

Margaret Charlotte Davidson

Born 18<sup>th</sup> August 1879

Died 6<sup>th</sup> February 1978

Miss Margaret Charlotte Davidson 1879-1978 taught at Dornoch Burgh School, Schoolhill in 1905 and moved to the new school site in 1913 where she taught until at least 1945 having obtained the status of head of her subject (she taught Modern Languages). She was active in the Guides movement and went to France in the First World War as an orderly at Royaumont 23 May 1915- 29 Aug 1917 and subsequently she became an auxiliary nurse. Further details and a copy of a photograph of the Royaumont kitchen are included in the digital document. Graduated St. Andrews in 1902

She is mentioned on a memorial plaque in the Cathedral.

The copy of the photograph below is of the orderlies in the kitchen at Royaumont.



*The Kitchen, now one of the most beautiful rooms of the Abbey. The orderlies are hard at work. Note the heavy iron stoves which the cooks found so difficult to manage. No trace of these remains.*

*(By permission of the Imperial War Museum).*

She is mentioned on a memorial plaque in the Cathedral.

There are 7 photos with Miss Davidson in them in the museum catalogue :-  
2000.031: 2002.011: 2003.272: 2003.274: 2004.298.001: 2004.307: 2006.302

Miss Davidson is mentioned in a book about the women who nursed in France - *The Women of Royaumont; A Scottish Women's Hospital on the Western Front*, Eileen Crofton, Tuckwell Press 1997

The info about Miss Davidson from the book is as follows;

p296 Autumn 1916, Miss Davidson encountered "the ghost of Royaumont" when she opened a door in response to knocking, only to find no-one there.

p304 " Orderlies had to be sufficiently well off to give their services voluntarily. Only uniforms, travel expenses and board and lodging were supplied. They came from a variety of backgrounds...Some already had their own profession. Davidson was teaching modern languages in Dornoch Academy."

p310 "after the war...Davidson went back to teaching."

Margaret Davidson was the daughter of Alexander L Davidson, a headmaster, and Charlotte Shand. Charlotte Anne Lindsay Shand was born in Newhills, on the 27 June 1854, the daughter of John Shand, Paper Mill manager, and Margaret Robb.. Her family were members of the Church of Scotland and she was educated at the Female School, Woodside, where she became a Pupil Teacher. She attended the Church of Scotland Teacher Training College 1874-75 and taught at Woodside School from 1876-78, gaining her Teaching Certificate in 1878. On 11 Sept 1878 she married Alexander Leith Davidson, head teacher of Ruthwell School, Dumfries.

"27 Dec 1876. Miss Janet Shand, Assistant Mistress, leaves school today, to enter the Normal Training College. She entered as a scholar in 1861 in this school and after holding the first rank for ten years she became a Pupil teacher in 1871. Having finished her apprenticeship in 1876 she became an assistant. Her whole career has been singularly successful deserving the highest commendation."  
She attended the Church of Scotland Teacher Training College (Class IV). She taught at Woodside School from 1879-1904 at least, gaining her Teaching Certificate in 1880. In 1896 her salary was £70 pa. She had a Drawing Certificate. She contributed to the retirement presentation to George F. Duthie in 1904.

Miss Davidson relatives were able to acquire whilst in Dornoch additional details: Margaret Charlotte Davidson died at the Cambusavie Hospital near Dornoch on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1978. Her grave is in the new cemetery at Princynain. Her family said that she was not only very involved in the Guides movement but also with the Church.