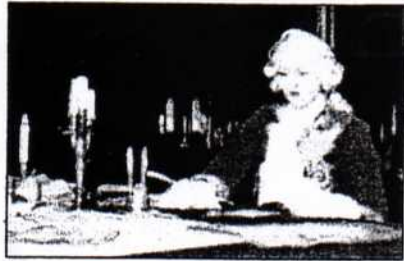


The Salutation Hotel

1600's to 2001

THERE ARE TWO COMPETING THEORIES AS TO WHERE THE NAME SALUTATION DERIVES FROM. THE FIRST IS SAID TO DATE FROM THE DATE OF GRAYFRIARS. AND THAT THE NAME WAS A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF INFANT JESUS IN THE VILLAGE OF BETHLEHEM BY THE "WISE MEN OF THE EAST WHO CAME TO WORSHIP." THE SECOND VIEW IS THAT THE NAME COMES FROM THE MEETING OF JOHN BURT (THE PROPRIETOR) AND SHAKING HANDS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE.

In the early 1600's the Salutation Hotel was a private house, to the Murray family. (Also known as Lord Scone & Viscount Stormont). From 1699, when we know the building served as a coaching inn until 1745, the history of the Salutation is vague. It is thought that it may have been managed by the Franciscan Order, otherwise known as the grey friars. It is least likely that it was within their grounds. The Salutation Hotel has become the oldest established hotel in Scotland, as well as one of Perth's unofficial landmarks.



Bonnie Prince Charlie

The hotel remained an important stopping off point, for those using the main coach route for Glasgow & Edinburgh to Inverness and Aberdeen. At the side of the hotel where the present day goods entrance is situated, would have been the entrance for the coaches. The facade of the main entrance was actually constructed in the 1800's. The large Victorian style window and pillars were designed by Sir Robert Reid, the then King's architect for Scotland. Underneath Reid's bar are the remains of what were ovens or kilns.



Black Watch Piper

The History of the "sally" as it came to be known, is scant in the intervening centuries between 1800 and the 1940's. Its ballroom, The Moncrieffe suite as it is today, was known as the Salutation Assembly Rooms between the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. Competing favourably with the Theatre

Royal which used to stand on Atholl Street. It is recorded that one concert given by the English Chapel Choir (accompanied by the band of the Durham Light Infantry) left the Theatre Royal "deserted". The ballroom was to be well known throughout the local area for its ballroom dancing. During the 1980s when disco became the fashion, the opening of the Sally's disco again made it the main hot spot in Perth.

In 1745 Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) landed on the coast of Western Scotland. He soon had a strong following in his quest. On his march to invade England, he stopped at many towns and cities, raising funds for the cause to which he demanded £500 from Perth. It is said that he did not sleep during the visit, but held meetings with his commanders. It has been said that he used room 20 (the Stuart room) to make plans for his rebellion. This was to be noted at the trial of Colonel Bower of Forfarshire.



Adverts from 1949

Stathmore Hotels in 1991 purchased the Salutation Hotel from the Jarvis Group. Strathmore Hotels was at this point a young company founded by Managing Director Mr Ronnie Rickard. Along with Mr Lawrence Cormack the Company has invested thousands of pounds in the refurbishment of the hotel. In 1997 half a million pounds was spent on increasing the number of rooms, and upgrading the existing ones. A new wing was created

converting old unused office space and staff accommodation areas adding more rooms to the hotel. After 300 years we are proud to announce the completion of a passenger lift, to be completed in the summer of 2001. Thus making all wings of the hotel more accessible. Strathmore Hotels plan to continue investing in the Salutation in order to make it the first and only choice of hotel in the Perthshire area.

