

Alford Heritage Museum's Meet the Artefact

Organ



Canadian Pedal Powered Organ

One of two pedal powered organs in the museum, this organ was originally bought for the Roman Catholic Chapel at Ballater in 1910. In the 1970s this organ was brought to the Chapel at Glenmuick House to play at the funeral for the last of the McKenzies of Glenmuick. For the organ to play, the stools had a slight slope on them so that the foot pedals could be reached easily. The organ also has a mirror so that the organist could see the singers behind them as they played.

Camera



Micro Precision Product (MPP) Camera

This camera is an example of a Micro Precision Products Ltd (MPP). MPP produced cameras and other photographic related equipment between 1941 and 1981. MPP also created cameras specifically to take “mug shots” of criminals and even created a flash gun which was used for Darth Vader’s lightsabre in the Star Wars films. This camera was donated by Kathleen Morrison, whose father, Alec, was a well renowned photographer based in Lumphanan.

Bellows



Bellows

Bellows, or a pair of bellows, was an essential device of the household and used to help start fires. This could be either for a fireplace or to help control temperatures when cooking. The most common example of bellows, like the one pictured, is a flexible leather bag with a valve between two boards. At one end, these join together to make a spout with handles at the other. The handles were pulled apart, which allowed air to enter the bag, and when the handles were brought together again air would be forced out of the spout. This stylish example pictured dates from the late 19th century and can be found in the Farmhouse Kitchen.

Paraffin Iron



Paraffin Iron

The Paraffin Irons date were first manufactured in the 1890s and the one pictured is an example of an iron produced by the Tilley Lamp Co. Ltd. The iron is made of metal, with a bakelite handle. Unlike modern day irons, these were not electric and instead gained its heat by burning paraffin. The heat could then be increased by increasing the iron pressure with a pump. These irons were extremely popular when they were released as electricity did not reach rural Aberdeenshire until the 1960s.

Tractor



International BN Tractor

This rare row-crop three wheeled tractor dates back to 1941 and was manufactured by the International Harvester Company as part of the Farmall 'Letter Series'. The tractor starts on petrol, but when warmed up switched to paraffin. It was used for the drilling and cultivation of potatoes and root crops in the Brechin area, and later at Edingarioch, Premnay. The BN model was discontinued in 1948. This tractor is on loan to the museum and is owned by Robert and Peter Cran.