



SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE

(28TH DECEMBER 1835 – 10TH NOVEMBER 1924)

Geikie was born in Edinburgh where he grew up and was educated. He attended the University of Edinburgh after abandoning his parent's idea of working within the banking industry. His interest in geology was ignited on a visit to the Scottish Highlands in 1845 and his interest continued when he travelled to Arran at the age of 15 where he wrote his first articles about his time there as he was keenly intrigued by its geology and history.

Early on in his career he was given the opportunity to work as an assistant in the British Geological Survey. Teaming with Sir

Roderick Murchison, they worked on complex regions of schist in the Scottish Highlands and also developed a geological map of Scotland together. He enabled people to see the true extent of glacial action in Scotland for the first time in his famous essay, "On the Phenomena of the Glacial Drift in Scotland" which was published in *Transactions of the Geological Society of Glasgow*.

After being widely famous within the Geological world, he was appointed the position of Murchison Chair of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Edinburgh, before being succeeded by his younger brother in 1882 and was also Director General of the Geological Survey in 1882. Geikie had a mineral named after him in 1892 called the Geikielite mineral pictured within Figure 2.



Geikie's book *The Scenery of Scotland viewed in connection with its physical geology* (1887) included numerous mentions of sites in Tayside, including Kirriemuir, Ben Lawers, Glen Turri (Perthshire), Baigowrie, Schiehallion, Moncrieffe Hill and the Firth of Tay.

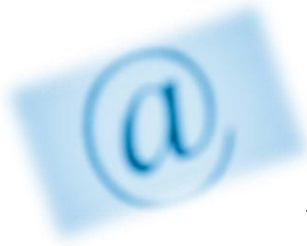
Figure 2: The Geikielite Mineral © Reproduced courtesy of Haslemere Educational Museum

References:

<http://www.haslemeremuseum.co.uk/geikie4.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Geikie

<http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1887-Geikie-ScenScot>



This is part of a series of Tayside Geodiversity biographies. Who have we missed? Please contact us if you would like to see someone included in the future.

