



Figure 2: A photograph of James Geikie © ElectricScotland.com

**JAMES GEIKIE**  
**(23RD AUGUST 1839 – 1ST MARCH 1915)**

Geikie was the younger brother of Sir Archibald Geikie, another famous Scottish geologist. He too was born and educated in Edinburgh. Similarly to his brother, he was intrigued by glaciation and spent most of his career studying the speciality - the origin of surface features. The Pleistocene period and glacial features were major interests of his.

His fascination with the Pleistocene period led him to carry out work between Perth and Dunkeld. In particular he was interested in the Tay estuary. It had importance to his interpretation of 'glacial succession' as it was rich in succession of late and post-glacial accumulations.

In addition to his work within this area he was a massive contributor to Scottish geology. He served on the Geological Survey from 1862-1882 and succeeded his brother as Murchison Professor of Geology and

Mineralogy at the University of Edinburgh. He was also a founder of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (S.G.S.) 1884.

During his period with the geological survey he worked on the several geological maps including Fife and Angus. While with the survey he concentrated on mapping ice age features and developed his theories of Ice Age development. He believed that The Ice Age was made up of both warm interglacial periods as well as cold periods, and there were five interglacial periods in Great Britain. The ice sheet that covered the UK originated from land based centres and not from the sea and Geikie also stated there was evidence of human activity across the country before and during the Ice Age, not just after it.

One of his best works was "*The Great Ice Age and Its Relation to the Antiquity of Man*" (1874). Other publications of Geikie include *Prehistoric Europe* (1881), *Outlines of Geology* (1886), *Fragments of Earth Lore: Sketches and Addresses, Geological and Geographical* (1893), *Earth Sculpture* (1898), *Structural and Field Geology* (1905).

References:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/Geikie/index.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Geikie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Geikie)

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?r=546&1110>

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