

# 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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All material for publication must be sent to the Hon. Editor, c/o Messrs. Shepherd & Wedderburn, W.S., 16 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2, in a form ready for immediate use. MSS. must be fully referenced, signed and previously unpublished.

Publication in *The Scottish Genealogist* does not imply that all views therein are accepted or admitted by The Scottish Genealogy Society. Authors, and not the Society, are responsible for errors of fact.

All communications submitted should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (or other means of return). Published matter will not be returned; but will become the property of the Society and filed for reference in the Library.

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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

<i>Hon. President</i>	The Right Hon. The Earl of Dundee, LL.D., Royal Banner Bearer of Scotland.
<i>Hon. Vice-Presidents</i>	Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, K.C.V.O., LL.D., Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Right Hon. The Countess of Erroll, Hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland. The Right Hon. The Lord Lovat, D.S.O., M.C. The Right Hon. The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T., G.B.E., LL.D.
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<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	J. H. C. Milligen, 74 Brunstane Road, Joppa, Midlothian.
<i>Hon. Editor</i>	Ivor R. Guild, W.S., c/o Messrs. Shepherd & Wedderburn, W.S., 16 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.
<i>Council</i>	Donald Whyte ( <i>Deputy Chairman</i> ) Mrs. E. T. Bailey Miss E. M. E. Berry. Miss E. W. Binning, M.C.S.P. Mrs. M. N. Browne, M.A. Donald J. Macdonald. J. M. McGill, F.S.A. (Scot.). J. F. Mitchell, C.I.E. Miss M. F. Moore, M.A., Ph.D. Miss H. M. Woodford.

## EDITORIAL

Duplication of work in any field is to be avoided, and in the search for records it is equally desirable that two genealogists should not spend their precious time in going over the same ground. To some extent our section for "Queries" is intended to prevent this happening, and it has now been decided to take the further step of publishing the names of those members who have made a special study of some name or clan or family so that other members with an interest in such name, clan, or family may correspond with them with the aim of mutual assistance.

It is not always easy to persuade members to reveal their special interests or to overcome their humility as to their researches. The Honorary Secretary, Mr Duncan McNaughton, has been cajoled into admitting knowledge of the McNaughtons of Glen Lyon in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and will willingly correspond and exchange information with any member who is interested in this branch of the McNaughton Clan.

We hope that other members will be led to make similar revelations and that there will be a regular section in future magazines where these special interests will be made known. Members unwilling to have their identities made known may, if they prefer, allow their special interest to be published and contact made with them through the channel of the Editor, who would pass on correspondence.

The system can work both ways, and we are equally willing to make it known if a member wishes to contact someone who has knowledge of a special name or family.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1960

During the Session, six addresses were given, viz.: "Genealogical Records in the Dumfries Archives," by A. E. Truckell, Esq.; "The Balfours of Pilrig and the Melvilles of Strathkinness," by Dr E. W. M. Balfour-Melville; "Heirship Movables and Genealogy," by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney; "Quaker Records in Scotland," by W. H. Marwick, Esq., M.A.; "The Halketts of Pitfirrane," by Duncan McNaughton, and "Seeking the Emigrant Scot," by Miss E. M. E. Berry. The Council would express its sincere thanks to the speakers for their contributions to Scottish Genealogy.

As the members are aware, the Society encountered last year serious difficulties in the printing of the "Scottish Genealogist," when the issues

fell considerably behind their dates of publication. In the beginning of this year the services of another firm were secured and the publication resumed as near as possible to the date due. In order to bring the back numbers up to date, it was thought necessary to have two of the outstanding back numbers printed by another firm, which involved us in an extra expenditure on printing. Nevertheless, the financial basis of the Society remains solvent, with a balance of £68 16s 7d, which includes a sum of £10 allocated to costs of binding. Our income amounted to £104 6s 8d, and for this year only printing costs amounted to £113 16s 8d, being £30 more than a normal year. We trust that this extra expenditure will not be necessary in a future year. The accounts are available for your examination in greater detail. The Society is indebted to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Milligen, for his work during the past session.

The Hon. Editor is giving a separate report on the "Scottish Genealogist," but the Council, on behalf of the members and our subscribers, would thank him for the successful issues of the magazine under very difficult conditions.

During the year considerable attention and publicity has been given to "The Dictionary of Emigrant Scots" with good results, due largely to the efforts of Mr Macdonald, who compiles the card indices and conducts the growing correspondence involved. As Mr Macdonald is to give a report on this branch of our activities himself, the Council would only record its indebtedness for this valuable work.

During the session also we lost the services of Dr I. F. Grant, who found it necessary to retire from Council membership. A minute of appreciation of her contribution to the work of this Society was made and conveyed to Dr Grant.

Exchange of publications with overseas Genealogical Societies continues, and while there may seem sometimes little that is applicable to Scottish Genealogy, there is often information on the early settlers, which might continue a line of research begun in this country. Anyone who may have occasion to develop a search of this nature might communicate with the Hon. Secretary. On the other hand, it enables our magazine and our existence to be more widely known overseas, and a number of new subscribers are gained, and queries ensue. Unfortunately, many are impossible to assist for lack of relevant detail, but we are able to put several each year in touch with suitable searchers, or give general information to them.

The question of records and their preservation has also been considered, and at the moment the whereabouts and preservation of non-established church records is being actively pursued on the initiative of Mr Mitchell, and it is hoped that something may be done to record or trace

those for the benefit of researchers. Any member who can assist in this should communicate with Mr Mitchell or the Hon. Secretary.

Finally, the Council would express its sincere thanks to all office-bearers and members who have assisted in the work of the Society, and those who have supported the speakers by their attendance at the monthly meetings, and would express the hope that the Society will continue to receive the same encouragement in the coming session.

## **THE ULSTER-SCOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BELFAST**

**(Including Some Comment on Irish Records and The Genealogist)**  
**By KENNETH DARWIN, M.A., Honorary Director of the Society.**

The Society was founded in 1956, and although of only recent foundation, has perhaps already done sufficient to merit some statement to a wider public than already know of it. There have always been many people in the Commonwealth and the United States of America who claim with pride to be of Scots-Irish or Ulster-Scot descent. In recent years a growing number of the descendants of emigrants from Ulster have wished to learn something about the homeland of their ancestors and of the ancestors themselves. This has resulted in a considerable flow of letters of enquiry to public offices and to private individuals all over Ulster. Some enquiries are made to Ulstermen when abroad, who, on their return to Ulster, try to find out information to send back to their friends overseas.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast became the clearing-house for this type of information and a situation developed where it was thought that a good Scottish precedent might be followed by setting up a body similar to the Scots Ancestry Research Society in Edinburgh. The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Viscount Brookeborough, called a meeting of interested persons in December, 1956, and as a result the Society was formed. From the beginning it was thought desirable that the Society should attempt more than mere genealogical searching, although it was obvious that the answering of genealogical enquiries would be the most obvious practical work which it would undertake.

A genealogical research organisation run by the secretary, Miss I. Embleton, was started in 1957, and has worked smoothly and efficiently to date. Since March, 1957, to the time of writing, September, 1960, 513 genealogical searches have been completed for persons in all part of the world, but largely from North America, and genealogical enquiries continue to be

made at an average rate of around 30 per month. Not all of these enquiries, of course, result in firm orders being placed for searches to be made, but the average registration for searches per month varies from 10 to 20. Some idea of the widespread interest in the work of the Society can be gauged from the fact that in 1958 1626 letters were received by the Secretary, and in 1959, 1757.

Whilst on the topic of genealogical searching it is, however, important to underline the difficulty of this type of work in Ireland as a whole when compared with England, Wales and Scotland. The analogy with the Scots Ancestry Research Society in Edinburgh is sound enough in general, but it must be pointed out that the difficulties facing the Ulster-Scot Historical Society in genealogical research are much greater than similar societies elsewhere. In order to explain the position something must be said about the history of the public records of Ireland.

In 1922, during the Civil War, in Dublin almost all the public records of Ireland were completely destroyed owing to an explosion and fire in the Public Records Office. This was a great tragedy, because in the 19th century the Public Record Office in Ireland had gathered, in an extraordinarily efficient manner, a series of records which were not, and are not still, normally found in the Public Record Office in London. Consequently the loss was greater for Ireland than a similar destruction would be in the London Record Office. In some ways the situation in Dublin was comparable to that in the General Register House in Edinburgh.

In the Dublin Record Office had been collected not only the mediæval and early modern records of Courts and Departments of State, but, owing to the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, also the old Church records: not only parochial registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, but also records relating to diocesan administration of all kinds and including the records of the testamentary jurisdiction of the established Church prior to 1858. All were gathered into the Public Record Office. Further to that, the wills of the Probate Courts from 1585 to 1900 were also in the Public Record Office of Ireland. In England they would have been in Somerset House and not in the Public Record Office. If all these facts are taken into consideration, it will be appreciated how complete and devastating was the destruction in 1922. Added to this, one has to consider the destruction of census papers in the Customs House in Dublin, the net result of which is that prior to 1900 there are no census records extant for Ireland.

Speaking generally, that is a true picture of the situation in 1922, and from the point of view of the genealogical searcher it could hardly be worse. It is, in fact, so bad that there is little wonder that there is a widespread belief that it is impossible to do research in Ireland at all because of



the destruction of 1922. This is not entirely the case, and it may help if I indicate some of the sources which are still available and which are used by the genealogical research workers of the Ulster-Scot Historical Society in their searches.

What I have to say relates by and large to the North of Ireland, and is based on what is available to a research worker in Belfast; I shall inevitably have to make reference to the South of Ireland and to institutions in Dublin, but I do not claim to give a survey of all sources in Ireland. In Belfast the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, situated in the Royal Courts of Justice building in Chichester Street is the starting point for anyone wishing to make a search. This office was founded in 1924 to perform the functions formerly performed by the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin. It receives and has control over the departmental records of the Ministries of the Government of Northern Ireland and of the Courts of Law. Since its foundation it has always been very active in taking private documents on deposit on much the same basis as the County Record Offices in England accept collections from local land-owners and solicitors and other persons.

In the past 36 years an extremely valuable collection of privately deposited documents has been collected in Belfast, and most of it is of great value to the genealogist, and to some extent makes up for the destruction of 1922. For example, the rent rolls in the records of the large landed estates to some extent provide information which the genealogist might have obtained from destroyed census returns. In fact, the contents of the estate offices of the large estates are now the largest archives left to which anyone doing research work of any sort in Ireland must turn. The account books, the leases, the letters and all the classes of documents extant in these estate collections are an invaluable source of information and are of prime importance to the genealogical researcher working in Ireland. In fact, it is true to say that very often the only extant record of the existence of a person of comparatively low social status is to be found in these estate records, where he will appear as a tenant or as an estate worker. Such entries do not, of course, prove relationships, and a major difficulty working from this type of material is to be certain that the links which are so vital to the genealogist are in fact accurate. It is possible to compile a list of probable names probably related, but one cannot have the proof that comes from Church registers and census papers.

As I have said already, the registers for baptisms, marriages and burials of the established Church were gathered into the Public Record Office in Dublin at the time of the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. Approximately half were allowed back into local custody, and so in 1922 about half the parish registers of the Church of Ireland were destroyed and half

were saved owing their being in safes in the parish churches. The registers of the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Churches do not generally go back further than about 1830, and access to these is a matter of arrangement with individual clergymen. It will be appreciated, therefore, that a genealogical search based on Church registers is not easy, as there is a two-to-one chance of the Established Church registers having been destroyed and prior to the 19th century there is very little hope of finding registers of other denominations extant. The exception that must be mentioned is the Society of Friends, where extremely good records have been kept from the middle of the 17th century; and these are at the Society of Friends' headquarters in Dublin and at the headquarters of the Ulster Friends in Lisburn, Co. Antrim. The Public Record Office in Belfast has a continuous programme of photographic copying of Church registers in operation and it is hoped eventually to have a full set of photographic copies of Church registers in the Record Office in Belfast.

It is, of course, impossible in a brief article to give a comprehensive catalogue of all the contents of the Public Record Office in Belfast, but suffice it to say that from 1858 onwards there are wills, that for the 19th century the valuation records provide a certain amount of genealogical information, and that the many collections of title deeds and family papers which have been deposited by numerous solicitors and private families provide a considerable amount of material which is likely to be of value to genealogical searchers.

The other institutions in Belfast in which genealogical information is to be found are the Linen Hall Library, which, as well as a fine collection of printed books on Ireland has also a manuscripts division; the Library of the Presbyterian Historical Society, the Central Reference Library of Belfast Corporation, and the Library of Queen's University. In Dublin the Public Record Office of Ireland continues to function and has material similar to that in the Public Record Office in Belfast, the National Library of Ireland has a very large manuscripts division and is a primary source for the research worker in Ireland; the Genealogical Office in Dublin Castle, which is a branch of the National Library of Ireland, has records relating to families of pedigree registered by the former Ulster King of Arms Office in Dublin, and the Genealogical Office itself is the arms-granting authority for the Republic of Ireland. The Registry of Deeds in Dublin has records dating back to 1708 and is a primary source of material for researchers of all kinds. Not only does it contain copies of title deeds, but it has a large number of wills and marriage settlements. An index to the wills has been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

The above is a very brief account of the type of record which the Society uses in its genealogical searching and it is not meant to be a com-

prehensive survey of record material in Ireland. Anyone who is interested can obtain further details of holdings from the institutions mentioned above, and the Public Record Office in Belfast is always willing to give advice and more detailed information on specific queries.

The Ulster-Scot Historical Society does not wish to be a mere genealogical society. It was always the intention of those who founded it that it should take an active part in research on Ulster-Scot history, both on the immigration into Ulster from South-West Scotland and the emigration from Ulster to North America and other parts of the world. There is at the moment a project for publishing a book on emigration from Ulster ports to Colonial America in the 18th century, and the work is being revised for the press at the present time. The Society would like to initiate research and publication on movement between South-West Scotland and the North of Ireland at all periods, and it may be that the second volume in the Society's publication programme will deal with this topic. I hope, however, that I have said enough to show that although the most obviously practical side of the Society's activities to date has been in the field of genealogical research, it is not the intention of the Society that its activities should be confined, but that it should attempt to make a genuine contribution to the history of the Ulster-Scot both in South-West Scotland, in Ulster and elsewhere in the world.

## SEEKING THE EMIGRANT SCOT

E. M. E. Berry.

I notice that my talk is entitled, "Seeking the Emigrant Scot," but as my original object in going to America was to follow the fortunes of an emigrant forebear of my own, I propose to start with him and go on from the particular to the general, hoping that you will bear with me if I do it this way.

The search for James Robertson, printer and Scots emigrant, began over 30 years ago and is not finished yet. At the beginning there seemed to be nothing to help me. I did not know the date or place of his birth or marriage, if he married, or of his death, and no register in Edinburgh, where his father lived, mentioned him. Even now, when I look for him in the sources where he ought to be, he can never be found, and my information has come from family letters, clues followed up from passages in printed books and official records, and documents which have often been difficult to find. I hope it may show any of you here who may have got dis-

heartened with genealogical research, what can be done if you are determined never to give up however hopeless it seems.

I first came on the track of the Robertsons about 1928 in the Burgess Ticket of my great-great-grandfather, who was at one time a merchant in Prince Edward Island. It was one of the very few documents which had been kept by my father's generation, who were all thoroughly uninterested in their antecedents. The Burgess Ticket states that Walter Berry became a Burgess of Edinburgh "by right of his wife, Mary, daughter of Alexander Robertson, printer and burgess therein." This was news to me, as in the Berry family tree, compiled by a distant relative in England, my great-great-grandmother is Mary Robinson. As well as being an important discovery, it was of some concern to me to find that I had a few drops of Scottish blood in my veins, and I determined to find out all I could about Alexander Robertson.

With the help and guidance of the late Marguerite Wood I searched the Edinburgh City Records, but could find little beyond his own burgess ticket, issued in 1785. He was also a burgess by right of his wife, who was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Anderson, saddler. His name, Alexander Robertson, printer, appeared fairly frequently at different addresses in the early Edinburgh Street directories. There was nothing in the lists of the Edinburgh apprentices or in the registers of births, deaths and marriages, of either the parish or episcopal churches, all of which I searched.

At last my luck turned. An elderly cousin who, fortunately for me, had never been known to throw anything away, allowed me to rummage in a box of old letters. It proved to be treasure trove indeed. Almost at once I found a letter written by Walter Berry in Aberdeen in 1828. In this he told in detail what happened to him after he returned from Prince Edward Island and started life in Edinburgh as a bookseller in partnership with his brother-in-law, James Robertson. In 1792 or thereabouts, just when the excitement over the "Friends of the People" was at its height, Robertson and Berry published for James Callendar Thomson, a pamphlet he had written called "The Political Progress of Great Britain." Judged by the standards of to-day, it is as mild as milk and equally dull. It might well have been written by a true-blue Tory, but it offended, and presumably scared, the powers that be of the time and, while the author was making his escape to the Continent, the publishers were summoned and brought to trial. This took place in the spring of 1793-4.

In the account of it in "Howell's Trials," I found that Fletcher, for the pannells, laid stress in his speech for the defence, on the loyal part played by James Robertson in the War of Independence.

I went to Canada and America in 1932 and did some work at the Archives in Ottawa, but although I searched lists of the United Empire

Loyalists, I could find nothing. Defeated again, I looked up the American Dictionary of National Biography in the Public Library in New York. To my surprise, I found a column and a half devoted to James Robertson, and Alexander, his brother. Most of it is taken from the contemporary writers of the time just after the Revolutionary War, and later on, and was therefore a very valuable account. From it I learned that James Robertson was taught printing by his father and went to Boston from Scotland in 1766-67 and was journeyman printer to the Boston booksellers, Fleming and Mein. His brother Alexander joined him two years later from Scotland and together they set up as printers and journalists in New York City, Albany, Norwich, Conn., and Philadelphia.

In Norwich, Conn., so the biography said, James Robertson's wife, Amy, died. The article ended by saying that Alexander died in Port Roseway in 1784 at the age of 42 and that James had ultimately returned to Scotland. An extensive list was given of the newspapers they published, for they were among the very first journalists in America.

As soon as I returned to Edinburgh from the States I went further into the trial of Walter Berry and James Robertson, which I had only briefly studied before I left home, and after seeing the Justiciary Processes and books of Adjournal, I was taken one day up to the Dome of the Register House, where, amongst a collection of dusty bundles, I found one marked A. and R. Robertson. Here was the whole completed story of their sojourn in America. The bundle contained an inventory giving a list of the positions held by James Robertson in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as well as his Commission as a Volunteer in the American Army. There was a letter from the Governor of Prince Edward Island, Lord Dorchester, stating that he had invited James Robertson to come from Shelbourne, Nova Scotia, and print the Act of the Legislative Assembly, and there was the claim of James and Alexander Robertson to the American Commissioners for losses sustained in the Revolutionary War.

In this they described how, during the war, when they were printers in Albany, they printed and circulated propaganda leaflets for Colonel Edmestone of the British Forces, who was a prisoner there. James made his way back to New York through the enemy lines, with the despatches made up in the heel of his shoe, but Alexander, who was lame, was caught and subjected to Nazi methods before he was returned to New York as an exchanged prisoner of war. They sustained the loss of their printing materials, house and an income of about £600 a year.

Members of this Society who are engaged in research must realise what this find meant to me. At about this time I found in the Register House the last Will and Testament of Alexander Robertson the Burgess,

and was then in a position to identify his children, who were legatees in the will, as being the Robertsons of whom I was in search.

So far so good, but I had still not found the origin of the elder Robertson or the birthplace of him and his children. The 1940 war closed down my searching and it was some years after it was over before I started my searching again. This time I found the obituary of James Robertson in the *Courant*. This took place in Edinburgh in 1816; he was said to be in his 69th year, so must have been born in 1747. Some family letters told of his death and gave the impression that he had fallen on evil days. This was confirmed when later on I found the sequestration of his estate. In this he mentions one of his partners in America and also "my wife Mary," so he must have married again after Amy's death. There was no mention of children. During this time I had been in correspondence with people in Canada and it was beginning to be clear to me that more could now be found in that country and in America than at home, so as soon as the restriction on dollars was slightly relaxed, I made my plans to go back there again and see.

This time my search must be wider, for as you know, at the request of your Council, I undertook to do what I could, in the time at my disposal, to help on the work of the *Dictionary of Emigrant Scots*. Therefore my trip had now two objects, one the original search for my emigrant ancestry, the other the task which was put upon me. Prince Edward Island, where I went after a brief visit to Ottawa, where I once more searched the Archives, was a paradise for anyone interested in the Emigrant Scot. I know that the Rev. Donald Mackinnon must have spoken much of this to you, but I do not know if he told you of the delightful Mrs Ross, to whom he gave me an introduction and with whom I have corresponded ever since. She and her brother, Dr MacQueen probably know more than anyone else of the story of the great emigrations from Scotland to Prince Edward Island, and talking to her and hearing her descriptions in the Highland lilt, which far supersedes any Canadian in her speech, I was amazed to hear that she had never been home, and is the third generation since her ancestors were settled by Lord Selkirk at the beginning of last century. I was lucky enough to be on the island when the Prince Edward Island Historical Society was most brilliantly addressed by Professor Whitelaw, of Quebec, and was able on that occasion to make the acquaintance of Dr Parr, of the Historical Society of Canada, and Dr Makinnon, of the Historical Society of Prince Edward Island. Both promised to do their best for our project, the former saying that he would insert a notice about the *Emigrant Scots Dictionary* in his paper, which I think he must have done, as I understand that there has been communication from Ontario.

From my own point of view it was a fruitful stay. Searches in the Registration Land Court produced the Land Grants, both to James Robertson and to my great-great-grandfather, Walter Berry. I was able to visit all these places. In the records of the House of Assembly is the marriage certificate of Walter Berry and Mary Robertson, the sister of James, and in the Anglican Church records, the baptism of their eldest daughter.

Amongst other interesting documents in the Legislative Library is the diary of Benjamin Chapel, a boatbuilder during the latter part of the 18th century. He missed nothing and his records are most amusing. In them I found: "Mr Berry returned from Quebec with three pairs of shoes, one he gave to my wife, and two to Mrs Roach." In another diary, kept by a man called Wright, I found that Mr Berry had been to a party and had dined off boiled mutton and roast goose!

I wish I could have stayed longer in that fascinating island, but time pressed and there was much to do. Going by ferry to Nova Scotia, I passed through Pictou, which, by virtue of the thousands of Scottish emigrants who landed there at various times, is now more Scottish than Scotland.

In Halifax I studied at the Dalhousie College, which houses the Archives of Nova Scotia. I had been in touch with Dr Harvey, the archivist, for some years. He has now retired, but handed me over to his delightful assistant, Miss Blakely, who put herself to great trouble to help me and to see that I missed nothing of the documents and books where anything might be found. I was most interested of all in the records of Shelbourne, the town on the south of the Province where the Loyalists from New York arrived in the spring of 1783. Here I found the grants of land to the brothers Robertson and several copies of their newspapers, one of which gave the following: "Shelbourne, 20th July, 1785. — All persons having any demands upon the estate of Alexander Robertson, deceased, are requested to send in their accounts, that they may be settled, and those indebted are entreated to make speedy payment unto James Robertson, administrator."

I also found in the printed records of the Anglican Church that Alexander had a daughter Mary, born in Dec., 1784, just before her father's death. She is mentioned in her grandfather's will. Many people came and talked to us while we were working at Dalhousie and all were immensely interested in the Scots Dictionary. They are well informed and take a tremendous interest in their emigrant ancestry, but it was a surprise to many that other people besides themselves share that interest.

My next visit was to Shelbourne itself, where the history of the town and district is kept alive and active by Mrs Marion Robertson, one of the

best informed genealogists I have ever met, and secretary of the local Historical Association.

There was nothing she did not know concerning the early settlers, and was of inestimable value to me, although perhaps not quite so much to our Scots Dictionary. Shelbourne, I felt, hardly came into the category of an emigrant town, as the people who came there were rather refugees, or, as we might say to-day, displaced persons and disbanded troops. Proudly known as the Loyalists, they were those who refused to join the Rebel forces in the Revolutionary War, and as a result most of them were claimants on the British Government's indulgence for losses sustained in that struggle. They sailed from New York in a fleet of 18 ships, escorted by naval vessels with the British flag at the masthead, in April, 1783, and arrived in a desolate land, with all their way to make. Many of them were Scots. James Robertson had been an ensign in the Highland Emigrant Regiment, and he and James MacEwan were the first Justices of the Peace to be appointed when the Governor of Nova Scotia came to Shelbourne that summer to see how the new town was fairing.

The Session Court books are full of James Robertson's doings, for his dinner with the Governor was evidently the talk of the town! He re-started his newspaper, the Royal American Gazette, under the new name of Port Roseway Gazeteer (Port Roseway was another name for Shelbourne) and there is some evidence that Alexander had a son, James, who carried on the paper when his uncle went to Prince Edward Island.

It was a pity that I could not find a will of Alexander Robertson. He must have had something to leave, as the newspaper was flourishing and we know he had children, but as always in genealogy, there are disappointing gaps, and never more so than in America, with its wooden towns and constant fires.

Having searched every possible record in Shelbourne and spent two fascinating evenings with Mrs Robertson studying her notes, listening to her talk and driving with her round the district where the Robertsons had their lands, I moved back to Halifax and thence to Boston.

Here I came under the protection and guidance of Miss Hannah French, librarian of the rare books library at Wellesley College, who has made a study of Andrew Barclay, a Colonial bookbinder, and has been in correspondence with me for some years. She gave me a lot of useful introductions and my very first visit to the New England Genealogical Society in Boston produced instantly the most startling results. In a list of the Scots Charitable Society, which was started in the 17th century by the first Scottish emigrants, I found in the year 1767 James Robertson, printer, from Stonehaven, Shire of the Mearns, 30 miles from my own home, after hunting for 30 years in Edinburgh for him!



As in Canada, so in America, the same interest was taken in our Scots Dictionary. The Mass. Hist. Soc. in Boston is a very wonderful place, and the curator, Dr Riley, would like to hear more about what we are doing—I found the same in the American Historical Association, where I had a long talk and was told that information such as we will have in our Dictionary is exactly what they want.

It would take more than the time at our disposal to-night to tell of all those with whom I discussed our project, but before leaving for home I sent the following letter to the Editors of four different newspapers.

### **WANTS INFORMATION ABOUT FOREBEARS**

New York, N.Y.,  
August 27, 1959.

**To the Editor, Pictou Advocate**

Sir,—I would be very grateful if you would put before your readers a project sponsored by the Scottish Society of Genealogists. The Society is in process of compiling a Dictionary of Emigrant Scots which it is hoped will be of value, not only to the people of Scotland, whose forebears emigrated last century and before, but also to the descendants of the emigrants themselves, wherever they may be.

Since coming to Canada and the United States five weeks ago, I have been seeking information about my own emigrant forebears, Alexander and James Robertson, Royalist printers and journalists, who came to Boston about 1766, and from there went to New York, Albany, Norwich (Conn.), and South Carolina, at all places printing newspapers. Finally, as Loyalists, they went to Shelbourne, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

My task has been interesting and very rewarding, thanks to the enormous amount of help I have received from librarians, archivists and individuals everywhere, to whom I can never be grateful enough, but following the footsteps of the Robertson brothers would certainly have been very much easier had such a volume existed which our Society hopes eventually to publish. If any of your readers are interested in this project, the Scottish Society of Genealogists would be very glad to hear from them. They should write to Mr MacDonald, c/o Mr MacNaughton, 28 Pitbauchlie Bank, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, giving the name of the emigrant; wife and family; date of sailing and arrival; ship and destination; or, Mr MacDonald would send a printed form for filling in, on application. The envelope should be marked "Emigrant Scots."

Yours faithfully,

ELEANOR M. E. BERRY,  
Member of Council, S.S.G.

## Sources of Information and Places searched in Canada and the U.S.A.

### OTTAWA.

Archives of Canada; (a) General Correspondence of P.E.I.; (b) Minutes of Council of P.E.I.; (c) Journals of the Assembly of P.E.I.; Folder of Documents in Ms. re P.E.I.

### CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Land Office, Provincial Buildings; Marriage Licences granted by the Governors; St Paul's Anglican Registers; Legislative Library — Warburton's History of P.E.I.; Benjamin Chappel's Diary; Dr McQueen's Histories and Notes.

### HALIFAX, N.S.

\*Marriage Records of Shelburne Parish  
Baptismal records of Shelburne Parish Church, 1783.

Church, 1780-1795; Land and Water Grants to Loyalists in Shelburne and District, 1783-1790; various MSS. connected with Loyalists; the White Collection of MSS.; Shelburne History of Shelburne County by the Rev. T. Watson Smith.

\*The above are all in the Archives of Scotia, Dalhousie College, Halifax.

### SHELBURNE, N.S.

Record of the Court of Session from 1783; Wills and Bequests; Diary of Benjamin Marsden in the possession of Mrs Marion Robertson.

### BOSTON, MASS.

New England Genealogical Society, The Boston Atheneum (by introduction); Mass. Hist. Association, Boylston Street; Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Judicial court of Massachusetts.

### WORCESTER, MASS.

Mass. Antiquarian Society.

### NORWICH, Conn.

Cemetery of the First Society.

### NEW YORK.

New York Public Library, Archives Dept.

## Various Sailings from Scotland to Boston between 1716 and 1766.

From The Commissioners' Reports, Boston Records, vol. 29, doc. 100

In the Mass. Hist. Association, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

May 14, 1716—Snow "Amity," from Glasgow.

Nathanial Breed, Skipper.

Elizabeth Campbell,

Her Mother and four daughters.

Thomas Young, a youth.

William Kirkwood, a pedlar.

13 servants.

November 15, 1763 — Ship "Diligence," from Glasgow.

Charles Robison, skipper.

Robert Stevenson, Andrew Turner, William Burton, Merchants.

July, 1764 — Snow "Douglas," from Greenock.

Robert Manderston, skipper.

Mr Daniel Dochery, Mr Andrew Dalgleish, Mr Andrew Dalylell, merchants; John Robinson, Alexander Rankine, carpenters; Simon Frazer, Patrick McLaren and wife, Patrick McGowan, Donald Cameron, William

Reed and wife, labourers; John Cameron, George Slater, millwrights; John Clark, shoemaker; Patrick and George Lapley, joiners.

April 16, 1766—Ship "Stirling Castle," from Greenock.

James Colburn, skipper; John McCarter, flax dresser; James Connell, schoolmaster; John Barclay, dyer; Lucas Florin, Anthony Dole, Bart. Florin, image makers.

October 31, 1766—Snow "Jenny," from Glasgow.

Archibald Orr, skipper; Mr Alex Bell, Mr John Miller, Mr John Murry, merchants; Mr John Fleming, printer; Daniel White, John McNutt, John

Muir, Alex. McDuffe, Peter Ferguson, Thomas Cochran, John McGee.

(All my information points to James Robertson being with this ship, and it was a great disappointment not to find him among the passengers. He went to Boston at this time to become journeyman printer to the firm of Fleming & Mein in Boston. Fleming, who was a passenger, had come to Scotland to collect equipment and engage journeymen. Robertson appears early in the following year in the Scots Charitable Society in Boston.)

August 7, 1766. — Schooner "Lovely Betsy," from Scotland to Boston.

Will Hayman, skipper; George Hanshalot, Robert Gillies, James Henderson, Archie Hamilton, Alexander Ferguson, Robert Fiddes, merchants.

#### Sailing to the Island of Saint John (later Prince Edward Island)

1770—The marque "Annabelle," from Campbelltown.

John Ramsay, six sons and two nephews; McGowan, McKenzie, McIntosh, McArthur, English, McDougall, Sinclair, Murphy, McKay.

1774—From Arisaig and South Uist.

McDonald of Glenedale; 100 from Uist, 110 from the Mainland.

The Rev. James McDonald, a secular Priest, and Dr Rhoderick McDonald, a medical man, accompanied them.

(From notes and guide books in Prince Edward Island and from conversations with Mrs Ross, a descendant of one of the families who emigrated with Lord Selkirk in the early 19th century.)

## THE LAST MACDONALDS OF ISLAY

For five hundred years—from the time of Somerled, if not before, till the time under review here, the Clan Colla held sway in Islay. Indeed, Islay was the headquarters of the Lordship of the Isles. Here, at Finlaggan, Macdonald lived secure, for Finlaggan is not a castle, but a dwelling. The defences of the Lordship were far afield. Angus Og, the friend of Bruce, was named Aonghas Ile. So, too, his son, Good John of Ile. At the time of John, first Lord of the Isles, the possessions of the Lordship

were divided among his sons, although the headship of the whole remained in the hands of the Lord of the Isles himself. John had sons in two marriages. By his first marriage with Amie NicAuairidh, he had (1) Ranald, (2) Godfrey, (3) John, (4) Angus. By his second marriage with Margaret, daughter of Robert II., he had (1) Donald, who succeeded; (2) Ian Mor Tainistear, (3) Angus, (4) Alasdair Carrach and (5) Hugh. Of these, four founded subsidiary clans—Ranald founded the branches of Clanranald and Glengarry; Godfrey founded Clan Gorraidh, which died out circa 1550; Alasdair Carrach founded the Keppoch clan; and Ian Mor founded the branch called Clann Iain Mhoir Ile. In English this clan is variously called "Clan Donald South," "Macdonalds of Islay and Kintyre," or the "Macdonalds of Dunyveg and the Glens." Ian Mor got from his father the 120 merklands in Kintyre with the castles of Saddell and Dunaverty, and the 60 merklands of Islay with the castle of Dunyveg. By a marriage with the Bisset heiress he acquired "Na seachd tuathaibh Glinneach," extending from the Inver to the Boyse in Antrim. He also held Gigha, Jura and Rachrin islands. As Tainistear, Ian was second only to the Lord of the Isles in power; and acted powerfully in support of the lordship.

The history of the Clan is one of battles, plots and treachery. The treachery, be it said, was mostly on the part of the enemies of the Clann Iain Mhoir, as we shall hope to show.

Briefly, the chiefs of Dunnyveg were as follows:—

Ian Mor, founder, out with his brother Donald at Harlaw, 1411. In 1427 victim of the treachery of James I, invited to a friendly interview and murdered. In this act a Campbell was the King's agent.

Donald Ballach, second chief, is well known as the hero of the first battle of Inverlochy, in 1431. He was concerned in the Treaty of Ardtornish in 1461. Donald was lucky to live long enough to die in his bed. After a turbulent life, he died in 1476 on an island in Loch Gruinart in Islay.

Sir John, third chief, made his peace with King James, was knighted, but, resenting the placing of a Royal garrison in the Castle of Dunaverty, he drove them out and hanged the Governor. He was declared a traitor, was treacherously made prisoner by his relatives, MacIain of Ardnamurchan, and executed with his son and three grandsons in Edinburgh in 1499.

John Cathanach died with his father, but is taken as fourth chief. Alexander, fifth of Dunyveg, seems to have made great friends with his monarch, after making a submission direct in 1531. From then till the time of his death in 1538, his son, James, was kept at Court as a hostage for his father's good behaviour. After an eventful life, James, sixth of Dunyveg, died a prisoner of O'Neill in Antrim. It was said

O'Neill murdered him (1565). Archibald, seventh chief, left few traces, and was succeeded by his brother, Angus, eighth chief, during whose time the fortunes of the House of Dunyveg may be said to have been at their zenith.

Soon, however, things began to turn against him. The Campbells and the Macleans both had their eyes on Islay and Kintyre. The defeat of the Macleans and killing of Lochlan Mor at Traigh Gruinneart in 1598 put the Macleans to rest for long enough for the other conspirators to get busy. Angus, by now an old man, had surrendered his affairs into the hands of his son, Sir James. There is evidence that both Angus and Sir James tried to regularise their possession of the lands of their ancestors. Equally, it seems clear that these offers of peace were ignored. Perhaps they never reached the King? In 1599, Sir James made an offer to leave Kintyre, place the Castle of Dunyveg in the hands of a Governor named by the King, and pay for his lands in Islay. His brother was to be given as a hostage for his good behaviour (Privy Council Records). This offer was submitted to the Privy Council on 6th September, 1599, and approved of. About this time Sir James married the sister of Sir John Campbell of Cawdor. In 1603 old Angus entered into a bond of friendship with Campbell of Auchinbreck; and very shortly after, hearing a rumour that his son James was plotting against him, arrested James and handed him over to Auchinbreck, who speedily gave him into the hands of Argyll. He ended up in prison at Blackness, very nearly escaped and was removed to Edinburgh Castle. Old Angus resumed headship of the clan. In 1605 several proclamations were issued, obviously directed against the Chief of Dunyveg, one of which demanded the surrender of Dunyveg Castle to the Officer of the King's guard "within six hours under pain of treason." All boats were surrendered except such as were held under special licence. Angus Og, brother of Sir James, was held as hostage. The heat was being turned on, as we should put it now! In 1606 the Privy Council continued its activities, this time more in inactivity, by ignoring Angus's offers of collaboration. Angus must have known that his offers would not reach the king's ears, for he wrote a letter direct to him asking for his "own mind" in the matters under review. In November, 1606, Argyll showed his hand by offering himself as crown tenant for the lands of Kintyre, along with any others that the Comptroller might ask him to accept! In the summer of 1607 Sir James wrote from prison to the king, but got no reply. Were the letters ever delivered? Twice he tried to escape, and in May, 1609, was tried on two charges :—

- (1) Fire-raising at Askomull, and unnatural treatment of his father.
- (2) Treasonable attempts to escape from prison.

The Askomull incident took place five years before Sir James was put in gaol; so it seemed hardly fair to bring that up at this late stage. As for escaping, he agreed he had tried to; and he was condemned to death. The sentence was not carried out, strangely enough; but the fact that James held a warrant from the king himself to arrest his father at the time of the Askomull affair may have had some influence. Very wisely, Sir James did not produce this warrant; but the king knew he had it.

From this time until 1614 everything in Isla seems to have been fairly quiet. Sir James was in gaol. The Macleans were quiescent. The Castle of Dunyveg was garrisoned by the men of the Bishop of the Isles—Knox. Sir James was chief of the clan, his father Angus having died at an advanced age; but his brother, Angus Og, was free, and so far behaving himself very well, from the point of view of the King. But in 1614 the misfortunes of the Isla family began to multiply; and the beginning of them all was now due to the rash action of one of their own number. Ranald Og, natural son of the late Angus of Dunyveg, with three or four retainers, surprised Dunyveg, and took it. No doubt the worthy Ranald thought he was doing a good piece of work for his chief. Angus Og, however, behaved very correctly; and this must be borne in mind in assessing the events of 1615, by which he met his death. He gathered his forces with a view to retaking the castle for the king. There is not much doubt but that Angus had by now correctly weighed up the forces against him and his brother, and decided to act correctly and give no cause for complaint. He knew, as most Western chiefs did, the consequences of incurring one of those "letters of fire and sword" from the king; and the old excuse of having to maintain law and order which came so readily to those with old scores or new ambitions to attend to. Angus gave the task of reducing the castle to Coll Clotach, a cadet of his. Six days were enough and Coll occupied the Castle. Later Ranald was apprehended, and his excuses for his action were not very convincing. He managed to burn a letter when caught, but said it was not of importance. He laid the blame on Donald Gorm, a natural son of Sir James. It seems very mysterious that Ranald acted thus, causing only trouble and inflaming the already very delicate situation. With his small band he could not have held the castle for long.

However, Angus Og now held the castle, and his offer to restore it to the ousted garrison being refused, he professed his readiness to hand it over to the Bishop again. From this time matters dragged on. Messengers went to and fro. Angus Og and Sir James were accused of trying to hold the castle from the King and his Bishop. The Bishop was forced to enter into a treaty with Angus and leave hostages with him; and on completion of this he wrote an interesting letter to the Council. In it he states "Angus affirms in the hearing of many witnesses that he got directions from the

Earl of Argyll not to surrender the castle." The Privy Council now ignored the treaty made between Angus and the Bishop and prepared to reduce the castle by force. John Campbell of Cawdor had made a generous offer for the rent of Isla, so he was asked to accept a commission against Angus and his men. The plan was now plain to see, and Clan Donald were furious—naturally. Even the Bishop was not happy and saw no comfort in rooting out one "pestiferous clan and planting another little better!" However, he forgot his holy orders enough, apparently, to allow him to advise the Council to use deceit in dealing with the unfortunate Angus and his clan, whom he designated "a false generation and bloody people."

Sir James, still in prison, now once more appealed for justice, offering substantial sureties for his good behaviour in return for his own patrimony. One of the guarantors quoted was Cawdor, of all people, the very man who was plotting to oust him from Isla. No attention was paid, as before, to any offer which would get Clan Donald out of their predicament.

Meantime, events in Isla were becoming very complicated. The Earl of Dunfermline, Chancellor of the realm, planned to rescue the hostages, without the knowledge of the Council. To this end he employed George Graham of Eryne. Graham was able to convince Angus that it was to his benefit to hand over the castle and the hostages to him. A promise was given, too, that he had power to stop all proceedings by the King's Lieutenant, whose forces were expected to arrive daily. Graham made it clear that the castle was to be handed over to the Chancellor, and not to Cawdor or Sir Oliver Lambert, who commanded the forces; and so he went away with the hostages, leaving the castle to its fate. On his way, hearing that Cawdor's force was approaching, Graham made sure once more of his purpose by sending an urgent letter to Angus, renewing, in the Chancellor's name, the orders not to hand over the castle. Angus obeyed, believing it to be the wisest course.

On the 6th January, 1615, Cawdor arrived and the siege began. When Angus, in a parley with the Royal Lieutenant, learned that Graham's promises were quite unauthorised by the Council and were thus invalid, he surrendered unconditionally. He must have believed that the actions of the Chancellor through the mediation of Graham would justify his action in withstanding the siege. The Chancellor, however, denied giving Graham any instructions other than merely to release the hostages. It may be the manner in which Graham carried out those orders was unknown to the Chancellor; but at least he received payment for his services of 1000 merks from the Chancellor, who was reimbursed by a Royal Warrant. Anyway, Angus and some of his men were imprisoned pending examination, and others were summarily executed, while the rest under Coll Clotach escaped and carried on a life of piracy for several months.

In May, 1615, Sir James escaped from Edinburgh Castle. He was helped by Keppoch, his son, and Young Clanranald. Although closely pursued, he was able to get into Keppoch's country and was safe. Thence he went through Morar, Knoydart and into Sleat. Some Sleat men followed him, and in Eigg he met with Coll Ciotach and his men, gathered some of the MacIains of Ardnamurchan and sailed for Isla. In June he went to Isla via Colonsay and took the Castle of Dunyveg by stratagem, killing the Constable and some of his men. He behaved correctly towards the prisoners, and contented himself with sending all Cawdor's retainers out of Isla safe and sound. Among these was the Prior of Ardchattan and his two sons. The Council was terrified by this turn of events and urgent requests were sent to the King to send Argyll north at once to take over command. This success of Sir James probably sealed the fate of his brother, Angus Og; for, even if there had been any chance of a reprieve before, there was none now. He and his followers were executed on the 8th July. Meantime, Sir James' success brought more men to his standard. The men of Kintyre joined him; and the men of Colonsay under Malcolm MacPhie. Donald Gorm of Sleat, Clanranald, and Macleod of Harris were all supporters of Sir James, and even Maclean of Duart did not seem at all keen to join the forces against him. The Council called out all the available forces, and the King gave Argyll practically carte blanche to do all he could to restore "civil manners and customs in the Isles, and abolish all their old barbarous customs entirely."

It is unnecessary to go into all the details of the campaign. Enough to say the dice were loaded against Sir James and the Clan Donald. The hostilities dragged on till November, by which time Coll Ciotach had been obliged to surrender the fort on Loch Gorm and Dunyveg to Argyll. Sir James had been forced to flee to Ireland, whence from Galway he made his way to Spain.

It is interesting to note that Coll thirty years later was once more to occupy Dunyveg and once more to surrender it to Argyll, this time paying for his action with his life. The brief revival of Clan Donald's fortunes in Montrose's Wars, which ended in the bloody massacre of Dunaverty, is too well known to mention here, except in passing. By that time, however, the last Chiefs of Isla had gone—Sir James and Angus Og, leaving no trace. . . . but did they leave no descendants? Certainly Sir James died without issue in London in 1626. Angus was executed in 1615, leaving two orphan boys, who are presumed extinguished; but was that the whole story?

To continue: Sir James escaped to Spain; and now begins perhaps the most astonishing part of a very strangely varied life. The man who had fought battles, lain in prison for long under sentence of death, nearly



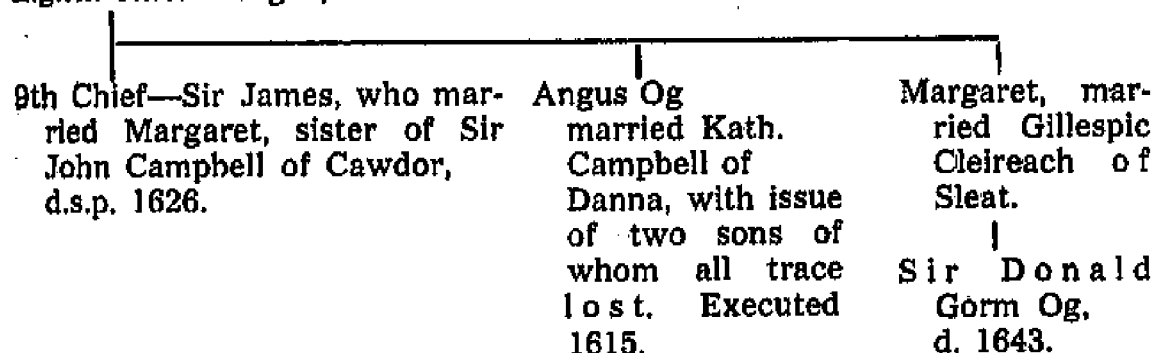
escaped several times, finally escaping and raising a "rebellion" which took all the forces of the realm to quell, had even stranger experiences yet to undergo. He had not been long in Spain with his friend, the Chief of Keppoch, who had faithfully aided him in his recent campaigns, when who should come there but Argyll, now by a strange turn of fortune in disgrace at home, and obliged to flee. It is thought his wife led him away from the Covenant and Protestant principles. At any rate, Sir James received the exile hospitably and in friendly manner, which was not a bad effort, considering the events of the immediate past! Shortly after this he returned to Britain, and was given by the King a pension of 1000 marks sterling. This, after his recent "rebellion," was surely a strangely generous gesture? But King James seems to have always had a warm place in his heart for Sir James, and it is thought he might even have allowed him to resume his life as a Chief in the Isles, but the Council of Scotland could not allow this. If there had been an heir, there might have been some return of the family. But Sir James' wife had not responded.

The character of Sir James is interesting. A brave warrior, something of a strategist, a handsome courtier, and friend of the King, at the same time a "rebel" in the same King's eyes, a scholar during his enforced rest in prison. For years under sentence of death which never quite materialised, and the last of a great house, striving hard to maintain its possessions against terrible odds. Surely a great man in his own way?

There remains now only the details of the genealogy of this ill-fated family of Isla—how it died, and yet how it may perhaps even yet live. . . . If we could verify the details.

### GENEALOGY of CLAN IAIN MHOIR (last three generations).

Elghth Chief—Angus, 1568 - 1614.



#### Campbells of Danna

Not much is known about them. They appear to be have been cadets of Auchinbreck, for Archibald of Auchinbreck, who died in the reign of

James V, had a youngest son, Archibald of Danna, a sister of whom married "McDonald of Kintyre and ye Isles." This can scarcely have been Angus Og referred to above. In 1611 there is reference of a case between "Duncan Campbell of Dannay and Katherine Campbell, widow of Angus Campbell, fear of Dannay, respecting matters at variance between them," and in 1628 a Contract of Marriage between "Torquil McNeil, son of Neil McNeil of Skagness . . . and Katherine Campbell, widow of Angus C., etc., of Dannay; Archibald C., of Barbreck, her brother, being witness."

In Clan Donald records Katherine C., wife of Angus Og (above) is given as daughter of Duncan Campbell of Danna, who must have been the one referred to in the case above. Who the widow of Angus C. of Dannay was, whether mother or aunt, we do not know.

Duncan is referred to in the list of those concerned in the taking and holding of Dunyveg with Angus Og. Strange for a Campbell to be implicated with the Clan Donald in this so-called "rebellion." But there it is. The full list is:—On 23rd May, 1615, Duncan Campbell of Danna, Donald Gorme (base son of Sir James), Neil McKay, Malcolme McNeill (uncle to Hector of Tawnishe), Hector McNeill in Carskeich, Ewne McWhittie in Gya, Allister McInvoyer and Donald McAllister summoned to "compear personalie" to answer charges of taking and detaining Dunnyveg against His Majesty and his authorities.

None of these appear to have answered the summons—very wisely. The men who suffered with Angus Og on 8th July, 1615, in Edinburgh were—Allaster McAllister, Angus McAllister, Allister McAllister McFarlich, John McCondochie, and John Gair McMoylane.

In another record we find that Katherine Campbell of Danna, widow of Angus Og, and her two sons, were also summoned to appear before the Privy Council to be ransacked for treason! They did NOT appear and we are left to conjecture what became of the unfortunate lady, who was at once widow of one "rebel" and daughter of another.

No trace has ever been found of the widow and fatherless boys, unless the following tradition can be given credence.

### FAMILY OF THOMAEUS — THOMÉE — THOMÉ The Tradition — as preserved in the Thome Family

"According to the tradition, the family of Thomaeus are descended from the Scottish Clan MacDonald of Islay and Kintyre."

There follows a brief history of the Macdonalds, and proceeds:—

"The most malignant enemy of the Clan Macdonald was the Clan Campbell, and this clan managed finally to defeat their enemy with the

help of the king. The Macdonalds' old fastness of Dunnyveg, on the island of Islay, was occupied on the 3rd February, 1615, and its defenders were killed and scattered, and the chief of the house, Angus Oig, was taken prisoner. He and his wife, together with some of their men, were charged with rebellions, taken before the Privy Council and sentenced to death, and they were executed in July, 1615. The Clan Macdonald was sentenced to forfeit their possessions, which were handed over to the Campbells. Several of the adherents and members of the family of Macdonald succeeded, however, in escaping from the pursuit and saved themselves in exile, and among them two of the sons of Angus Oig. They came across to Holland, but they soon went to sea again, uncertain as to their end. They were, however, shipwrecked and storm-driven to the north-western coast of Scania and stranded at Torekov (S.W. Sweden, Scania, and at that time part of Denmark). The elder brother was by then dead; but the younger one was saved and taken charge of by a mason (named Hans) from Helsingborg (about 30 miles from Torekov). This occurred in the summer of 1615. The 14-year-old fugitive, who knew that he was being pursued by his Scottish enemies and who had lost his inheritance by his parents' death, hid with his saviour and called himself Anders Hansson (his Scots name may have been Andrew?) He learned his saviour's trade and married his comely daughter, Oluve. Of this marriage there were three sons—Johns Andersson Helsingburgensis, Hans Andersson Helsingburgensis, and Thomas Andersson Helsingburgensis. The youngest became the ancestor of the family of Thomaus.

The exile of the two brothers, the time of it, and the age of the fugitive agree with dates in the history of the Clan Macdonald. Any proof that Anders Hansson really was the young fugitive are, however, not likely to be produced; but it is so very likely. At that time many Scots fugitives arrived in the Scandinavian countries and many went into military service.

"The tradition about the family's descent was kept alive during the following generations and was written down by several relatives. The earliest written record was made by Johannes Vinslovius, Professor of Theology in Lund (1636-1709), whose sister Karin was married to Anders Hansson's youngest son, Thomas. This record was probably burned in the fire at Tvö vicarage on 13th January, 1769. The contents were, however, known to the family and were later written down by Johan Christian Thomaus-Thomé-Adelsköld when his family was, in 1775, introduced into the House of Nobles. The document is still kept in the archives of the House."

**From "Slakten Thomasus," Djurrsholm, Sweden, 1953.  
Author : Inga Thomée**

Information in Scotland is meagre. In Clan Donald we know that Angus Og married Katherine Campbell of Danna, that her father Duncan Campbell had been hailed before the Privy Council for rebellion along with certain Macdonald, but did not appear; that Katherine and the two sons were also hailed before the Privy Council for rebellion; but did not appear, and that Angus Og was tried for rebellion and executed (or rather murdered) in the Grassmarket of Edinburgh on 8th July, 1615, with some of his associates. That Katherine and her two boys (representing the last of the family of Islay in the senior male line) were pursued relentlessly, there can be little doubt. What happened to Katherine no-one can say. But perhaps the tradition of the Thomé family explains the fate of the boys.

It is important to note that the first written record could have been taken down from Anders Hansson himself. The second followed hard on the heels of the first and could have been a direct copy of it, before it was burned.

There we have the story of the fall of a noble family and its apparent extinction; and the tradition in a distant country which may explain the fate of the two fatherless boys. In favour of the tradition we have the facts that (a) it was current in the family before they had opportunity to visit Scotland and learn the history of the clan, (b) it was written down by one who could have heard it from the mouth of the ship-wrecked boy himself and (c) it was repeated, written down and recorded in what corresponds to Lyon Office in Stockholm.

In conclusion, as your member in charge of the Dictionary of Emigrant Scots, I have to report that I have recorded the emigrant "Anders Hansen" on a card referring to "Andrew Macdonald," on which I record the tradition with references to his supposed ancestry.

DONALD J. MACDONALD,  
Yr. of Castleton.

15/9/60.

References:—"Clan Donald," Vol. 2, Chapters 12 and 13. "History of the Western Highlands," Gregory. "The Lordship of the Isles," Dr I. F. Grant, M.B.E. "Slakten Thomaesus," Inga Thomee, Djurrsholm, Sweden, 1953. Records of Privy Council, 1614-1615.

# **Genealogy of the Family of Thomaeus (Sweden), showing traditional link with the Macdonalds of Dunnyveg, Islay and Kintyre.**

- Angus Og of Dunnyveg, brother of Sir James, last Chief of Islay, who died s.p. 1626. Angus married Katherine, daughter of Duncan Campbell of Danna, who was also concerned in "rebellion," by whom he had two sons. Angus Og was executed at the Grassmarket of Edinburgh on 8th July, 1615. Mother and sons disappeared, before or after being hailed for treason by the Privy Council. Sons believed fled to Holland and thence to Lund.
- Anders Hannson—Born in Scotland c. 1600, younger son of Angus Og, his elder brother having been drowned in the shipwreck. Befriended by Hans, mason of Helsingborg; learned his trade, and married Oluve, daughter of his master, c. 1620. Three sons—Jons, b. 31/1/1624, founder of the families of Stobaeus and Gemzaeus; Hans and Thomas. Hans' line went into a female branch.
2. Thomas Andersson (1626-1692)—Married 1659 Karin Hansdotter Vinslovius, whose brother, Johannes, wrote down the tradition. Issue—Hans, about whom nothing is known; Andreas, who was unmarried; and Petrus.
3. Petrus Thomaeus (1666-1721)—Six children.
4. Thomas Thomaeus (1699-1752)—Eldest son of above.
5. Per Thomaeus (1730-1783)—Only son of above.
6. Johan Christian Thomé (1766-1836)—Third son; eldest son Thomas was unmarried; second son, Gustav Henrik, had issue, but male line dies out in two generations.
7. Ernst Petter Thomé (1797-1859)—Second surviving son of above; eldest son, Johan Christian, a sailor, disappeared (no trace). Ernst married with issue:—(a) Ernst Johan (unmarried); (b) Johan Gustav, who succeeded; and others, of which (c) Johan Christian (see later) was third son.
8. Johan Gustaf Thomé (1828-1863)—Married, with two sons (a) Johan Richard (1854-1877), and (b) Johan Josef Axel (1856-1887); both unmarried.
9. Johan Richard Thomé, eldest son of above, succeeded 1863; died 1877, s.p.
10. Johan Josef Axel, second son. Succeeded 1877 and died 1887, s.p.
11. Johan Christian Thomé (1837-1903)—Third son of Ernst Petter (above), succeeded in 1887, married with two sons:—(a) Ernst Petter, who succeeded; (b) Johan Christian Rudolf, whose son, John-Eric, succeeds later (see below).
12. Ernst Petter (1869-1940)—Married, with one son:—
13. Ernst Johan Christian Thomé (1919-1941)—Lieutenant in Finnish Army (unmarried). Killed in action 1/11/1941.
14. John-Eric Macdonald Thomé, b. 1909—Eldest son of Johan Christian Rudolf, second son of Johan Christian (1837-1903) above. Married 1941 Carin Alice Kroglus with issue:—Ghita (1940), Marina (1941), Ernest (1942), Grace (1947), and Lars (1951).

33 Howe Street,  
Edinburgh, 3.

Dear Sir,—

With further reference to the article by Mr A. A. M. Duncan on "The Earldom of Athol in the 13th Century," I can recollect reading an account of the death of Patrick, Earl of Athol, when he was burnt in bed in his lodgings by Sir Alan Durward, whom he had defeated in an event in a tournament in Haddington about 1236 a.d.

In his article Mr Duncan refers to Charter No. 87 of Rogers' Register of Coupar Abbey, the grant of Dunfallandy, near Pitlochry, to the Abbey. In the footnote to the charter it is stated that David de Hastings, Earl of Athol, died at Carthage, on the way to Tunis, in 1269-70 a.d. and not David de Strathbogie, Earl of Athol, as is stated in Mr Duncan's article. From the dates of two of the witnesses, Robert, Bishop of Dunkeld, who was not consecrated until 1230 a.d., and Sir Alan Durward, who died in 1275 a.d., both according to my own and my late father's notes, \*the charter must be dated from 1273-1275 a.d. In the footnote to the charter it is further stated that David de Hastings, Earl of Athol, was the maternal grandfather of David de Strathbogie, Earl of Athol. It seems, therefore, that between Earl No. 8, who should read David de Hastings and not David de Strathbogie, and Earl No. 9, there should be another Earl, named David de Strathbogie, who held the earldom presumably from 1270-1284, and was succeeded by his son, John de Strathbogie, the ninth in the article.

In my letter which you published in your last issue the date of the foundation charter of the poorhouse of St Mary and St John the Evangelist at Elgin was wrongly stated as 1238 instead of 1235 and the reference to Sir Alan Durward's mother as daughter of Malcolm, second of the Celtic Earls of Athol, should have been to Scots Peerage. Sir James Balfour Paul. Volume 1, Page 418.—Yours sincerely,

RONALD J. S. DURWARD.

\* Chronicle of Lanercost; Page 84.

## QUERIES

**GORDON, ALEXANDER.**—Alexander Gordon, a Scottish Highlander, serving with the forces of King Charles II, was taken prisoner by Cromwell and confined in Tuthill Fields, London. In 1652 he was sent to America "in Captain Allen's ship," and held prisoner at Watertown, Mass., until 1654. He afterwards settled at Exeter, New Hampshire, and in 1663 married Mary, daughter of Nicolas Lyson. In 1664 the town granted him 20 acres of land and he became a permanent resident. Alexander worked as a lumberman and died in 1697. Can anyone furnish details of his parentage?—M. S. W.

**NEAF.** — James, Governor of Westmanland and Dalarne, Sweden. Went to Sweden from Scotland 1557, killed 1598. Family tradition gives his genealogy as follows: — James Neaf baron of Methie (Angus) m. Isabel Lindsay (Crawford), son John Neaf of Methie m. Catherine Leslie (Roths), son Alexander of Methie m. Margaret Grey (shield a lion rampant), son, David of Methie m. Elizabeth Ramsay (Auchterhouse?), son William of Methie m. Dina Mariota Ogilvy (Airlie), son James of Methie m. Margaret Lindsay (Lindsay), son John of Kinereit and Methie m. Joneta Wishart (Pittaro), son James above. The achievements of these houses appear on his tombstone. Any information or dates on above to Captain Karl Hard of Segerstad, Farkostwagen, 14 Ledengö, Sweden, or Hon. Sec

**ROBERTSON.**—James Robertson, 1614; physician to Gustavus II and later Queen Christiana of Sweden; died 1651. Said to have been born in Scotland, 1566. Had certificate of birth by Charles I, 20th July, 1630, at Edinburgh stating he was the grandson of James Robertson of Struan and a son of Patrick Robertson and Elizabeth Ramsay, daughter of James Ramsay and Joneta Scot. His shield shows the three wolf heads and chevron of the Robertsons of Struan and his descendants so designated themselves. Confirmation and details to Captain Karl Hard of Segerstad, or Hon. Secretary.

**McGREGOR.**—Information requested as to the location of the work of Alexander McGregor on the McGregors, Stewarts and Camerons of Rannoch, known to have existed in MS.—D. A. Cooper.

**SIR DONALD MACKAY, 1st Lord Reay.**—Any information as to a portrait or portraits of the 1st Lord Reay (possibly known as Sir Donald Forbes Mackay) would be gratefully received by Mr Raymond McKee, Gort na Cloca Mora, Puente, California, U.S.A.

**CAMPBELLS IN AUCHTERTYRE.**—According to 18th-century pedigrees of the Campbells of Inverneill, Charles McKerlich or Campbell (1650-1723), wadsetter of Tuerachan, in Glenlochay, in 1702 married (9th June, 1669), Margaret, daughter of "Duncan Campbell of Auchtertyre." Charles and Margaret did indeed have a wadset of Auchtertyre, in Strathphillan,

from the Earl of Breadalbane in 1688 (Perth Sasines, 4th ser. iv, 280). Margaret, daughter of Duncan Oge Campbell, in Ochertyre, in Strathphillan, had a marriage contract with Angus MacDiarmid, in Creagienan, in Glenlyon, dated 17th November, 1688, the marriage to be solemnised before 31st December. However, the marriage had not taken place by 25th June, 1669 (Reg. Deeds, Mack., xxiii, 466; *The Clan Campbell*, ii, 71). Was Margaret, the betrothed of Angus MacDiarmid, the same person as the wife of Charles Campbell?—C. C.

MACNAB, JAMES, in Killin, died between 21st August, 1715, and 12th June, 1716, leaving a widow, Mary Taylor (who had a bond of provision from him on 18th September, 1700) and two daughters (apparently of a previous marriage)—Jean, wife of Patrick Campbell, servitor to the Earl of Breadalbane (son of Charles and Margaret Campbell mentioned above, and later wadsetter of Tuerachan), and Ann, who married, between 12th June, 1716, and 15th November, 1721, Grigor Murray at the Mill of Blair (Dunkeld Testaments, ii, 146-150, 206-207, 323-324). The descendants of Patrick Campbell, in the late 18th century, believed that Jean was granddaughter or niece of the Laird of Macnab, but the pedigree of that family in the John MacGregor Collection at the Register House appears to disprove this. Jean's son stated in 1744 that she was born 2nd February, 1689, and married 15th January, 1705. The Killin parish registers show the baptism of Jean, daughter of James Macnab and Catherine Campbell, on 22nd February, 1689. A Catherine Campbell, sister of Mungo Campbell of Kinloch, married, 1st November, 1678, James Dow of Tirchardle, and secondly, by 15th June, 1695, James Macnab, in Kinnell (Perth Sasines, 4th ser. xii, 185); and James Macnab and Catherine Campbell were married "at Inshaidive" (probably Innishdaimh, which was near Tuerachan) on 20th February, 1687 (Kenmore parish registers, quoted in the John MacGregor Collection). Information about the ancestry of James Macnab, and the identity of his wife, is desired.—C. C.

SPECIAL SURNAMES. — Anyone willing to exchange information on the following surnames should apply to the Honorary Editor, who will put him in touch with a member of the Society which has been making a special study of these categories of names:—Primrose, Woodrow, Herdman, Lithgow of Lanark and the West, Macbeth or McBeath of Perthshire or southwards, Vallance of West Scotland, Mitchell of Ayrshire.

## REPLY

BRUCE.—Tabulated data on the family Bruce of Clackmanan will be found on p. 42 of the supplement to Burke's "Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland," London, 1848. See also reply to this query on p. 106 of volume IV.—D. W.