

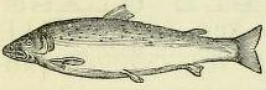
P. D. Malloch.

A brief history, by Brian Taylor

Peter Duncan Malloch was born near Perth, Scotland in 1853.

A prodigious talent despite his lack of formal education, Peter Malloch opened the business, which still bears his name, in 1875.



P. D. MALLOCH,
 **FISHING TACKLE**
MANUFACTURER,
AND BIRD STUFFER.

MANUFACTURER OF
FIRST-CLASS FISHING RODS AND TACKLE
Of every description, suitable for all parts of the world.

P. D. M. having fished all the principal rivers and lochs in Scotland, gentlemen may rely on being supplied with Tackle of the most suitable kind.

Every description of Tackle made to order.
Flies, dressed to any pattern or description, by return of Post.
ORDERS CAREFULLY ATTENDED TO.


209 HIGH STREET, PERTH.

This business, which he operated with his brother, initially supplied fishing tackle and carried out taxidermy (or 'Bird Stuffer' as it was quaintly called).

As demand increased they acquired bigger premises, at 209 High Street, Perth, to include rod and reel making, fly tying and sporting goods.

From LONDON 487 Miles. **PERTH.** From EDINBURGH 46 Miles.

A convenient centre for Sportsmen. It is within easy reach of fine Shooting and a number of noted Rivers, Streams and Lochs abounding with Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout.

 **ANGLING & SHOOTING**

P. D. MALLOCH'S CATALOGUE
OF
FISHING RODS,
REELS, LINES,
FLIES, &c.,
BEAUTIFULLY
ILLUSTRATED

SENT POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

P. D. MALLOCH'S
SHOOTING and FISHING AGENCY.

DEER FORESTS,
GROUSE MOORS,
LOW GROUND
SHOOTINGS,
SALMON & TROUT
FISHINGS, &c.

Lists Free to any Address.
Telegraphic Address—
"MALLOCH, PERTH."
Telephone No. 31.

Every description of
FISHING TACKLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
GUNS, CARTRIDGES,
POWDER (the very best only).
Repairs promptly executed.

P. D. MALLOCH,
SCOTT ST., PERTH.

Estate and river management became part of his business and he helped improve several estate fisheries, particularly on the River Tay. They later moved to 26, Scott Street where he also acted as “Factor” to Battleby House and Inveralmond Estate.

Coats, Archibald, Battleby House and Inveralmond, Perth.
Factor—P. D. Malloch, Perth.
Colquhoun, R. A. S. Kinross, Blair Atholl.

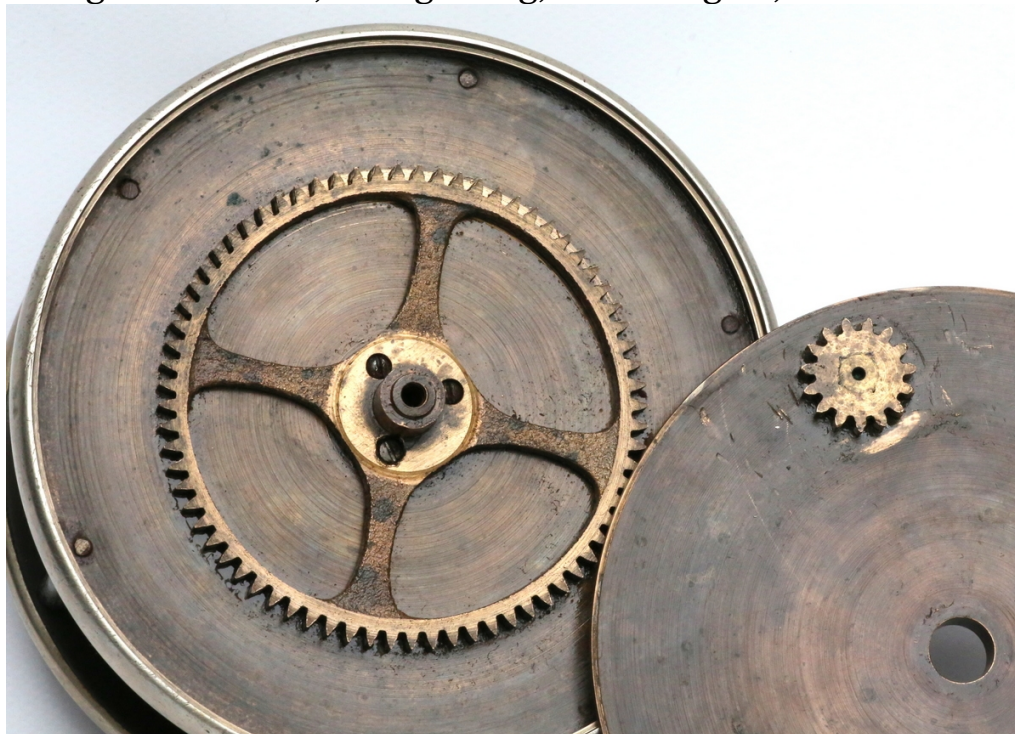
Of interest to tackle collectors, the estate was the home of the Maxtone-Graham family. [Jamie Maxtone-Graham was a famous post WW2 tackle dealer]

His good friend John Guille Millais, of Annat Lodge, Perth, [son of the founder of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood John Everett Millais (along with William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti)] with whom he shared a deep interest in natural history, called him the best fisherman of his generation. Several times he won the prestigious Loch Leven Championship and represented Scotland in Angling Competitions.

The heaviest basket for a single rod was brought in by Mr P. D. Malloch, of Perth, with 39 trout, 35 lbs. 6 oz. ; total in the same boat, 49 trout, 43 lbs. 14 oz. The heaviest trout of the season weighed 4

From the Dundee Courier 1880

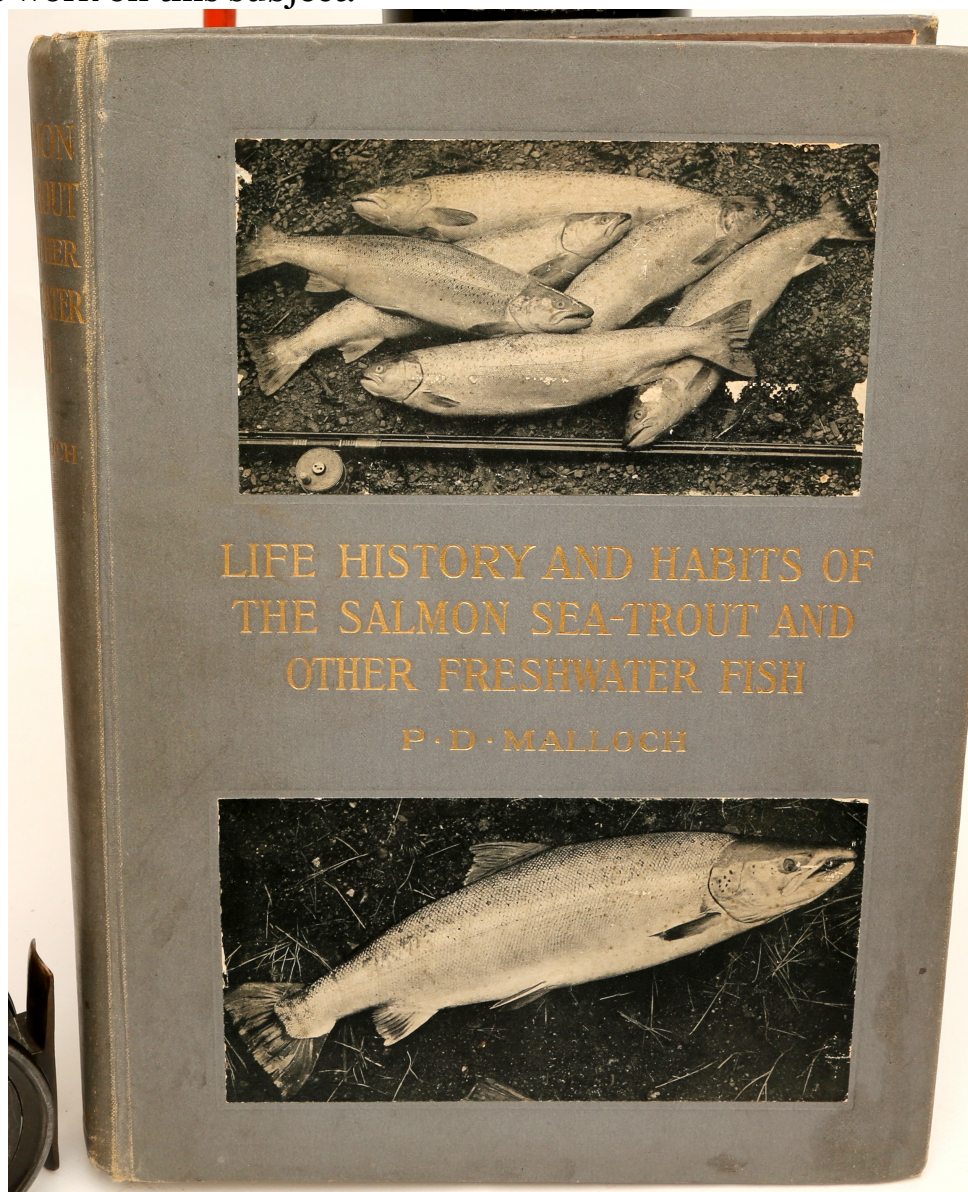
Over the years he took out several angling related patents. Among the most notable were his “Sun and Planet” reel which is a dual cogged drive multiplying plate-wind (1880) and his famed “Side-caster reel” (1884). Other patents were for Fly books, Line winders, Rod holders, Reel brakes, Tackle cases, Folding reel handles, Reel gearing, Lead weights, etc.



Peter was a friend of the Newark, England, reel maker David Slater and between them they supplied several of Messrs Hardy Brothers reels during Hardy's early years. These are thought to have included Plate winds and Hercules style reels. Although Malloch made many reels it should be noted that they also, over the years, sold reels badged for themselves, but made by others.

His other talents included Fly Tying, and he was responsible for the development of several full-bodied salmon fly patterns. His taxidermy is very collectable today, particularly spectacular fish, but he also produced fine stuffed birds and animals too.

In 1910 he wrote "The Life History and Habits of the Salmon, Sea Trout and Other Fresh Water Fish". This book was the result of his many years of studying these fish and their habitat and was considered by many to be the definitive work on this subject.



To quote from the current P D Malloch website

“He was the first to study the importance of scale markings on salmon, and proved that every period passed in river or sea could be explained by markings on the scale themselves. With his encyclopedic knowledge of insect life, it is not surprising that he achieved much renown as a fisherman.”

(<http://www.pdmalloch.com>)

Peter Malloch died in 1921, aged 68. Members of the Malloch family continued to run the business until 1964 when it was sold. The next owners continued until 1981. The shop is now owned by John & Elaine Buntin in partnership, trading as P.D.Malloch.

*P D Malloch's obituary from The Times,
30th May 1921; written by his friend John G. Millais*

A GREAT ANGLER AND NATURALIST.

MALLOCH OF PERTH.

(By J. G. Millais.)

There has passed away at Perth, at the age of 68 years, Peter Donald Malloch, a name perhaps more familiar to sportsmen in the Highlands than any other. Among fishermen he will be remembered as one who identified himself not only as the most complete exponent of skill with the rod and line, but also as a naturalist who took a scientific interest in the sport and found out the whole life history of trout and salmon by practical method and hard study.

Malloch, although born of humble parentage and possessing little of the advantages of higher education, may be said to have gone further in explaining the life histories both of salmon and trout, and the various foods on which they existed, than any other man. His knowledge of the movements of these fish—and especially the flies and dippers eaten by trout—was immense, and practically evolved a new school of thought in dealing with the preservation and capture of these fish. Whilst others, both scientific naturalists and practical fishermen, were accepting much of the old hearsay which passed as accepted knowledge in the 'seventies and 'eighties, Malloch set to work to learn his whole subject *ab initio*, and took nothing for granted unless he had proved every point by actual experience.

I remember once at Loch Leven he saw rise a new fly of a species he had not hitherto noticed. He had nothing in his book like it, but on his next visit he used his "Corncrake" wing, and I fancy won the Loch Leven championship with it. Curiously enough, this fly only succeeded for a short time, and is now only used occasionally.

PRACTICAL INVENTIONS.

His mind was as practical as it was inventive, and, though it took many years to evolve and become practical, the best innovator in his trade may be said to be the "Sun and Planet" reel, a fishing reel working a system of cogs by which the line could run out easily with only a slight check when a fish was playing, and yet could be wound up with great swiftness. Moreover, when a fish is running the handle ceases to revolve with the axle, while there is no danger of its catching in any obstruction, often the cause of a sudden break. I often talked over this invention with him in the early 'eighties and made many drawings for him, and though I cannot claim any credit for its construction, he was good enough to present me with the first example he made in his workshop, and after 30 years it works as well to-day. Another clever invention was his "casting reel." By levering the whole reel on a pivot the rod can cast a bait such as a prawn clean across a broad river like the Tay, as the line runs off without a check. Then, when the reel is turned again to the usual position, the line can be wound in slowly and the whole area of the stream worked.

Born over 68 years ago in the pleasant little village of Almond Bank, near Perth, young Malloch spent his early days in the woods and fishing continuously in the Almond river. Education in his days was neither compulsory nor as complete as it is to-day, so the boy grew up wild, and had ample opportunity to devote most of his time to what he loved best—Nature. By the time he was 12 he knew all the birds and mammals of the district, and was never happy unless engaged in his favourite pursuits. By the time he was 14 he was able to stuff birds well, make a rod, and tie flies, but as certain remuneration did not evolve from such things he took to peeling oaks in the woods, at the magnificent sum of 12s. a week. He also served a short apprenticeship in the bleach works at Huntingtower.

When he was 18 he came into Perth, and took a room in a back wynd off High-street, and there, assisted by his faithful brother, James, he worked hard to acquire a small business in taxidermy and fishing tackle. It was about this time I first met him, and with congenial tastes we soon became fast friends. I always remember with gratitude that he gave me my first commission—3s. 6d. for a picture of a kingfisher, which, I believe, is still the trade-mark of the firm. From humble beginnings Malloch soon progressed, and was able to take a front shop in High-street, where he remained for many years, later adding rod, fly, reel, and bird-stuffing establishments at the back. As business progressed in later years he acquired a much finer establishment in Scott-street, where the demands for his materials involved greater responsibilities.

For 40 years Malloch worked hard at his business, and with his great knowledge of fish and game he gradually built up a great trade in all that related to Highland sport. His services were in constant demand both in the letting and buying of Highland estates, the making of new lochs, the creation of salmon pools, and assisting the passage of salmon and sea trout by means of ladders round or through obstructing falls. He improved the rod fishing and increased the rents of proprietors on the Tay by making it into a first class spring fishing river, and this without derogating from the value of the nets, which he controlled in such a way that both interests were made to pay. But the Tay is only one instance of the numerous enterprises for estate and sport improvements which he carried out, from the Hebrides to Fife, and Dumfriesshire to the Shetlands. There was scarcely a loch or river in Scotland he had not visited and fished.

SKILL WITH THE ROD.

Of his skill with the rod I could write a book, for having fished with many of the best men in Scotland during the past 40 years, I should say he was easily the best angler of his time. Genius is always difficult to explain, but may be summed up in the fact that the super-man excels in every department of his art and yet adds to each a little something extra in the way of originality of his own.

One innate angler, whom I heard abusing Malloch for his apparently incorrect estimate of what he ought to catch, told him to go and try the place. Malloch went, and in the evening I met him in Perth Station struggling to remove nine big salmon. His knowledge of the favourable moment when to fish was unique. One day I walked round Loch Leven and shot a good bag of 66 duck and snipe. I was doing well, so wanted to complete the circuit of the loch. We lunched at Duncan's Corner, when Malloch suddenly looked up and said the breeze was coming from the east and that I must come on to the boat and fish with him. I was reluctant, but gave in as I accepted Malloch's superior judgment. In two drifts to the boat houses the trout rose as I never saw them before or since, and we got 40, with four over 3lb. Malloch's best day at Loch Leven was 49 trout 49lb. There he won the National Angling Club's competition on six occasions, and carried off the championship of Loch Leven four times. Perhaps his best day in Scotland was at Loch More, Sutherland, when he and his son Gilbert, as fine a trout fisher as himself, took 212lb. of trout.