

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh  
Archives  
Listings from the Probationer / Apprentice Gardener Registers

There are very few staff records amongst the material stored in the Archives at RBGE, but a notable exception is a set of four registers dating between 1876 and 1935 in which are listed the probationer or apprentice gardeners who would have come to RBGE to gain experience and qualifications in subjects such as horticulture, book keeping, surveying and forestry before moving on to employment elsewhere. Dates of birth, addresses, previous employment, subsequent positions and exam marks are recorded making this an invaluable source of information for genealogists and garden historians.

Below is a list of the gardeners featured in these registers in alphabetical order by surname. The Register reference refers to volume and page number. Although every effort has been made to transcribe these records faithfully, some errors may have slipped in due to illegible handwriting, errors present in the registers and modern human error, so if in doubt, contact us with any questions. Restrictions on provision of information may apply if we have any reason to believe the subject of the information is still alive.

With thanks to our volunteer Claire for entering the information.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Abernethy, John David	1875	1896	1/063
Adamson, Hugh C.	1907	1929	3/057
Aird, Hector	1898	1920	2/040
Allen, John	1910	1932	4/026
Ames, Joseph	1889	1910	1/219
Anderson, Alexander	1863	1885	1/022
Anderson, Duncan	1872	1892	1/002
Anderson, Egbert James	1905	1928	3/052
Anderson, Frederic C.	1901	1919	2/023
Anderson, George	1877	1898	1/084
Anderson, Henry Brown	1885	1905	1/170
Anderson, John M.	1910	1934	4/058
Anderson, Robert T.	1896	1920	2/037
Anderson, Thomas	1897	1920	2/033
Angus, Thomas E.	1894	1912	2/007
Annand, John Fowler	1867	1892	1/006
Armstrong, David	1883	1901	1/116
Armstrong, Samuel John	1914	1935	4/066

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Armstrong, Thomas N.	1909	1933	4/046
Austin, George C.	1899	1920	2/032
Barker, Lina	1866	1897	1/070
Beattie, Robert	1883	1903	1/147
Bell, William R.	1880	1901	1/123
Bennett, William F.	1889	1911	1/229
Berry, George	1869	1893	1/029
Birse, William	1886	1908	1/198
Blake, Frank	1903	1925	3/013
Brown, John R.	1885	1906	1/181
Bruce, Alexander D.E.	1884	1905	1/164
Bruce, James	1908	1928	3/047
Bryce, Alexander D.	1903	1924	2/072
Bryce, Henry Howden	1897	1913	2/010
Brydon, James D.	1882	1904	1/162
Buchanan, Donald	1900	1922	2/051
Buist, David	1876	1895	1/053
Burnett, George	1906	1930	4/011
Burrells, George Henry	1869	1895	1/041
Caffin, Denis Harden	1908	1929	3/063
Caird, Arthur Henderson	1904	1929	3/054
Cairns, Alexander	1902	1923	2/064
Cairns, Edith	1898	1922	2/052
Cameron, Alexander	1876	1896	1/056
Cameron, George R.	1903	1925	3/006
Campbell, Angus	1904	1924	2/071
Campbell, Douglas G.	1905	1926	3/015
Campbell, Duncan	1903	1922	2/054
Campbell, James John	1884	1905	1/165
Campbell, Kenneth	1908	1929	3/068
Campbell, William I.P.	1902	1924	2/070
Cattanach, Charles B.	1906	1930	4/013
Chaplin, William	1870	1896	1/054
Chapplow, John Nelson	1890	1911	1/231
Chisholm, James	1904	1923	2/062
Chisolm, John Spence	1877	1902	1/136
Chisolm, Robert M.	1881	1899	1/097
Christie, James	1879	1897	1/075
Clark, John	1913	1935	4/074
Clark, John	1872	1892	1/011
Clark, John Haldane	1913	1935	4/072
Clunas, John	1883	1906	1/172
Cockburn, Alex K.	1871	1895	1/050

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Cocker, Clement L.	1880	1899	1/102
Collet, Ruby S.M.	1900	1924	3/001
Comber, Harold F.	1897	1920	2/043
Cooper, Roland Edgar	1890	1910	1/215
Cosh, Andrew R.	1889	1907	1/190
Cosh, George Morton	1883	1903	1/134
Coutts, Albert	1885	1903	1/152
Coutts, Duncan	1892	1912	2/008
Cowan, Herbert Francis	1874	1895	1/042
Crabbe, Alfred	1877	1898	1/087
Crichton, Alexander	1884	1903	1/140
Crichton, Robert	1870	1894	1/034
Crombie, Alexander T.	1877	1898	1/085
Crowe, Angus M.	1908	1932	4/029
Crowe, Frederick	1884	1908	1/200
Cunningham, Athol F.	1906	1930	3/071
Currie, C. I. Hay	1873	1897	1/071
Dall, David	1888	1908	1/199
Dalziel, Henry	1879	1900	1/106
Dann, Robert A.S.	1905	1930	3/069
Davidson, William	1869	1892	1/003
Dewar, James Andrew	1908	1930	4/001
Dickson, David	1911	1933	4/045
Dickson, James	1870	1894	1/035
Dixon, Bertram A.	1874	1891	1/016
Dodgshon, William P.	1902	1923	2/060
Doig, James	1904	1925	3/014
Donald, James	1874	1898	1/083
Donaldson, James	1884	1907	1/184
Dorward, Andrew	1882	1899	1/098
Douglas, Robert	1889	1903	1/151
Dow, Alexander Stuart	1911	1935	4/067
Dugdale, William	1910	1935	4/068
Duguid, James Davidson	1909	1930	4/009
Dunbar, James	1881	1906	1/174
Duncan, Robert	1905	1925	3/009
Duthie, Alexander	1876	1901	1/125
Duthie, Geroge Reid	1911	1934	4/059
Duthie, James Logie	1907	1929	3/066
Duthie, John	1872	1892	1/007
Duthie, Ogilvie William	1910	1932	4/031
Dyker, Charles	1877	1901	1/128
Edgar, Lancelot D.	1893	1919	2/029

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Edgar, Robert	1906	1926	3/016
Edmonstone, Robert	1870	1889	1/001
Edwards, Alexander	1904	1924	2/068
Ellwood, Horace	1890	1913	2/004
Erskine, Robert	1908	1929	3/060
Esplin, James Wilson	1884	1904	1/155
Eyre, Alfred H.	1878	1899	1/096
Fallow, George C.	1890	1911	1/232
Fawcett, Edmund	1880	1900	1/111
Feaks, Matthew	1875	1898	1/090
Fergie, Alexander E.	1905	1926	3/022
Ferguson, Alex D.	1879	1897	1/073
Ferguson, Malcolm	1898	1919	2/026
Fergusson, John	1872	1894	1/036
Fernie, Alexander	1885	1903	1/143
Fernie, Andrew A.	1910	1933	4/034
Fernie, Robert	1875	1897	1/079
Fernie, William	1888	1908	1/192
Fielding, Roger	1902	1925	3/005
Findlay, Robert	1911	1931	4/021
Finlay, George	1873	1895	1/038
Finlay, James	1908	1929	3/067
Finlayson, Alexander	1867	1892	1/012
Fish, David Sydney	1881	1896	1/058
Fisher, Hugh	1901	1926	3/024
Flaherty, Ewen C.	1891	1911	2/001
Fletcher, J. Sidney	1885	1910	1/212
Forbes, George Duncan	1895	1920	2/031
Forgan, William	1873	1896	1/066
Forsyth, John	1878	1897	1/074
Fothergill, George Hugh	1896	1912	2/009
Fraser, Frederick	1880	1910	1/223
Fraser, James A.	1909	1932	4/027
Fraser, John Chalmers	1909	1933	4/050
Frater, John	1878	1895	1/048
Fyfe, Harry	1887	1908	1/203
Gibson, William	1904	1929	3/064
Gibson, William	1904	1924	2/069
Glasgow, James	1864	1884	1/024
Glass, Robert	1886	1905	1/168
Good, William	1878	1902	1/144
Goodall, Andrew	1865	1882	1/020
Goodchild, Arthur M. R.	1890	1907	1/188

Name	Born	Year started at RBGE	Register Ref.
Gow, Alexander	1904	1929	3/055
Gow, John	1880	1900	1/110
Graham, Charles	1871	1895	1/047
Grant, Ewan Smith	1882	1902	1/137
Grant, James Murray	1890	1912	2/002
Grant, John B.	1872? (wrong date given)	1892	1/013
Gray, Alfred	1902	1927	3/038
Green, Bernard F.	1902	1923	2/058
Greenhow, George E.	1882	1905	1/167
Grier/Greer, Thomas	1909	1933	4/035
Grieve, Thomas Douglas	1908	1928	3/042
Guthrie, William F.	1897	1911	1/239
Haldane, Thomas	1875	1894	1/037
Hall, Herbert	1878	1900	1/109
Hammond, Denys H.	1906	1926	3/027
Hardie, James	1888	1909	1/204
Harris, Alfred Leonard	1909	1934	4/056
Harris, James	1877	1900	1/113
Harrow, R. L.	1867	1893	1/028
Harrower, William	1892	1920	2/038
Hart, William John	1910	1933	4/049
Hawson, James	1911	1934	4/057
Heath, John William	1906	1927	3/032
Henderson, Charles W.W.	1913	1935	4/075
Henderson, John	1897	1919	2/030
Henderson, Musgrave	1872	1897	1/076
Hendry, Donald	1890	1911	1/230
Hepburn, William John	1889	1913	2/012
Hislop, James A.	1912	1935	4/069
Hogg, Arichibald, D.	1876	1895	1/051
Holm, James W.B.	1907	1928	3/049
Hope, Joseph	1875	1909	1/208
Houston, Murdo J.A.	1904	1924	3/003
Howarth, John Walford	1914	1935	4/073
Howe, James	1890	1910	1/210
Hughs, Frederic	1878	1901	1/114
Hume, David	1888	1904	1/156
Huscroft, Harold Henry	1906	1930	4/004
Hutchinson, James	1871	1898	1/082
Inglis, James	1871	1886	1/021
Inglis, William G.S.	1892	1913	2/011
Innes, Alexander	1861	1894	1/033
Irvine, Cosmo Irvine	1882	1903	1/150

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Irvine, George	1876	1897	1/078
Irvine, John	1865	1892	1/010
Jeffers, Robert Haynes	1900	1923	2/063
Jessiman, Alexander M.	1879	1901	1/126
Johnston, Alexander	1854	1888	1/008
Johnston, Andrew Reid	1876	1900	1/103
Johnston, John	1878	1899	1/099
Johnston, John Henry	1903	1926	3/026
Johnston, William L.	1911	1935	4/063
Johnstone, James A.	1899	1922	2/048
Keenleyside, James	1896	1919	2/024
Keir, Robert	1895	1913	2/015
Kemp, Edward Edmund	1910	1932	4/022
Kerss, James	1870	1893	1/030
Kerss, Roy James	1906	1927	3/030
Kirkwood, William	1874	1893	1/025
Knight, Francis Philp	1902	1919	2/027
Knizek. Rudolph	1876	1898	1/086
Lackey, Samuel	1875	1895	1/052
Laird, James M.D.	1889	1910	1/221
Laird, John	1876	1895	1/045
Laird, William	1877	1897	1/080
Lambert, James A.	1911	1932	4/032
Lambie, Hugh	1913	1934	4/061
Lamont, Charles	1891	1914	2/028
Lauder, William A.	1909	1934	4/055
Lauriston, John	1875	1898	1/089
Lawson, Alex R.	1875	1896	1/059
Lawson, Alexander	1906	1930	4/003
Leech, Norman	1906	1927	3/040
Leven, George	1867	1892	1/005
Liddell, James B.	1907	1928	3/048
Lindsay, Alexander D.	1900	1922	2/057
Lindsay, Robert	1907	1928	3/051
Little, George James	1910	1931	4/018
Longmuir, Stuart N.	1904	1925	3/008
Lumley, James	1883	1901	1/127
Macarthur, William	1877	1901	1/115
MacDonald, Hector	1913	1935	4/071
MacDonald, Hector	1894	1913	2/013
MacDonald, Ian Urquhart	1904	1928	3/053
MacDonald, John	1889	1907	1/185
MacDonald, Thomas F.	1910	1933	4/041

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MacDonald, William	1873	1896	1/065
MacGillvary, William	1875	1900	1/112
MacGregor	1907	1930	4/008
Machray, Frank	1874	1893	1/027
MacIntyre, Donald	1871	1892	1/019
MacKenzie, Duncan S.	1908	1933	4/044
MacKenzie, Hector	1909	1931	4/015
MacKenzie, James D.	1881	1903	1/141
MacKenzie, John	1904	1930	4/005
MacKenzie, Norman	1880	1901	1/130
Mackenzie, Roderick	1878	1900	1/108
MacKenzie, William G.	1904	1928	3/044
MacLaren, Frank	1881	1899	1/100
Macpherson, James	1883	1903	1/148
MacRae, John	1897	1922	2/056
Mair, James Ballantine	1911	1932	4/033
Manning, Daniel	1882	1909	1/209
Masson, George	1880	1901	1/120
Masterton, David	1877	1901	1/131
Matheson, Duncan	1878	1899	1/093
Maver, James	1904	1926	3/020
Maxwell, William	1882	1903	1/135
Maynard, Victor Maurice	1912	1931	4/019
McAdam, Robert James	1900	1924	2/073
McAlister, James	1895	1911	1/238
McCallum, Hugh	1873	1897	1/072
McCaskie, Walter Lloyd	1903	1928	3/045
McCreadie, Donald	1908	1932	4/025
McCutcheon, Alexander	1885	1907	1/186
McDermott, Michael J.	1904	1929	3/058
McDonald, Hector	1899	1920	2/045
McDonald, James T.	1898	1925	3/007
McDonald, John N.S.	1906	1930	3/072
McDonald, Michael M.	1902	1920	2/044
McDonald, Peter	1889	1909	1/205
McDougall, Adam	1868	1892	1/018
McDougall, Robert	1892	1912	2/003
McEwan, John	1887	1908	1/193
McFadyen, William	1908	1933	4/036
McFarlane, David	1889	1910	1/220
McGlashan, Hugh R.	1900	1926	3/025
McHardy, William	1871	1893	1/026
McHurraith, William	1872	1896	1/057

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
McIntyre, Cecil William	1905	1928	3/046
McKenzie, Alexander	1883	1904	1/158
McKenzie, Angus	1883	1904	1/163
McLennan, Murdo	1886	1910	1/218
McLeod, Ewan	1906	1927	3/036
McLeod, Ronald	1900	1923	2/066
McMartin, David John	1884	1904	1/161
McMillan, John	1868	1892	1/023
McNicoll, Frank	1886	1907	1/191
McPherson, Alexander	1877	1900	1/107
McPherson, Archie	1875	1895	1/043
McPherson, Neil J.	1887	1906	1/178
McTaggart, William	1875	1895	1/046
Meldrum, Alexander F.	1905	1926	3/018
Menzies, Alan	1894	1913	2/016
Middleton, David G.	1880	1899	1/101
Middleton, John	1877	1901	1/121
Mighton, Samuel G.	1879	1904	1/153
Miller, James	1902	1923	2/059
Miller, Walter	1899	1922	2/049
Milne, Ernest	1891	1910	1/225
Mitchell, Arthur James	1903	1920	2/034
Moffat, Robert	1875	1895	1/044
Moir, Jack Reid	1906	1930	4/012
Mollison, Charles	1902	1923	2/061
Monks, Charles Edward	1904	1929	3/062
Morison, Annie	1870	1898	1/081
Morland, Walter Henry	1881	1910	1/228
Morrison, Norman H.	1904	1926	3/029
Morrison, William	1886	1910	1/213
Morton, David	1873	1895	1/049
Mowat, John L.	1902	1922	2/053
Muckart, James	1904	1927	3/035
Munday, Alfred John	1881	1911	1/227
Murdoch, David	1901	1920	2/041
Murray, Bertie	1909	1932	4/023
Murray, John Murdoch	1885	1906	1/173
Murray, Joseph	1873	1896	1/055
Murray, Robert James	1909	1932	4/024
Murray, Ronald Gordon	1904	1925	3/010
Murray, William	1904	1925	3/011
Myles, Alexander A.	1879	1896	1/064
Nash, William	1883	1906	1/182



<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Neilson, John Elder	1907	1930	4/006
Nicholson, Robert	1900	1919	2/020
Nicoll, William Peter	1878	1901	1/118
Nimmo, James A.	1893	1909	1/207
Oliver, Hugh	1892	1912	2/006
Ord, Mary	1895	1920	2/042
Parkinson, Cecil Arthur	1905	1924	3/002
Parnell, Frederick	1883	1902	1/132
Patterson, Ronald T.	1907	1929	3/059
Percy-Lancaster, Alick	1912	1933	4/038
Poore, Thomas E.D.	1899	1923	2/065
Porter, David	1904	1923	2/067
Prime, Archibald Edward	1909	1930	4/002
Proudfoot, James	1904	1925	3/012
Puddle, Wilfred Ellis	1907	1928	3/041
Quarry, Robert Scott	1885	1903	1/149
Reid, Alexander Taylor	1883	1905	1/169
Reid, James	1910	1933	4/042
Reid, James	1893	1913	2/014
Reid, Robert	1869	1892	1/015
Reid, William Barty	1890	1909	1/201
Reilly, Thomas James	1903	1927	3/034
Reynolds, Harold E.F.	1876	1897	1/069
Richardson, Donald	1906	1927	3/039
Richardson, Thomas	1888	1910	2/018
Richardson, Thomas	1888	1910	1/224
Riddell, John	1903	1924	3/004
Riddell, Thomas Knox	1908	1929	3/061
Ritchie, Charles William	1885	1905	1/166
Roberts, Jack	1909	1931	4/014
Robertson, Charles M.	1902	1926	3/021
Robertson, Duncan	1876	1897	1/068
Robertson, John	1883	1901	1/117
Robertson, Thomas	1911	1935	4/064
Robinson, Alfred George	1910	1931	4/016
Robinson, Charles Harris	1879	1899	1/095
Robinson, Wilfred	1911	1933	4/040
Ross, David Mitchell	1879	1904	1/157
Ross, John	1876	1901	1/124
Roy, Charles Barclay	1890	1911	1/226
Royle, James	1857	1892	1/004
Rutherford, Gilbert A.	1901	1920	2/035
Rutherford, James	1889	1908	1/195

Name	Born	Year started at RBGE	Register Ref.
Sanderson, Robert	1907	1928	3/050
Sandison, Charles	1908	1930	3/073
Scott, Amelia Jean	1903	1919	2/021
Scott, Andrew	1884	1906	1/180
Scott, Andrew	1883	1901	1/119
Scott, Frank	1879	1900	1/105
Scott, John M.	1892	1920	2/039
Scroggie, Albert Coutts	1907	1927	3/037
Shanley, John	1846? (wrong date given)	1876	1/014
Shaw, Robert	1894	1919	2/025
Shearer, Frank	1875	1896	1/062
Shepherd, Alexander E.C.	1910	1933	4/048
Sherlock, Thomas	1884	1907	1/189
Sim, David Webster	1881	1903	1/139
Simon, Thomas	1885	1910	1/211
Simpson, Alexander	1908	1930	3/070
Simpson, Charles	1872	1892	1/009
Simpson, Donald W.	1899	1921	2/046
Simpson, George Allan	1897	1921	2/047
Simpson, John	1912	1934	4/054
Sinclair, Lawrence	1905	1926	3/019
Smart, George	1886	1905	1/171
Smart, James Buchanan	1909	1931	4/020
Smith, Alexander Wood	1912	1933	4/047
Smith, Allan Hutchison	1899	1920	2/036
Smith, Andrew A.L.	1895	1910	1/216
Smith, Andrew Leslie	1895	1919	2/019
Smith, Douglas	1888	1908	1/197
Smith, Duncan	1884	1909	1/202
Smith, Edward John	1886	1906	1/175
Smith, George	1886	1906	1/183
Smith, James	1878	1901	1/129
Smith, James	1882	1898	1/091
Smith, Robert	1872	1894	1/032
Smith, William	1878	1901	1/122
Smyth, William F.	1888	1906	1/176
Snoddy, Andrew	1911	1935	4/065
Speirs, James	1875	1899	1/094
Stalker, Duncan John	1910	1934	4/060
Steadwood, George P.	1909	1932	4/030
Steel, William Brown	1900	1926	3/028
Steel, William James	1908	1933	4/039
Stephen, James A.	1911	1934	4/051

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Stephen, William	1874	1896	1/061
Steven, Peter	1909	1931	4/017
Stewart, David	1885	1906	1/179
Stewart, Doanld Ogilvie	1911	1933	4/043
Stewart, John	1891	1913	2/017
Stewart, Lawrence B.	1876	1895	1/040
Stewart, William	1883	1898	1/092
Stuart, George M.	1887	1907	1/187
Stuart, William	1876	1897	1/067
Sutcliffe, Herbert	1881	1903	1/133
Sutherland, John Bain	No D.O.B.	1902	1/146
Swan, John	1904	1928	3/043
Sykes, Ben	1912	1935	4/070
Tait, David Reid	1878	1904	1/159
Tait, Geroge Henderson	1911	1932	4/028
Taylor, Albert Edward	1908	1930	4/010
Taylor, James Alexander	1884	1904	1/154
Taylor, Thomas Douglas	1905	1927	3/033
Tayor, John	1869	1890	1/017
Tew, Christopher William	1908	1929	3/065
Thomson, George J.	1906	1926	3/023
Thomson, Robert	1874	1897	1/077
Thomson, William J.C.	1910	1934	4/062
Tully, James Borthwick	1878	1898	1/088
Urquhart, Arthur	1879	1900	1/104
Veitch, Archibald	1875	1895	1/039
Waite, Thomas	1877	1902	1/138
Waite, W.	1872	1894	1/031
Warren, William	1912	1934	4/053
Wastson, James	1904	1929	3/056
Watson, Addison	1904	1927	3/031
Watson, William	1903	1922	2/055
White, George	1903	1922	2/050
White, John	1889	1912	2/005
White, Robert	1880	1902	1/145
Whittington, Walter	1882	1904	1/160
Whittle, John Andrew	1909	1930	4/007
Whyte, Andrew Hayne	1906	1926	3/017
Wightman, William	1878	1896	1/060
Wilkie, David	1892	1906	1/206
Williamson, David S.	1891	1910	1/214
Williamson, William M.	1889	1906	1/177
Wills, Edmund	1887	1911	1/237

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Year started at RBGE</b>	<b>Register Ref.</b>
Wilson, Andrew	1889	1908	1/194
Wilson, Andrew J.	1891	1910	1/217
Wilson, James	1884	1903	1/142
Wilson, John Murray	1911	1933	4/037
Wilson, Nichol G.	1902	1919	2/022
Woodcock, James	1889	1908	1/196
Young, MacDonald	1887	1910	1/222
Young, Ross	1911	1934	4/052

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