur, L. The Oak.

Three oaks near each other in the lower

walk

Measured in July

Do. do.

Do. do.

There are no records of the oak given for Banffshire, and only one for Aberdeen.

The largest is in the Parish of Oyne—Tillyfour, Sir A. Grant. It measured in

Pyrus Malus, Linn. The Apple.

One in the grounds of Duff House measured in July

Acer pseudo-platanus, L. Great Maple.

We measured one in Dufftown in a street just off the Square. Why it was left standing there by the side of the paved walk is left for some one to explain.

It measured in July

In "Old and Remarkable Trees" there is no record for Banffshire.

One tree at Glenbucket Castle (Earl of Fife), in the County of Aberdeen, measured in

Date	Girth		At		Bole Height		Spread
	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
1915	9	10	5	0	—	—	—
1915	9	8	5	0	—	—	—
1915	6	10	5	0	—	—	—
1864	10	6	4	0	—	50	—
1915	5	1	5	0	12	—	—
1915	8	10	5	0	7	—	—
1864	9	8	3	0	—	—	34

Pyrus communis, L. The Pear.

Banff has been long noted for jargonelle pears. The Rev. Robert Bremner, LL.D., in his report in "Old and Remarkable Trees," page 243, gives the size of the pear tree in the Manse garden

He says it is the only tree worth taking notice of. It was called "The Minister's Tree," "The Shirramuir," "Byron's Pear," "The Banff Chaumontelle." He gives the size. Girth at the ground, 13 ft.; at 2 feet up, 9 ft.; from that point it went off in two branches, one 6 ft. in girth and the other 4 ft.; it was about 42 ft. high with a circumference of 153 ft. He further says that from the 8th to the 20th of May, its blossoms are a show worth travelling a long way to see. Jargonelle pears, no doubt, had been introduced by the monks from other lands, and it would seem that the soil and climate are favourable for their growth. Years ago I know there was scarcely a garden but where jargonelle pears could be gathered. According to Spalding, Munroe's troopers made sad havoc among them about the year 1650.

Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
—	—	—	—	42	153

Salix alba, L. The White-Leaved or Common White Willow.

We measured one on lower walk in July
There is no record for the County of Banff
in "O. and R. Trees."

The largest given is in Fife

Tilia Europæa, L. The Lime tree.

The Duchess tree at Gordon Castle recorded
in "Old and Remarkable Trees,"
measured in

The circumference of its branches, 310 ft.
Mr Elwes and Mr Henry give the size in
Circumference of branches, 126 spaces.

They also in their "Trees of Great Britain and Ireland" state that at Gordon Castle there is the most remarkable group of holly trees. Nowhere has he seen anything like them. There are 54 trees from 30 to 40 ft. high, averaging about 3 ft. in girth. The finest black poplar they had seen in Scotland was there in 1908; it measured 15 ft. 6 in. in girth and 100 ft. high.

Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	Age Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
1895	7 1	5 0	—	—	—
	21 0	—	—	—	—
1864	16 6	—	3	70	—
1908	17 4	—	—	89	—

Salix alba, L. The White-Leaved or Common White Willow.

We measured one on lower walk in July 1895
There is no record for the County of Banff in "O. and R. Trees."
The largest given is in Fife

Tilia Europæa, L. The Lime tree.

The Duchess tree at Gordon Castle recorded in "Old and Remarkable Trees," measured in

The circumference of its branches, 310 ft. Mr Elwes and Mr Henry give the size in Circumference of branches, 126 spaces.

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Date	Girth Ft. Ins.	At Ft. Ins.	Bole Ft.	Height Ft.	Spread Ft.
1895	7 1	5 0	—	—	—
	21 0	—	—	—	—
1864	16 6	—	3	70	—
1908	17 4	—	—	89	—

Trees at Forglen.

Mr Yeats submitted the following interesting notes from Mr Jas. M'Hardy, forester at Forglen, on Gigantic Trees at Forglen—

Year measured.	Species.	Circum-ference		Circum-ference		Remarks.
		at surface.		at 4 feet.		
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	
1859 (1)	Spanish Chestnut	13	0	—	—	Still healthy.
1890		16	11	13	6	Increase of 3
1915		19	11	14	10	ft. circumfer- ence in 25 years.
1859 (1)	European Larch	16	0	—	—	
1890		16	9	11	10½	Increase in 56 years, 2ft. 7in.
1915		18	7	12	2	Decaying.
1915 (1)	Sequoia Gigantea	19	10	—	—	Leader dam- aged.
1915 (1)	Common Ash	15	0	11	10	Top decaying
	(1) Common Beech	18	2	12	1	Still healthy.
1915 (1)	Scots Pine	11	3	8	5	Clean bole, 31'
" (2)	" "	10	3½	6	10	" 38'
" (3)	" "	10	0	7	8	" 40'
" (4)	" "	10	2	7	4	" 32'
" (5)	" "	8	2½	6	1½	" 31'
1915 (1)	Douglas Firs	—	—	6	4½	47 years old.
" (2)	"	—	—	7	4½	69 feet high.
" (3)	"	—	—	8	9	at 27' = 4' 10"
" (4)	"	—	—	7	7	at 35' = 3' 9"
" (5)	"	—	—	6	9½	at 45' = 2' 7"

The five Douglasii are 47 years old.

A vote of thanks to the President for his interesting paper was passed on the motion of the Chairman

Fir Wood, Banff.

Attention was directed to the resolution of the Town Council of Banff to remove over 140 trees in the Fir Wood said to be dead. It was agreed to make representation to the Council, and respectfully ask them that in this matter they should be guided by expert advice, so that only where it was absolutely necessary should trees be removed, and that at the same time steps might be taken to conserve the supply by planting. Several members pointed out that trees, although dead, acted as an efficient shelter to other trees.

Office-Bearers.

The office-bearers for next year were elected

as follows:—President—Mr Wm. Barclay, Banff. Vice-Presidents—Rev. George Sutherland, Aberdeen; Rev. William Anderson, Bridge of Allan; Bishop Chisholm, Aberdeen; Sheriff Grant, Inverness; Mr J. A. Harvie-Brown, F.R.S.E., Dunipace; Mr James Grant, LL.B., Banff; Mr George D. Thomson, Kindrought; Mr James T. Gordon, Cupar Fife; Mr John Runcieman, Auchmill; Mr John Graham Callander, F.S.A.Scot., Edinburgh; Mr John Yeats, M.A., Banff; Mr William G. Craib, M.A., Edinburgh; Mr William Chapman, Banff; Dr Andrew Murray, Banff; Mr John Malcolm Bulloch, M.A., London; and Mr Lawrence Watt, Clydebank. Treasurer, Mr James Grant; secretary, Mr John Yeats; assistant secretary, Mr William Simpson; members of Council—Messrs John Garden, Charles S. M'Pherson, William Jeffrey, William Robertson, and Dr Ledingham; local secretaries and corresponding members—Messrs John Runcieman, Auchmill; George D. Thomson, Kindrought; and Mr Malcolm Gray, Buckie. Delegates to joint meeting of Northern Literary and Scientific Societies—the President and Treasurer