



**JOHAN THEODOR SALVESEN
(1820–65)**

was born in Mandal, on the south coast of Norway. By the age of 22, he had spent five years in the Baltic ports learning about shipping and commerce. In 1842 he came to Scotland to study English and to gain further business experience. The following year, he founded J.T. Salvesen and Co in Grangemouth as a shipbroker, sailing ship owner, forwarding agent, grain importer and timber merchant. Three years later he was involved in the establishment of a similar business in Leith, which after a few years was taken over by his younger brother Christian Salvesen. Both businesses went on to expand, and to involve many family members of future generations.

Salvesen gained a reputation for considerable commercial acumen and business integrity. He was fluent in several languages. At the age of 26 he was appointed Hanoverian vice-consul in Grangemouth. In later years he also became consul for Russia, Prussia, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium.

In 1847, Salvesen married Anna Nathalia Theodora Salvesen (unrelated to him). In 1856 they moved from Grangemouth to Weedings Hall, Polmont; and in about 1860 to Polmont House. By then, the pressure of work had increasingly affected his health, and at the young age of 45 he died. His widow and their nine children, then aged between 2 and 17, remained at Polmont House until the 1870s, when the family moved to Edinburgh.

A strong Salvesen connection with Polmont continued, however, with the founder's sons returning to work in the Grangemouth business and to live in Polmont, in particular at Lathallan House and Wallacerig. Family involvement in J.T. Salvesen and Co continued for three further generations of direct descendants.

Salvesen's widow gave Polmont Old Parish Church its stained glass window in his memory; it is also dedicated to their daughter Frederikke, who had died in 1873. It is inscribed:

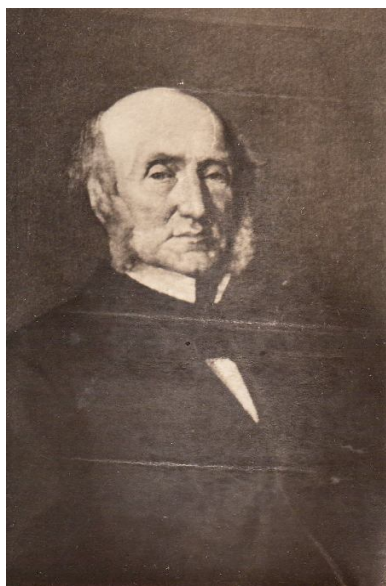
In memory of Johan Theodor Salvesen, born at Mandal, Norway, August 8th, 1820, died at Polmont House, December 23rd, 1865; and of Frederikke Marie, born at Grangemouth, May 20th, 1855, died at Fransensbad, Bohemia, September 4th, 1873. June 1876.

Salvesen was buried in Polmont churchyard, where a memorial now commemorates him, his wife, and other family members at rest in the family grave. The last of these is his grandson Ralph Henry Salvesen, of Lathallan and Avondale, who died in 1965, 100 years later to the month.



**SALVESEN MEMORIAL IN
POLMONT CHURCHYARD**

Researched by Keith Salvesen



WALTER SCOTT
(1806 – 1886)

of Gilston was born in Polmont in 1806. Little is known of his life in Polmont other than that he was schooled there, and became a farmer. By the early 1830s he had moved away from Polmont, initially working at the Teaninich Distillery, Ross-shire. In about 1835 Scott moved to the village of Forgue, Aberdeenshire, where he acquired the Glendronach Distillery (founded in 1826), which had been seriously damaged in a fire. He restored and enlarged the premises, turning the distillery into a noted producer of fine single malts. The distillery still operates today, and is owned, after a succession of takeovers, by Benriach.

Scott became a man of some wealth, and was a renowned cattle breeder. A contemporary account records:

We then returned to Glendronach House...and were conducted to the spacious drawing room to view the fine collection of medals and silver plate, awards for prize cattle to the late Mr. Scott, who was one of the most celebrated breeders of prize animals in the country. We were exceedingly interested in these valuable trophies, never before having seen so many in a private house. The Glendronach make is a pure Highland Malt, and held in high repute both in England and Scotland.

Walter Scott was clearly both a religious man and a most generous benefactor. The fine stained-glass window in Polmont Old Parish Church was given by him to commemorate his happy childhood in Polmont. The inscription reads:

The gift of Walter Scott, son of the late Alexander Scott, Gilston, in affectionate remembrance of his youthful days at the Parish School of Polmont – June 1876.

In 1872, Scott gave the Parish Church at Forgue its “fine-toned” organ, still in use today; and in 1885 he gave the Parish its church hall (by architect Alexander Marshall Mackenzie). Now known as Scott’s Hall, it has recently been carefully restored. He also left money for the establishment of bursaries for young boys at the local public schools in Forgue, Ythan Wells and Polmont parishes.

Scott did not marry, but he left a lengthy and very detailed will bequeathing many legacies and gifts to a wide circle of nephews, nieces, cousins, friends, farm and distillery workers. Scott died at his home, Boynsmill House, Forgue in 1886, two months after his 80th birthday, and in accordance with his written wishes, as recorded in the Polmont parish archives in 1875, he was buried in the churchyard at Polmont with other close members of his family.



**SCOTT MEMORIAL IN
POLMONT CHURCHYARD**

**Researched by Keith Salvesen
and
Sandra Reid**

Research into Walter Scott is still a work
'in progress'.