

## Nairn's Private School for Boys

One of lesser-known institutions that existed in Nairn was a preparatory boarding school for boys established by Washington Ray, which existed from the 1890's to the 1930's.

Unfortunately the school records have not survived but there are three sources for pupils during the period prior to 1915. The 1901 census, the 1911 census, and the school roll of honour for the 1<sup>st</sup> World War published in the Nairnshire Telegraph on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1914.

In 1901 the school was situated at a property known as "Seaforth" in Seabank Road which had 15 rooms with one or more windows Nairn and Mr Ray gave his profession as a proprietor of Private School/ School Master of Latin Greek and English.

In 1911 the school was situated at a property known as Alton Burn in the Tradespark and Mossie Ward of Nairn Parish, which had 39 rooms with one or more windows. The school buildings now form the major part of the Alton Burn Hotel in Nairn

Washington Ray was born in London in 1857 the son of Charles and Emma Ray, his father being a Medical Practitioner. In 1891 Washington Ray was a Classics Teacher living at Newlands Polmont

He died at Ardenraig Thurlow Road Nairn on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1949, his wife Mary Katherine Ray nee Moncreiff (daughter of Robert Scott Moncreiff, Calcutta, merchant and Catherine Moncreiff nee Mackinnon) died on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1946 also at Ardenraig. They are both buried in Nairn Cemetery

Washington and Mary's eldest daughter Lucy Catherine Ray married on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1920 at Nairn, Major Norman Gillespie Pearson M.C. (the son of Alexander Pearson, Advocate and Eliz Pearson nee Scott Moncreiff). Major Pearson who had attended his father's in law School as a pupil became a teacher at the school after leaving the army and took the school over from his father in law. He died at Alton Burn Cottage Nairn on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1974.

With regard to the School Roll of Honour the names appear in "*the Nairnshire Roll of Honour for the Great War 1914 – 1921*" published 2009 by the Scottish Genealogy Society

Two of the pupil's names are not listed in the roll of honour for the school as they were too young in December 1914 to be in the services but they were killed during the war: David Cecil Hope Macbrayne, born 18<sup>th</sup> October 1897, Glasgow, 2nd Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps killed in action 21<sup>st</sup> June 1917 whilst serving with 11 Squadron; John Edward Wink, born 9<sup>th</sup> April 1897, Elgin; see the Morayshire Miscellany, Elgin Golf Club War Memorial on the society's web-site.

### 1901 Census

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
Washington Ray	Head	44	Proprietor of Private School / School Master of Latin Greek and English	England
Mary K Rae	Wife	38		India (British Subject)
Lucy C Rae	Daur	4		Stirlingshire, Polmont
Mabel C Rae	Daur	3		Stirlingshire, Polmont

William M Greenfield	Boarder	29	School Master of Latin Greek and English	England
Eric W Preston	Boarder	14		England
James B G Mackay	Boarder	13		Burma (British Subject)
Norman G Pearson	Boarder	12		Midlothian, Edinburgh
Charles K S Moncreiff	Boarder	11		Stirlingshire, Polmont
Walter G Grant	Boarder	15		Morayshire, Elgin
Robert C Ross	Boarder	12		England
Maurice Magill	Boarder	13		England
Harry S Grant	Boarder	11		Orkney, Kirkwall
Reay F Clarke	Boarder	10		Rosshire, Logie Easter
Robert Baikie	Boarder	8		England
Marjory M Macdonald	Servant (Married)	20	Cook	Invernesshire, Inverness
Margaret Murray	Servant	26	Nurse	Invernesshire, Inverness
Margaret Shearer	Servant	26	Housemaid	Aberdeenshire, Skene
Alexaina Cameron	Servant	21	Housemaid	Invernesshire, Dunlichty
Margaret Ann Ralph	Servant	16	Kitchen Maid	Invernesshire, Croy

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### 1911 Census

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Name	Relationship	Age	Profession or Occupation	Birthplace
Washington Ray	Head	54	School Master / Proprietor of Preparatory School for Boys	England
Mary Katherine Ray	Wife	48		India (Bengal)
Lucy Catherine Ray	Daur	14		Polmont, Stirlingshire
Mabel Cecilia Ray	Daur	13		Polmont, Stirlingshire
Henry C Camber	Asst Master	33	School Master	England
Godfrey W Davies	Master	24	School Master	India (Rajasthan)
William J Anderson	Pupil Boarder	14	School	Ceylon
John Anderson	Pupil Boarder	14		Shetland
Donald Cross	Pupil Boarder	10		Edinburgh, Midlothian
Ronald S Cumming	Pupil Boarder	10		Aberlour, Banffshire
Ian George G S Hardie	Pupil Boarder	11		Ceylon
John M Kirkman	Pupil Boarder	12		England
David c h Macbrayne	Pupil Boarder	13		Glasgow, Lanarkshire
Charles A McLeod	Pupil Boarder	12		Dyke, Morayshire
Robert W D Morgan	Pupil Boarder	9		India (Bengal)
Alexander D M Paton	Pupil Boarder	10		Edinburgh, Midlothian
Alan K Scott Moncreiff	Pupil Boarder	10		Argentina, S America
Geoffrey P Serjeantson	Pupil Boarder	12		Wales
Arthur P Spence	Pupil Boarder	11		Inverness, Invernesshire
Edward V Stanley	Pupil Boarder	12		England
Hector McLean Watt	Pupil Boarder	10		Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire
John E Wink	Pupil Boarder	13		Elgin, Morayshire
Lilian Hamlett	Servant	22	Parlour Maid	England
Elsbeth Roy	Servant	29	Cook	Roths, Morayshire
Jessie Smith	Servant	20	Housemaid	Croy, Invernesshire
Margaret Tweedie	Servant	20	Kitchen Maid	Nairn, Nairnshire
Annie Longmoor	Servant	24	Children's Maid	St Andrews, Morayshire
Margaret W Rennie	Servant	31	Housemaid	St. Andrews, Morayshire
Agnes G Small	Servant	40	Matron in School	Bervie, Kincardineshire

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