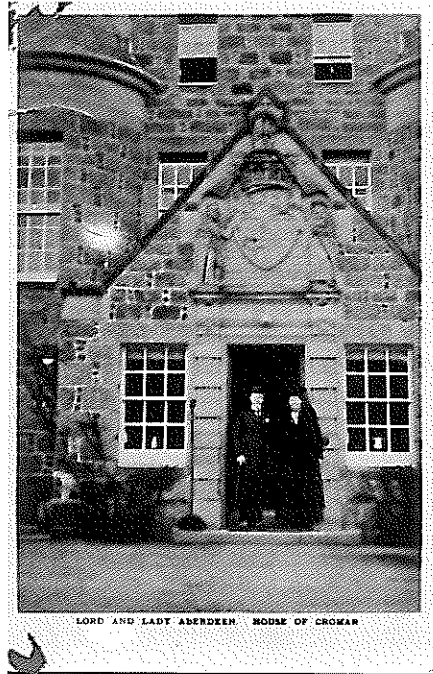


Alastrean House

The back of Alastrean House can clearly be seen from the Coull Road. An impressive building set in woodlands with gardens overlooking Tarland Golf Course and the Deeside Hills beyond.



It was built in 1905 as the country home of Lord and Lady Aberdeen and known as The House of Cromar.



In 1934 it passed to Lady MacRobert, the second wife and now widow, of Sir Alexander MacRobert who lived at Douneside, another country house in Tarland. She intended Alastrean House for the use of her sons and their families. Sadly this was not to be as all three sons were killed as young men. One lost his life in an air crash in 1938, the others on active service with the RAF during the Second World War.



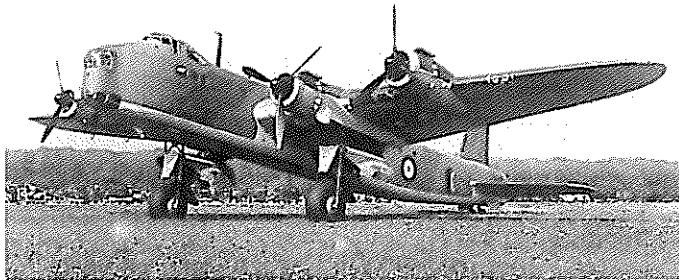
Lady MacRobert with her sons.

A mausoleum in the grounds holds the remains of one of the sons. After their deaths the house



The Mausoleum

was renamed Alastrean House. This name, fittingly was taken from a Latin phrase meaning 'a place of honour by the hearth of the winged heroes of the stars'. Lady MacRobert gave £25,000 for a bomber aircraft, type Stirling N6086 and named 'The MacRoberts Reply' in memory of her sons. It was handed over to the Air Ministry on 10th October 1941.



At this time Alastrean House became a leave centre for operational air crew serving in the RAF and the Commonwealth Air Forces, in memory of Lady MacRobert's sons. Later it became a leave centre for RAF officers.

The MacRoberts Reply

Lady MacRobert was instrumental in the creation of The MacRobert Trust.

In 1952 the house was very badly damaged by a major fire but by 1958 it had been restored and refurbished. Now owned and maintained by the MacRobert Trust it became a very comfortable Retirement Home, run by the RAF Benevolent Fund. Today Alastrean House no longer provides care specifically for RAF personnel but is leased to a company that provides care for the elderly and those who need it.