

## FINDLAY, Robert Scott

*Brother of George de Cardonnel Findlay, Royal Engineers, V.C., M.C. & Bar*

*Brother of Lt. Col. Charles Bannatyne Findlay, Royal Horse Artillery*

*Brother of ...? Findlay, Royal Navy*

*Second Cousin of Brigadier-General Neil Findlay, Royal Field Artillery*

*Second Cousin of Captain Robert De Cardonnel Findlay, 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders*

*Brother-in-Law of Captain Claud Gray-Buchanan, 35th Sikhs, Indian Army, attached Royal Flying Corps*



### *CWGC:*

Rank: Captain

Regiment: Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, 9th Battalion

Date of Death: 22nd May 1915

Age: 28

Buried: Boturich Castle Private Cemetery (near South West Corner)

Additional Information: Son of Robert Elmsall Findlay and Jane Cecelia Louise Findlay, Boturich Castle, Balloch, Dunbartonshire. Born at Glasgow

### *SNWM:*

Rank: Captain

Regiment: Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, 9th Battalion (Territorial)

Date of Death: 22nd May 1915. Cause of Death: Killed

### *SDGW:*

Rank: Captain

Regiment: Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, 9th (The Dunbartonshire) Battalion (Territorial)

Date of Death: 22nd May 1915. Cause of Death: Killed

*MIC:* Robert Scott Findlay, Captain, 9th Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Deceased 22nd May 1915

Medal Entitlement: 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals

Correspondence Address: (Father) Major R. E. Findlay, Boturich Castle, Balloch, Dunbartonshire

### *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, Volume 2:*

Findlay, Robert Scott, Captain, 1/9th Battalion, Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) (Dunbartonshire T. F.), second son of Robert Elmsall Findlay of Boturich Castle, Dunbartonshire by his wife Jane Cecelia Louise, daughter of James Scott, 1 Woodside Place, Glasgow; born Glasgow 17th April 1887; educated St. Ninian's, Moffat; Harrow (H. O. D. Davidson's House, Elmfield), and Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1910; was afterwards on the staff of Messrs. Findlay, Richardson & Co., Lt., Merchants, Glasgow, Manila, Japan and China; went to Manila, Philippine Islands for his firm in November 1912, returning home on leave in June 1914; joined the 9th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as 2nd Lieutenant 28th July 1910; promoted Lieutenant 24th January 1913 and captain 16th December 1914; was still in England on leave when war broke out in August 1914; volunteered for foreign service; served with the 1/9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in this country from 4th August 1914 and in France and Flanders from 19th February 1915; took part in the Second Battle of Ypres, when the battalion earned high praise from F.M. Sir John (now Lord) French; was three times hit by pieces of shell 10th May, but after a short visit to the Field Dressing Station in the evening, he returned to the fire trench, in command of a mixed company of the 2nd Camerons and the 1/9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and held it until relieved the next morning and was killed in the railway accident near Gretna 22nd May 1915, while returning home on four days' leave. A brother officer wrote: "He was the coolest man in difficulty or danger I ever met; he did splendid work for the regiment throughout and was certainly one of our best and bravest officers," and another: "He was always cool, always seemed to know the right thing to do and did it; absolutely fearless, but never took an unnecessary risk or allowed any of his men to do so." While at Harrow he was in the House Football XI in 1903 and in the School Shooting Eight in 1904 and 1905, when they were the winners of the Ashburton Shield. At Oxford, he rowed in his College Torpid, 1906, 1908 and 1909; in the College Eight, 1906 and 1909; shot in the University Eight, 1906 and 1909 and in the University Long Range Four, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909, when he was captain; was in the University Swimming Team, 1908, and in 1910 shot the Scottish Eight. Unmarried

### *Balliol College War Memorial Book, 1914 – 1918, Volume 1:*

Robert Scott Findlay was born April 17th, 1887 and was the second son of R.E. Findlay, J.P., D.L., of Boturich Castle, Dunbartonshire. He entered Harrow in 1900, was in the Shooting Eight in 1904 and in 1905, and in 1905 entered Balliol and took at once to rowing, in which his father had been a great figure in some of Balliol's best years on the river (from 1875 onwards). He won the Morrison Fours and the College Sculls and rowed in the First Torpid in 1906, 1908 and 1909 and in the Eights of 1906 and 1909. He was one of those big men whose intellects mature later than their bodies, but he had much good sense and a very level judgement in practical matters and was both liked and respected for his loyalty to comrades and his genuine kindness. He was in the University Shooting Eight in 1906 and 1909, in the Shooting Four from 1906 to 1909 (in 1909 he was Captain), and in the Scottish Shooting Eight in 1910. He was a member of the University Swimming Team in 1908. All through College life he

was a keen member of the O.T.C., and joined the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in 1910, becoming Lieutenant in 1913; he was mobilised on August 4th, 1914 and became Captain in January 1915. The battalion went to Flanders in February 1915; they had thirty-seven days of continuous fighting (in the second battle of Ypres) and from May 8th to 11th lost 600 men, and were thanked by Sir John French for gallant behaviour. Findlay, though hit three times by shell, was never long away. On May 22nd, 1915, when on four days' leave, he met his death in the Gretna railway accident, not far from his home. His brother officer wrote: "He was the coolest man in difficulty and danger I ever met; he always did the right thing in an emergency; absolutely fearless, he never let his men take an unnecessary risk. He was always working hard for the efficiency of the Company, and so keen about anything he took up." Had he lived, he would undoubtedly have obtained distinction like his brothers, who between them won the Victoria Cross and three Military Crosses.

*Soldiers' Effects:* Captain R. S. Findlay, 9th Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

Killed in railway accident at Gretna, 22nd May 1915.

Grantees: Robert Elmsall Findlay Esq., Robert Findlay Esq., Charles Bannatyne Findlay Esq., (jointly) George de Cardonnel Elmsall Findlay Esq., also Mrs Sarah MacAdam Potter.

*The Scotsman, 24th May 1915. 'The London Express Disaster – Death Toll of the Sleeping Car'*

It has apparently been found impossible so far to make up a list of the killed and injured of the passengers in the London express. It is feared, however, that several who were in the front carriages lost their lives, while others have been injured. Besides those mentioned below, it is stated that another man has been killed, also two ladies yet unidentified. Yesterday afternoon the bodies of five unknown occupants of the first sleeping car in the express from London were brought to Glasgow and were conveyed to the private mortuary of Messrs. Wylie & Lochhead (Limited). Subsequently they were identified as follows: Lieutenant J. C. Bonnar, 9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, Cairnsmore, Helensburgh, Captain Findlay, Boturich Castle, Balloch, Mr. H. Ford, manager, crane department, Parkhead Works of Sir William Arrol & Co. (Limited), Lieutenant Commander C. E. Head, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vernon, Portsmouth, Lieutenant John Jackson, 9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, Rockville, Dumbarton and Paymaster Paton, R.R., reported killed.

Much sorrow was felt in Vale of Leven and Loch Lomondside district yesterday (Sunday) when it became known that Captain Robert S. Findlay, Jamestown and Bonhill company of Dunbartonshire Territorials, the 1/9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders had been killed in the railway collision at Gretna. Deceased was the second son of Robert E. Findlay of Boturich castle, Loch Lomondside, a well-known Dunbartonshire gentleman. Mr. Findlay, senior, is also well-known in Glasgow business circles. Deceased, who had been at the front for several months with the Dunbartonshire Territorials, was coming home to Boturich castle on a few days' leave when he met his death. He was about 26 years of age and was educated at Harrow and Oxford. He assisted in his father's business in Glasgow. He had been connected with the Dunbartonshire territorials for several years and was one of the best shots among the officers in the regiment, being a prize-winner at Bisley and Darnley. Only about a fortnight ago, when Colonel Clark of the Dunbartonshire Territorials was killed, he led the Dunbartonshire Regiment on, along with Major George H. Christie, who took command when Colonel Clark fell. The body was conveyed to Boturich Castle last evening per motor from Glasgow. Deceased had been Captain of Jamestown and Bonhill Company before going to the front. Mr. Findlay, senior, has suffered much by the war. His son-in-law, Captain Claud Gray Buchanan, who was married to Mr. Findlay's only daughter last summer, was killed early in the campaign, while his two cousins, Brigadier-General Neil Findlay of Easterhill and R. De. C. Findlay, laird of Blairlusk, have also fallen on the battlefield since the war commenced. Mr. Findlay has other three sons with the colours. Another correspondent says: "Captain Findlay had been in the trenches for 34 days at Hill 60 and had received four days' leave of absence to visit his home. A card case containing the dead officer's card and his railway ticket was picked up in the wreckage by a soldier and subsequently handed over to the police at Glasgow.

*The Scotsman, 25th & 26th May 1915. 'Deaths'*

Findlay. Killed in railway accident near Gretna on Saturday, 22nd inst., Captain Robert Scott Findlay, 1/9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, aged 28, second son of Robert Elmsall Findlay of Boturich, Dunbartonshire. Military Funeral at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Dumbarton on Wednesday 26th inst., at 2.50 o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.



*The Scotsman, 27th May 1915. 'Funeral of Captain Robert Scott Findlay'*

Yesterday afternoon the funeral took place of Captain Robert Scott Findlay, 1/9th (the Dunbartonshire) Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, one of the three Dunbartonshire officers killed in the railway disaster of last Saturday. He was the second son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Findlay of Boturich, Dunbartonshire, whose four sons went on service – three to France and one to the Navy. The remains were brought on a gun-carriage, supplied by the Royal Field Artillery at Maryhill Barracks, from Boturich to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Dumbarton, where the funeral service was taken by the Right Rev. Bishop Campbell, Glasgow, assisted by his chaplain (the Rev. J. Eldon Ellison) and the Rev. William Brews (minister of the church). It was a simple service of praise and prayer. Among those present, were Mr and Mrs Findlay, Lord Inverclyde, Lord Lieutenant of the county, Colonel Henry Brock, D.L.; Mr. F. C. Buchanan, D.L.; Colonel Sir A. W. Leith Buchanan (2/9th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders); Sir Archibald Denny; Mr Peter Denny and Sheriff McDiarmid. At the close of the service, the coffin, which had been placed before the altar, wrapped in the Union Jack, the sword of the deceased officer lying on top, was carried from the church by pall-bearers, consisting of officers of the 1st and 2nd 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Other officers present included Captain McConnell, Captain Macbain and Lieutenant McConnell, comrades who were in the trenches near Ypres with the deceased. Outside the church the remains were again placed

on the gun-carriage and the cortege set out on its seven-mile journey to the private burying ground of the family at Boturich. On duty on the street, which was lined with the townspeople, were men of the 3/9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, under the command of Major Rorke and a detachment of National Reservists, under Captain Robertson.



*Borurich Castle Private Burial Ground:*

Robert Scott Findlay, Captain in the 1/9th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (Dunbartonshire)  
The second son of Robert Elmsall Findlay of Borturich  
Born 17th April 1887, killed in the Railway Accident near Grentna  
On 22nd May 1915 when returning from France on leave  
After three months of service fighting near Ypres

*The Scotsman, 18th October 1915. 'Scottish and Other Wills'*

Captain Robert Scott Findlay, of the 1/9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, of 34 West George Street, Glasgow and of Boturich Castle, Dunbartonshire, who was killed in the railway accident near Grentna on the 22nd May last, aged 28 years, second son of Mr. Robert Elmsall Findlay of Boturich, Dunbartonshire, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £6100.

*England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1915:*

Findlay, Robert Scott of Boturich Castle, Dumbarton, Captain, 1/9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, died 22nd May 1915 at Grentna.

Confirmation of Robert Elmsall Findlay, Robert Findlay, Charles Bannatyne Findlay, R.H.A., and George de Cardonnel Elmsall Findlay, R.E. Sealed London, 13th October 1915

*Also Commemorated:*

Harrow School WW1 Shrine,  
Balliol College War Memorial Book & St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Memorial (Dumbarton)

*1891 Census, Living at Leebank, Cardross, Dunbartonshire*

Father Robert E. Findlay, age 35, J. P. & Merchant, born Adelph Islands (?)

Mother Jane C. L. Findlay, age 32, born Glasgow

Children: Charles B. Findlay, age 7, Scholar, born Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire

Jane C. H. Findlay, age 5, Scholar, born Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire

**Robert Scott Findlay, age 3, born Glasgow**

George C. E. Findlay, age 1, born Cardross, Dunbartonshire

*1901 Census, Living at (Elmfield), Harrow, Middlesex*

**Robert S. Findlay, age 13, Student, born Scotland**



*Left:*  
St. Augustine's  
Episcopal  
Church and  
Memorial,  
Dumbarton



*Above Left: Kilmarnock Civic Memorial*



*Above Right and Below: Boturich Castle*



*There are further Commemorated Plaques to various members of the Findlay Family in Kilmarnock Parish Church, but unfortunately access to date, has not been possible.*

Access to Robert Scott Findlay's Gravestone and the Findlay Burial Ground by very kind permission of the owner, June 2017.