

Deacon Convener William Beattie



The Beattie family were very involved with the Incorporation of Bakers and the Trades House of Glasgow. William Beattie (1854 to 1919) had two sons who became Deacons of the Incorporation of Bakers. The eldest son Francis Beattie (1885 to 1945) became Deacon Convener 1933 - 34. The other brother who was a Deacon of the Incorporation of Bakers was William Beattie (1898 to 1947) and he was Deacon of the Incorporation of Bakers in 1939.

William Beattie (1853–1919), was a wholesale baker, and was born in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, and moved with his father, Francis (himself a master baker), to Glasgow in the 1860s. William was a baker's apprentice by 1871, while his father, meantime, supported them as a boilermaker's labourer whilst staying at 19 Springburn Road, Hyde Park, Glasgow¹. William Beattie was known for his

“prodigious energy”: he opened his own Bakery in 1876, and expanded with the rapid growth in demand for baked bread in the city at the end of the 19th century. Glasgow proved to be an excellent base for the business, with ingredients readily available from the city's mills and the port, and excellent transport links with the rest of Scotland and rapidly expanded in Bellgrove Street².

By 1881, William was staying with his father and sister Jane (25 years) at 2 Adamswell Street, Springburn. William was listed in the census as a Master Baker employing 9 men, 5 boys and 2 girls, compared to his father's 6 men 2 girls and 3 boys. His sister Jane was employed as a Bakers Shopkeeper³.

William Beattie joined the Incorporation of Bakers on 17th Feb 1885 as a Far Hand member; his father did not join any Incorporation⁴.

In 1886, he announced the manufacture of the genuine Vienna Bread, at his new Vienna Bakery, Paton Street, Dennistoun; this product 'suggests a higher class of clientele than ... his competitors⁵. Factory enlargement was necessary as early as 1887, and continued intermittently until 1908⁶.

¹ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1871 William Beattie (Census 622/2 1/11) Page 11 of 25.

² B. M. White, 'William Beattie', in A. Slaven and S. Checkland, eds, Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography, 2: Processing, Distribution, Glasgow: Aberdeen University Press, 1990, pp. 16–17.

³ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1881 William Beattie (Census 644/3 94/18) Page 18 of 24.

⁴ Trades House of Glasgow, Archives.

⁵ Glasgow Herald, 10 November 1886, p. 1; B. M. White, 'William Beattie', in A. Slaven and S. Checkland, eds, Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography, 2: Processing, Distribution, Glasgow: Aberdeen University Press, 1990, pp. 16–17.

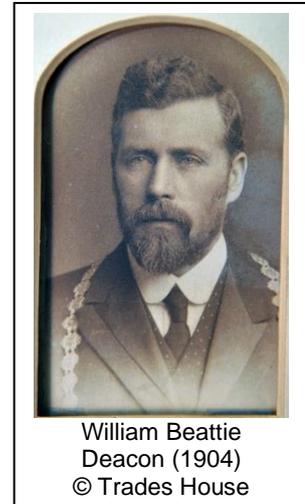
⁶ Glasgow Herald, 27 March 1885, p. 10; 11 June 1886, p. 9; 24 June 1887, p. 10; B. M. White, 'William Beattie', in A. Slaven and S. Checkland, eds, Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography, 2: Processing, Distribution, Glasgow: Aberdeen University Press, 1990, pp. 16–17.

By 1900 the firm employed around 200 people and in 1917 it became a private limited company⁷.

In 1889, Beattie and his competitors, Gray, Dunn & Co., Bilsland Brothers and Macfarlane Lang agreed to reduce their working week from 55 to 50 hours. They also agreed a 5a.m. start time with a few early men going in at 2a.m. to prepare the dough for weighing out⁸.

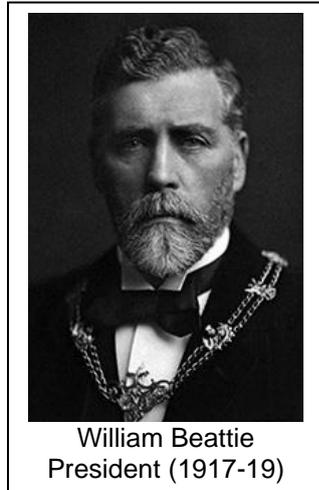
In 1891 William purchased Broomknowe, 3 Broompark Circus, Dennistoun) which was the former home of architects W. F. Salmon and James Salmon Senior, for his own family. Possibly it was the connection of the architects to the refurbishment of the Trades Hall that enticed him to purchase this house.

William Beattie became a member of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Bakers in 1894 and was chosen to be their Collector in 1902 and then Deacon in 1904.



William Beattie
Deacon (1904)
© Trades House

With success came other problems with fraudulent imitators copying his wares and he threatened to prosecute them in the 1890s. On the other hand, his wealth enabled



William Beattie
President (1917-19)

William Beattie to indulge in his interest in art⁹ and he purchased paintings by Joshua Reynolds and James Maris and was a council member of the Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts (1897)¹⁰ William Beattie was one of the many executive committee members for the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition.

In 1913 Beattie's began manufacturing confectionery and cakes and Beattie's Biscuits was founded in 1928 to cater further for the famous Scottish sweet tooth. Beattie's subsequently acquired a number of its competitors including Lang & Stevenson in 1936 and W D Scott in 1953¹¹.

William was a well-respected member of the Baking fraternity and he was elected as president of the Scottish Bakers from 1917 to 1919¹².

William Beattie died on the 7th of April 1919 at 2.10p.m at the age of 65 years¹³.

⁷ Glasgow University Archive Services, DC198/2/8

⁸ Glasgow Herald, 1 October 1889, p. 10.

⁹ Glasgow Herald, 11 October 1895, p. 1.

¹⁰ Glasgow Herald, 5 February 1897, p. 12; 8 February 1897, p. 12; 9 August 1899, p. 6.

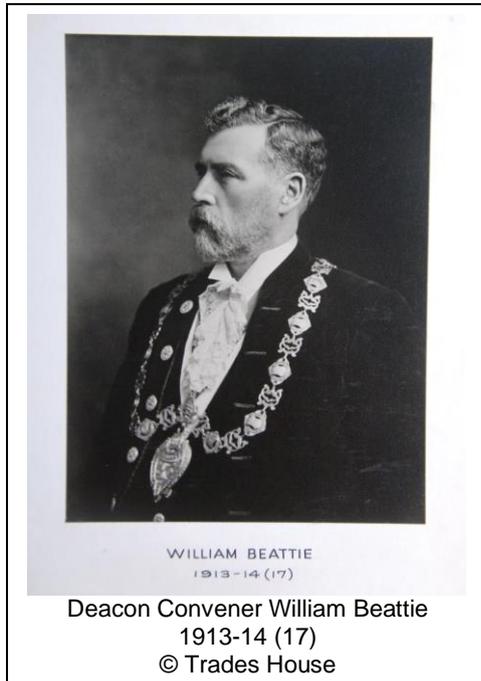
¹¹ Glasgow University Archive Services, DC198/2/8

¹² https://scottishbakers.org/page/past-presidents_1891_1922.

¹³ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1919 William John Beattie (Statutory Registers Deaths 644/12 505).

A special meeting of the Trustees of the Trades House was held on 1st May 1919 the Collector of the House spoke eloquently on the sad loss of William Beattie. The full text of the comments is listed below:

“The Collector referred to the recent death of Late Deacon-Convener Beattie. He said;-



“Late Collector Davidson and I felt it our duty in the unfortunate absence of the Deacon-Convener through illness to call this Special Meeting of the House at the earliest opportunity in consequence of the lamented death of Late Convener Beattie, in order that the House might record an appropriate expression of the feelings of the Members at his death, and the great sorrow which the sad event has brought to the hearts of Mr. Beattie's many friends, in the House, in the Incorporations and in the city.

Late Convener Beattie was not only a leading Craftsman but also a citizen held in the highest esteem, and he will be sadly missed but kindly thought of for his fine qualities as a man and a citizen for many years to come.

Mr. Beattie joined the Incorporation of Bakers at the Far Hand in the year 1885. After being elected a Member of the Master Court in the year 1894 he was chosen as Collector in 1902, becoming Deacon on entering the House for the first time in 1904.

At the unanimous desire of his former colleagues in the Master Court and the House he re-entered the House in 1910 and was elected Collector in October of that year, and Deacon-Convener in 1913. He was also called upon on the death of Deacon-Convener Alexander to resume that office in 1917, and held it until the election of the present Deacon-Convener in the same year. He thus had the privilege of sitting in the House continuously for nine years, and altogether for twelve years, a circumstance which has occurred but seldom since the seventeenth century.

While in the House he acted on all the important Committees, and was its representative on the Clyde Trust, Hutchesons Hospital, the Royal Infirmary, the Victoria Infirmary, St. Mungo's College, and other bodies. His work in connection with his own trade organisations, his interest and taste in the Fine Arts and Literature were well known; his opinions were soundly reached and his judgment seldom if ever questioned. He devoted himself unweariedly to the benevolent objects of his Incorporation, the Trades House and other Charitable Institutions, in all of which he found congenial scope for his characteristic generosity. When the War broke out he instituted the Trades House and Incorporations Joint War Relief Fund, The result of his appeals, which were enthusiastically followed by his successors, was beyond all expectations. His devotion to the Glasgow Regiments prompted him to ask the House to present a Pipe Band to the 3/5th Scottish Rifles and Colours to the 2nd

City Battalion of the H.L.I. He himself was a loyal supporter and sympathetic giver to the local Battalions.

Not the least, of his memorable work for us was his scheme for the redecoration of this old building arising out of his regard for its traditions and his veneration for its architect the famous Adams. Although the scheme is still unfinished, this room alone, with its chaste mahogany panelling and stained-glass windows, shows what was in Mr. Beattie's mind and instances the love he had for all that was beautiful.

In his private life and amidst his personal friends Mr. Beattie was one of the most lovable of men, kind, gentle, broadminded and genial on the one hand, but also strong in intellect, independent, judicious, and with an unerring instinct based on , sound common sense for always doing the right thing. He was one of nature's true gentlemen.

We all deeply mourn the loss of a friend of Mr. Beattie's worth and gifts. We shall long miss his cheering presence here and his ready, yet unobtrusive advice and guidance, and in recording our thankfulness for the good work he has done for the House and its dependents, I ask you to allow me to express on your behalf towards Mrs. Beattie and her sons and daughters in their bereavement our deepest and sincerest sympathy, and that an excerpt from this Minute be forwarded to Mrs. Beattie.

In seconding the motion, Late Collector Davidson added a few touching words regarding Mr. Beattie's fine qualities as an intimate personal friend, a relation in which he stood towards a large circle of past and present members of the House.

Thereafter the motion was unanimously agreed to."

Deacon Convener Francis Beattie

Francis Beattie was born on 26th October 1885 at 1.50a.m. in 25 Belgrove Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow, his parents William Beattie (1854 to 1919) and Margaret Barr Morton (1865 to 1952) had been married on 3rd October 1884¹⁴. Francis would go on to follow in his father's footsteps as a manager of Beattie's Bakery. The 1891 census shows that Francis (aged 5 years) was staying with his mother and father in their home at 645 Alexandria Parade, Dennistoun, Glasgow along with his brother Andrew Morton Beattie (1887 to 1892) aged 3 years. Francis's father, William (aged 37 years) was listed as a baker and his mother "Maggie", (aged 25 years) had nothing in the profession or occupation column. It is interesting to note that Martha George (aged 22 years) was also living with the family and she was listed as a sometimes servant.¹⁵

Francis became a member of the Incorporation of Bakers on 5th of January 1899 as a Near Hand as Eldest Son, father living. William, Francis's father had joined as a Far Hand on 17th February 1885¹⁶.

The 1901 census shows Francis (aged 15) living away from the family home, he was residing at Blairlodge School, Lund Boarding School in Polmont Station, Stirlingshire¹⁷. The rest of the family were staying at 3 Broompark Circus, and the family now consisted of Violet M Beattie (aged 7), William Beattie (aged 3) and Dorothy J Beattie (aged 8 months).¹⁸ The census from 1911 shows Francis Beattie (aged 25 years) staying in at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue, London W.C., Frances' mother was also staying at the hotel at the same time. Francis was listed as a manager in bread manufacturing¹⁹.

On leaving school it is believed that Francis Beattie attended the University of Glasgow.

Francis Beattie must have joined the Territorials around 1905 as he is listed as a Second Lieutenant with the 5th Volunteer Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry in the 1905 Glasgow Post Office Directory. The Drill Hall that he attended was at 81 Greendyke Street, Glasgow²⁰. In 1908 we find Francis Beattie being appointed to the 9th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry with the rank and precedence as in the Volunteer Force, which was Lieutenant. The date of the transfer was 1st April 1908²¹. Francis must have been a good officer as in 1909 he was promoted to the rank of Captain in the 9th (Glasgow Highland) Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry. The next thing that we hear about Francis's military career is when he resigns his commission in December 1911²². We have no idea why he left the Territorial Army at this time, possibly work commitments was the reason for his resignation.

¹⁴ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1885 Frances Beattie (Statutory Registers Deaths 644/3 1977).

¹⁵ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1891 Frances Beattie (Census 644/3 43/3) Page 3 of 17.

¹⁶ Trades House of Glasgow, Archives.

¹⁷ [1901 Scotland Census - Ancestry.com](http://1901.Scotland.Census-Ancestry.com).

¹⁸ [1901 Scotland Census - Ancestry.com](http://1901.Scotland.Census-Ancestry.com).

¹⁹ 1911 Census for England.

²⁰ 1905, Glasgow Post Office Directory.

²¹ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/28158/page/5137>.

²² <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/28555/page/9074>.



Brevet Major
Francis Beattie
© Trades House

With the start of World War 1 on 28th July 1914, it did not take Francis long to re-enlist and once again attain a commission in his old rank. The London Gazette lists Francis Beattie (late Captain, 5th Volunteer Battalion (Glasgow Highlanders), The Highland Light Infantry) to be Captain. Dated 23rd August 1914 in the 9th (Glasgow Highland) Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry²³. Unfortunately, we do not have the war records of Francis Beattie as his along with one third of those who fought in World War 1 were damaged or destroyed during the blitz of the Second World War. The only record that exists is his medal record card. This card clearly shows that Francis was part of the British Expeditionary Force which went over to France in 1914 and for this he was awarded the 1914 Star.

At the end of the war, he also received the Victory Medal and the British Medal²⁴.

On the 22nd of June 1922, Francis Beattie (aged 36 years) married Sarah Edith Thomas (aged 26 years) at All Saints Church in the Parish of Marylebone, London. At the time of the wedding, Francis was staying at 9 Langlum Street, London W1., and his wife was staying at 42 St. John Wood Park, London N.W. Francis was listed as a Merchant as was his deceased father and his father-in-law Henry Lewis Thomas²⁵. Sarah Edith Beattie (1894-1972) would outlive her husband, Francis, passing away at the age of 72 years in Troon, Scotland²⁶.



Deacon Francis Beattie
1927
© Trades House

In 1925 Francis became Collector for the Incorporation of Bakers and 2 years later, in 1927 he was elected to the highest position in his Craft and Became Deacon.

In 1933, Francis was elected as Deacon Convener of the Trades House of Glasgow, 20 years after his father held same office.

Francis Beattie J.P. became a Deputy Lieutenant in the City of Glasgow on 31st March 1937 when he was living at 5 Crown Terrace, Glasgow²⁷. Five years later Francis was elected as a Member of Parliament for Cathcart, Glasgow in place of Sir John Train, deceased²⁸. Sir John had been Deacon Convener of the Trades House from 1927 to 1928 and was a Past Deacon of the Incorporation of Masons (1916 and 1923)²⁹. The returns for the election show that Francis

Beattie, Conservative was a popular selection with him being awarded 10,756 votes with Second Lieutenant the Honourable Douglas-Hume, Progressive Independent with 3,807 votes. The other two candidates between them only amassed 3,493

²³ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/28914/page/7605>.

²⁴ www.ancestry.com.

²⁵ English Marriage Certificate, 22nd June 1922.

²⁶ www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, 1972 Sarah Edith Beattie (Statutory Registers Deaths 674/ 93).

²⁷ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/Edinburgh/issue/15377/page/302>.

²⁸ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/Edinburgh/issue/15913/page/193>.

²⁹ Trades House of Glasgow, Archives.

votes³⁰. Francis was re-elected as Member of Parliament for Cathcart, Glasgow at the 1945 General Election and was their M.P. until his death on 28th December 1945³¹.

The sudden death of Francis Beattie was a great loss to Glasgow and all who knew him and was reported far and wide throughout the British Isles. Francis Beattie was killed in a motor accident at 10.30a.m. on the Kilmarnock Road, near Loganswells, Newton Mearns and the cause of death was fracture of the brain and laceration of the brain caused by a road accident³². The death certificate does not give the details of the horrific accident which included his chauffeuse Miss Jemimah Hastie of Troon who received serious injuries and died later. The car being driven by Miss Hastie skidded and collided with a lorry, carrying beer barrels, travelling in the opposite direction, and ended up in a ditch where the petrol tank burst into flames. Both Francis Beattie and Miss Hastie were thrown from the car by impact but Francis was dead when picked up³³.

So ended the life of Francis Beattie at the age of 59 years.

At a meeting of the Trades House of Glasgow, the Deacon Convener reported on the death of Ex-Convener Francis Beattie, D.L., M.P. which is copied below:



“Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the Deacon-Convener said it is with profound regret that I have to refer to the loss, since last meeting, of six prominent Guild Brethren.

Outstanding among these is Ex-Convener Francis Beattie, D.L., M.P., whose death, occurring with tragic suddenness as a result of a motor accident, was a heavy blow not to Glasgow only, but to the whole of Scotland. The eldest son of Ex-Convener William Beattie, Mr. Francis Beattie was born and educated in Glasgow. On the completion of his education at Glasgow University, he joined the bakery business founded by his father, and for a number of years, prior to his death, was chairman of what is one of the largest bread distributing businesses in Scotland.

He joined the Incorporation of Bakers at the Near Hand, became Collector in 1925, and Deacon in 1927. He entered this House as his Craft's representative in 1926, and during the next eleven years he took a most active share in the work of the House and of its Committees. In 1930 he was appointed Collector of the Trades House, and in October 1933, was elected Deacon-Convener of the Trades, exactly twenty years after his father had been elected to the same high office. While in the

³⁰ Portsmouth Evening News, 29 April 1942

³¹ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/Edinburgh/issue/16259/page/295>.

³² www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, 1945 Francis Beattie (Statutory Registers Deaths 571/2 263).

³³ Milngavie and Bearsden Herald 05 January 1946.

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 29 December 1945 .

chair he conducted the affairs of the House with distinction. His term of office was a very happy one and included the celebrations on the Semi-Jubilee of the late King George V. After he retired from the House, he maintained his interest in Craft affairs. In 1940 he was elected a Director of the Association of Deacons and retired from that office only a few days prior to his death.

Mr. Beattie's services to the community covered an unusually wide field. A member of the Territorial Force, he served overseas in the War of 1914-18 as a captain in the Glasgow Highlanders. Later he acted as a member of the Committee of the Glasgow Territorial Army and Air Force Association, and for these services was made a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of the City of Glasgow in 1937.

He was for many years a Director of the Royal Technical College, and at the time of his death was a Director of the Merchants House.

On several occasions he was called upon by the Government to deal with national problems of importance. He was, for example, a member of the Commission set up in 1933 to enquire into matters relating to the catching and distribution of sea fish and was a member of the Scottish Rating and Valuation Committee appointed in 1943 to consider certain aspects of the system of rating in Scotland. He was also engaged on Committees dealing with problems under Agricultural Marketing Acts.

During the late war he was Chairman of the Scottish Bakers' and Confectioners' Advisory Committee, and principal Area Bread Officer for the West of Scotland Division. Later, he was chosen Deputy Director of Emergency Bread Supplies to the Food Ministry.

In 1942, on the death of Ex-Convener Sir John Train, he was elected, by a large majority, Member of Parliament for Cathcart Division, and at the General Election in 1945, he was re-elected. In his Parliamentary duties he displayed the same admirable qualities as in other spheres in which he served, and at the time of his death he was President of the Glasgow Unionist Association and Secretary of the Scottish Unionist M.P.'s Committee.

But it is not of the high positions which he filled so ably that I wish to speak, but rather of the man himself, he was a most loveable personality and moved with complete ease in any circle, his tall and handsome figure, his abundant energy and vitality, his friendliness, his unfailing cheerfulness, his geniality, and sense of humour, will long be remembered by those of us who were privileged to come in contact with him. His untimely death is a sad loss to all of us, and our deepest sympathy goes out to those on whom the blow fell most heavily-his wife, his mother, and his brother and sisters.

I move that we record our sense of the deep loss sustained by the House and the Crafts through the deaths of these six craftsmen, and that messages be sent to the relatives in each case conveying to them our sincere sympathy and condolence.

*The motion was unanimously agreed to in silence and all members upstanding*³⁴

³⁴ Minutes of the Trades House, 28th February 1946.

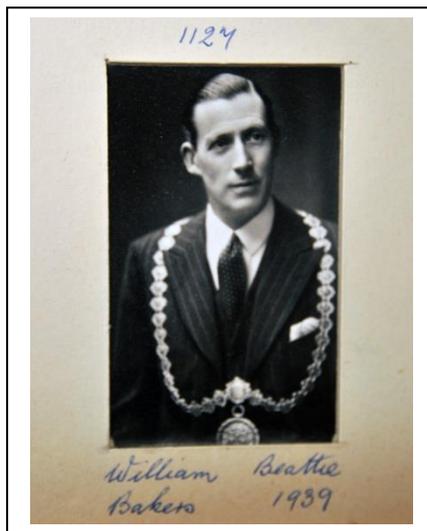
In March 1946 Mrs Beattie of Auchans, Dundonald, Ayrshire asked the House if they would accept a portrait of her husband, the late Francis Beattie, M.P. by Maurice Greiffenhagen. The House eventually accepted this fine portrait.³⁵

³⁵ Letter from Mrs Beattie, Held in the Trades House Archives and dated 11th March 1946.

Deacon William Beattie

William Beattie was born on the 15th of November 1897 at 8a.m. in 3 Broompark Circus, Glasgow. His father was William Beattie, a year-old Master Baker and his other was Margaret Barr Morton. His parents were married in Glasgow on the 31st October 1884³⁶.

William became a Burgess and Guild Brother of Glasgow on 08th of August 1905 when he became a member of the Incorporation of Bakers. In 1937 he became Collector of the Incorporation of Bakers and two years later, he rose to the highest position in his Craft to become Deacon as had been his brother Francis and his father William Beattie³⁷.



William Beattie
1939
34 Cranston Street,
Glasgow
Died: 22 October 1947

³⁶ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1897 William Beattie (Statutory Registers Births 644/3 2339).

³⁷ Trades House of Glasgow, Archives.