

The Scottish Genealogist

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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By the constitution, the Scottish Genealogy Society exists "to promote research into Scottish Family History," and "to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy by means of meetings, lectures, etc." By the expressed desire of the Original Members, the Society was to remain an academic and consultative body, and was not to engage itself professionally in record searching. Arrangements will be made by which the Society can supply a list of those members who are professional searchers but any commissions of this kind must be carried out independently of the Society.

Monthly meetings of the Society are held from September to April in the St. Andrew Society Rooms, 24 Hill Street (Castle Street end), Edinburgh, at 7 p.m. on 15th of the month. In the event of the 15th falling on Saturday or Sunday, the meeting is held on the following Monday.

Membership of the Scottish Genealogy Society is by election at an annual subscription of £1 10s. 0d. (\$4.50) inclusive of *The Scottish Genealogist*. This subscription which is payable on 1st October entitles members to receive the Magazine during the following year beginning with the January issue. Inquiries may be made to the Hon. Secretary, 28 Pitbauchlie Bank, Dunfermline, and subscriptions paid to the Hon. Treasurer, 74 Brunstane Road, Joppa, Midlothian.

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THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

At a General Meeting of the Scottish Genealogy Society, the following Constitution was adopted on Saturday, 4th July, 1953:—

1. The objects of the Scottish Genealogy Society are:—
 - To promote research into Scottish Family History.
 - To undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy, by means of meetings, lectures, etc., etc.
2. The Society will consist of all duly elected Members whose subscriptions are paid. A President and one or more Vice-Presidents may be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, and not more than twelve other Members. A non-Council Member of the Society shall be appointed to audit the accounts annually.
4. Office-Bearers shall be elected annually. Four Ordinary Members of Council shall retire annually in rotation, but shall be eligible for re-election. At meetings of the Council, a quorum shall consist of not less than one-third of the members.
5. An Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at or about the end of October, on a date to be determined by the Council, at which reports will be submitted.
6. Members shall receive one copy of each publication issued by, or on behalf of the Society, but these shall not be supplied to any Members who are in arrears.
7. No alteration of this Constitution shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, when a two-thirds majority will be required.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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SCOTTISH FRIENDS' RECORDS

Quakers have always been a feeble folk in Scotland. There was a rapid growth in the early days, three centuries ago, especially in the Aberdeen area, with the outstanding figure of Robert Barclay of Ury, whose tercentenary was celebrated in 1948, on the only occasion on which the Yearly Meeting of the Society has been held in Scotland; his "Apology" was long regarded as a classic exposition of Quakerism. Records of membership were not at first kept, and no accurate estimate of numbers can be given. During the 18th century, as in England, but more markedly, there was a decline, and apart from Edinburgh, where the Millers of Craigentenny dominated, organisation became almost extinct. In the last years of the century, through emissaries from London, the Society was reconstructed, and a "half-Yearly Meeting of North Britain" was constituted in 1786, subordinate to London Yearly Meeting; as the "General Meeting for Scotland," a style adopted in 1807, this remains the supreme body. During the 19th century, the Society was quiescent, with a total membership averaging about 200; but families such as the Wighams in Edinburgh and the Grays and Smeals in Glasgow were active in the public life of these cities. In the present century there has been a growth in numbers and activities; there are now over 400 members, largely concentrated in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The only complete history is "The Story of Quakerism in Scotland," by Dr George B. Burnet, a Church of Scotland clergyman (1952), based on his Ph.D. thesis for Glasgow University; I contributed an Epilogue, covering the last 100 years.

The Church Government of the Society in Great Britain resembles the Presbyterian. The unit is the local "Preparative Meeting." These are grouped in a "Monthly Meeting," which is responsible for membership matters, and whose records are therefore of most importance. These again unite in Quarterly Meetings, which are rather deliberative bodies; the General Meeting for Scotland ranks as such in the hierarchy; over all is the London Yearly Meeting. For the last 20 or 30 years, Yearly Meetings throughout the world have been represented on the Friends World Committee for Consultation, which as its name implies is an advisory body, with no executive powers; 3 World Conferences have been held.

From early times, stress has been laid on the importance of keeping records. At a General Meeting of Friends held at Balby, Yorkshire, in Nov. 1656, generally reckoned as the first representative gathering, an "Epistle" was drawn up and issued, whose recommendations included; "every meeting to keep records of births and of burials'." This is reiterated in a document issued by a Meeting in January, 1669, since when regular meet-

ings have been held; it is regarded as the prototype of the "Book of Discipline" which now regulates the conduct of the Society's affairs; books for registering births, marriages and burials are to be kept". Membership was finally defined by the Yearly Meeting of 1737, largely in connection with the question of responsibility for relief of the poor³.

The injunctions of the Epistles were in general faithfully observed. Public Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths was made obligatory in England and Wales in 1837, and came into force in Scotland on New Year's Day 1855⁴. Thereafter old registers were transferred to Somerset House, and an Alphabetical Index compiled. Registers continued to be kept and transcripts forwarded. Each Monthly Meeting appoints a member as Registering Officer, to compile and care for the records, and to see that legal prescriptions are observed, particularly as regards marriages. Two members are also appointed to "verify" the records each year. The earliest records of birth date from 1647, of marriages from 1654, of deaths from 1674. Studies of Quaker records have been made by J. S. Rowntree (1902) and Josiah Newman (1908)⁵.

BIRTHS. The recording of births has had particular importance in the Society since 1737, when, as already remarked, membership was defined. Since then, admission to membership has had two forms, (i) "Birthright," in infancy, on the application of the parents; (ii) by "convincement," on personal application. The mechanism of the former has consisted in the submission of a "birth note," giving particulars, signed by the parents, and submitted to the Monthly Meeting, which accepts the child into membership. This procedure was modified some years ago, owing to growing objections to the institution of birthright membership, and a category of "temporary membership" was introduced, providing for reconsideration when the child attained maturity. Finally the Yearly Meeting of 1959 in effect abolished the agelong usage, and this will involve modification in the form of the Birth Note⁶.

MARRIAGES. "In 1677 an official marriage certificate was drafted by the Quaker lawyer, Thomas Rudyard.....and by the printing of the procedure.....the formula became stereotyped"⁷. It seems to have been derived from that recommended by the Westminster Assembly⁸. This Presbyterian influence suggests the difference between the marriage laws of England and Scotland. The recognition by Scots Law of "irregular marriages" apparently validated the Quaker procedure; but though under English law Quaker weddings might in early days have been invalid, and this is sometimes asserted, in certain known case legality was upheld by the Courts⁹, and was ensured by the specific exemption of Quakers

(and Jews) from the provisions of "Hardwicke's Act against Clandestine Marriages" (1756), reiterated in the Marriage Acts of 1823 and 1836. In Aberdeen Sheriff Court in 1757, a Quaker wedding was pronounced legal, after the parish minister had refused to call the banns or perform the ceremony. Paradoxically, the position of Quakers in Scotland was affected by recent tightening of the marriage law, and elaborate special provision had to be inserted in the Acts of 1878 and 1939. The former, "to encourage regular marriages," stated in Clause 5: "the Society of Friends (and Jews) may contract and solemnise marriages according to the usages of the said Society.....Every such marriage is confirmed as a regular marriage provided that the parties be both members of the said Society." That of 1939, which declared that "No irregular marriage by declaration shall be valid" extended the privilege to "attenders associated with the Society."

BURIALS. Friends are advised in 1653 to provide their own burial grounds, as "a testimony against the superstitious idolising of those places called holy ground¹¹," from which they were anyhow usually excluded; some such survive, though their use has been abandoned¹²; cremation is now commonly preferred. "Burial notes" are still regularly presented to Monthly Meetings, and recorded in their Minutes; these provide opportunity for commemoration of the deceased, which in the case of weighty Friends may take the form of a "Testimony to the Grace of God in his life" forwarded to superior Meetings.

The Quaker Records in Scotland may be summarised as Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Burial, with Summaries thereof; Lists of Members, now usually published annually; entries in Monthly Meeting and other Minute Books; Miscellaneous Records, e.g. of "Sufferings" (distrainment etc.), property holding. These may be supplemented by references in the files of "the Friend" and "the British Friend" (published in Glasgow, 1843-1891), and of the "Annual Monitor," a compilation of Obituaries; an Index for 1813-92 was compiled by J. J. Green; it was discontinued after the First World War.

LOCATION. The Scottish Records are distributed between three centres. For better preservation, some of the older documents were stored sometime ago in the Library at Friends' House, Euston, London. Others are retained in the Meetinghouses at Aberdeen and Glasgow. A proposal to centralise them in Edinburgh is afoot. A list of the principal records, not quite accurate in detail, is appended to Dr. Burnet's "Story of Quakerism."

- (1) **London.** Some of these are in too fragile and imperfect a condition to be usable. They relate to the Aberdeen area, and are numbered. Of these, Nos. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 21 are the most apposite.

2. Minute Book of Aberdeen M. M. 1690-1706, includes other entries, among them references to marriages and deaths — e.g. (i) 6. 6. 1694 "The said day Robert Gordon and Elspet Glenly did intimate purpose of marriage"; (ii) 8. 9. 1694 "Upon 29th day of 8th Month, it pleased the Lord to remove from the body our Friend Margaret Forsyth, an honest old woman of a good conversation all the time she walked among Friends which was many years. And her body was buried in Friends' burial ground at Aberdeen peaceably on the 1st day of the month."

3. Minute Book of Aberdeen M. M. 1706-86, contains similar entries. — e.g. (i) 3. 1. 1707 "The 12th of the Month William Taylor was removed out of this life, and was buried in Friends' Burial place in this town on the 14th." (ii) 4. 8. 1757. "Robert Melvin and Margaret Christy both belonging to Kingswell Meeting appeared at the Meeting and declared their intentions of marriage with each other, and Friends finding nothing to hinder their proceedings therein gives them leave to lay their said intention before the next M. M. for further approbation." 1. 9. 1757. "The Meeting gives them leave at a convenient season to take each other in marriage."

7. Register Book of Marriages, Aberdeen M. M. 1700-86. Full MSS. account of proceedings, with signatures; largely illegible through damp.

8. Register of Births. Aberdeen Q. M. 1784-95. Printed forms of birth certificate; very few entries; e.g. "on 6th day of 10th Month called October 1784, born at Aberdeen in Gallowgate in Parish of in Co. of Aberdeen, unto John Mosley silk manufacturer in Aberdeen and Elizabeth his wife, a son who was named Stanford. We who were present at the said birth, have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereof. A True Copy. David Glenly, Register to Kinmuck Meeting and Aberdeen Q. M."

9. "A Register of Burials of the People Called Quakers belonging to the Quarterly Meeting of Aberdeen, 1783-95"; few entries. — e.g. "Make a grave.....and therein lay the body of John Elmslie of Old Meldrum in the Co. of Aberdeen, aged about 82 years, who died 14th day of 11th Month called November 1783. The body above mentioned was buried the 7th Day of 11th Month 1783. Witness, Robert Matson, Gravemaker. A TRUE Copy.

10. "A Register of the Marriage Certificates of the People Called Quakers belonging to the Monthly Meeting of Aberdeen" 1786-92. Full page entries, form in copperplate, not print. Few. — e.g. "John Musgrave, son of John and Mary Musgrave of Stockbridge in the Parish called St. Cuthbert's and County of Midlothian, yeoman, and Anne Jolly of Garlogy in the Parish of Skeen and county of Aberdeen, daughter of Alex. Jolly now deceased and of Mary Melvin surviving, having declared their intentions of taking each other in marriage before several Meetings of the People called Quakers in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, the proceedings of the said J. M. and A. J. after due Enquiry and deliberate consideration thereof were allowed by the said Meetings, they appearing clear of all others and having consent of parents and relations concerned.

Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the accomplishing of their said Marriage, this 29 Day of 5th Month called May in the Year 1786, they the said J. M. and A. J. appeared at a public Assembly of the aforesaid People and others in their Meeting House in Aberdeen, and he the said J. M. taking the said A. J. by the hand, did openly and solemnly declare as followeth...; and the said J. M. and A. J. as a further confirmation thereof and in Testimony thereunto did then and there to these present set their hands....." Witnesses..... A True Copy.

17. MSS. Volume, very imperfect, includes "Accounts of Dead in Urie M. M." — e.g. Robert Barclay.

21. Kinmuck M. M. 1782-1811; and Old Meldrum P. M. Few entries.

(2) **Aberdeen.** A number of volumes, bundles of papers etc. are preserved in a strong box in the Meeting House in Aberdeen, rather in disorder; there is also an "Inventory of Books and Documents."

The main relevant items appear to be: numbers quoted are those attached to each item.

1. Digest of Births etc. to 1872; apparently a duplicate of that in Glasgow, to which further reference will be made.

2. Register of Births of Aberdeen M. M. from 1795; this has been kept up to date.

8. Birth notes of Aberdeen M. M. 1796 to date.

9. Marriage Register of Aberdeen M. M. MS. "A. & B. Took each other in marriage....." c. 1797 to date.

There are also, unnumbered, Burial Notes, Aberdeen Two Months Meeting, 1910 & seq. and Birth Notes for same, 1940 & seq.

18. Minutes for Yearly Meeting at Aberdeen from 1706, Epistles etc. to 1745.

19. Minutes 1778-1832. (Both of these are in worn condition.)

20. Aberdeen M. M. Minutes 1832-70.

23. Kinmuck Preparative Meeting Minutes.

24. Aberdeen M. M. Minutes 1786-1831.

25. Aberdeen M. M. Minutes 1832-67

30. Burial Notes. Aberdeen M. M. c. 1860-90.

34. Aberdeen General Meeting of Ministers and Elders. 1787-1841.

35. Aberdeen M. M. do.

36 to 40. Minutes of various Women's Meetings.

(unnumbered) Aberdeen M. M. Minute Book, 1868-1922.

There are also a collection of loose "Marriage Certificates," intimating "Liberation by Clerk and Overseers"; several "Deeds of Donation"; Account Books; and Bundles of Miscellaneous Papers; including one citing case of "relief from taking the Burgess Oath."

(These have been viewed through the good offices of Miss Eagger, a member of the Aberdeen Meeting, who is particularly interested in the records.)

(3) Glasgow. The residue of the Records are retained in the Meeting House at 16 Newton Terrace in two safes, in care of Crawford H. Thomson, Registering Officer of Edinburgh M. M.

Most comprehensive is the "Digest of Births, Marriages and Burials in Scotland, apparently compiled up to 1872; a few further entries have been made, up to 1880. The documents from which it was prepared are listed:

(1) ABERDEEN. Minute Book of Aberdeen Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, 1672-92 (including Death Notices.)

Minute Book of Aberdeen M. M. 1690-1706

Minute Book of Aberdeen M. M. 1706-86

Minute Book of Aberdeen Quarterly Meeting, 1697-1773

Minute Book of Kinmuck M. M. 1701-82

Register Book of Aberdeen M. M., including Births, 1664-1715; Marriages 1669-96

Minute Book of Ury M. M., including Births, 1670-1787; Marriages, 1669-1762; Deaths, 1671-1782.

Register Books of Aberdeen M. M. Marriages 1700-86; Births 1796-1866; Marriages 1797-1862; Burials 1795-1865.

Register of Quarterly Meeting. Births 1784-95; Burials 1783-1795; Marriages 1786-92.

(ii) EDINBURGH. Minutes and Register Book of Edinburgh M. M. (imperfectly kept, 1710-86)

Minute Book of Edinburgh M. M. 1669-1706 (including some Births and Marriages)

Minute Book of Edinburgh M. M. 1730-94

Hamilton and Glasgow M. M. 1695-1722

Edinburgh Quarterly Meeting 1669-1737

West of Scotland Record Book 1656-1703, including Births Marriages and Deaths.

Minute Book of Kelso M. M. 1748-87 and P. M. 1787-92

Edinburgh M. M. Register Books. Births, Marriages and Deaths 1786-94.

General Meeting for Scotland Register Book 1795-1867

Edinburgh Two Months Meeting Register Book 1794-1864. Births, Marriages and Deaths.

(This digest includes entries relating to the Millers of Craigentenny, about whose genealogy there has been controversy (cf. Book of Old Edinburgh Club XXII), including the birth on 27/2/1758 of William, son of Wm. Miller, seed merchant, and Prudence Doubleday; and the marriage in November 1787 "by a priest" of Wm. Miller to Martha Rawson.)

Of the original records preserved in Glasgow the following merit mention:—

13. Edinburgh M.M. 1730-1794, including marriages — e.g. John Christie, bleacher, at Ormiston, son of John Christie of Moyallan to Mary, daughter of Wm. Miller, jr., seedsman, 6/9/1734.
15. Edinburgh Quarterly Meeting of 1669-1738, includes a letter from Lord Provost Geo. Drummond, asking contributions to building the Royal Infirmary. An appendix includes marriage notices, e.g. Bartholomew Gibson, 1681.
16. Miscellaneous Records from 1656 to c. 1800, including some birth intimations.

18. Birth Notes. "Register of Births of People called Quakers belonging to M.M. of Edinburgh 1776-1793 (16 entries, e.g. 'on 28 day of 3rd month called March 1787 was born at Grange-gateside by Edinburgh in the Parish of West Kirk in the Co. of Midlothian unto John Musgrave & Ann his wife (whose marriage at Aberdeen the previous year was already noted) a daughter who was named Ann. We who were present at the said birth have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereof. Ann Dale, Midwife; Jennet Weer her mark X. A True Copy. 'George Miller, Register to Edinburgh M.M.' "
19. A register of the Marriage Certificates of the People called Quakers belonging to M.M. of Edinburgh, 1786-93. e.g. (in Copperplate) Geo. Miller, 13/10/1786 having declared his intentions, after due enquiry and deliberate consideration were allowed, appearing clear of all others, and having consent of parents and others concerned. Follows a description of the ceremony and names of witnesses.
20. Register of Burials of People called Quakers, belonging to M.M. of Edinburgh 1776-93.
21. Register of Births belonging to Quarterly Meeting of North Britain, 5/11/1796-1861.
22. Marriages 1796-1878, Printed Forms, filled in in script. "On the Day of the Month, I, X of Son of and his wife, and daughter of and took each other in marriage in a public assembly of the people called Quakers, in the presence of us (Witnesses). This Marriage was solemnised between us. (Signature of parties). A True Copy.
23. Quarterly Meeting of North Britain. Burial Notes ("Make a grave") 1797-1860.
24. Register of Births belonging to Two Months Meeting of Edinburgh 1785-1866. When, Where Born, Name, Son or Daughter, Parents' Residence and Description of Father.
25. Marriages. 1796 to date. e.g. "On 14 Day of 1st Month 1796 David Sinclair of Broughton in Co. of Midlothian, son of Alex. S. of Brabsterdorrin in Co. of Caithness and Margaret his wife, and Ann Dillworth, daughter of James Dillworth of Poulton in the Co. of Lancaster and Margaret his wife, took each other in marriage

in a public assembly of the people called Quakers in Pleasance at Edinburgh in the presence of us

& (No. 27) Joshua Edmundson, Dublin, ironmonger, son of Joshua E. merchant, Dublin, deceased, and Mary daughter of John Wigham tertius, 6/5/1840.

It is noted that copies of the Marriage Register are in Friends' Meeting House according to the usages of the Society of Friends (1881). Also an extract from the Register Book of Marriages for the district of Blackfriars in the Burgh of Glasgow, 1900.

26. Register of Burials belonging to Two Months Meeting of Edinburgh 1795-1921. Summary: When died, name, age, residence, description (son, wife, etc.), when and where buried. Includes: 1795, Jane Waldie, Kelso.

27. Marriages. MS. e.g. 5th Day of 7th Month 1786, Robert Johnston, blacksmith of Aberdeen, son to Andrew Johnston and Elisabeth his wife; and Margaret Glenny, daughter to John Glenny of Hill of Crimond and Margaret his wife, were married in a public assembly of the people called Quakers in Kinmuck in the Co. of Aberdeen.—David Glenny, Clerk. N.B.—A copy of the Marriage Certificate at full length is recorded in Aberdeen M.M.

58-61 Birth Notes. 1863-1949.

56. Birth Notes 1858-74. "The Two Months Meeting of Edinburgh is hereby informed that on 18th Day of 6th Month 1857 was born at No. 69 High St., in High Church Parish, Paisley, in Co. of Renfrew, unto James Henderson of Paisley in Co. aforesaid, ironmonger,, and Jemima his wife, a daughter who was named Jane and whose birth was duly registered at the Public Registry office at Paisley on 8th day of seventh month 1857. James Henderson."

62-64. Burial Notes. Printed forms. e.g. "To Robert Mason, grave maker. The 5th of 11th Month 1793. Make a grave on or before next 5th day in Friends' Burying ground at or near Achorties & therein lay the body of John Elmslie of Oldmeldrum in the Co. of Aberdeen, aged about 82 years, who died the 4th day of the 11th Month called November 1783. John Elmslie, jr. The body above-mentioned was buried the 7th of 11th Month called November 1783. Witness, Robert Mason."

"This note to be delivered by the Grave Maker, as soon as may be, to the Person who signed it or to the proper Meeting in order to be registered—include William, son of Geo. Miller, died aged 25, 25/1/1794; and Jane Waldie, died 5/7/1795, aged 67.

1857-61 — "To Superintendent of Grange Cemetery on 17/3/1857. Make a grave; who died 16/3/1857; which death was duly registered at the Public Registry Office. The burial above directed took place."

1863-80. "This is to certify that the body of Sarah Johnston Smeal of Glasgow, in the Co. of Lanark, daughter of Wm. Smeal, grocer, Glasgow and Margaret his wife, who died 3rd of 6th Month 1863, aged about 3½ years, and whose death was registered at the Public Registry Office for the district of Calton, Glasgow, on 10th day of 6th month 1863, and was buried in Eastern Cemetery in Parish of Barony in Co. of Lanark on 6th day of 6th month, 1863.

Witness—John C. Robertson, Superintendent. Read and entered at Edinburgh, Two M.M. of S. of F. held 18/6/1863. Wm. Smeal, Clerk.

REFERENCES

- ¹ W. C. Braithwaite, *Beginnings of Quakerism*, (2nd. edn. 1955) 311-13.
- ² W. C. Braithwaite, *Second Period of Quakerism*, 256-58.
- ³ A. Lloyd, *Quaker Social History, 1669-1738*, 42-43.
- ⁴ S. H. Turner, *Local Taxation in Scotland*, 82.
- ⁵ John S. Rowntree, *Friends' Registers*, (1902); J. Newman, *The Quaker Records* (in "Some Special Studies in Genealogy," 1908.)
- ⁶ Church Government (Book of Discipline, part iii); Documents and Minutes of London Yearly Meeting, 1959.
- ⁷ Lloyd, op. cit., 60-61.
- ⁸ *Journal of Friends' Historical Society*, vol. 46, No. 2 (1954) 53-59.
- ⁹ Lloyd, op. cit., 51
- ¹⁰ *Laws of Scotland, 1878-1939*.
- ¹¹ Lloyd, op. cit., 2.
- ¹² *Scottish Genealogist*, Ap. 1957; W. P. Anderson, *Names that Speak*, 499-503.

WILLIAM H. MARWICK.

SOME SCOTTISH PARISH AND OTHER CHURCH RECORDS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

In "The Scottish Genealogist" of October, 1958, there appeared an article under the above title relating to some of the records in the Church of Scotland library, St John's Church, Castlehill, Edinburgh. These records included the kirk session minutes of about one-third (300) of the older parish churches as well as various documents, and a list was given of such of them as appeared *prima facie* to be of genealogical interest.

It has now to be recorded that all these records have been transferred to the Historical Section of Register House, Edinburgh, where, after sorting and indexing, they will be available for consultation.

J. F. MITCHELL.

QUERIES

CLEPHANE.—Information sought as to parentage of Major-General David Clephane, appointed Commissioner of Excise in 1811, married Letitia Bold, and died 1815, leaving children George Bold C., Letitia Catherine C. and William A. C. Was he the David Clephane shown in Douglas' His apparent descendants spell the name McKinne. While he may have Douglas? In which army or regiment did he serve?—J. F. M.

McKINNIE.—There appears in the 17th Century records of Isle of Wight Co., Virginia, U.S.A., several mentions of a man named Michael Mackquiney. His apparent descendants spell the name McKinnie. While he may have come to America from Ireland, family tradition is that he was Scottish. However, there is confusion as to which clan he belonged.

Any member who can help in determining who this person was, or anything in connection with his departure to America, should get in touch with Mr Jefferson C. Davis, 3941 East Desmond Lane, Tucson, Arizona.

GORDON. — Alexander Gordon, a Highlander in the army of King Charles II., was captured by Cromwell and confined in Tuthill Fields, London. In 1652, he was sent to America in "Captain Allan's ship," and was held as a prisoner of war at Watertown, Massachusetts, until 1654. He afterwards settled at Exeter, New Hampshire, where he worked as a lumberman, and in 1663 married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Lyon. In 1664 the town gave him a grant of 20 acres of land. Alexander died in 1697, leaving issue. Can anyone give details of his ancestry and early life in Scotland.—M.S.W.

FRASERS

The following report of the reunion of French-Canadian Frasers is translated from "le Mois Genealogique" the bulletin of the French Canadian Genealogy Society, Vo. XIII, No. 1, Jan, 1960.

"The Frasers, an old Franco-Scottish family celebrate the bi-centenary of their arrival in this country. If there are several old Canadian families such as Labranche, Lebrun, and Boisvert which have anglicised themselves in the American "melting pot" as Branch, Brown and Greenwood, there are also several old Scottish families which have become French since their settlement in Canada.

"The case of the family of Fraser is not altogether typical however, as this Scottish family originated in Normandy and bore the name of Fraasier before settling for several centuries in Scotland.

"The Fraser descendants in Scotland of a Norman knight, Fraasier, formed a powerful clan in the middle of the 18th century at the time of the Jacobite risings. To weaken the clan Fraser, William Pitt, the Prime Minister of England, advised the king to send them in the 78th Highland Regiment to conquer New France.

"These disembarked at Quebec in 1759 and under James Wolfe took part in the battle of the Plains of Abraham.

"Two years later in 1761 Augustin Fraser settled at Beaumont. He is the ancestor of the two hundred Frasers who held a reunion last Sunday to celebrate the bicentenary of this Scottish soldier. Responding to the motto of the clan 'I am ready' they took part in a moving family ceremony at Beaumont.

"M. L'Abbé Alexander Fraser first celebrated mass in the church at Beaumont where their ancestor Augustin rests. The sermon was preached by Mgr. Ferdinand Vangry, a Fraser on his mother's side.

"M. Alphonse Fraser, chairman of the organising committee thanked those who had replied so enthusiastically to the invitations sent to over four hundred Fraser families settled in Canada.

"The former mayor of Montagny, M. J.-O. Fraser, then gave an historical account of the family of Fraser which now counts a million descendants in the whole of America. He recalled that Augustin Fraser, a Catholic, was born at Corkell in Inverness-shire, and was the son of Thomas Fraser and Elizabeth Cole. In 1763 he married Françoise Adam of Beaumont. The seven children of this marriage are the ancestors of the four hundred Fraser families today.

"At Beaumont the Frasers were invited to visit the ancestral home and to view the famous Fraser Rock of the legend. At this spot according to tradition the spirit of a drowned sailor, a certain Gagné, appeared to Augustin Fraser to warn him of his death that very night."

(Reprinted from "L'Action Catholique" 19th October, 1959.)

D. McN.

REVIEWS

TALES FROM BARRA, told by THE CODDY—

W. & A. K. Johnston

So much of Scottish tradition has been lost for ever. It is a pleasure to find the stories of a "character" of Northbay in Barra carefully collected, preserved and made thus available. The charm of his stories, however, would not be sufficient to warrant the attention of a genealogist were it not that all manner of strands connect the present with the past and the present resident in Barra with his ancestors; for Barra is an island where time has been standing still for generations.

The book is introduced by Dr J. L. Campbell of Canna, who gives the family tree of Cuddy and MacNeil of Barra pedigrees. The difficulty over these pedigrees is discussed in some detail and the various conflicting stories given, of which some only are found to have survived in local tradition. The book closes with a Barra bibliography which will be valuable to those searching further into Barra's past.

The tales will be enjoyed by anyone interested in Scotland's history; if any further excuse is needed for buying such a book, the valuable material in Dr Campbell's introduction gives ample justification for its purchase to students of genealogy.

MAP OF SCOTLAND OF OLD

by

Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Bt., Ph.D., Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms, and Don Pottinger, M.A., D.A. (Paper 5/-; Cloth, 7/6 and 15/-). Published John Bartholomew and Son, Ltd., Edinburgh).

One of the commonest queries from Scots and those of Scots descent overseas relates to the former location of their family name, a query which in the absence of detailed information as to the distribution of Scottish surnames has been difficult to answer. Now Sir Iain Moncreiffe and Don Pottinger, already well known for their light-hearted but authoritative books on Scots Heraldry, Customs and Royal Descent, have again collaborated to produce a detailed and authentic map of the distribution of the prominent Scottish families about the time of James VI at the beginning of the 17th century, a map approved by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

The authors confess that it was a difficult and lengthy task, as, contrary to popular belief, families of the same surname were not always to be found exclusively in areas traditionally assigned to them. The coloured

delineations represent rather "spheres of influence" than "clan lands," spheres of the influence of the chiefs or recognised heads of families, which might not necessarily be the area where the surname predominated. In such cases the prevalence of the surname in its appropriate area is indicated. For the first time, too, that portion of Scotland between the Tay and the Borders is included to show the distribution and spheres of influence of families outside the clan system of the Highlands.

Surrounding the map are grouped the arms and crests of the heads of clans and families as recognised by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, as well as the arms of the ancient principalities of Scotland.

We can thoroughly recommend this authoritative work of reference to all those interested in family history, particularly to clan and genealogical societies at home and overseas.—D. McN.

ENGLISH GENEALOGY

Anthony Richard Wagner, Richmond Herald (Clarendon Press, Oxford University. Press, 55/-.)

"Genealogy is an art in which experience counts for much" is a truism that all genealogists will admit, and in his recent book, "English Genealogy," Dr Wagner places his wide experience in the study of family history at the disposal of the amateur and professional reader.

He surveys the whole field of genealogical research from the misty past of the Celts and Normans, and so doing destroys many fond beliefs of pedigrees which came over with the Conquerors. Only two English families, the Arden and Berkeley lines, can with assurance trace their male lines to pre-Conquest ancestors. Nevertheless, he omits to mention that of Swinton of that Ilk, though now domiciled in Canada, which can be traced to the pre-William Earls of Northumbria, and which still has branches in this country. Only fifteen families to-day can confidently assert an ancestor at the Battle of Hastings.

In the Middle Ages genealogy was of vital importance, for proof of illustrious descent gave a family security as well as social standing, though few of the great houses of Norman and Plantagenet times can be proved to have survived in the male line to the present day.

With the introduction of feudalism and the growth of administrative records, more detail is available to the researcher, though proving family connections is often impossible. Dr Wagner, however, cites examples of the rise and decay of notable families in this period — Giffard, Tony and Gresley, Clifford, and in Scotland, Oliphant, de la Haye, Lindsay and, of course, Fitz Alan.

In Tudor times the new creations caused a revival of interest in genealogy and heraldry, and a wealth of information on social conditions and distinctions can be gained by genealogical research. The chapters on the Clergy and Merchants as well as the titled classes are of absorbing interest to the general reader, who can further browse in the chapters on the Jews, the Scottish, Irish and Welsh contributors to the national stock. Yet Dr Wagner proves from these the absence in England of a noble class, that nobility is a fluid body, steadily recruited from below and steadily passing downwards into the middle class of tradesmen and artisans.

Dr Wagner's observations on early emigration to America and Canada will be of particular interest to overseas genealogists as the descendants of some of these pioneers are still extant. For the professional researcher the survey of available records, both local and national, and the catalogue of printed and MSS works provide a useful series of references which the amateur in local history and genealogy will also find exceedingly valuable.

Space does not permit further elaboration of the topics so ably presented in an extremely readable style. It is a book to be read for pleasure, and one to be studied, particularly by those engaged in the pleasant pursuit of searching for their own and other people's ancestors in the English records.—DUNCAN McNAUGHTON.

33 HOWE STREET,
EDINBURGH, 3.

14th July, 1960.

THE EDITOR,
THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST,
16 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,
EDINBURGH, 2.

Sir, — I refer to the article "The Earldom of Athol in the 13th Century," by A. A. M. Duncan, Esq., which appeared in your issue of April, 1960.

Sir Alan Durward, the third recorded "ostiarius" or Usher of the White Rod; appeared first as Earl of Athol in a charter dated 1233, and not 1244 as was stated by Mr Duncan, in which he confirmed the grant of the Trostach Forest, between the rivers Canny and Dee, in Aberdeenshire, to the monks of Arbroath.¹

The first member of the Durward family who had made this grant to the Abbey was Sir Thomas, father of Sir Alan, about 1211 A.D.² The grant may have formed one of the original endowments of Arbroath Abbey, which had been founded by King William the Lion in 1178 A.D. On 12th October 1233 A.D. Sir Alan Durward's grant was confirmed by King

Alexander the Second, but Sir Alan Durward was not described as Earl of Athol in this charter.³ The Durwards must have originally acquired title to this property by their descent from Saint Drostan (mo Drust), who died in 610 A.D. and is described as the Apostle of the Scots. He was the Sir Tristram of the Arthurian legends, and his name is commemorated in the title of the forest.

Sir Alan Durward next appeared as Earl of Athol in a charter dated 21st December 1233 at St Andrews by King Alexander the Second which settled the boundaries in dispute between the Abbey of Balmerino and the Abbey of Arbroath.⁴ He again appeared as Earl of Athol on February 23rd 1238 A.D. in a charter by King Alexander the Second of Scots at Elgin, which granted certain lands to the poorhouse of St Mary and St John the Evangelist near that town.⁵ The next charter in which Sir Alan appeared as witness, that of King Alexander the Second dated at Cadzow, Lanarkshire, on 13th October 1235 does not describe him as Earl of Athol.⁶ Mr Duncan does not give any reference for his statement that Sir Alan purchased the title with wardship of Isabella's heir, and it seems more likely that he succeeded to the earldom through his mother, who was a daughter of Malcolm, the second of the Celtic earls of Athol⁷, and demitted office as the King decided that he could not exercise the office of Usher of the White Rod, or Hostiarius, and Earl of Athol at the same time.

Perhaps Mr Duncan can throw some light on the following statement by Nisbet.⁸ "Alanus Durward, Ostiarius Regis, after the forfeiture of David Hastings, Earl of Atholl, was by King Alexander the Second created Earl of Atholl. He lived but two years after he was created Earl and died without issue." This does not fit in with the life of Sir Alan Durward, which I have pieced together from other sources, or with Mr Duncan's article.

¹ Register of Arbroath: Bannatyne Club: Page 91.

² Collections for an History of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff: Robertson: Volume 2: Page 49.

Register of Arbroath: Bannatyne Club: Page 43.

Register of Arbroath: Bannatyne Club: Page 44.

³ Register of Arbroath: Bannatyne Club: Page 92.

⁴ Balmarino Abbey Charters: Abbotsford Club: No. 14.

⁵ Register of Moray: Bannatyne Club: Page 126: No. 114.

⁶ Register of Glasgow: Bannatyne Club: Page 145.

⁷ Scots Peerage: Sir James Balfour Paul: Volume I: Page 416.

⁸ Nisbet's System of Heraldry: Volume 1: Page 72.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
R. J. S. DURWARD.