

Sources in Local History
New Series Volume 31

THE TIME BOOK OF AN
APPRENTICE JOINER,
JEDBURGH, 1900

Transcribed and introduced by

Ian Abernethy



THE EUROPEAN
ETHNOLOGICAL
RESEARCH CENTRE

*The Time Book of an Apprentice Joiner,
Jedburgh, 1900*

Transcribed by
Ian Abernethy

Introduced by
Ian Abernethy

Edited by
Kenneth Veitch

First published in 2023 by
The European Ethnological Research Centre

University of Edinburgh
21 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh EH8 9LN
Scotland

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Sources in Local History
General editor: Kenneth Veitch

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EDITING

In preparing the book for publication, the aim has been to create an edition that is both true to the original and accessible to a wide readership. To achieve this, the following editorial conventions have been adopted.

Spelling

The original spelling, which is of a generally high standard throughout, has been retained. Sic has been used sparingly, mainly to indicate a misspelling or irregular spelling that might otherwise be taken for a transcribal or typographical error, and then only on the first appearance of the word in the text.

Abbreviations

The author nearly always abbreviated 'Hour' and 'Hours' to 'Hr' and 'Hrs', respectively, and often used '@' for 'at' and '&' for 'and'. All of these abbreviations have been silently expanded. For other abbreviations, the missing letters have been added in [] when the word might not be immediately obvious.

Capitalisation

The author randomly capitalised the occasional word. In such instances, the initial letter has been silently changed to lower case.

Punctuation

The original punctuation (such as it is) has been retained.

Layout

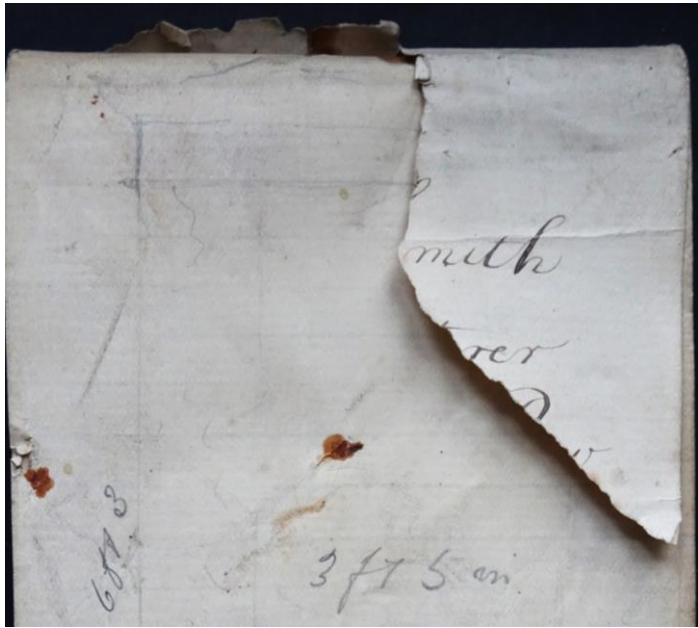
To make the text more readable, the entries have been indented and each one started on a new line.

THE BOOK: A SHORT DESCRIPTION, WITH FACSIMILES

The apprentice recorded his working hours in a flip notebook measuring 140 mm x 88 mm. The pages of the book are ruled throughout on both sides with faint, blue lines. They are now loose, the staple that held the book together having perished or been removed at some point. The front and back covers are missing, as are the pages containing the entries from 17 January to part way through 2 March. The corresponding pages in the second half of the book are also missing.

The surviving pages are rather worn and grubby, and some are stained with rust spots. The entries were written on both sides of the page in pencil, which has faded in places but only in one instance beyond legibility.

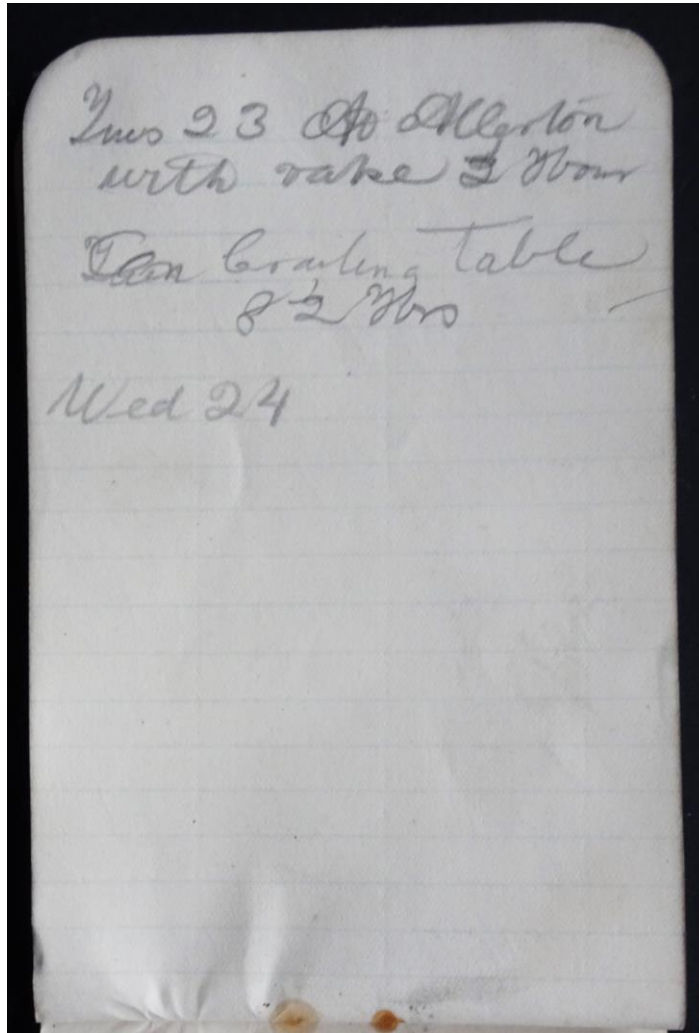
The opening entry is dated 12 January. This was the first day of the new year according to the Julian calendar and was still recognised as such in some parts of Scotland. The last entry is dated 23 October. It is followed by seventeen blank pages, and then some pages containing sketches and measurements.



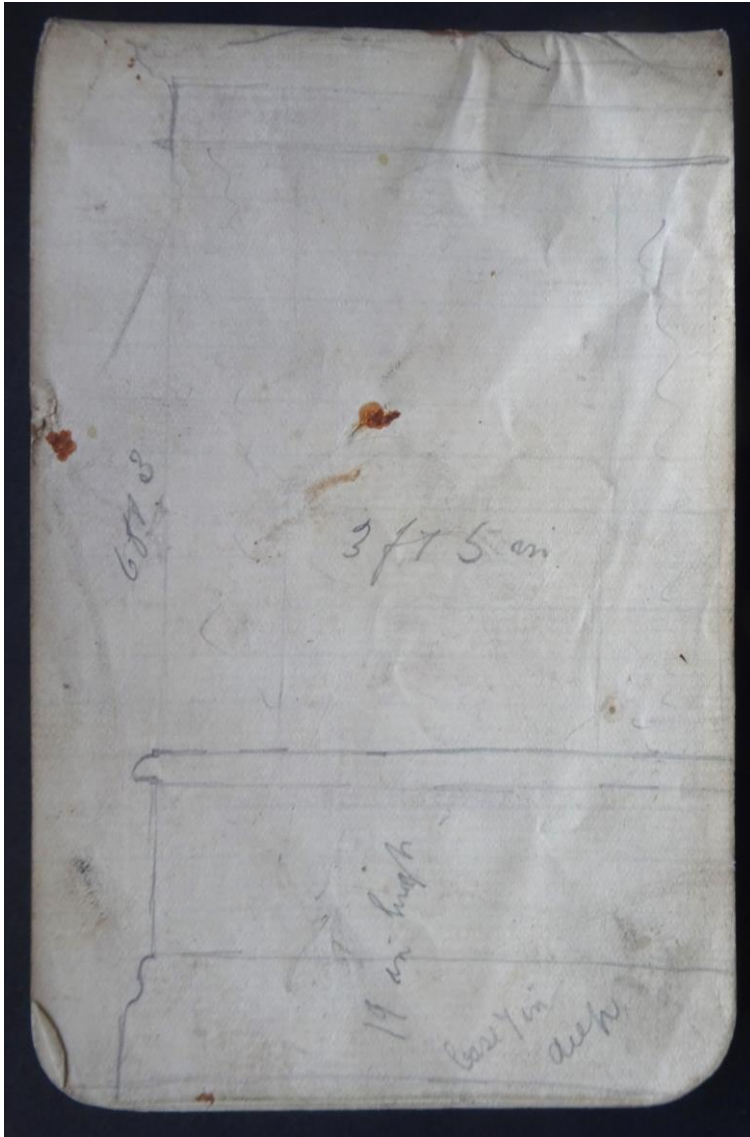
Facsimile 1. The remaining fragment of the last extant page of the book.
(Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

Took the Lifting aspects
of the Mission Hall
after some in connection
with the Guild.
& bringing them up to
Carrying in bags
abouting up the yard etc
At Mr. Ivors house and
new mattress &
tightening up spring
mattresses 1 hour
Putting pictures into
frames etc 1/2 hr
Making 4 chairs
1 hour

Facsimile 2. The opening page of the book. It records the work done on Friday 12 January.
(Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

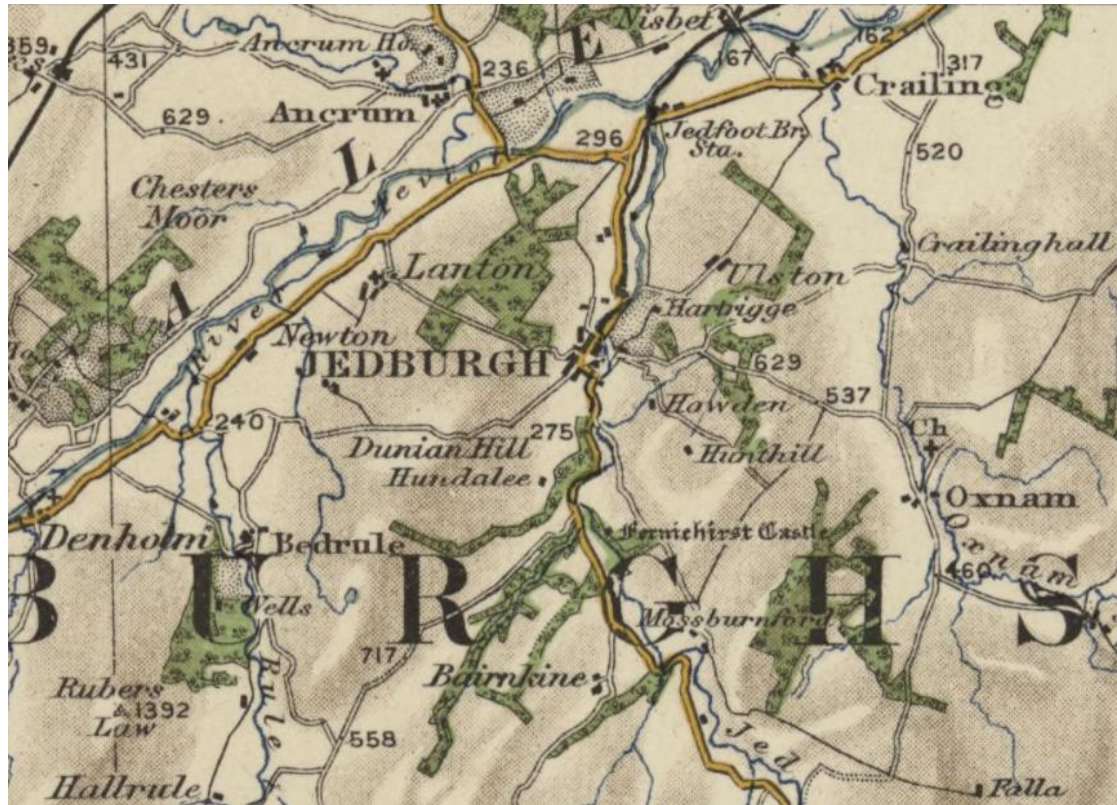


Facsimile 3. The entry for Wednesday 24 October was left unwritten, bringing the year's record to an abrupt end. (Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

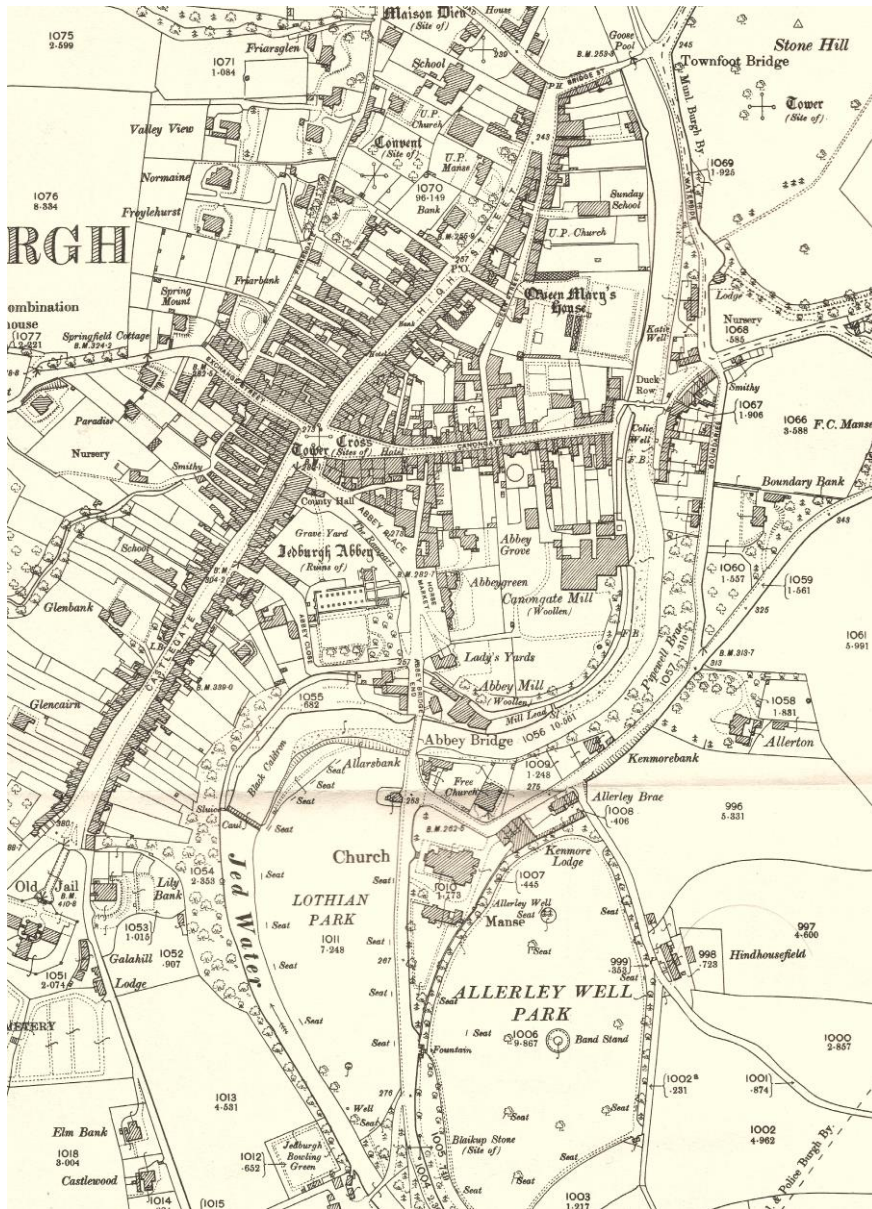


Facsimile 4. A rough sketch with measurements, perhaps of a wardrobe, press or cupboard with a moulded plinth.
(Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

MAPS



Map 1. A detail from the Ordnance Survey quarter-inch map of Roxburghshire (1903), showing Jedburgh and some of the neighbouring settlements mentioned in the book.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Map 2. A detail from the Ordnance Survey six-inch map of Roxburghshire (1898), showing many of the places where the apprentice worked in the town of Jedburgh, including Allerton, Elm Bank, Lily Bank, Kenmore Lodge, and Paradise. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, my wife and I bought one of a pair of cottages. One was still occupied by a working blacksmith and farrier while ours had been the wheelwright's house. The large workshop still contained an ancient and substantial treadle lathe, used for turning the naves (hubs) of cart wheels, as well as a large joiner's bench. Between the two houses is a tiring platform where the wooden wheels were joined by the ironwork from the smiddy. I took an interest in the craft of the wheelwright and began to collect tools connected to the trade: I visited village workshops and bought items at various antique shops in the Borders. It was on one of these forays that I examined a joiner's tool chest, which contained nothing of interest apart from a small notebook, which appeared to be records of various jobs and the time taken to do them, so I bought it. After examining it at home, I found that there was no indication of the writer, but he worked for someone referred to as 'J.C.C.', who, I discovered, was John Currie Clark, a master cabinet maker in Jedburgh.

Jedburgh was a royal burgh, the county town of Roxburghshire and the site of the circuit court and county gaol. In the nineteenth century, it was pretty well self sufficient, having all the trades necessary to function as a community – even a gun factory! John Currie Clark was a pillar of that community. His obituary in the *Hawick News* on 3 October 1930 described him as 'The oldest Town Councillor and Magistrate in Scotland' (he was eighty-six at the time of death); and he had also been an elder of the parish kirk, a colour sergeant in the Border Volunteer Rifles and a keen marksman. Clark's business was located in the Canongate, but he also owned property in the High Street. Obviously a highly skilled craftsman, he was employed in carving the woodwork around the apse of the parish kirk and the communion table at Crailing parish kirk, but the notebook illustrates the great variety of tasks which the townsfolk called upon Clark to tackle. In addition to fine furniture, he provided the community with affordable, everyday items such as stools and washstands, often made from cheap wood such as birch. In common with many woodworkers at that time, he also acted as undertaker.

Identifying the writer of the notebook was more problematical and, although days and months were marked, no year was recorded. Fortunately, one entry – putting out flags to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith – fixed the

year as 1900. It was quickly apparent that the writer was often called upon to carry out unskilled tasks such as picking apples for Clark, cutting up firewood, cleaning windows, hunting rats, and tracking down smells! To my mind, this would seem to indicate an apprentice rather than a skilled craftsman and, fortunately, I could find only two cabinet maker's apprentices in the 1901 Census. One was an Alexander Harkness but since his father was a master cabinet maker, it seems likely that he would have served his apprenticeship there. The other name in the Census was Richard Yule (aged eighteen years old), who lived with his parents and siblings at Linthaugh Cottage, Jedburgh. There is a further tentative link between Clark and Yule: both served in the Jedburgh company of the Border Volunteer Rifles, Clark as a colour sergeant and Yule as a private.

A distraction presents itself if we examine the small fragment of what is now the last page of the book: written in ink (the rest of the book is in pencil) there appears 'mith', no doubt for 'smith' or 'Smith' (Facsimile 1). Now, I cannot find anyone with that name, in Jedburgh, who was apprenticed to a cabinet maker or joiner, and I offer three possible reasons for the appearance of the name. First, Richard Yule later married the daughter of the sheriff clerk, Margaret Renilson Smith and this may have been a youthful romantic doodle. Second, as we have seen, the single momentous event to occur at that time was the relief of Ladysmith and the fragment may be part of that name. Third, since the page has been deliberately torn off, it may mean that the notebook originally belonged to someone named Smith but had been re-purposed. Whatever the case, I remain of the opinion that the book belonged to Richard Yule.

He was still in Jedburgh in 1905, appearing that year as a witness in a trial. By the 1911 Census, however, he was living in Partick (Glasgow) and describing himself as a 'journeyman joiner'. He was still there for the 1921 Census. After an apparently successful career, he retired to Portobello (Edinburgh), where he died in 1958. He and Margaret only had the one child, Violet. She was born in 1915 but, sadly, died the following year.

Richard made one further contribution to the town of Jedburgh: the *Jedburgh Gazette* for 3 October 1942 reported the origin of the 'Re-union Dinner' the night before the start of the Jedburgh Games.

A Jethart 'exile' from the West Country, Mr Richard Yule, arrived one year, and, finding things pretty flat on the Friday night, accosted Mr J. Purdie, who was at that time Treasurer of the Games, with his

complaint, which seems to have been fully justified. Why couldn't Jethart provide something interesting on the Friday night? he asked. He had been up in the Cross and found nobody to talk to; neither could any cronies be found elsewhere, and all round, Jethart was anything but lively for the returning native. Mr Purdie had himself been thinking the same, and this incident brought it home to him very forcibly that the Committee really were neglecting their duty in failing to cater for visitors and natives on the Friday night. The matter was put before the Committee, therefore, and the result was the very successful Re-Union Dinners that are looked back on with feelings of pleasure by many 'exiles' all over the country.

Ian Abernethy



Figure 1. The end of a joiner's moulding plane stamped with the names of its various owners, including 'J. C. Clark'.
(Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

THE TIME BOOK OF AN
APPRENTICE JOINER,
JEDBURGH, 1900

[January]

- Fri. 12 Lifting carpets at the Mission Hall after soiree in connection with the Guild and bringing them up 2 Hours
Carrying in hay and cleaning up yard 1½ Hours
At McIvors house with new mattress and tightening up spring mattresses 1 Hour
Putting pictures into frames etc 2½ Hours
Making chairs 1 Hour
- Sat. 13 Making Mrs Capt Brown's mother's^[1] coffin 6½ Hours
- Mon. 15 Making safe^[2] for ditto 2 Hours
On chairs 6 Hours
- Tues. 16 Hunting rats in house 2 Hours
On chairs 4 Hours
Making brackets for Gram[mar] School blind rollers and putting them up 2 Hours

[pages missing]

[February]

- Messages for house ½ Hour
- Sat. 3 Taking down Ba' shutters^[3] and putting them away in store 2 Hours
Chairs 2½ Hours
Sturrock's window 2 Hours
- Mon. 5 Sorting table for book press^[4] at T. Simson's office 1½ Hours
Used 2 pieses [*sic*] wood 16in x 34 8 [*illegible – pencil faded*]
from shop
On chairs 6½ Hours
- Tue. 6 At Mission Hall measuring dining table 1½ Hours
On chairs 7 Hours
Messages for house ½ Hour
- Wed. 7 On chairs 8 Hours

Thur. 8 Cleaning up yard and shifting oak etc and bringing lime into shop
2½ Hours
On chairs 5½ Hours

Fri. 9 Putting on paraffin barrel ½ Hour
On chairs 5½ Hours

Sat. 10 On chairs 4½ Hours
Putting doors on roof to keep snow from breaking glass

Mon. 12 On chairs 8 Hours

Tue. 13 At Miss Forrest's sorting stands for pots and pans and back door 5
Hours
Cutting up firewood 2 Hours
On chairs 1 Hour
Used 1 piece of wood 12in x 1½ x 1½ thick.

Wed. 14 Seeking out wood and making little elbo chair^[5] for child 7 Hours
Helping T. Wilson^[6] to put Pembroke table^[7] together and
seeking out wood for top 1 Hour

Thur. 15 Cleaning up shop etc 2 Hours
Putting in pane 13½ x 11 at Sergt Lawtons's 1 Hour
Cutting up old flooring and old beams 5 Hours

Fri. 16 On small elbochair 7½ Hours
Messages for house ½ Hour

Sat. 17 Sorting chair for Mrs Riddle and varnishing it used one backfold
hinge and screws 2 Hours
On small elbo chair 4 Hours

Mon. 19 Planeing lime dales^[8] etc 3 Hours
Mixing up red polish for the Manse ½ Hour
Taking off boards for plumber to mend pipe ½ Hour
Sharpening tools 1 Hour
Making two nursing stools for stock 3 Hours

Tue. 20 Ditto 6½ Hours
Laying carpets at the Mission Hall for Guild Bowling Club 1 Hour
Taking table up to Mrs Waldie's after getting new leaf put on ½
Hour

- Wed. 21 Cutting firewood for house 7 Hours
 Varnishing nursing stools 1 Hour
- Thur. 22 Cutting up sticks for house 3 Hours
 Planeing lime beams 2 Hours
 On small elbo chair for stock 2 Hours
 Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour
- Fri. 23 On small elbo chair for stock 2 Hours
 Sorting water closet seat for Robt Smith 1 Hour
 Making small table for stock 5 Hours
- Sat. 24 Sorting birch water closet seat for Robt Smith, Mayfield 2½ Hours
 On small table for stock 1 Hour
 Getting down sofa into shop from upstairs, cleaning it and putting
 in a bit of veneer 1½ Hours
- Mon. 26 Mending sofa 1 Hour
 Painting strips of wood to be put on Oxnam church^[9] window
 1 Hour
 Taking wood off shelf in the workshop and mixing old putty 3
 Hours
 On small table for stock 3 Hours
- Tue. 27 Making small birch washstand for stock 8 Hours
- Wed. 28 At Simson's, Lily Bank measuring oilcloth^[10] on kitchen floor ½
 Hour
 Cleaning up shed and putting chairs, tables etc up into it 5 Hours
- March
- Thur. 1 Packing dining table for Mr Ormiston late of Ulston etc 1½ Hours
 Helping T. Murdoch to put linen back on sofa 1 Hour
 Putting Pembroke table up into shed ½ Hour
 Putting out flags at J.C.C. for relief of Ladysmith^[11] 1 Hour
 On small table for stock.
 Making three shelves for Miss Forrest's case and putting them in
 3 Hours
- Fri. 2 Holiday for Kelso Hiring^[12]

Sat. 3 At Robt Smith's, Mayfield boxing pipes etc 5 Hours

Mon. 5 Making water closet seat and box for pipe for Robt Smith's 8 Hours

Tue. 6 Putting on Ba' shutters^[13] at Bell and Millar's, McIvor's and Clark's 1½ Hours
At Robt Smith's lining wall in water closet 3 Hours
Half holiday

Wed. 7 Getting seat ready and putting it on etc at Robt Smith's 7½ Hours
Ancrum Ball^[14] ½ Hour

Thur. 8 At Robt Smith's sorting water closet 7½ Hours
Putting up shed to keep garden tools in ½ Hour

Fri. 9 Ditto 5 Hours
At Crailing church^[15] taking off black cloth 3 Hours

Sat. 10 Putting up shed 4 Hours
Seeking out old haircloth and packing it up 1 Hour

Mon. 12 On shed 8 Hours

Tue. 13 Ditto 4 Hours
Getting ready supports and flooring for extension of platform at Mission Hall 4 Hours

Wed. 14 On platform for Mission Hall 5 Hours
At cemetery lining Mrs Dodds's^[16] grave 2 Hours
Used 36 ft of 9 inch by 1 inch thick fir.
Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour

Thur. 15 On Mission Hall platform 10 Hours

Fri. 16 Ditto 4 Hours
Grinding tools 1 Hour
Making night stool^[17] 3 Hours

Sat. 17 Taking down platform at Mission Hall and bringing wood to shop 5½ Hours

Mon. 19 On night stool 8 Hours

Tue. 20 Ditto 7 Hours
Getting out door etc for Edgar's 1 Hour

Wed. 21 On night stool for Stedman 8 Hours

Thur. 22 On ditto for stock 7½ Hours
At Simpson's, Lily Bank measuring bed for straw mattress ½ Hour

Fri. 23 On night stool 3½ Hours
In Campbell's sorting doors etc 4½ Hours

Sat. 24 Ditto 3½ Hours
At the church taking black cloth off gallery and putting felt on J.C.C.'s seat 1 Hour
On night stool for stock ½ Hour

Mon. 26 Ditto 6½ Hours
On barrow with T. Wilson 1½ Hours

Tue. 27 At Mrs Drummond's the Manse hanging pictures etc 4 Hours
On night stool 3½ Hours
Getting out bed for T. Dawrie [*sic*] ½ Hour

Wed. 28 On night stool 2½ Hours
Making coffin for Mrs Donald 6 Hours

Thur. 29 Cleaning up the shop etc 1 Hour
Making case for Miss Forrest and putting it up 4 Hours
Getting out wood for glass press and making press 2 Hours
Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour

Fri. 30 On press 5 Hours
Making safe for Mr Donald 1 Hour
At Simpson's, Lily Bank with new straw mattress and laying stair carpets 2 Hours

Sat. 31 On press 4 Hours
At Wood's Hundalee Bank for chair 1 Hour

April

Mon. 2 At Smith's reglazing windows 6 Hours
On press 2 Hours

Tue. 3 Ditto 8 Hours

Wed. 4 Cleaning windows in house etc 1 Hour
On press 7 Hours

Thur. 5 Beating carpet and laying it and putting up blinds for house 2 Hours
On press 6 Hours

Fri. 6 On another press 7½ Hours
Work for J.C.C. ½ Hour
Bringing up stabs^[18] from saw mill 1½ Hours

Sat. 7 Hunting rats and filling up ditto holes 3 Hours
On press 2 Hours

Mon. 9 Beating and laying carpet for house 1 Hour
On press 7 Hours

Tue. 10 At Smith's putting on roofing on coalhouse etc 6 Hours
On press 2 Hours

Wed. 11 Ditto 1½ Hours
Hunting rats in Edgar's 2½ Hours
Lining wall in Mr Scott's and putting up plates 4 Hours

Thur. 12 Beating carpets for house and laying bedroom one etc 2½ Hours
Making false bottom for pulpit 5 Hours
On press ½ Hour

Fri. 13 At the church with bottom for pulpit and getting paper pattern
of seat for cushion 1½ Hours
Taking out two pictures etc for Frank 1 Hour
On press 5½ Hours

Sat. 14 Lining up entrance from J.C.'s to back door 1½ Hours
Putting in pictures for Frank 1 Hour
On press 2½ Hours

Mon. 16 Ditto 8 Hours

Tue. 17 Cleaning pictures for house and hanging them 2½ Hours
On press 5½ Hours

- Wed. 18 Working in Edgar's 6 Hours
On press 2 Hours
- Thur. 19 Cleaning windows at Bell and Millar's 1 Hour
Putting on base in Edgar's and hingeing door for Turnbull 2 Hours
Putting pictures into frames 5½ Hours
- Fri. 20 Cleaning windows at Dr Sturrock's 2 Hours
Taking plants to Mission Hall 2 Hours
Putting pictures into frames and seeking out mouldings in
wareroom etc 3½ Hours
Shifting piano ½ Hour
- Sat. 21 Putting in pictures 4 Hours
On press ½ Hour
Cleaning up lorry^[19] shell etc ½ Hour
- Mon. 23 Taking plants from Mission Hall to Irvine's Nursery and bringing
hay from Spence's 1½ Hours
Cleaning windows at Thomson's the bank 4 Hours
Sorting clock for McIvor 2 Hours
On press 1½ Hours
- Tue. 24 Putting on lock on water closet at Tennant's 1 Hour
Making arch for Middleton's stair 3 Hours
Mending chairs for Caledonian Hotel 3½ Hours
At Lightbody's with oilcloth and laying it 1½ Hours
- Wed. 25 Hunting dead rats to remove smell in Scott's etc 2½ Hours
At MacDougall's office laying oilcloth 3 Hours
On Middleton's arch 3½ Hours
- Thur. 26 Beating carpets for Henry Laidlaw 4½ Hours
Laying oilcloth at McDougall office 1 Hour
At Smith Paradise hanging pictures and bringing glass down for
shop 2 Hours
On Middleton's arch 1½ Hours
- Fri. 27 At Lightbody's putting up blind ½ Hour
On Middleton arch 8½ Hours

- Sat. 28 Beating stair carpet for house 1 Hour
 Laying oilcloth etc in J.C.C. water closet 2 Hours
 On Middleton's job 3 Hours
- Mon. 30 At Crailing fitting up Middleton's arch on stair 11 Hours
- May
- Tue. 1 Unpacking mattresses for J.C.C. and putting them up into shed
 1½ Hours
 Putting up two shelves and two plates in Lauder's 4½ Hours
 Putting pictures into frames 3 Hours
- Wed. 2 Planeing posts and rails for paling to be put up in garden 2½ Hours
 Flitting Mrs Cockburn 2 Hours
 Putting in pictures 5½ Hours
- Thur. 3 Making partition for Mrs McCall's refreshment room 9 Hours
- Fri. 4 Ditto 6½ Hours
 Lifting and beating carpet for Mrs Thomson the bank 2½ Hours
- Sat. 5 On Matilda's job 4 Hours
 Making frame to take photographs etc 2 Hours
- Mon. 7 Holiday^[20]
- Tue. 8 Taking in furniture for the ostler of the Eagle^[21] 3 Hours
 Beating carpets for H. Laidlaw 3 Hours
- Wed. 9 At Forrest's laying oilcloth and hanging pictures 3 Hours
- Thur. 10 Laying oil cloth on at Lauder's 1½ Hours
 On Mrs McCall's 6½ Hours
- Fri. 11 On Mrs McCall's job 9 Hours
- Sat. 12 On oil cloth for T. Veitch ½ Hour
 Taking stitches out of carpet for Wooden^[22] 1 Hour
 On Mrs McCall's job 4½ Hours
- Mon. 14 Taking in wood into yard 1 Hour
 On Mrs McCall's job 8 Hours

- Tue. 15 Beating carpets for Mrs Thomson and bringing two chairs up to shop to mend 2½ Hours
 Putting wood into shed etc 2 Hours
 On Mrs McCall 4½ Hours
- Wed. 16 Bringing pictures through from store and cleaning them up for sale 3½ Hours
 Helping J. C. Clark to cut blinds ½ Hour
- Thur. 17 Taking articles to sale from store etc 3 Hours
 At Bell and Millar's hunting for smell 3 Hours
 On Matilda's job 3 Hours
- Fri. 18 Beating carpet for Dr Sturrock 2½ Hours
 Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour
 On Mrs McCall's job 5½ Hours
- Sat. 19 Beating and laying carpet for Dr Sturrock and cleaning windows 2½ Hours
 On Mrs McCall's job 3½ Hours
- Mon. 21 Beating carpets for Miss Laidlaw 2½ Hours
 On Mrs McCall's job 4½ Hours
 Laying stair carpet etc at Dr Sturrock's 2 Hours
- Tue. 22 On Mrs McCall's job 4 Hours
 Making chairs for Swan 3 Hours
- Wed. 23 Flitting Mrs McCall 2 Hours
 On chairs for Swan 4½ Hours
 On Mrs McCall's job 3 Hours
 On mantle shelf for Lunn 1 Hour
- Thur. 24 Flitting Oliver from Townfoot to late library^[23] 2 Hours
 Putting up flags at Forrest's ½ Hour
 Putting bottoms on chairs for Keddie, Wooden 2½ Hours
 Half holiday^[24] 4 Hours
- Fri. 25 Getting out beds and furniture to send away 2½ Hours
 Finishing kitchen table for Thomson, Cunzierton 1 Hour
 Keddie's chairs 1 Hours

- Putting glass in door of press 1½ Hours
On press 1 Hour
- Sat. 26 Loading furniture for Walker, Crailinghall 3 Hours
Sorting towel rail for Thomson, Cunzierton 1 Hour
Pack furniture for Thomson, Cunzierton 6½ Hours
- Mon. 28 Packing furniture and sending it away for Thomson, Cunzierton 4½ Hours
Putting in pictures for Abe Swan 2½ Hours
At Mrs Lunn's 1 Hour
Work for J.C.C. 2 Hours
- Tue. 29 At the station with J.C.C. and pony ½ Hour
Getting Swan's furniture away 1 Hour
Making stand for sink at Mrs McCall's place 4½ Hours
Sorting floor and windows at 28 Canongate 4 Hours
- Wed. 30 Polishing up suite for Porter and taking it up 5 Hours
Working at Lunn's putting in panes etc 3 Hours
Working at 28 Canongate 1 Hour
- Thur. 31 Working at Lunn's 4 Hours
Lifting floor in J.C.C. kitchen for smell 1½ Hours
On Mrs McCall's job 3½ Hours
- June
- Fri. 1 Ditto 5½ Hours
Off work 3½ Hours
- Sat. 2 On Mrs McCall's job 3 Hours
Off work 3 Hours
- Mon. 4 Ditto 9 Hours
- Tue. 5 Ditto 9 Hours
- Wed. 6 On Mrs McCall's job 9 Hours
- Thur. 7 Ditto 6½ Hours
At Mr Drummond, The Manse hanging pictures 2½ Hours

Fri. 8 On Mrs McCall's job 9 Hours

Sat. 9 Ditto 8 Hours

Mon. 11 Sorting floor in passage at Mrs McCall's etc
 At Bell and Millar's flooring and lining up wall 4½ Hours
 Beating carpet for J.C.C. 1½ Hours
 Laying J.C.C. carpet 1 Hour

Tue. 12 At Bell and Millar's lining wall etc 8 Hours

Wed. 13 Beating and laying carpet for Mrs Beattie 2 Hours
 Mending chair for Spence 2 Hours
 Putting photos into frame for J. C. Clark 1½ Hours
 Taking chairs to Mrs McCall's ½ Hour
 At Porter's with polished furniture and putting lock on new wardrobe 1 Hour
 Washing clock case for Elliot, Gillies Tongues 2 Hours

Thur. 14 Ditto 2 Hours
 Sorting doors etc at Mrs Robson's house in Castlegate and putting in three panes 6 Hours

Fri. 15 Making chest for Sergt Lawton 9 Hours

Sat. 16 Ditto 5 Hours
 Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour

Mon. 18 Making coffin for W. Wood^[25] 6 Hours
 On Lawton's box 3 Hours

Tue. 19 Scraping sideboard 6 Hours
 Making safe.
 Making tray for Lawton's box etc 3 Hours

Wed. 20 Scraping and polishing sideboard for Dodd 9 Hours

Thur. 21 Ditto 9 Hours

Fri. 22 Making kitchen [table] for Arthur Tarbet 6 Hours
 Polishing the sideboard 3 Hours

Sat. 23 On kitchen table 2 Hours

[*Trades holiday – 2 weeks*]

July

Mon. 9 On kitchen table 9 Hours

Tue. 10 Ditto 8 Hours
At Hugh Knox's 1 Hour

Wed. 11 On kitchen table and varnishing it 6 Hours
At Dodd's, Hundalee Cottage with furniture 2 Hours
Working at Exchange Hotel 1 Hour

Thur. 12 Ditto 3 Hours
Putting up brass rods at Mrs McCall's and taking out panes above
door and varnishing seat etc 5½ Hours
Putting in pictures ½ Hour

Fri. 13 Ditto 5 Hours
On whatnot^[26] with T. Wilson 4 Hours

Mon. 16 Ditto 9 Hours

Tue. 17 Making two photo frames 3 Hours
Putting wire netting on frame for Mrs Lauder 1 Hour
On whatnot 4 Hours
Putting in pane for Mrs Gowanlock 1 Hour

Wed. 18 On photo frames 7½ Hours
Driving turning lathe^[27] for turnings for whatnot 1½ Hours

Thur. 19 Making birch washstand for stock 6½ Hours
Bringing grass from Manse 1½ Hours
Partitioning off portion of glass house for dark room 1 Hour

Fri. 20 Ditto 6 Hours
At the Manse hanging pictures, putting up curtain pole, putting
up blinds etc 3 Hours

Sat. 21 Ditto 6 Hours making box lid

- Mon. 23 At the Manse with box lid 20 x 17x½ in fir and two blind sticks
3 feet 6 long 1½ Hours
Making dark room 3 Hours
Putting up scaffold in church 4½ Hours
- Tue. 24 Putting up scaffold 5½ Hours
At Allerton with mended chair and bringing down another small
chair and mending and varnishing it 2 Hours
Painting photo frames etc 1½ Hours
- Wed. 25 Ditto ½ Hour
On washstand for stock 1 Hour
Making garden stair for Robt Smith and putting it up 7½ Hours
- Thur. 26 Ditto 1½ Hours
Beating carpet and laying it for Mrs Gowanlock 1½ Hours
Carrying in hay ½ Hour
Making darkroom for J.C.C. 5½ Hours
- Fri. 27 Ditto 9 Hours
- Sat. 28 On birch wash stand for stock. Washing corner cupboard to go
to Hawick and taking out broken panes 2 Hours
Taking two easy chairs to Watson's, Abbey Close ½ Hour
- Mon. 30 Scraping mirror stand and polishing and varnishing it for John
Donald 6 Hours
On birch wash stand for stock 3 Hours
- Tue. 31 Jobbing for Goudy 1 Hour
Grinding tools 1 Hour
Packing up carpets, patterns etc 2½ Hours
On birch wash stand for stock 4½ Hours
- August
- Wed. 1 Ditto on wash stand 8 Hours
Fitting up Goudy's place for photographing 1 Hour
- Fri. 3 Mending mahogany chair for Watson, The Bow 1½ Hours
Taking down scaffold at the church 2 Hours

Putting in pictures into frames 1 Hour
On birch table for stock 4½ Hours

Sat. and Mon. Holidays^[28]

- Tue. 7 Mending chair for Watson, The Bow 1 Hour
 Making photo frames for Mrs Matthew Noble 1 Hour
 Getting tools ready to go to Oxnam church ½ Hour
 Teasing hair for sofas 6½ Hours
- Wed. 8 At Oxnam church putting in 2 panes and putting wood round
 windows 9 Hours
- Thur. 9 Ditto 9 Hours
- Fri. 10 Helping T. Wilson to get out wood for McIvor's case 1 Hour
 On photo frame for Noble 1 Hour
 Carrying wood for J.C.C. and put it in shed 3 Hours
 Bringing wood through from church and putting it in shed 2½
 Hours
 Making lorry for Bill Cowan's 1½ Hours
- Sat. 11 On photo frame for Noble
 Helping Goudy with Mason's sofa 1 Hours
 Planeing wood for McIvor's case 1 Hour
- Mon. 13 Ditto 4 Hours
 Cleaning out place for shed at the head of garden and sinking
 posts 4 Hours
 At Mason's with sofa ½ Hour
 Unpacking cabinet ½ Hour
- Tue. 14 On shed 8 Hours
 Taking table to Smith's 1 Hour
- Wed. 15 Bringing down spring mattress from T. Simpson's and cutting it
 to six feet and packing it and hair mattress to go to Liverpool and
 taking up new straw mattress to Lily Bank 3 Hours
 On shed for J.C.C. 6 Hours
- Thur. 16 Ditto 9 Hours

Fri. 17 Ditto 4 Hours
 Making lorry for Bill Cowan 2 Hours
 Taking in hay 3 Hours

Sat. 18 At the Manse opening up two doors keys being lost for plumber
 to get in and sort pipes 1 Hour
 On shed 3 Hours

Mon. 20 On McIvor's case 9 Hours

Tue. 21 On case 9 Hours

Wed. 22 Ditto 9 Hours

Thur. 23 On shed 8 Hours
 On McIvor's case 1 Hour

Fri. 24 Putting in pane for Miss Laidlaw, Townfoot 1½ Hours
 Cleaning up upper shed 1½ Hours
 On shed 4 Hours

Sat. 25 Cleaning up shed 4 Hours
 On shed 1½ Hours
 Packing up luggage for Spittal ½ Hour

Mon. 27 On shed 6 Hours
 On McIvor's case 3 Hours

Tue. 28 Ditto 9 Hours

Wed. 29 Ditto 9 Hours

Thur. 30 Ditto 9 Hours

Fri. 31 Ditto 9 Hours

September

Sat. 1 On McIvor's case 6 Hours

Mon. 3 In Edgar 2 Hours
 On case.

Thur. 6 At Porter's office laying oilcloth and planeing down knots 4½
Hours

Fri. 7 Ditto 5 Hours
Planeing up board for Housekeeper barracks ½ Hour
5ft x 9½ x ¾

Mon. 10 Cutting sticks and glass rooms.
On case.

Tue. 11 Making partition for Sergt Lawton ½ Hour
Ditto 9 Hours

Wed. 12 Ditto 9 Hours

Thur. 13 At McIvor's changing drawers in counter for safe to get in 4½
Hours
On partition at Lawton's 4½ Hours

Fri. 14 On case fitting it up 7 Hours
Work for Clark 2 Hours

Sat. 15 On case 2 Hours
Making beads for Hundalee Cott[age] 4 Hours

Mon. 17 Planeing door for vestry in church 4 Hours
Putting in pictures 2 Hours

Tue. 18 At Hundalee Cott[age] covering doors 7½ Hours
Taking off old putty from wareroom window 1½ Hours

Wed. 19 Putting glass in case for McIvor 9 Hours

Thur. 20 Ditto 3 Hours
At Hundalee Cott[age] putting in pane 2 Hours

Fri. 21 Mending two easy chairs for Alex P. Moir 3 Hours
On table 5 Hours

Sat. 22 Making table 6 Hours

Mon. 24 Putting perforated bottom on chair for Mason to hold up stuffing
etc 1 Hour

On table 6 Hours
 Shifting stair in workshop 2 Hours
 Making 2 stretching frames for fire screen 2 Hours

Tue. 25 Ditto 1 Hour
 On stair 2 Hours
 Mending travelling basket for Mason putting framework inside
 3 Hours
 On table 3 Hours

Wed. 26 Making two birch brackets for Mrs Oliver's bed 5 Hours
 Cleaning up shop 1 Hour
 Putting bars on bottom of Mason's traveling [*sic*] basket etc 3 Hours

Thur. 27 Making birch table 4½ Hours
 On McIvor's case and taking it through and fitting it up 4½ Hours

Fri. 28 Ditto 9 Hours

Sat. 29 On fire screen 3 Hours
 Taking down apples for J.C.C. 2 Hours

October

Mon. 1 Holiday

Tue. 2 Beating carpet for Mrs John Oliver Boundaries 1½ Hours
 Making stuffing frame for Mrs Beattie's chair 4 Hours
 Taking out picture and putting new glass in it for Mrs Todd
 Castlegate 1 Hour
 Helping Goudy 1 Hour
 On screen 1½ Hours

Wed. 3 On Mrs Beattie's chair 1 Hour
 Making frame for window for Strachan Chemist 2 Hours
 Pulling apples for J.C.C. 2 Hours
 Putting tops onto kitchen tables 4 Hours

Thur. 4 Making frame for Strachan 4 Hours
 Making 2 clothes screen one for Housekeeper Police Barracks
 4½ Hours
 Getting glasses out for pictures etc ½ Hour

- Fri. 5 Putting pictures into frames etc 4 Hours
 Taking down apples for J.C.C. 4 Hours
 On screens 1 Hour
- Sat. 6 Making Mrs Dinely's^[29] coffin 4 Hours
 On screens 3 Hours
- Mon. 8 Cleaning up shop and putting away stuff after coffin 1½ Hours
 Cutting out straps for Mission Hall tables and putting up tables
 7½ Hours
- Tue. 9 Taking down piano from Young's Session School to the Mission
 Hall and decorating platform 2 Hours^[30]
 On Oliver's bed and putting painting for Miss Oliver 7 Hours
- Wed. 10 Taking down tables at the Mission Hall 3 Hours
 Shifting piano from Mission Hall to Young's Session School 1 Hour
 Shifting piano onto platform at the Mission Hall ½ Hour
 On screens and taking one up to Police Barracks 4 Hours
 Getting two glasses cut for frames for John Donald ½ Hour
- Thur. 11 On bed for John Oliver Boundaries 6 Hours
 Seeking out chairs and firescreen and packing them up for Gray
 Edinburgh 3 Hours
- Fri. 12 On Oliver's bed and brackets 9 Hours
- Sat. 13 On bed and at Oliver's putting up curtain pole and clock bracket
 and bed 6 Hours
- Mon. 14^[31] Making steps 2½ Hours
 On Oliver's bed and working at Oliver's 6½ Hours
- Tue. 15 Mending clock with T. Wilson for J.C.C. 4 Hours
 Cleaning and painting folding stair for J.C.C. 1½ Hours
 Making pair of large steps for J.C.C. 2½ Hours
 At the Session School for two drums ½ Hour
 At the church getting patterns of table ½ Hour
- Wed. 16 Making steps 7½ Hours
 Shifting wood for Crailing communion table^[32] ½ Hour
 Work for J.C.C. 1 Hour

Thur. 17 Making steps 9 Hours

Fri. 18 Ditto and painting them 3 Hours
Cutting out and planeing wood for Crailing communion table 5 Hours
At Smith's with table 1 Hour

Sat. 19 At Mason's sorting window box and cleaning windows 1½ Hours
Cleaning out upstairs ½ Hour
On Crailing table 3½ Hours
Taking mounting off grinding stone and taking it to smithy ½ Hour

Mon. 21 On Crailing table 9 Hours

Tue. 22 Ditto 6½ Hours
At the Manse jobbing 2 Hours

Wed. 23 At Allerton with rake ½ Hour
On Crailing table 8½ Hours

Thurs. 24 [*blank*]

NOTES

- ¹ Betsy Purves Scott, the Boundaries, had died on 12 January 1900.
- ² This probably refers to the practice of stabilising a grave by lining it with wooden planks, in this case the grave of Betsy Purves Scott. See the entry for 14 March.
- ³ The windows of businesses and houses in parts of Jedburgh would have been boarded up to prevent them being broken during the town's Candlemas ba game, a traditional form of football contested through the streets of the town by two large opposing teams. It was also known as the Callants' ba game, as it was played by the boys of the town. In 1900, the report of the game in the *Jedburgh Gazette* opened:

The weather was bright and frosty, the streets were hard and partly covered with ice and a coating of snow, the players and spectators were numerous and at times the play was quite brilliant. The usual precautions for the protection of property were taken by the authorities and by merchants and householders. The glass heads were removed from the street lamps, the unicorn that surmounts the jubilee memorial in Market Place was caged, and most of the windows in the streets where the ball-playing is most frequent were protected with shutters and boards. (10 February 1900)
- ⁴ A large cupboard, generally one built into a recess in the wall but also applied to free-standing cupboards of all kinds.
- ⁵ A decorative wooden chair with arms, normally for use in the dining room.
- ⁶ Thomas Wilson was a joiner employed by John Currie Clark. He left Jedburgh for a new situation in Keighley, Yorkshire, in November 1900. See *Jedburgh Gazette* 10 November 1900.
- ⁷ A small table with a drop-leaf on each side, which may be raised and supported horizontally on a hinged bracket.
- ⁸ *i.e.* deals.
- ⁹ Oxnam kirk lies four or so miles to the east south east of Jedburgh.
- ¹⁰ A material of cotton, canvas, or other fabric made waterproof with a layer of oil or resin. It had a number of uses, including as an alternative floorcloth to linoleum.
- ¹¹ The Boers had been besieging the town of Ladysmith, Natal, since early November 1899. News of its relief reached Britain on 1 March 1900, sparking widespread celebrations. In Jedburgh, there was 'a great demonstration of loyalty and gratitude', which included flags being put out and bells being rung. School children were given a half-day's holiday, and in the evening a large bonfire was lit. See the *Jedburgh Gazette* 3 March 1900 for a full description of the celebrations.

- ¹² A hiring fair for farm servants was held each year in Kelso on the first Friday of March. The accompanying sideshows and stalls attracted people from throughout the district and beyond, including tradesmen and others with no interest in the main business of the day. The day was concluded with a dance in the Corn Exchange.
- ¹³ The second of Jedburgh's annual ba games takes place on the Tuesday following the first new moon after Candlemas. Although known as the Fastern's E'en game, the cycle of the moon meant that it did not fall on Shrove Tuesday in 1900 (27 February) but on 6 March. As the *Jedburgh Gazette* reported:
- The factories and other work places made a half holiday of it ... The game starts at two o'clock, and some time before that Hour shopkeepers and householders had taken their usual measures for protecting their property, by putting up shutters and boards of many kinds. (10 March 1900)
- ¹⁴ The Ancrum ba game is held each year in late February or early March, depending on the date of Fastern's E'en. In 1900, a team of local men were faced by a much larger team of men from Jedburgh, who secured a resounding victory. As the *Jedburgh Gazette* reported, more than just Jedburgh schoolboys played truant to witness the event:
- ... even in later life, the tendency thus engendered to play truant on this particular day has been known to draw young men, and some who are not quite young, away from the cares of business life to the enjoyments of Ancrum Ba'. (10 March 1900)
- ¹⁵ Crailing kirk lies about four miles north east of Jedburgh.
- ¹⁶ Margaret Dodd, Hundalee Cottage, had died on 10 March 1900.
- ¹⁷ A commode.
- ¹⁸ In Scots, 'stab' could mean a wooden post, fence paling or stave.
- ¹⁹ A long, flat horse-drawn trolley without sides running on four low wheels, generally used for carrying other vehicles.
- ²⁰ A general holiday was observed in Scotland on the first Monday in May.
- ²¹ *i.e.* The Spread Eagle Hotel, High Street.
- ²² There was a farm called Wooden in the parish of Eckford, about ten miles north east of Jedburgh. It is possible, however, that 'Woodend', a farm to the immediate north of Jedburgh, was intended.

- ²³ *i.e.* the former public library in the High Street. It had been superseded by the Carnegie Library in the Castlegate, which was formally opened on the day that this entry was written.
- ²⁴ The town was decorated with flags and a half holiday granted in order to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday.
- ²⁵ William Wood, the Boundaries, had died on 18 June 1900.
- ²⁶ An article of furniture consisting of an open stand with shelves one above another, for keeping or displaying various objects, such as ornaments, curiosities, books etc.
- ²⁷ A turning lathe consisted of a large-diameter wheel mounted in the loft, with a belt connected to a small-diameter wheel on the lathe. It would be the job of the apprentice to turn it as fast as he could while his master made items such as chair legs. It would be very hard work, and because a cabinet maker would generally produce small-diameter, spindle-turned items, a high speed would be desirable.
- ²⁸ The August bank holiday.
- ²⁹ Jessie Dineley, 10 Canongate, had died on 5 October 1900.
- ³⁰ A meeting in support of the candidature of Sir John Hall, Friars, Jedburgh, was held by the local Liberal Association at the Mission Hall on 9 October. For a report, see the *Jedburgh Gazette* 13 October 1900.
- ³¹ This and all of the following entries have been misdated. The third Monday in October 1900 was the 15th.
- ³² Crailing kirk was remodelled during the 1890s by the architect Peter Macgregor Chalmers. The new communion table was part of a related programme of works to make the interior more decorative.

APPENDIX

The time book records work done for a range of customers. Those that can be identified are listed here, with [] indicating a degree of uncertainty. All the addresses are in Jedburgh town or parish unless otherwise stated.

Bell & Miller, fancy goods warehouse, High Street

Caledonian Hotel, Canongate

[**Robert Campbell**, mason, Duck Row]

John Currie Clark, cabinetmaker, Canongate

[**Jane Cockburn**, confectioner, Cockburn Street]

[**Bill Cowan**, shepherd, Jerdonfield Lodge]

James Dodd, estate factor, Hundalee Cottage

Thomas Dodd, gentleman, Allerton House

[**John Donald**, carter, Castlegate]

Lilian Drummond, minister's wife, The Manse

James Edgar, retired gas stoker, Canongate

James Elliott, shepherd, Gilliestongue Cottages

Agnes Forrest, retired post mistress, Abbey Place

Forrest & Son, gun and tackle makers, Abbey Place

Helen Gowanlock, widow, Castlegate

Charles Irvine, nursery seedsman, Canongate

Jedburgh Grammar School, Pleasance

[**David Keddie**, brewer, Froylehurst]

Hugh Glass Knox, Kenmore Lodge

Henry Laidlaw, depute procurator fiscal, Bridge House, Bridge Street

William Lawton, drill instructor, Castlegate

[**John Lunn**, tobacconist and newsagent, Canongate]

Matilda McCall, restaurant keeper, High Street

John McDougall, solicitor, Exchange Street

John McIvor, watchmaker and jeweller, High Street

William Mason, retired banker, D'Abbies Tower, Castlegate

Charles Middleton, minister, Crailing Kirk, Crailing Parish

Alexander Penrose Moir, banker, King's Croft House, Bonjedward

Thomas Murdoch, cabinetmaker, Castlegate

Matthew Noble, licensed grocer, Canongate
John Oliver, draper, Boundaries Cottage
Samuel Oliver, farmer, Ulston
Alexander Porter, chief constable of police, Elm Bank House
Catherine Robson, widow, Castlegate
Thomas Sim(p)son, writer and bank agent, Lily Bank House (office: County Buildings)
Isabella Smith, widow, Paradise Cottage
Robert H. Smith, sheriff clerk of Roxburgh, Mayfield House
James Spence, dairyman, Queen Street
Spread Eagle Hotel, High Street
[**James Stedman**, retired solicitor and farmer, Timpendean or his son William, solicitor, Abbey Place]
John Strachan, chemist, High Street
Peter Sturrock, medical practitioner, Valley View, Friars Bank
Abram Swan, coachman, Cornelius Close
George Tennant, ploughman, Lanton
Agnes Tod, Castlegate
John Thomson, farm steward, Cunzierton, Oxnam Parish
Thomas Veitch, baker, Canongate
Janet Waldie, boarding house keeper, Castlegate
William Watson, mechanical engineer, Abbey Close
George Wood, Hundalee Bank

FURTHER READING

Directories, such as *The Border Counties ... Business Directory*, Glasgow, 1897, the *Edinburgh and South of Scotland Trades' Directory*, Edinburgh, 1900, *MacDonald's Scottish Directory and Gazetteer*, Edinburgh, 1900, and *Slater's Royal National Directory of Scotland*, Manchester, 1903, provide brief descriptions of Jedburgh and an idea of the range of businesses and trades that served the town. A more detailed description of the town and its parish can be found in Groome, F H. *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: a Graphic and Accurate Description of Every Place in Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1901.

Newspapers such as the *Jedburgh Gazette*, the *Southern Reporter*, and the *Teviotdale Record and Jedburgh Advertiser* are a valuable source of information about local events and people.

An insight into the tools and techniques likely used by the author of the time book, and the work he performed, can be found in Sutcliffe, G L. *The Modern Carpenter and Cabinet-maker: a Complete Guide to Current Practice*, London, 1902. See also Yapp, G W. *Art Industry. Furniture, House Fittings and Decorations, illustrative of the arts of the carpenter, joiner, cabinet maker*, London, 1879, and Thomson, P. *The Cabinet-maker's Assistant*, Glasgow, 1871. For the tools of the period, see Walker, P. *Woodworking Tools 1600-1900*, Aylesbury, 1980. James Hopkinson's *Memoirs of a Victorian Cabinet Maker*, ed. J B Goodman, London, 1968, contains observations on his life and work, and wider Victorian society.

SOURCES IN LOCAL HISTORY

GENERAL EDITOR: KENNETH VEITCH

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