

# The Scottish Genealogist

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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# THE KINNIBURGHIS— BROUGHT FROM THEIR OBSCURITY

## THE SPELLING OF THE NAME

**A**S you know, the derivation of a surname can very often be found by searching for the early spellings, and with the name Kinniburgh I was fortunate in this. Wishing to look up the birth of my great, great, great grandfather (which from a family document I had learned was at Kirkintilloch on 6th July, 1729) I was astonished to find that, in the Parish Register, it was spelt C-U-N-N-I-B-U-R-G-H.

So, from the indices of many publications on Scottish Family Histories, State Papers (English and Scottish), Parish Registers and other official sources, I was able to look under the initial "C" as well as "K". I then found traces of many Kinniburghs (which, up till then I had thought a very uncommon surname) with the name variously spelt, taking the family name back to the middle of the XIIIth Century.

So far, I have unearthed 343 different spellings beginning with "C", 2 with "G" and 216 with "K", a total of 561 (all with their appropriate references), which may well be a record for any surname. The faltering but logical passage of the name down through the ages appears to be roughly as follows:—Commencing with the primary syllables "CONIG" and "BOROUGH" a possessive "S" was added making it "CONIGS-BURGH"; then an "N" was inserted before the "G"—"CONINGS". Later the "S" and then the "G" were dropped making it "CONNIN". It was not until the XVIIth Century that the form "CONNIN" gave way to "CONNI" which paved the way to the present (almost universal) spelling K-I-N-N-I-B-U-R-G-H, because, as the number of consonants decreased so the vowels got shorter—the "O" to "U", and the "U" to "E" and "I". A homely Scottish illustration of this is—"Fitba Bits" for Football Boots.

In the total of 561, the second part of the name—"BURGH", as you can imagine, also varied considerably and, among the official records I have noted 159 different renderings compared with 226 for the first part of the name.

The earliest instance noted so far of the surname as it is generally spelt to-day was in the year 1706 (1) but it was not until about 1750 that it was more or less stabilised in this form. Even as late as 1831 I have seen it commenced with "CUNNING", (2), and a "CANIBROUGH" occurs in the Census of Liverpool in 1851. A large branch of the family in London and Cheshire, whose ancestor left Edinburgh for London about 1820, finish their name B-R-U-G-H (pronounced Brew) and a Melbourne family whose forefather emigrated from Edinburgh before 1860, spell their name with only one "N".

I will finish this part of my reading with a reference to the very large number in U.S.A. spelling their name K-I-N-E-B-R-E-W, K-E-N-N-E-B-R-E-W, etc., who seem to be descended from a Kinniburgh, traditionally supposed to have come from Scotland, who held lands in Virginia nearly three hundred years ago. An interesting fact is that there are many negroes now in U.S.A. with the name K-I-N-N-E-B-R-E-W (variously spelt) who are descended from slaves owned by numerous members of the family. When the slaves there were freed in 1865, many took the surnames of their former masters: as previously they had baptismal names only.

## THE DERIVATION OF THE NAME

During the last 40 years I have heard, and read of, many derivations for the name Kinniburgh. It was a common Christian name for women in England in Saxon times: there was even a Saint Kineburga (3) who lived in the VIIth Century, and there exists at Castor near Peterborough a St. Kyneburgh's Church (4). In Birch's "Saxon Chronicles" many persons holding the Christian name, from the VIIth until the Xth Century are mentioned and in fact "T.P.'s Weekly" of 12th June, 1929, gave that as the source. It has been stated that the name was Druidical in origin and meant "Guardian of the Burial Places" where the tribal chiefs of the Druids were buried. Some said they were Mac-Gregors, many of whom, we know, changed their name when the name Mac-Gregor was proscribed. Another source, mentioned in a 1864 publication, was from Old German "CHUNIBRUCH" (5). For many years a Scottish newspaper plugged away at a Gaelic derivation—"Ceann-na-Burgh" meaning "Head of the Town", and a recent publication gives the origin as Kingsburgh, from the lands in Skye belonging to the MacDonalds, but after my remonstrance, the author retracted and blamed it on a printer's error.

In 1852, Paterson (6) made out a good case that, in the XVIth Century, a certain Cunningburgh was really a Cunningham. However, in 1930 I at last found what appears to be the true derivation—the Manor, Castle and Town of Conisborough in Yorkshire. On hearing that Dr. Black was hoping to publish a book on The Surnames of Scotland, I wrote to him at New York in 1940 about my discovery and he replied that he had come to the same conclusion. About 1937 I had written to Mr. R. C. Reid of Dumfries to see if he knew anything about the Kinniburghs of Staplegorton and, because of the enthusiasm engendered by my request and his search into the subject, he composed and read an interesting paper to the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society which is printed in their transactions (7). As it was written rather hurriedly, there are several statements in it which are debatable.

The spelling of the Manor, Castle and Town of Conisbrough has varied considerably over the centuries—I have noted 146 ways—just like the surname,

and even yet there seems to be a doubt as to which spelling to use: rather like our "Dumbarton" for Dunbarton!

## NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FAMILY IN ENGLAND

Herbert de Cunigbure, who was a witness to a charter circa 1139-60 of the Earl of Nottingham (8), is possibly the earliest owner of the name that I have traced so far, but from the end of the XIIth Century, the name occurs frequently in Yorkshire (Assize and Close Rolls, Feet of Fines, etc.). One Allan, who flourished 1323 (9) until his death in 1362 (10), was Provost of Wells Cathedral: another, Ellis de Conyngesburgh is recorded in 1363 (11) who was the father of Reynod Cook, Constable of Conisbrough. In the year 1400, died a John Waleys or Conyesburghe who was a poulterer of London (12), and from him may have descended Edward (alias Edmund) Conyngesburgh, LL.B., who was appointed Rector of St. Leonards, London, in 1447 (13). He was sent by King Edward IVth in 1471 as envoy to the Pope (14), appointed Archbishop of Armagh in 1477 (15) and resigned in 1479 (16).

The early English Conisboroughs appear to have ceased to use the surname or they all died out by the middle of the 16th Century if we accept as one a belated William Goonysboro, "an old thief" of Lincoln who is mentioned in a letter of 1534 to Thomas Cromwell, Secretary of Henry VIIIth (17).

Why did a man, or a number of men of Conisborough leave there for Scotland? There may have been several reasons and there may have been more than one migration. Our historians have recorded instances of these. In A.D. 1069 when William the Conqueror laid Yorkshire waste—many fled to Scotland (18); circa A.D. 1070 when Margaret (subsequently Queen of Malcolm) came to Scotland, she brought English men with her (19) and under Edgar (1097-1107) English emigrants were welcome (20). When David (later King of Scotland) left the English court in A.D. 1107, many of his Norman friends came to Scotland with him (21).

A William de Cuningburg was a witness to a charter of Elyas filius Hugonis to Reginald de Warren re lands in Yorkshire in the first half of the XIIth Century (22) (and one must not forget that Ada de Warren was the mother of Malcolm the Maiden), and this William may have been the progenitor of the Kinniburghs who are found soon after in Scotland. The fact that most of the early members of the family had Christian names usually held by the Normans may indicate that they were of Norman origin, but this is not necessarily so as the conquered English were apt to ape their Norman masters in more ways than one. However, as the Kinniburghs so soon after the Conquest appear to have been people of some note, it seems likely that, like the Stewarts, etc. they stemmed from a Norman source.

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FAMILY IN SCOTLAND

The first mention so far discovered of a man of Conisbrough was Galfrid—a charter witness in A.D. 1163-4, (23), and during the last quarter of the XIIth Century his nephew William de Kunigburg, who possessed the barony of Staplegorton in Dumfriesshire, granted that church to the monks of Kelso for the soul of Galfrid, his uncle (24). Another William, probably the son of the above and also Lord of Staplegorton, was knighted circa 1243-49 (25), and seems to have died between 1266 and 1268 (26). An illustration of a seal circa 1270, (26b) presumed to be that of Sir William de Coningburcht shows what looks like a deer's head pierced by an arrow. His son and heir William was knighted before A.D. 1292 and the sulphur casts of two of his seals of that date showing "a cony in a bush" are in the British Museum (27). When Bruce and Baliol in A.D. 1292 were competitors for the throne, a William and a Gilbert de Conesburg were witnesses for Bruce (28). The seal of Gilbert had "2 conies between five leaves or branches of foliage" (29), but I think that instead of the above description "a cony and a brock (or badger)"—"in canting allusion to the name", would be nearer the mark. Three Kinniburgh seals hang on "Ragman Roll" A.D. 1296: William of Lanarkshire, Gilbert of Ayrshire, and Duncan of Dumfriesshire (30). On the 14th September of that year under escort of James, the High Steward, William did homage to Edward I of England, and his lands, previously confiscated, in the shires of Clackmannan, Edinburgh, Roxburgh and Dumfries were restored to him (31). It is possible that Sir William may have been killed at either of the battles of Stirling Bridge in A.D. 1297, or Falkirk in 1298 (with Wallace), or at the battle of Methven about the 19th June, 1306 (with Bruce) or even, in those troublesome times, died peacefully in his bed!

At anyrate we know that by an Inquisition held on 17th September, 1307 (32), a daughter Lora was his sole heiress. She married Richard, son of Sir John Bickerton and, on his death, Sir Thomas de Hay of Locherworth (ancestor of the present Marquis of Tweeddale (33)) to whom she brought the lands of Tullibody, Clackmannanshire. From the middle of the XIIth Century to the early XIVth Century the lands owned, feudally held, leased, etc. by the Kinniburghs (in addition to those mentioned above) which are recorded, were Durrisdeer (Dumfries) (34), Philipstone (Linlithgow) (35), and Luffnock or Luffness (36); and Pencaitland (Haddington) (37), also Rig (38) and Bracanwra in Eskdale (39).

Some time before the year 1272, a Gilbert de Cuningburgh and others of Scotland were charged with the slaughter of a Richard Bullock on the field of Cambok south of the border, and had fled. An English enquiry, held in 1278-79, showed that Alan de Lascelles was accused of instigating the murder but he produced a charter by Henry III pardoning him and Gilbert, not appearing, was apparently outlawed (40).

The vast majority of the Kinniburghs alive today are descended from Kirkintilloch forebears. As the XIIIth Century members of the family had very close connections with the Stewarts, it seems obvious that they came to Kirkintilloch in the train of James, the High Steward, who had lands in Lennox (41), and a castle in Renfrew (42). It is probable that it was from one of these districts that some members of the family went to Bute when the Stewarts became the principal owners of land in that island. The earliest mention of the family in Kirkintilloch according to both the late David Patrick (then Town Clerk) and the Rt. Hon. Thomas Johnson is in the year 1363 when a John Cuninbrae was one of the two Baillies, but "*Origines Parochiales Scotiae*" Vol. 1. p.504 gives 1563-4. The latter reference is probably right as I doubt if the word Baillie was used in that sense (English-Alderman) in the XIVth Century. However, in the year 1479, one, Archibald Cunigbrughe, a priest, apparently of Kirkintilloch was punished by his bishop for taking part in a spulzie (43) and it may have been the same Archibald who, in 1484, was admitted to Glasgow University (44).

### THE KINNIBURGHS OF BUTE

In the year 1468 a Wil Cunigburgh and another were appointed to value the lands in Bute (45) and 10 years later William admitted deception in holding tack of the lands of Stravannan without consent and was fined (46). The principal lands owned by the Kinniburghs were Gallochan, Scoulag, Nether-Scoulag, Kerenevin, and Kermorane. Among the rentallers (or feuars) in 1506 were Robert Kymmingburgh, in the half of Gallochan (47). The family "tree" I have set out contains eight generations down to the year 1643 when the family estates were sold to the Marquis of Argyll by Ninian Cunningham (alias Cunningham) with consent of his son John Cunningham younger of Scoulag (48). The Kinniburghs seem to have been quite important people in the society of the small island of Bute, as witness the order by Mary Queen of Scots in the year 1549 to "her beloved" Archibald Cuncburgh of Skowlök, as Sheriff Depute, to give sasine to "her beloved cousin" James Stewart, Sheriff of Bute, in the office of Chamberlain of her lands there (49)—Mary, of course, being only six years old at that time, and then in France.

By the kind permission of John, fourth Marquis of Bute, I was able in 1942 to transcribe the many references to the Kinniburghs mentioned in his charters. Several marriages between "the lesser fry" of the Stuarts in Bute and "the larger fry" of the Kinniburghs took place there. Later, his Lordship, while transcribing the Account Book of James Hamilton, merchant of Glasgow, in possession of the Duke of Argyll, came across a bill due from Niniane Cunningham of Skowlök dated 1618 (a copy of which he sent on to me) for a pair of brecks costing forty pounds. William Cunynburgh of Skowlag was granted remission in 1527 for treasonably coming against the King in battle near Linlithgow the previous year (50). William had a son Archibald who succeeded to the

family lands the same year (51) and, if it was the same Archibald who in the year 1512 (52) at a lodging (probably in Ayr) denied entrance to Patrick Dunbar coming with a precept from the King, desiring to present it to James Dunbar (of the Mochram branch I think) when Archibald Cunynburgh held the door, denied that James was within and "displayed a sword, knife and other war-like weapons", he must have been a bad boy like his father. These are a few samples of the "high-lights" appertaining to the Kinniburghs of Bute or should I rather say the "lowdowns" on them?

### THE LAST THREE CENTURIES

From the old Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Interments, and from other sources, I found that practically all members of the family lived in the low-lying district between the River Clyde and the existing route of the Forth and Clyde Canal, comprising the northern parts of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, the southern parts of Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire, the county of Westlothian and in Edinburgh. Pockets of them were to be found in Kirkintilloch, Campsie, Glasgow, Kilsyth and Falkirk from the early 1600s, the first trace in Edinburgh being in the year 1750 and in Greenock 1798. Of the Kinniburgh entries (apart from relations) so far found in the old Registers (which total 874), 212 were in Kirkintilloch and 341 in Glasgow (including Barony, Gorbals and Govan). The Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1855 to 1958 contain (apart from relations), 816 births, 469 marriages and 668 deaths the last including the women who married into the family. For comparison the number of Kinniburghs born in England between 1837 and 1959 was 97, marriages 84, and deaths 52. The Kirkintilloch Census of 1841 notes 47 of the family which rose to 58 in 1851. By 1934 there was only one Kinniburgh in the town—Margaret, a spinster, who died aged 74 the same year.

In the 1933-34 Voters Lists of Glasgow, there were 71 persons of the name (at 32 addresses) which is a trifle over 1 in 10,000 of the total Glasgow voters, who numbered 700,488.

One of the worthies of Kirkintilloch who was born and who died there, was Thomas Kinniburgh, a Deacon of the Tailors of Glasgow. He had the leading article of the "Caledonian Mercury" newspaper dated 16th November, 1799 all to himself. It mentions his eccentricity, his ordering his coffin, making his own grave clothes, his wish that no woman should attend his funeral and, if they did, he would "skail the byke" (or in other words, dismiss the assembly). In his will, he left five pounds to the poor but the money was not to be paid until a notice be put in a conspicuous part of the church to that effect. A bequest of his wife Isobel Lang, who died in 1783, is noted by a tablet still to be seen in the Trades House, Glasgow. Another worthy of Kirkintilloch living about the year 1840 was Mary Kinniburgh—"a stout gloomy looking character, with her lips and chin always plentifully besmeared with oatmeal". She and a lady called



Peggy Winning had an inveterate hatred of each other. Whenever they met each other they invariably "spat in each others faces"! (53).

Amongst the Burgesses & Guild Brethren of Glasgow from 1649 to 1808 were eight Kinniburghs and five men who married into the family. A Barony man of some note (1792-1880) was John Kinniburgh the "Dominic of Tollcross, who matriculated at Glasgow University in 1824. During the politically troubled time of the Chartist movement, he drilled in private many of the weavers of Tolleross and had graves in the churchyard opened to conceal arms (54). He was an autocratic character and it was said that he always kept the "crown o' the causey".

The Edinburgh Burgess Rolls contain the names of seven Kinniburghs from 1769 to 1832. The best known of the Edinburgh Kinniburghs was undoubtedly Robert—Principal of the Deaf and Dumb Institution (now joined with Donaldson's School for the Deaf). Born at Kirkintilloch in 1780, he died at Edinburgh in 1851 and was interred in the New Calton Graveyard, his tomb being as large as a cottage and very gloomy. He joined the 5th Regiment of Scotch Militia in 1798 (55) and was discharged, having found a substitute, in 1804 (56). He was a Congregationalist and became Pastor of the church at Dunkeld circa 1805 to 1808 (57). In 1811 he succeeded Braidwood as teacher at the Edinburgh Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Sir Walter Scott mentions him in his Diary (58), relating how Robert acted as interpreter for a deaf and dumb woman at a Circuit Court at Jedburgh in 1826. He acted in the same capacity at the trial of a woman who threw her child over Glasgow Old Bridge in 1817 (59). His sons Robert Gibbs and Joseph (L.R.C.S. Edin., and M.D. St. Andrews) were both concerned with the teaching of deaf and dumb children, the former having been the teacher at the school at 36, Parson Street, Glasgow from its opening in 1819 until his death in 1831, when his wife Sarah Gregory carried on as matron until her death in 1866, two years before the new Institute was built at Langside. Robert, the elder son of Robert Gibbs Kinniburgh was born at Barony Glebe, Glasgow in 1828. He left for Melbourne, Australia, on 2nd June, 1849 and arrived on 9th September. A copy of his diary, written up daily, is in my possession and is an interesting account of his experiences as a cabin passenger on a sailing ship. His subsequent history is unknown to me but a Robert, (presumably of Glasgow) who married Isabel, daughter of the late General Francisca Valle Riestra, at Lima, Peru, in 1857, (60), might have been the same. There are no members of this family with the name Kinniburgh now alive in Scotland but there may still be one in U.S.A. who was born in New York in 1893 but who had no children by 1951.

I had long hoped to find that an Edinburgh Close would have been named after a Kinniburgh and, to my delight, (when I was searching the old directories) I found eventually that one *did* exist. It is given from 1831 to 1837 at 13-15 Grassmarket, backing on the Flodden Wall. The owner (or more probably chief

resident) was Robert, born in 1743, a master pewterer, whose business was in the West Bow. His grandfather came from Livingston, West Lothian, where he was married in 1706. An example of his pewter platters was to be seen (in 1936) in Forfar Old Parish Church. Two drawings of the now demolished Kinniburgh's Close, dated 10th June, 1850, are illustrated in "Old Edinburgh" by James Drummond, and, if anyone is interested, he can visit "The Beehive Restaurant" in the Grassmarket and look behind the door of the cocktail bar on the first floor up and he will see a framed illustration of the Close fixed there. Descendant members of this branch of the family are now living in the London area: they spell their name K-I-N-N-I-B-R-U-G-H and pronounce it "Kinnibrew".

Another Robert, born in 1740 at Campsie, was a glazier in Edinburgh in the last quarter of the XVIIIth Century, and his son William followed the same calling. When one of the boats was passing along the Union Canal in 1824, the churning up of the water by the boat's paddles caused the body of William (who went missing several days before) to rise to the surface (61). Some Kinniburgh descendants of William are alive in Australia (those spelling their name with a single "N"), and one of them came to see me at Folkestone, several years ago. William, a brother of Robert the glazier, was a candlemaker in Edinburgh with premises at Castle-hill, between 1773 and 1779. In 1811 his signature appears on a Summons to a Candlemaker's Meeting above the word "Officer" (62), which I presume was synonymous with Secretary.

## THE KINNIBURGHS IN THE ARMY

I found that the army records at The Public Record Office, London, were of great interest and they helped me considerably in my search into family history, 24 of the names being recorded between the years 1760 to 1884, including the Militia. The first one I discovered was John who enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1760 (63). He was born in Glasgow in 1743 (64) and first saw action in 1762 at Fort Moro, Cuba (65). He was in Nova Scotia from 1766 to 1773 (66) and in the eastern states of America 1776 to 1783 (67). He was three times wounded (68) and, during the American War of Independence was "a Prisoner with ye Rebels and then escaped" (69). Progressing slowly from a Mattross to the rank of Sergeant, he in October, 1800, was appointed Master Gunner at Folkestone Battery, Kent (70), (which is now my property and where I live). In 1803 he accounted to the Board of Ordnance for "Stores expended in firing at a French Privateer" (71). He died at The Battery in 1820 (72) and was buried in the Churchyard nearby (73). When I was searching the Glasgow Baptismal Registers for September, 1788, I came across an entry of a son born to a Bombardier of the Artillery, one of the witnesses being a John Kinniburgh. Thinking that the Master Gunner's recruiting campaign was about that time, I turned to his army records and found that, in fact, he was in Glasgow from January to October in that year (74). You may remember that just about a year ago, the

Rector of a church in Philadelphia made a claim on the British Government in respect of his church's fence which he alleged was torn down by the British Royal Artillery in December, 1777 (75). Thinking that Master Gunner John might have been one of those responsible, I consulted his itinerary and found sure enough that his Battalion was in Philadelphia from November 1777 till June 1778 (76). However, it appears from the "Scots Magazine" of January, 1778, quoting from the "Boston Gazette", that it was the American troops who had committed the sacrilege (77).

John had three sons: (1) *John* who enlisted in the Artillery as a Drummer Boy in 1785 (aged 11 years) (78), and rose to be Company Sergeant (79). He was at the re-taking of the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch circa 1796-1799 (80) and subsequently was at the Battle of Aboukir in 1801 (81). In January, 1815, he was sent from Woolwich to Portsmouth to superintend the refitting of a quantity of Colonel Shrapnell's shells. His expenses allowed for a sum equal to the Outside Fare on the stage coach (82)—in January! The Census of 1841 shows him as a Tower Keeper in one of the Martello Towers at Folkestone, which he relinquished in 1852 (83) and died in 1860. He was a Chelsea Pensioner (84).

(2) *Robert* joined the Artillery at the age of 15 in 1793 (85), and also found himself at Aboukir in 1801 (86). He rose to be Master Gunner at Carrick Island, near the mouth of the River Shannon (87), and later was appointed to Yarmouth Castle, Isle of Wight (88), where he died in 1848 (89). His funeral cost £3 15s. 0d. which was paid for by the Government (90).

(3) *David* also enlisted in the Artillery in 1797 aged 16 (91). He rose to be Staff Sergeant in the Artillery Drivers to which he transferred in 1806 at the Cape of Good Hope (92). He died there in Stellenbosche in 1861 (93) leaving a family, but the name, I think, died out after two generations.

The three sons were Sergeants at the same time and, together with their father, the combined lengths of service totalled 162 years. The descendants of Master Gunner John number several hundreds — most of them in Australia (where a grandson, William Robert, landed about the year 1850) and many also in New Zealand where another grandson David sailed for on 14th June, 1842 (94) and arrived there on 7th November (95).

These Colonial branches had no idea who their ancestors were until I communicated with them, and it gave me great pleasure not so long ago to show one from New Zealand and another from Australia over the house and grounds where their great, great, great grandfather lived for the last 20 years of his eventful life. Their "Tree" goes back to a John Connybrugh, born in Glasgow in 1652.

Apart from the Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45 (for which see the lists of those killed, entered in the Books of Remembrance at Edinburgh Castle Memorial) there were also members of the family on active service, and apart

from those mentioned above, at the following places: Aboukir—John of The Royal Scots; (96), The Peninsular War (97) and Waterloo (98)—Walter of The Highland Light Infantry; The Peninsular War — John of The Sappers and Miners (99); The Crimea (100) and the Indian Mutiny (101)—David of The Highland Light Infantry, who was killed in action at Gwalior in 1858 (102).

### **MORE OVERSEAS KINNIBURGHES**

Canada has a fair quota, mostly in the prairie lands this side of the Rockies, the majority of whom are of Glasgow stock. In the U.S.A. (additional to those descendants of early settlers mentioned earlier), there are the XIXth Century immigrants including one large family whose "Tree" has over 500 names in it including children of Kinniburgh women. Miss Margaret Kinniburgh, aged 86, my faithful correspondent on this family, was born in Milngavie in 1876 and left there for the West in 1887. There are small colonies of descendants of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and P'auldhouse stock in Australia apart from the "Artillery" branch, and in New Zealand there is a small family from Greenock. As far as my information goes, the only Kinniburghs now in South Africa derive from Kirkintilloch.

In my records, conservatively estimated, I have details of well over 3,000 persons with the name Kinniburgh (including wives), and to give you some idea of the difficulty of ascertaining exact numbers, there seem to be about 260 Johns, 200 James's, 210 Margarets, and over 310 Janes (including Janets and Jeans). Some may have been assumed to be different persons and others to be the same persons. One example, where doubt arose, will suffice: a John between the years 1657 and 1674 at Kirkintilloch is described in various documents as a Baillic, Schoolmaster, Burgess and an Indweller. I have counted them as one, but there may have been two or three.

My records show only one case of a Kinniburgh marrying a Kinniburgh. It was in 1909, when a Robert was wed to a Davina in Glasgow: going back 200 years their "Trees" do not meet. It might interest you to hear part of a family document referring to my great, great, great grandfather James, who died 18th September, 1818. He was a heritor of Old Monkland and farmed, mainly at Bartiebeith, on the southern bank of the Monkland Canal. The document was written about 130 years ago by his grandson James, son of a James, and the extract is as follows: "He called us from the harvest rig to our dinner in his usual health and before my Father had asked a blessing upon the mercies we were to receive his soul had winged its way to his God who gave it".

And to end, I would like to refer to a list (which I commenced in 1912) giving wrong spellings of our name which my parents and I have received on envelopes, etc. addressed to us. Many of them of course are identical with those collected from old records which I mentioned at the beginning of this reading. When I tell you that this highly unofficial list (carefully arranged in data and

alphabetical order) gathered during the last 50 years, contains 609 different attempts at spelling the name, you will agree that it's quite alarming. Only a few months ago I received, from a well-known firm, an indication that they thought I was of Highland origin because they addressed a letter to me with the name Kinniburgh (wrongly spelt) following the prefix "Mac"—MacKinnieburg.

T. C. KINNIBURGH,  
 "The Battery",  
 The Bayle,  
 Folkestone, Kent.

16th September, 1962.

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# REGISTRATION AND CENSUSES, AND THE INFORMATION THEY SUPPLY

By A. B. TAYLOR

There are several traditional systems of recording and using information about persons, and some account of three of them seems worth recording as there is occasionally some confusion in the literature in this field as to their respective functions and objectives.

The three systems are the registration of vital events; civic or national registration; and the statistical census.

(1) The registration of vital events had its origin in the requirements of the church in the Middle Ages. It could not be said, however, to have the name of a system until the 16th century. In England and Wales, for example, by an order of Thomas Cromwell, Vicar General, dated 5th September 1538, every parson in every Parish was required to maintain a register in which to record every "wedding, christening and burial" within his Parish (*Domestic State Papers, Henry VIII*, vol. xiii, pt.2, No. 281). In Scotland there was a corresponding provision for baptisms and for the proclamation of banns in the fourteenth canon of the Provincial Council of the Church held in Edinburgh in 1551-1552 (J. Robertson, *Statuta Ecclesiae Scoticae*, 1866, vol. ii, p.134). There was no reference to burials, but this was possibly because these had already been covered by earlier Statutes such as a Synodal Statute of the diocese of St. Andrews in the 15th century. The earliest parish register in Scotland—for the parish of Errol in Perthshire—dates from 1553:

From such beginnings as these have developed modern systems of the registration of births, deaths, marriages, still-births, adoptions, etc. throughout the world. Events are recorded as they occur, sometimes in a register only and sometimes also in a personal or family registration book, which is kept for reference in the home. The information obtained through a registration system of this kind is partly personal, for the registers are public records and extractable; and partly in the form of statistics based upon analytical studies of the particulars in the entries.

(2) Registration for some civic or national purpose has sometimes been confused with a modern census intended for statistical purposes only. By a civic or national system of registration I mean a once-and-for-all or continuous registration of all persons in a community or area or of a particular class of persons for some civic or national purpose. The scheme of National Registration in World War II was required for a wide variety of purposes affecting the individual registrant, including national service, food registration and national security. The censuses of the Roman Empire had various purposes at various times. They were



not primarily concerned with an enumeration of the whole population but with obtaining the names of property owners or persons having Roman citizenship with a view to requiring fulfilment of their duties to the State, particularly the payment of taxes. The Roman census referred to in Luke, Chapter 2, was a civic registration of this kind. Such registration did, of course, enable statistics to be compiled—as, in fact, was done on the basis of the U.K. National Registration in 1939—but this was not the primary objective. In modern times several countries (e.g. Sweden) have a continuous migration system for the whole population, all particulars being revised annually.

(3) I have not yet traced where the word 'census' ceased to have its Latin meaning and came to be used in its modern sense as an enumeration intended, not for obtaining information about individuals, but to furnish data for the preparation of statistical tables for a country as a whole or parts thereof. There were limited censuses of this modern type in the 17th century, but the first country that I can find to have had a full scale census, as we now understand the term, was Iceland in 1703. As little has been printed about this notable demographic achievement, an account of it will be given in a further paper.

The first population census in Scotland was conducted about 1750 by the Rev. Alexander Webster while Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He arranged for the enumeration to be done by the parish ministers. The results, preserved in a manuscript in the National Library of Scotland, are recorded by shires and parishes, and distinguish between protestants and papists. In a series of sample parishes, he arranged for the ministers not only "to number their parishioners but to distinguish their respective ages". On the basis of this sample survey he estimated the number of "fighting men" in each parish, whom he defined as then "between 18 and 56 years of age, both inclusive". Webster's manuscript has been printed with an introduction by a former Registrar General for Scotland, Mr. J. G. Kyd, C.B.E., in the publication of the Scottish History Society (1952). It has also been the subject of a recent study by Professor A. J. Youngson in *Population Studies*, vol. 15 (1961), pp.198-200. Webster's figure for the total population of Scotland was 1,265,380. His estimated age groups were—

Under 18	.....	488,652
18-56	.....	650,829
Over 56	.....	125,899

The first official census in Great Britain was in 1801. It was clearly prompted by public concern about the growth of the population—a concern which resulted from the publication in 1789 of *An Essay on the Principle of Population* by T. R. Malthus. The basic principle of Malthus was that man tends to reproduce himself at a faster rate than that at which subsistence obtained from the land can be increased; and that population therefore presses continuously, and occasionally to the extent of severe hardship, on the means of subsistence.

From 1801-1831 there was a straightforward "count of heads". After that a "household schedule" has been in regular use. The history of census-taking from 1801 is summarised in *Census Reports of Great Britain, 1801-1931* (Guides to Official Sources, no. 2) H.M. Stationery Office, 1951. The Census of 1961 was the first in this country to employ "sampling". The full list of questions was asked for only 10 per cent. of the population and a short list for the remaining 90 per cent. The effect of this was that some particulars were obtained for the whole population and others for a representative 10 per cent. sample.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### HIGHLAND HERITAGE, by Grace Campbell.

Mrs. Grace Campbell, of Ontario, Canada, talented descendant of Finlay Grant, a Scots emigrant from Inverness-shire to the Mohawk River Settlement in 1773, has greatly enhanced her reputation by writing "Highland Heritage".

In her new book she has combined in one tour numerous recent visits to the country of her ancestors. She travelled extensively in the Highlands and the result is not simply the compilation of another guide-book. People, rather than places, fill the pages of this treasure-house of history and legend. It is, however, well-planned for a tourist's companion, with twenty-seven photographs and nine line maps covering the twelve chapters describing her explorations.

Apart from the clan names themselves, there are lists of septs and dependents, which include some 2,000 surnames. This aspect of her work will have popular appeal, especially overseas, but here the genealogist may not always agree with her findings. The use of aliases was so common in strife-torn Scotland, that only painstaking genealogical research can establish definite links with the clans, or with the clan territories. An example of the inaccuracy of the lists is the inclusion of the surname Houston in the Clan Donald septs. The principal Houston family in Scotland was seated in Renfrewshire—in vassalage to the (Stewarts) Earls and Dukes of Lennox—long before the Celtic tribes even formed distinct clans; and Houston cadets settled throughout the area between Dumbartonshire and Wigtonshire. In fairness to the author, we must point out that such lists have been published by many clan historians, and of course, are used commercially by Highland outfitters, especially by retailers of tartans.

Mrs. Campbell's book is published in Great Britain and Canada by Collins and is moderately priced at 15s. It is published in the U.S.A. by Duell, Sloan & Pearce, and the Meredith Press. In the foreword she tells of a journey made in the Scottish Lowlands, and it is to be hoped that another volume is forthcoming.

D.W.

## REPLY

VI/3 Edinburgh Directories show Alexander Harper, carver, etc. as in business at 8a Shandwick Place 1881-2 to 1898-9 and then at 30 Shandwick Place 1899-1900 to 1903-4, after which his names does not appear.

J.F.M.

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## QUERIES

### LAGERGREN

With reference to the article on Scottish Family Names in Swedish Industry and Technics (Scottish Genealogist Volume VIII, No. 4, Page 20) I can throw some light on the name Lagergren.

The first Scot to take this name was Johan Laurin or Lowrie, said to have been born in Scotland in the 1570s, the son of Laurentius Laurinus. He was enrolled in the House of Nobles in 1647, taking the surname Lagergreen. It was apparently quite common for Scots to adopt a Swedish surname, on matriculating Arms in Sweden: I can quote two other example from among our own Clan—Lagerström and Klöfwerfelt. The Arms matriculated by Johan Laurin or Lowrie show quite clearly that he must have been a MacLaren: per pale, dexter, Argent, a laurel branch proper, sinister, Or, two chevrons Gules. He himself was a Colonel in the Swedish Army and became Provost of East Gothland, but no doubt his descendants went into industry.

Magnus Lagerström (d. 1759) was a director of the East India Company, which suggests that he was a merchant rather than a manufacturer, and therefore perhaps outside the scope of this article. His father, another Magnus (1666-1736) had taken the surname Lagerström on enrollment in the Swedish House of Nobles in 1691. This Magnus' father, Johan Larsson Laurin, was an alderman in Stockholm, and the elder son of Laurentius Laurinus alias Lars Olafsson (d. 1606), Captain of the Stegeborg Palace. There is no doubt again from the recorded Arms that they were originally MacLarens.

There must be many other Scottish families in Sweden now living unrecognised under Swedish surnames.

MARGARET MACLAREN OF MACLAREN.

## SOME MACNABS IN ARGYLLSHIRE

Contributed by Colin Campbell

Readers of *The Scottish Genealogist* (VII, No. 5, Feb. 1901, pp. 1-16) may recall that in the statement of Isabel Campbell in Killin, Perthshire (1802), she mentioned (p. 5) Alexander, fourth son of John Macnab tenant in Acharn near Killin and of Anne, second daughter of Charles Campbell in Tuerachan. She said that Alexander married Christian, daughter of Nicol MacNicol in Killin, "with whose family it is supposed, the Commissary [her cousin Duncan Campbell of Ross, 1742-1822, *loc. cit.* pp. 1, 7] is well acquainted". The document below, which is printed from a copy furnished me from the original by the late Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Campbell of Inverneill and Ross in 1950, carries forward the descendants of Alexander.

It is written on paper watermarked "Wookey Mills 1867" and is endorsed, in the same hand as the rest of the Ms., "H. S. McDonald, Chemist, 76 Canning Street, Calton, Glasgow". McDonald appears in the Glasgow Directory for 1863-4, as herbalist and chemist, 59 Canning Street, residence at No. 72; the Valuation Rolls show that he was at No. 76 in 1873-4, but not in 1874-5. Hugh Smith McDonald, chemist, widower of Agnes Campbell, and son of John McDonald, farmer, and Margaret Campbell, died on 24 September 1895 at 396 Caledonian Road, Glasgow, leaving a son, Neil C. McDonald (Hutchesontown District Register of Deaths, Glasgow, No. 1089). His relationship to Alexander Macnab is not known; his mother or his wife may have been a descendant of Alexander's daughter Agnes, who married John Campbell.

Alexander, son of John Macnab and Agnes Campbell, Margaleg (presumably the John and Anne mentioned by Isabel Campbell) was baptized at Killin on 17 March 1731; Christian, daughter of Nicol MacNicol and Christian Kanigh in Ripidow (?), on 28 September 1742. Alexander Macnab and Christian MacNicol in Aucharn had the following children baptized at Killin: John, 2 August 1761; another John, 2 August 1764; Agnes, 7 April 1766; Archibald, 22 March 1768 (parents in Nether Lix); Isabel, 8 May 1770 (parents in Easter Ardchyle); Robert, 27 May 1772 (parents in Nether Lix). Alexander Macnab, vintner, and Christian MacNicol in Crieff had Christian, born 23 and baptized 24 June 1775 (Crieff parish registers).

Lieutenant-Colonel (Sir) Archibald Campbell, brother of Commissary Duncan, acquired several estates in Knapdale, Argyllshire: Inverneill (1773), Dana (1774), Knap (1776), Taynish (1779), and Ulva (1785). After Sir Archibald's death in 1791, Inverneill and Knap went to his elder brother Sir James, while Duncan received Taynish, Ulva, and Danna, to which lands he gave the name of Ross. "Danavenaich" in the Ms. is no doubt Danna-na-clòich, a farm near

the southern end of Danna Island. Alexander Macnab evidently moved to Argyllshire between 1775 and 1783, when he is described as living at Taynish (see note 1): he would thus have become factor in Sir Archibald's time. He moved to Ulva soon after its purchase (information from Lieut.-Col. Campbell) and witnessed sasines there on 3 April 1786 and 9 October 1792 (Argyll Sasines, XII, 363, and 13 Oct. 1792).

The copy of the Ms. supplied by Lieut.-Col. Campbell of Inverneil reads as follows:

Alex McNab was some say a Carrier, others that he had a Stage Coach betwixt Killin and Crieff, they all agree in saying that he was Landlord of an Inn at one of the above mentioned places, but which they cannot positively say. He had four of a family by his wife, whose maiden name was Christina McNicol, named as follows:—Agnes, John, Robert, and Christina, who were all born in the Inn either at Killin or Crieff. Robert was named after his uncle Robert who was a Collector in Inveraray<sup>1</sup>. He was born in Killin or Crieff (as near as can be ascertained) in the year 1778.

Alex McNab, Wife and Family removed to DANAVENAICH, which place is on the borders of Loch Taynish, close to Sween Castle,<sup>2</sup> and obtained the Factorage of two Estates, Inverneil in South Knapdale, and Ross in North Knapdale, the former belonging to Sir James Campbell, the latter to Duncan Campbell who was a lawyer, and held the office of Commissary for Inveraray, they were both brothers. Alex McNab was their second cousin.<sup>3</sup> After the decease of Sir James, his son Capt. J. Campbell<sup>4</sup> succeeded to the Estate, and A. McNab still retained his office, he was known in all the surrounding districts by the appellation of *Baillie McNab*.

Agnes married a John Campbell . . . and had Fourteen of a Family . . . they are now all dead. Agnes died at Dalmour, Killmichael, by Lochgilphead.

John was a Seaman, was drowned, when or where we cannot find out.

Robert McNab received his education under Mr. Brooks<sup>5</sup> of Inverary, and resided there with his Uncle Robert McNab. Shortly after he finished his education, Sir Archibald Campbell, a brother of Sir James of Inverneil Estate, who was in the Army, bought Robert an Ensign's Commission in the 91st Regiment, at that time called Lochneil's, as Campbell of Lochneil was the Colonel.

Robert was said to have distinguished himself in various engagements, such as in the War with Holland etc., also, during the period of his Ensigncy he rectified the books of the Regiment, which had gone very much out of order, he also captured a French Spy, and for such and similar actions was promoted, but to what rank we cannot definitely ascertain. He is also said to have received a vast amount of Prize Money at the Storming

of the Cape of Good Hope. He sold his post, and was afterwards Postmaster in the Island of Ceylon, where most probably he died.<sup>o</sup> He had one Son, who when a Boy came and resided a short time with his Aunt (Agnes) Mrs. Campbell, who at that time kept an Inn at Tayvallich, near Taynish, he was accompanied with a Negro Woman. On his second visit to Scotland many years after he was drowned in the Clyde. There appeared in the London Newspapers on or about the month of May 1833 an advertisement for the next of kin to Robert McNab, about that time very probably he died.

Christina was married to John McBryde, and had eight of a Family . . . the only survivors are Agnes (Mrs. Cameron), Mary (Mrs. McDougall) and Margaret (Mrs. Thomson).

\* \* \* \*

## NOTES

1. This would be the "late Collector in Argyleshire", called sixth son of John Macnab in Acharn and Anne Campbell in Isabel Campbell's statement. He was baptized at Killin on 22 April 1737. Mr. J. F. Mitchell has kindly supplied me with the following details of his career: excise officer, Logierait, Perthshire, 1776, and at Dirleton, East Lothian, 31 Oct. 1782 until his death, 26 May 1783, but actually officiating as collector at Inveraray from 1781. Supervisor in Dunkeld, 1778. His heir in 1783 was his brother Alexander "of Taynish in the parish of Knapdale".
2. Danna borders on Loch Sween and is opposite Castle Sween which is on the east side of the loch. There is a freshwater Loch Taynish about two miles north of Taynish House, but this cannot be the one meant. For Castle Sween, see Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, n.s., XV, pt. 1 (1900), pp.3-14; and for Ross estate at this time, Scottish Historical Review, XL, pt. 2 (Oct. 1961), pp.136-145.
3. Duncan was a writer in Inveraray; Commissary of Stirling, 1777, and Commissary of Military Stores in Scotland, 1785. Alexander Macnab was his first cousin once removed.
4. Sir James died on 16 March 1805. His eldest son (Lieutenant-General Sir) James (1765-1819), held the rank of captain from 1783 to 1794, but was promoted brigadier in June 1804. He was created a baronet in 1818 but the honour became extinct at his death.
5. In the following century there was a Donald Brooke, preceptor in Inveraray, alive on 18 July 1820 (Inverneill Writs IV.iii.24).
6. As Robert the Collector died in 1783, his nephew (born in 1772, not 1778) cannot have lived with him long. Sir Archibald Campbell died in 1791; Campbell of Lochneil's regiment, the 93th or Argyllshire Highlanders, was raised in 1794, the number being changed to 91st in 1798. Robert Macnab, "relation of Inverneill", lieutenant in an Irish independent company, was appointed lieutenant in the regiment on 13 February 1794. In 1795 he was described as having had three years service. His kinsman Archibald Campbell (1774-1838), fourth son of the elder Sir James of Inverneill, was commissioned lieutenant in the same corps on 11 February 1794; he was lieutenant-colonel, 4th Ceylon regiment, 1810-1812, and later Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey.

The 98th went to the Cape in 1795, part of the regiment remaining there until 1803. Robert Macnab served at the battle of Wynberg (14 Sept. 1795), and was mentioned in dispatches after the capture of the Netherlands fleet at Saldanha Bay in August 1796 (the prize money after the capture is said to have gone to the Navy alone) and was town major at Whittaboon in 1802. The regimental accounts were indeed in disorder in 1798; this occasioned the return of Lochnell to England. Macnab was promoted captain, 25 Sept. 1801; major, 25 December 1804. Later Deputy Inspector General of Colonial Forces in Ceylon, and employed in Commander-in-Chief's office, 1805-1813, when he retired. See R. P. Dunn-Pattison, *The History of the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders* (Edinburgh, 1910), pp. 7, 9-10, 16, 18, 20-22, 399; he is described as town major, Whittaboon, in 1812, on p. 18, evidently an error for 1802.

Since the above was written, there has appeared *Tayvallich and North Kuapdale: A History of the Parish in Recent Times*, by the Reverend Alexander Fraser, B.D. (Glasgow, 1982), which mentions (p.72) an emigration of Macnabs to New Zealand in 1855.

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## McLACHLANS

Any information about McLachlans who might be related to the following persons would be gratefully received:—

1. Duncan McLachlan, Master Mariner—Born about 1806; married at Liverpool on 19th January 1836 to Isabella McDowall and died at Liverpool on 26th December 1851.
2. Dugald McLachlan, Master Mariner—son of Dugald McLachlan, Master Mariner—Married at Liverpool on 1st January 1845 to Jane McDowall.
3. Duncan McLachlan, Master Mariner—Born about 1805; son of Duncan McLachlan, Farmer; married at Liverpool on 26th August 1837 to Jane Matthews (formerly Jones).
4. Robert McLachlan, Master Mariner—Born about 1802; son of Duncan McLachlan, Farmer; married at London on 25th October 1837 to Elizabeth Jones and died at sea on 8th June 1852.









## 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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