<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1146</td>
<td>'Atherai' mentioned in a charter of King David I</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150-1184</td>
<td>'Athran' mentioned in an account of the divisions of Scotland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1368-1369</td>
<td>Land ceases to be Crown property and passes into the hands of Sir John Herice, Keeper of Stirling Castle. It is unclear how long the land remained the property of the Herices.</td>
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<td>1472</td>
<td>The estate becomes the property of the Graham-Montrose family.</td>
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<td>1645</td>
<td>Airthrey is the scene of conflict between Royalists and Covenanters. The manor house is burned down by local Covenanter, the Marquis of Argyll, as an act of reprisal for the burning of Castle Campbell at Dollar by the Royalist Grahams.</td>
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<td>1678</td>
<td>John Hope of Hopetoun buys the Airthrey estate, then in 1682 sells the western part of the estate to James Henderson, a local gentleman. This area becomes known as Westerton.</td>
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<td>1706</td>
<td>Airthrey is sold to Ralph Dundas of Manour.</td>
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<td>1747</td>
<td>His son, John Dundas of Manour rebuilds Airthrey House.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1759</td>
<td>Airthrey Estate is sold to Robert Haldane of Gleneagles.</td>
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<td>1791</td>
<td>Great nephew of Robert Haldane, also called Robert Haldane, sets about improving the estate.</td>
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<td>1798</td>
<td>The estate is bought by Sir Robert Abercromby, uncle of Mrs James Haldane and former Governor of Edinburgh Castle. He makes a number of changes to the estate and is instrumental in the development of Bridge of Allan as a spa town in the nineteenth century.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>On the death of Robert Abercromby, the estate passes into the hands of his nephew, Lord Abercromby.</td>
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<td>1842</td>
<td>Queen Victoria visits Stirling and the surrounding area. She is driven through the Airthrey grounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Donald Graham, CIE, a Glasgow merchant, buys the estate and adds an extension to the castle. He also plants conifers, as well as rhododendrons donated by plant collector, George Forrest. He allows the loch to be used by the Airthrey Castle Curling Club.</td>
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</table>
1901 | Donald Graham dies. Mrs Graham and her Trustees remain the proprietors.
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1939-1969 | Airthrey Castle is used as a maternity hospital. Stirling County Council buys the estate in 1946.
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1966 | The University of Stirling becomes the proprietor of the estate. New buildings are erected.
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1969 | Airthrey Castle becomes the property of the University.

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1. **Charter of King David I:**

The charter was written in connection with a dispute between the nuns of North Berwick and the monks at Dunfermline Abbey over the tithes of Airthrey and Compton. It is undated, but had been granted by 1146.

"Regarding the Tithes of Atherai, David King of Scots, to the sheriffs and bailies of the shire of Stirling greeting.
Know ye that I have granted and given to God and the Holy Trinity of Dunfermline and the Abbot and monks there the tithe of the land which Brixwald has in Atherai in excambion for the tithe of the land which the canons have in Cambuskinel. Witnesses, John, bishop, and Duncan, Earl, and Robert burguillun. At Stirli."  

(From *Registrum de Dunfermelyn*, p.10)

2. **John Dundas of Manour:**

The exact location of the new house is disputed. It could have stood on the elevated ground known as Airthrey Castle Yard, or it could have been further to the east, close to the Pathfoot Standing Stone. John Dundas cultivated a kitchen garden, but was not really interested in country pursuits. He devoted his time to his books instead, which eventually resulted in his selling of the estate in 1759.


3. **Robert Haldane (1764-1842)**

Born 28th February 1764 in Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, London, he was the eldest brother of James Alexander Haldane. Like his brother he was brought up under the care of his grandmother, Lady Lundie, and his uncles, and the two boys attended the grammar school of Dundee and the high school of Edinburgh together. After spending a very short time at Edinburgh University, early in 1780 he joined H.M.S. Monarch as midshipman under his uncle, Captain (afterwards Viscount) Duncan. Next year he was transferred to the Foudroyant, commanded by Captain Jervis, afterwards Earl St. Vincent, on board of which he saw some active service against the French. The peace of 1783 brought his naval career to a close.

Meanwhile he had come under the influence of David Bogue of Gosport. On leaving the navy he spent some time under Bogue's tuition, and then returned to Edinburgh University, where he remained for two sessions, following up his studies by making 'the grand tour' in the spring of 1785. In 1786 he settled down in his ancestral home of Airthrey, where for ten years he led a country life. The outbreak of the French revolution led him to take a keen interest in politics, but his mind became more and more engrossed with religion. In 1796 he formed a project for founding a mission in India, he himself to be one of the missionaries, and to supply all the necessary funds. He proposed to sell his estates, and to invest £25,000 for the permanent support of the work. His friend Bogue agreed to accompany him to India, and a body of catechists and teachers and a printing-press were to be taken out. But the East India Company refused to permit the mission to be planted on any part of its territory, and the scheme was abandoned.

He then turned his attention to the needs of Scotland. In 1798 he sold Airthrey, and began occasionally to preach. Leaving the Church of Scotland in January 1799, and joining his brother in organising a congregational church in Edinburgh, he set about establishing tabernacles in the large centres of population, after the plan of Whitefield, he himself supplying the necessary funds. To provide pastors he founded seminaries for the training...
of students, whom he maintained at his own expense. It is said that in the twelve years 1798-1810 he had expended over £70,000 on his schemes for the advancement of religion in Scotland.

About 1798 he entered into a plan for bringing twenty-four children from Africa to be educated and sent back again to teach their fellow countrymen, and promised to bear the entire cost of their transport, support, and education, estimated at £7,000. The children were brought over, but for some reason or other were not placed under Haldane's care, though he had arranged for their accommodation in Edinburgh. He was suspected by many for his supposed democratic tendencies, as well as his religious views. To vindicate himself he published in 1800 a pamphlet entitled 'Addresses to the Public by Robert Haldane concerning his Political Opinions and Plans lately adopted to promote Religion in Scotland'. In 1808 his adoption of baptist views and other circumstances created widespread discussion in the congregational body. Among others a bitter controversy sprang up between Haldane and the Rev. Greville Ewing in 1810.

In 1816 he published one of his more important works, 'The Evidence and Authority of Divine Revelation'. In the same year which saw the first appearance of this book he went to Geneva and began a remarkable work of continental evangelisation. A large number of the students of the university came to him daily for instruction, and he gained over them a wonderful influence. In 1817 he removed to Montauban, where he followed a similar course. Here he also procured the printing of two editions of the Bible in French, amounting to sixteen thousand copies in all, which he circulated along with a French translation of his 'Evidences' and a commentary on the Epistle to the Romans in the same language, and many tracts.

In 1819 he returned to Scotland to an estate at Auchingray, Lanarkshire, which he had purchased. In the end of 1824 he became involved in a controversy, which raged for twelve years, regarding the circulation by the British and Foreign Bible Society of the Apocrypha along with the Bible. His first 'Review of the Conduct of the British and Foreign Bible Society relative to the Apocrypha and to their administration on the Continent, with an Answer to the Rev. Charles Simeon, and Observations on the Cambridge Remarks,' appeared in 1824. A second 'Review' followed the first. The course of this controversy led him to issue one of his best known works, 'The Authenticity and Inspiration of the Scriptures,' which at once reached a large circulation, and has passed through many editions. In 1835 appeared the first volume of another work, which was also destined to attain great popularity, an 'Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans,' the beginnings of which had already appeared in French. The second volume was published in 1837, and the third in 1839. In addition to the works mentioned he was the author of many tracts and other fugitive publications.

He died in Edinburgh on 12th December 1842, and was buried in Glasgow Cathedral. He married in April 1786 Katherine Cochrane, daughter of George Oswald of Scotstown.

[Adapted from Thomas Hamilton's article in The dictionary of national biography: from the earliest times to 1900, 1917]

iv Robert Haldane's improvements to the Airthrey Estate

It is thanks to Robert Haldane (1764-1842) that we enjoy the graceful landscaping of Airthrey today. It was he who had the castle built on the site of the old mansion house. This castle was designed by renowned architect of the time, Robert Adam. The estate was landscaped by the Whites (father and son) of County Durham, students of Capability Brown. Robert Haldane also had the loch created, enclosed the grounds with walls, and built a summer house and a hermitage in the woods behind the castle. The ruins of the hermitage can still be seen today.

Sir Robert Abercromby's changes to the estate

Early in the nineteenth century, Sir Robert Abercromby had the three hamlets of Pathfoot, Pendreich and Logie removed from his estate. He demolished the buildings and rehoused the occupants elsewhere. However, one building from the old Pathfoot remains to this day. This is the house 'East Lodge'. This was previously the property of Laird Pryce and was known as 'Blawlowan'. It was separate from the Airthrey estate and therefore survived demolition by Abercromby. The wall to the right of the house (at the western entrance to the Hermitage Road) is what remains of the Pathfoot shoemakers' cottages. Closeby is one of the Airthrey Standing Stones (the other is to the south of Airthrey Castle). It is not clear when the stones were erected, but it is thought that they mark the scene of the defeat of the Picts by the Scots under Kenneth Macalpine in 839. Sherrifmuir Road was one of the most important drove roads in Scotland during the eighteenth century and drovers used to pass by the stone on the way from the Highlands to Falkirk Tryst (a cattle fair). Tradition has it that a certain drover left his purse on top of the Standing Stone, and when he returned the following year, it was still there! Another notable event in the early nineteenth century was the discovery of a whale's skeleton at Airthrey in 1819. The sea margin was
The spa at Bridge of Allan

The development of Bridge of Allan during the nineteenth century was largely a result of the discovery of natural springs at Airthrey. There had been a copper mine on the Airthrey estate for a couple of centuries. Copper was mined sporadically until 1807, when operations finally ceased. In 1820 Sir Robert Abercromby had the mine reopened and the waters analysed by Dr Thomson, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow. When the waters were shown to be of high value (they were comparable with those of Cheltenham and Leamington), Abercromby made an offer to the magistrates of Stirling. His offer being declined, he had the Well House built, which was finished in 1821. One of the old mine shafts was used to draw water up into the Well House. From 1837 onwards there was much building in Bridge of Allan and it became a popular and fashionable spa town. The old Airthrey Hill Mine can still be seen in Mine Woods behind Bridge of Allan.

For a contemporary account of Victorian Bridge of Allan, see: Roger, Charles. A week at Bridge of Allan..., 2nd ed., Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black, 1853.

Extract from Memorial of the Royal Progress in Scotland by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, 1843 [adapted]

On passing the handsome church of Lecropt, the rich plain of Stirling opens at once, with the Airthrey grounds - the Abbey or Abbot's Craig - and, above all, the town of Stirling, with its castle beetling over the abrupt and romantic cliffs at its western extremity - backed by the distant rising grounds to the southward. Sweeping down the hill towards the Bridge of Allan, the Queen enjoyed a beautiful view up the wooded course of that river. There were three arches here, one at the inn, one at the turnpike gate, and one at the reading room, which last had a gilded bee-hive suspended from it, and a bee with golden body and silver wings, and this quaint parody on Watt, "How doth our good Queen bee improve each shining hour."

Soon after passing through this village, the Queen came upon the property of Lord Abercromby, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and son of the gallant Sir Ralph, who died so gloriously in Egypt. The western entrance to Airthrey Castle, one of the most beautiful places in Scotland, opens from a large trumpet-mouth recess, on each side of which a grand triumphal arch was erected by Lord Abercromby. The first was composed of two living silver firs, 46 feet high, lifted by the roots and planted on the spot, and cleared of all their branches 18 feet from the ground. Four trees were lashed around each of their stems so as to make them about six feet in diameter. Between these a very perfect arch was thrown at 28 feet from the ground, and the whole was surmounted by a crown, and entirely covered with evergreens, the pillars having a web of red cloth twisted spirally around each of them. The second arch was made of trees 38 feet high, and constructed somewhat in the same form as the other, with this difference, that on it were the letters V. A., with a triangular piece of work over the arch, crowned by the Prince of Wales' feathers. This arch was richly decorated with flowers, and had spiral rolls of white cloth round it.

In front of the gate, stood the carriage of the Lord-Lieutenant, - and in it the venerable Lord Abercromby, who, invalid as he was, and in defiance of all consequences, had made it a point with his medical attendant that he should be permitted to go thus far to uncover his grey hairs in loyal homage to his youthful sovereign. Alas! that much revered head now reposes in the tomb of his ancestors; but his memory is imperishably embalmed in the affectionate and grateful remembrance of the thousands who benefited by his charity and benevolence, and by that wide circle of friends who partook of his boundless hospitality. The business of his life was unremittingly to invent and execute the kindest Christian acts to all mankind. No wonder, then, that his grave was moistened by the tears of genuine sorrow - or that the humble writer of this work, who had the happiness of enjoying his closest friendship, should now require the indulgence of his readers for thus yielding to the feelings of his heart. The remains of Lord Abercromby were deposited in the church of Tullibody. After passing through the Airthrey arches, the Queen was royally saluted by a small park of guns placed on an eminence within his Lordship's grounds, which never ceased firing till Her Majesty reached the town of Stirling.

(From Memorial of the Royal Progress in Scotland by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, 1843)

Curling on Airthrey Loch

The loch was popular with curlers and ice skaters during the nineteenth century. It was used by the Airthrey Castle Curling Club with the generous encouragement of Donald Graham. On one occasion, he even had his
chef make a special dinner for the curlers. The chef apparently went outside and set down the steaming pot for the curlers to eat when they had finished their game, only for them to find a pot-shaped hole in the ice when they came to eat!

There was a fancy dress skating carnival on the loch in 1899, attended by around 3000 skaters. The loch was decorated with Chinese lanterns and there was music and refreshments.

Unfortunately, an accident on the loch put an end to skating events in 1901. Young Fred Pullar drowned trying to save a young woman, Kate Rutherford, when the ice broke beneath her. Fred Pullar was a gifted scientist and at the age of 25 showed great promise. He had assisted Sir John Murray, the Arctic explorer, in his research for the Bathymetrical survey of the Scottish fresh-water lochs, later financed by Fred's father Laurence Pullar as a tribute to his son and published in 1910. Fred Pullar was mourned as a hero; it seems likely that he would have survived had he not persisted in trying to save the young lady's life.

Sir John Murray's house in Bridge of Allan is now the Old Manor Hotel on Henderson Street. The Pullars lived at The Lea, Kenilworth Road, Bridge of Allan.

Ice Accident at Airthrey

From Stirling Journal and Advertiser, 22nd February 1901:

Ice accident at Airthrey. Two lives lost. Mr Fred Pullar drowned while trying to save young lady.

The lamented death of Mr Donald Graham, C.I.E., himself one of the most graceful of skaters, led everyone to believe that for this winter at least, Airthrey would be closed. However, on Wednesday intimation was conveyed to the curling club which bears the territorial name that the members were at liberty to use the ice. The permission thus granted to the curlers was contrary to expectations, extended to skaters as well, and on Thursday and Friday they availed themselves in large numbers of what was undoubtedly regarded as a great privilege, for nowhere are our winter pastimes of curling and skating indulged in in more beautiful surroundings.

The greatest care has always been exercised in seeing that the Loch was, humanly speaking, absolutely safe before anyone was allowed on it, and there was every confidence that the ice was strong enough for any weight it would be called upon to bear. When Thursday passed without accident, no one dreamt that anything untoward was likely to happen. There was a keen frost, and the beautiful day attracted a great crowd both from Bridge of Allan and Stirling. All went well till shortly after 4 o'clock, when the accident happened which has cast a gloom over the whole community and brought the intensesst grief to two households.

The ice, after all, was not so strong as it seemed. Most of our readers are familiar with the Loch and its surroundings. The Loch may be spoken of as containing three basins - the longest and largest one at the end to which access is first obtained from the avenue, a centre one where most of the curling takes place, and then a long neck, overlooked by the Castle, with the boathouse, and leading into the upmost portion in which stands the island. In this part the ice was generally rougher than elsewhere. It was usual to attribute this to the springs which were supposed to be situated there, and also to the fact that here there was no protection from the sun, which shone on its surface all day long.

Whatever be the cause, it was in this part to the south-east of the island that the ice gave way on Friday afternoon and precipitated Miss Kate Rutherford into the water. She was skating alone at the time, and at some distance was Mr Fred Pullar, also skating alone. He seems to have made a dash for the spot where Miss Rutherford had gone through, for he, having skirted the island, was in the water and holding her up, before the next to hear her cry, Mr James Paton, sped up from the vicinity of the boathouse. What happened afterwards is narrated below. All who went to the rescue and in their gallant attempts to save were themselves immersed, were got safely out, all save one - the first to go to Miss Rutherford's aid.

Mr Paton is emphatic on the point that Mr Fred Pullar could have saved himself had he let go his hold of the young lady. When the ice gave way with Mr Paton himself, while he held out a stick to Mr Pullar, the latter proceeded to break the ice and swim as well as he was able. The chances are that, no appliances being at hand to assist him, he succumbed under the weight he had to carry. He held on to the last, and in trying to save a life lost his own. The man who even attempts to save life in such circumstances is a hero in the eyes of the world; he who gives his own life in the attempt is a hero and surely something more.

But even when one dies in the ordinary course of nature, the words of sympathisers cannot bring consolation to the bereaved. Much more so in the present instance, when death has come with such startling suddenness to
two young people, the deepest expressions of sympathy seem altogether inadequate to assuage the grief of the families which mourn. To both, the hearts of the community will go out - to Mrs Rutherford in her widowhood and to Mrs William Morrison deprived of their daughter and sister; to Mr and Mrs Laurence Pullar, who are sonless, and their daughter who is brotherless.

Miss Kate Rutherford no later gone than Thursday evening formed one of the choir at the song-lecture given by Mr Hetherington in the Museum Hall. In her own circle of friends her winning personality will be missed, and regret at her untimely end will be sincere. Bulking more largely in the public eye, and the owner of a name as respected as it is well-known, Mr Fred Pullar will be lamented, not only by his many relatives in Bridge of Allan and elsewhere, but by Bridge of Allan and Stirling as communities, and especially by the members thereof who had come in touch with him.

A bright young life, full of promise, has been cut off. At Keirfield there will be universal sorrow, for there he had endeared himself to the employee of the firm, who felt proud of the interest he was showing in their work, as well as of the manner in which he was discharging his own duties. His chief recreation was a branch of science which has been almost wholly neglected - in the sounding and recording of the depths of the lochs of Scotland, in which he was Sir John Murray's willing and efficient assistant. The importance of the results obtained by Sir John's efforts and his coadjutor's have been recognised by the scientific world. Strange that in the dispensation of Providence he who had plumbed the deepest lochs of his native land should meet his death in an ornamental stretch of water near his own home.

It is only for us now, in common with all who knew him and loved to hear his cheery words and watch his pleasant smile, to ask that those who have lost their nearest and dearest will accept not only our heartfelt sympathy, but also our congratulation that in the hour of danger the only son and only brother shrank not from what he deemed his duty - his duty to himself, to her who was in peril, to Him who gave him breath. Britons have proved on more than one stricken field of late that they can face death unflinchingly. Fred Pullar has not only faced death but met it in the highest and noblest manner possible to man. Famous for good deeds, foremost ever in the cause of charity, the name of Pullar will in all time be now associated with an act of self-sacrifice worthy to rank with the finest which stands to the credit of one of human birth.

To her he sought to save, be rest; to him, be peace; to those who mourn, the consolation of Him who gave and who has taken away.

(From Stirling Journal and Advertiser, 22nd February 1901)