

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

Quarterly Journal of the SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Contents

Page

Chronicle of Press Reports relating to
John Paul Jones (continued) 53

Registers of Deeds: "The Inexhaustable
Store of Information" 64

Quaker and Methodist Church Records ... 68

Notes on the Ross Family of Priesthill ... 69

Marriage Contracts Recorded at Kirkcud-
bright 71

Genealogical Research in the Isle of Man 73

BY ITS 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 Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies of Edinburgh University, at 7 p.m. around the 15th of the month. In the event of the 15th falling on Saturday or Sunday, the meeting is held on the following Monday.

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A CHRONICLE OF PRESS REPORTS RELATING TO JOHN PAUL JONES THE CUMBERLAND PACQUET 1779

(Continued from previous issue)

1779. Feb. 23rd. Paul Jones was at Boston at the time the Count D'Estaing was there.

The Drake, sloop of war, is at present commanded by Jones first Lieutenant.

1779. May II. A gentleman belonging to this town, who was taken by Paul Jones, and has effected his escape from Brest, says that when the French Fleet returned to that place after the engagement with the British, one of them, L'Esperance had nine feet of water in her hold, the others had suffered little. Jones was greatly caressed on his arrival there with the Drake. That action and his burning Whitehaven and plundering Lord Selkirk's house gained him many friends, but a few days proved the fallacy of the principal part of his achievement a coolness took place among his admirers which was succeeded by disgrace, in which he still continues.

1779. June 22nd. A gentleman lately returned hither from France, says that Paul Jones has command of an old 64 gun ship, and two smaller vessels are to accompany him on some expedition. Upwards of 300 British seamen had entered with him, and the gentleman further adds that on the road between L'Orient and Calais, he met several others going to join him, Jones will undoubtedly be ready to sail by this time, whatever his destination may be.

1779. July 13th. As everything relative to the man who undertook the infernal business of destroying this town must be an object of notice for a time, we present our readers with the following copy of a letter from Paul Jones, the original of which is in the hands of gentlemen of this town.

Brest. 1778. Nov. 30th. Inclosed i have the honour to send you the certificate which you desired, i beg you to assure the other gentlemen whose hard fortune it is to be with you at present, prisoners of war, that the memorial which has been entrusted to my care shall be enforced with every argument in my power, and i most earnestly hope that the exchange of prisoners will very soon be happily effected; in a few days i may perhaps see the Commissioners; in my absence Father John will forward letters or tender any other services in his power, and as it is my duty, so it will afford me real satisfaction if i can in any respect facilitate your exchange or render your captivity tolerable.

I am Respectfully Gentlemen, Your Very Humble Servant, J. P. Jones.

It is addressed to Capt. William Moor, Archibald Borland, and John Douglas, prisoners of war on board the brigantine, Patience, in the road of Brest, per favour of Rev Father John.

The Patience, (Capt. Moor) of this port, which was taken by Jones, as formerly mentioned, was moored at Brest road the 12th of May 1778 and 175 prisoners put on board her, 93 of whom were confined in her (without ever going on shore) till the 11th April 1779, when they were removed to the Alliance, an American frigate of 36 guns and (with four others) carried to Nantz, where they were put on board the Milford carteel, from which they were landed at Plymouth the 6th of last month.

From the inclemency of the weather, and laying in a open road stead, they suffered greatly, four or five different times, being for 48 hours without provisions. The vessel provided for Jones, mounted 44 guns, but can fight 25 on a side, there are also two cutters or schooners to accompany him, and he was to have from seven to eight hundred men, amongst whom (it is a melancholy truth) were a great number of exchange men.

Jones was himself at Nantz, engaging seamen as soon as the exchange was agreed on. His destination was a secret, but from appearance this quarter was strongly suspected.

Failkers Dublin Journal of last Saturday has the following Paragraph, viz, early yesterday morning an express arrived at the Castle from Kerry, mentioning that 4 or 5 ships were in Kenmare river, and were supposed to be commanded by Paul Jones.

Yesterday afternoon the following letter was sent express from Mr Smith, the Pier Master at Workington, addressed to William Hicks, Esq., or in his absence to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Forces at Whitehaven.

Copy. Workington, Aug. 30th 1779. 10 o'clock.

Sir. Last nights tide brought into this port the Unity, Joseph Westray, Master, in 24 hours from Drogheda. An hour before he left that port he was called to by the Collector of the Customs there, who at that moment received an express from His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant, informing him that Paul Jones went on shore the 24th inst in a boat with 7 men at Ballanaskilling in the county of Kerry, and that he had a force with him consisting of one ship of 40 guns, one of 36 guns, one of 32 guns, a cutter of 18 guns, and a brig of 14 guns, and that the land forces amount to 2000 men on board the said ships. The collector gave Capt. Westray his Excellency's letter to read, and the above were the substance of its contents, if this be of any use. Sir, your most obedient servant. John Smith.

Other accounts add that some of Jones people deserted from him, and gave the above information of his force, and that the ships stood off, for some other part of the Irish coast.

The last Dublin papers describe that City and other parts of the Kingdom as being in a great commotion on receiving the above intelligence, which they only consider as the fore-runner of a real invasion.

Sept. 7th. The last account received which may be depended upon, says that the squadron under the command of Paul Jones consists of the following ships, viz, Le Bon Homme of 40 guns, Alliance, 36, Pallas, 32, Revenge, 12, Le Grand, 14, and a large cutter of 18 guns.

The number of men, including soldiers and mariners is 2000. They sailed from Brest the 1st of Aug., and have on board a very large quantity of combustibles. The intention of Jones' expedition is to scour the channel, and, it is said, he has already taken four vessels.

The purport of the several expresses lately received by General Cunningham at the camp near the City of Cork, is that on the morning of the 24th ult, seven men landed near Trallee on the river Kilmare from a open boat, who say they escaped, the preceding night from a ship belonging to Jones squadron, which they describe as above. Seventeen men also landed at ten o'clock the same day, supposed to be in search of the others. When the last express was forwarded for Cork, the ships were laying at the Skellicks, in full view, and the country in

the greatest consternation.

The following is copied from the Cork Evening Post of last Tuesday.

Copy of a letter, Valencia, County of Kerry, Aug. 23rd 1779.

Dear Sir. I take this opportunity of informing you by express, the critical situation of our coast, as per add affidavit made by seven seamen who deserted in a boat from Commodore Paul Jones ship, who say they sailed the 1st inst from Port L'Orient, in number six sail, viz, here follows the names of the vessels. Jones ship has 600 men on board.

They had 2000 sea and land forces with combustibles, prepared for setting fire to ships or towns, but could not tell their destination. From their report we suppose it to be Dingle, Limerick or Galway. They were becalmed off the Skelligo, and this boat was put out to keep the ships head off shore, which opportunity they took of making their escape, as the ships could not bring their guns to bear on the boats.

Fourteen men more have since landed in search of the above, and as the country has not prepared to receive them, they made their escape. They have given us the names of several prizes taken by them, which ships I know, and I give it as my opinion that a frigate and a 50 gun would give a good account of them. The English sailors on board were prisoners taken out of a French prison. You may depend on the truth of this, and am Sir, Yours, signed. Peter Berrell.

Sept. 14th. We are advised by way of Dublin, that the latest account to be depended on concerning Paul Jones is, that on the 26th ult, his squadron was blown out of Ballynskellings, by a violent gale of wind at N.E. which obliged him to quit that bay with such precipitation, that a longboat belonging to one of the frigates, with a Lieutenant of Mariners and thirteen hands, were left behind and captured by the Kerry Legion.

Tralee. Aug. 31st. Commodore Jones's squadron has quitted this coast. Twelve of his crew were committed to gaol last Friday, who were apprehended when they were pursuing the first seven who escaped from him. They were all unarmed. Two of them were Lieutenants in his squadron, one of whom (Wall) is a Kerry man.

Accounts have been received that the homeward bound ships from the Baltic belonging to this port and Workington (under convoy of the Serapis, as mentioned in this paper of the 14th inst) are put into Norway.

The following may be depended on as an authentic account of the operations (on Friday Se 'Ennight) of a squadron of three ships of force, the largest of which was frigate built, and appeared to mount 40 or 50 guns. Early in the morning they were observed nearly opposite to Leith, above the Island of Inchkeith, on the north side, about four miles from Leith. A swift sailing cutter was sent out immediately to reconnoitre.

The cutter fell in with them, and found herself within pistol shot of a French fifty gun ship. The cutter immediately tacked and fell in with a prize they had taken in the mouth of the Frith, which she retook, but was obliged to abandon her, by a French 24 gun frigate, which immediately made up to her. A boy, however, very spiritedly jumped from the prize on board the cutter, which immediately brought him to Leith.

The boy was examined by the Lord Provost, Captain Napier. He says they put four soldiers, four men, and two officers aboard the prize, all of whom spoke

English; that the squadron consists of a fifty gun ship, a 24 gun frigate, and a brig of ten guns. The crew said they determined to come up to Leith road, but they sail ill, and on Friday morning the wind blew very violently from the south west, which drove them down the Frith a good way below the Island of Inchkeith. The commander of the 50 gun ship is said to be a Scotsman, and to know the coast. Seven sail originally left Dunkirk; these three parted lately from the rest in the North Seas in a gale of wind.

Every possible means is taken to prevent any attempt to land or burn the shipping. Three batteries are erected towards the Citadel and Newhaven, which mount 30 guns, beside carronades, howitzers, &c. The Four Incorporations of Leith have petitioned the Commander in Chief for 100 stand of arms for each Incorporation, which have been sent down from the castle; and parties of military and seamen are stationed upon the coast at proper places.

A letter from Scarbro', dated Sept. 20th, says "Yesterday a ship of war, a frigate, a sloop and a cutter, appeared about a mile off the pier, supposed to be French. They fired at several ships, took two, and obliged two others to run into the harbour, after damaging their rigging and sails; they then steered their course northwards.

Sept. 21st. Some people escaped from a French prison, report that Paul Jones was in Brest only about a fortnight ago, where he had arrived from a cruize, and had several prisoners along with him.

Amongst a variety of accounts concerning our quondam visitor Paul Jones, the following are all which may be depended on.

Oct. 5th. A letter from Hull, dated Sept. 26th, says Paul Jones appeared a little to the northwards of the spurn, with English colours flying and made signals for pilots, when two boats immediately put off, expecting a good job.

One of the pilots went on board Jones' ship; the other was put into a light collier belonging to Sunderland, with 8 French, Americans and English of Jones squadron to care for her till morning, when they intended to plunder and sink her, as they had done 20 vessels taken since they left France, but the pilot and some others being tired of the service made the remainder drunk, sent them on shore, brought the ship into the Humber, and she is now in our dock.

A letter from Bridlington, dated Sept. 28th, says nine sail of frigates and armed ships passed by this place on Sunday, and this day Tuesday, another fleet also passed by.

The following particulars are from the information of the Master of the Speedwell sloop of Hull, which was taken and ransomed by the said squadron and who made oath to the said fact thereof, before the Mayor of Newcastle on Wednesday:—

"Sunday last, about four leagues off Tynemouth Bar, the Speedwell sloop of Hull, and the Union Brig of Chatham, were taken by the Pallas, an American frigate or barque, of 34 nine pounders, in company with a two decked ship of 44 eighteen pounders, (name not known) commanded by Paul Jones, and a snow of 14 nine pounders, called the Vengeance, (master's name not known). After taking them, Jones and the Master of the Pallas disagreed concerning the captures; Jones proposed to turn the brig into a fire-ship, and to send her into Shields harbour, to which the Master of the Pallas would not consent: the Master of the Pallas proposed to ransom the sloop, as she had a woman with a child on board,

to which Jones would not consent.

However, the next day, about twelve leagues off the land, between Scarborough and Filey Bay, the brig was plundered and sunk, and the sloop ransomed for 300L.—the mate taken hostage. Jones had one or two, and the Pallas three or four English Masters, and a number of other prisoners on board, belonging to ships that had been taken and destroyed.

The Master of the sloop said he was informed that Jones had 200 mariners on board. Jones declared that his orders were to ransom none, but to burn, or sink them all. The Master of the Pallas, in the ransom bill styles himself thus; "Denis Nicholas Colineau of Keloguen, Captain of a man of war in the service of the United States of America, and commander of the American frigate the Pallas". They hoisted English colours; but the Captain of the sloop saw they had also American and Swedish colours.

A gentleman who passed through Beverley on Wednesday says, that the drums in the Cumberland Militia were beating to arms, and going to march to Bridlington, in consequence of 700 men, from Paul Jones's squadron, having landed at that place.

The following is a copy of a letter from a Captain in the Cumberland Militia to his brother in this town, dated at Scarborough the 24th inst.

The enclosed will inform you that the villainous Paul Jones is here, upon this coast and at this moment we expect his landing, being all under arms, and shall remain so all night. He is about four leagues S.E. from us, with the wind at south, and a flood tide; i think he may fetch this by twelve o'clock. His intention was to land last Tuesday, but by the firing of a gun, thought we were alarmed, and therefore desisted.

A Master of a ship belonging to this port, saw Paul Jones mother not long ago in Scotland, and asking her what she thought of her hopeful son now, she answered, "Peure thing", he is only seeking for a bit of bread.

The first entry of licensed goods from England, made in the Isle of Man, after it was annexed to the Crown, was made by Paul Jones, he having imported the first rum there. His name stands first in the Customs House books at Douglas.

The following ships appeared off Scarborough on Tuesday morning, in pursuit of Jones's squadron, viz, The Prudent of 64 guns, Captain Burnett: The Amphitrite of 28 guns, Captain Bryne: The Pegasus of 28 guns, Captain Bazely: The Medea of 28 guns, Captain Montague, and the Champion of 24 guns, Captain Hamilton. Captain Bazely of the Pegasus went on shore at Scarborough where he stopped a short time, in order to obtain information respecting Jones. Beside the above ships which followed Jones squadron to the northwards, The Jupiter, Ambuscade, Appollo, Crescent and Milford are, by order of the Admiralty, sailed westward in search of him.

A letter from Hull dated Sept. 28th says, this morning we had the agreeable news, by the Capt. of a Danish ship, that he passed Jones' fleet, and about three hours after he met an English squadron in pursuit of him.

Copy. East Riding of Yorkshire. The examination of Thomas Berry, born at North Shields, Northumberland, taken upon oath before me, Humphrey Osbaldiston Esq., one of His Majestys Justices of the Peace, this 24th of Sept. 1779, who says he was taken about 18 months in the Hawke, letter of marque and carried into Port L'Orient.

In hopes of getting his liberty he entered 6 months since on board Paul Jones' ship, *Le Bonne Homme Richard* of 40 guns and about 350 men. They sailed from L'Orient about two months ago, their force consisting of the said ship, the *Alliance*, an American frigate of 16 guns, the *Pallas* of 32 guns, the *Vengeance* brig of 22 guns, the *Grenville* of 12 guns, and a cutter of 18 guns which last is supposed to have been taken on the coast of Ireland.

They sailed from L'Orient to the western part of Ireland; from thence to the north of Scotland, where they took a valuable prize bound for Quebec, laden with military stores and another prize, a letter of marque from Liverpool, also two other prizes, and several colliers which they sunk near Whitby.

"Jones's squadron has been six days between Berwick and the Humber, and his declared intention is to make a descent somewhere on the coast. On Tuesday last he ordered all his oars to be mustered and the boats to be ready for hoisting out on Wednesday morning. The *Alliance* and *Pallas* left Jones on Thursday evening off Flamborough Head; about 7 o'clock they met with the east country fleet, convoyed by a 40 gun ship which engaged Jones alone for 4 hours till Jones fire ceased; being several times on fire and very near sinking.

He called to the *Alliance* for assistance which came up and gave the King's ship a broadside who being totally disabled, struck. Jones's officers called to the *Alliance* to hoist out their boats as their ship was sinking, in one of which the deponent and six others made their escape to Filey.

A letter of the same date says, it is the *Serapis* which struck to Jones and that the *Countess of Scarborough*, armed ship of 18 guns was also taken.

Jones is reported to have captured upwards of forty vessels this cruize.

Liverpool. Oct. 1st. The *Betsy Fisher* from hence for New York, was taken the 29th of August, three days after she left this port, by the *Alliance* frigate of 44 guns, off Scotland, and three more ships that were in company Paul Jones, Commodore.

A letter from Scarborough, dated Wednesday October 6th says "yesterday appeared off this place, three armed vessels. A coble went on board of them, and found them to be the three that passed on Sunday se'ennight with the ships of war. They told the coblemen they had been as far as the coast of Norway, but to no purpose, not having the good luck to meet with Jones, and that they were separated from the rest of their fleet in a hard gale of wind last week, so that all our hopes are over in meeting with him, and we think he is gone to the northwards, either to North Bergen, or around Ireland in his way to France.

The following particulars relative to the late engagement between Paul Jones and the *Serapis* man of war may be depended on as authentic.

When Jones first attacked the *Serapis*, he was ahead of his little fleet several leagues; notwithstanding this, he engaged with all the fury of a man determined to conquer or die. The engagement soon grew desperate and Jones, besides having a great number of his men killed around him, had his rigging on fire for about seven minutes.

In this interval the Captain of the *Serapis*, who was so near him as to be audible, called out to him to strike, or he must infallibly go to the bottom. Jones replied with a oath, "I may sink, but I'll be d-d if i strike". At this instant, one of his men attempted to strike the colours, when Jones, turning short, shot him dead on the spot.

Two more attempted the same thing, and met with the same fate; a mutiny then was expected to take place, as the ship was apparently sinking, when fortunately for Jones, another of his squadron came up to his assistance, which turned the tables on the Serapis, and she was obliged to strike, after exerting a degree of courage, which would in all probability, have made her successful with any other enemy.

One of the men escaped from Paul Jones says that in the engagement with the Serapis, Jones almost exhausted with fatigue, the sweat pouring off him, sat down upon the hen coup, the Lieutenant of Marines went to him, and said, "for Gods sake, Captain, let us strike". Jones looked at him, paused for some time, then leapt up from his seat, and said, "no; i will sink; I'll never strike".

From the London Gazette. Admiralty Office, Oct. 12th 1779.

A letter from Captain Pearson, of His Majesty's Ship Serapis, to Mr Stephens of which the following is a copy, was yesterday received at this office.

The Pallas, French frigate in Congress Service, Texel, October 6th 1779. Sir, you will be pleased to inform the Lords' Commissioners of the Admiralty that on the 23rd ult, being close in with Scarborough about eleven o'clock; a boat came on board with a letter from the bailiffs of that corporation giving information of a flying squadron of the enemy's ships being on the coast, and a part of the said squadron having been seen from hence the day before, standing to the southward.

As soon as i received this intelligence, i made the signal for the convoy to bear down under my lee, and repeated it with two guns; notwithstanding which, the van of the convoy kept their wind, with all sail, stretching out to the southward from Flamborough Head, till between twelve and one, when the headmost of them got sight of the enemy's ships, which were then in chase of them; they then tacked, and made the best of their way under the shore for Scarborough, &c., letting fly their top-gallant sheets, and firing guns; upon which i made all the sail i could to windward, to get between the enemy's ships and the convoy, which i soon effected.

At one o'clock we got sight of the enemy's ships from the mast-head, and about four made them plain from the deck to be three large ships and a brig; upon which i made the Countess of Scarborough signal to join me, she being inshore with the convoy, at the same time i made the signal for the convoy to make the best of their way, and repeated the signal with two guns; i then brought to, to let the Countess of Scarborough come up, and cleared the ship for action.

At half past five the Countess of Scarborough joined me, the enemy's ships then bearing down upon us, with a light breeze at S.S.W. at six tacked, and laid our head inshore, in order to keep our ground the better between the enemy's ships and the convoy; soon after which we perceived the ships bearing down upon us to be a two-decked ship and two frigates, but from their keeping end upon us, on bearing down, we could not discern what colours they were under; at about 20 minutes past seven, the largest ship of the three brought to, on our larboard bow, within musket shot; i hailed him, and asked what ship it was; they answered in English, the Princess Royal; i then asked where they belonged to, they answered evasively; on which i told them, if they did not answer directly, i would fire into them; they then answered with a shot, which was instantly returned with a broadside, and after exchanging two or three broadsides, he backed his top-sails, and dropped upon our quarter within pistol shot,

then filled again, put his helm aweather, and run us on board upon our weather quarter, and attempted to board us, but being repulsed, he sheered off; upon which i backed our top-sails, in order to get square with him again, which, as soon as he observed, he then filled, put his helm aweather, and laid us athwart hawse; his mizen shrouds took our jib boom, which hung him for some time, till at last it gave way, and we dropt along side of each other, head and stern, when the fluke of our spare anchor hooking his quarter, we became so close fore and aft, that the muzzles of our guns touched each others sides.

In this position we engaged from half past eight till half past ten, during which time, from the great quantity and variety of combustibile matters which they threw in upon our decks, chains, and in short into every part of the ship, we were on fire not less than ten or twelve times in different parts of the ship, and it was with the greatest difficulty and exertion imaginable at times that we were able to get it extinguished. At the same time the largest of the two frigates kept sailing round us the whole action, and raking us fore and aft, by which means she killed or wounded almost every man on the quarter and main decks.

About half past nine, either from a hand grenade being thrown in at one of our lower deck ports, or from some other accident, a cartridge of powder was set on fire, the flames of which running from cartridge to cartridge all the way aft, blew up the whole of the people and officers that were quartered abaft the main-mast, from which unfortunate circumstance all those guns were rendered useless for the remainder of the action, and i fear the greatest part of the people will lose their lives.

At ten o'clock they called for quarters from the ship along-side, and said they had struck; hearing this, i called upon the Captain to know if they had struck, or if he asked for quarters; but no answer being made after repeating my words two or three times, i called for the boarders and ordered them to board, which they did; but the moment they were on board her, they discovered a superior number laying under cover with pikes in their hands ready to receive them; on which our people retreated instantly into our own ship, and returned to their guns again till half past ten, when the frigate coming across our stern, and pouring her broadside into us again, without our being able to bring a gun to bear on her, i found it in vain, and in short, impracticable, from the situation we were in, to stand out any longer with the least prospect of success; i therefore struck, (our mainmast at the same time went by the board).

The first Lieutenant and myself were immediately escorted into the ship along-side, when we found her to be an American ship of war, called the *Bon Homme Richard*, of 40 guns and 375 men, commanded by Captain Paul Jones; the other frigate which engaged us, to be the *Alliance* of 40 guns and 300 men; and the third frigate, which engaged and took the *Countess of Scarborough* after two hours action, to be the *Pallas*, a French frigate of 32 guns and 275 men; the *Vengeance*, an armed brig of 12 guns and 70 men, all in Congress Service, and under the command of Paul Jones.

They fitted out and sailed from Port L'Orient the latter end of July, and came north about. They have on board 300 English prisoners, which they have taken in different vessels in their way round, since they left France, and have ransomed some others.

On my going on board the Bon Homme Richard, i found her in the greatest distress; her quarters and counter on the lower deck entirely drove in, and the whole of her lower deck guns dismounted; she was also on fire in two places; and six or seven feet of water in her hold, which kept increasing upon them all night and the next day, till they were obliged to quit her, and she sunk, with a great number of her wounded people on board her.

She had 300 men killed and wounded in the action; our loss in the Serapis was also very great. My officers and people in general behaved well, and i should be very remiss in my attention to their merit were i to omit recommending the remains of them to their Lordships' favour.

I must at the same time beg leave to inform their Lordships that Capt. Piercy, in the Countess of Scarborough, was not in the least remiss in his duty, he having given me every assistance in his power, and as much as could be expected from such a ship, in engaging the attention of the Pallas, a frigate of 32 guns, during the whole action.

I am extremely sorry for the misfortune that has happened, that of losing His Majesty's ship i had the honour to command; but at the same time, i flatter myself with the hopes that their Lordships will be convinced that she was not given away; but on the contrary, that every exertion has been used to defend her; and that two essential pieces of service to our country has arisen from it; the one in wholly oversetting the cruize and intentions of this flying squadron; the other in rescuing the whole of a valuable convoy from falling into the hands of the enemy, which must have been the case had i acted any otherwise than i did.

We have been driving about in the North Sea ever since the action, endeavouring to make to any port we possibly could, but have not been able to get into any place till today we arrived in the Texel. Herewith i enclose you the most exact list of the killed and wounded, i have as yet been able to procure, from my people being dispersed amongst different ships, and having been refused permission to muster them. There are, i find many more both killed and wounded than appears on the enclosed list, but their names as yet i find impossible to ascertain; as soon as i possibly can, shall give their Lordships a full account of the whole. I am Sir, Your most obedient and most humble servant, R. Pearson.

P.S. I am refused permission to wait on Sir Joseph Yorke, and even to go on shore. Inclosed is a copy of a letter from Capt. Piercy, late of the Scarborough.

Abstract of the list of killed and wounded. Killed 49, wounded 68. Amongst the killed are the boatswain, pilot, 1 master's mate, 2 midshipmen, the cockswain, 1 quartermaster, 27 seamen, and 15 marines. Amongst the wounded are the second Lieutenant Michael Stanhope, and Lieut Whiteman, second Lieutenant of Marines, 2 surgeons mates, 6 petty officers, 46 seamen, and 12 marines.

Pallas a French frigate in Congress Service, Texel, October 4th 1779.

Sir. I beg leave to acquaint you that about two minutes after you began to engage with the largest ships of the enemy squadron, i received a broadside from one of the frigates, which i instantly returned, and continued engaging her for about twenty minutes, when she dropt astern.

I then made sail up to the Serapis, to see if i could give you any assistance; but upon coming near you, i found you and the enemy so close together, and

covered with smoke, that i could not distinguish one ship from the other; and for fear i might fire into the Serapis instead of the enemy, i backed the main topsail in order to engage the attention of one of the frigates that was then coming up.

When she got on my starboard quarter, she gave me her broadside, which, as soon as i could get my guns to bear, (which was very soon done) i returned, and continued engaging her very near two hours, when i was so unfortunate as to have all my braces, great part of the running rigging, main and mizen topsail sheets shot away, 7 of the guns dismounted, 4 men killed, and 20 wounded, and another frigate coming up on my larboard quarter.

In that situation i saw it was in vain to contend any longer, with any prospect of success, against such superior force. I struck to the Pallas, a French frigate of 32 guns and 275 men, but in the service of the Congress. I likewise beg leave to acquaint you, that my officers and ship's company behaved remarkably well the whole time i was engaged. I am with great respect, Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant, Tho. Piercy.

Sir Joseph Yorke will demand of the States of Holland the delivery up of the Serapis and the Countess of Scarborough; and as the States have not allowed the sovereignty of the colonies, they consequently cannot deny the request.

The Serapis, lately built, and taken by Jones, is one of the compleatest ships in the navy; she is built on a new construction, sheathed with copper, and had not been long out.

Oct. 14th. As soon as the account of Paul Jones being in Holland, which came by a messenger in the Prince of Wales packet boat to Harwich, from Helvoetslavs, and was sent by our Minister at the Hague, reached the Secretary of State, it was carried to the King, and a Cabinet Council held, at the breaking up of which, Lord Sandwich came immediately post to the town, and in less than two hours time, expresses were dispatched to Portsmouth and the Downs, to the Admirals commanding there. The purport of these expresses we are told is to send some ships with all speed to cruize off the Texel for Jones's squadron.

London Oct. 28th. It is said in some of the papers that Paul Jones has been demanded to be given up as a murderer, but that no answer has been returned.

London Oct. 19th. A letter from Amsterdam, dated Oct. 8th says, Tuesday last Paul Jones, with the prizes of the Serapis and Scarborough, entered the Texel, and this day he appeared on the Exchange, where business gave way to curiosity, the crowd pressing upon him, by whom he was stiled "The Terror of the English".

He withdrew to a room fronting a public square, where Mons Denneville, the French Agent, and the Americans, paid him such a volley of compliments, and such homage, as he could only answer with a bow. He was dressed in the American uniform, with a Scotch bonnet, edged with gold.

London. We are told that an engraving of the famous Paul Jones will shortly make its appearance in public, of which eight thousand copies are already engaged and subscribed for.

Nov. 2nd. Arrived the mail from Holland, France, and Flanders, Utrecht. Oct. 21st. It is reported that Paul Jones's squadron is stopt at the Texel, because his people has been guilty of some excesses contrary to the laws of Nations.

London. Nov. 2nd. A gentleman who came to town this morning from Holland, declared he saw Paul Jones at the Hague last Thursday evening, he says

he was dressed in scarlet, trimmed with gold, and that he is caressed by the Dutch, and that he saw his ships, all lie in the Texel. According to this account Jones could not be in Paris, as has been asserted in some of the papers.

Arrived the mail from Holland. The Hague, Oct. 13th.

Sir Joseph Yorke, Ambassador from the Court of London, has had conference with Baron De Heckeren Brantsenbourg, who presides this week among the States-General, when he presented the following Memorial.

High and Mighty Lords, the undersigned Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the King of Great Britain, has the honour to communicate to your High Mightinesses, that there has lately entered the road of the Texel, two of the Kings ships, namely the Serapis and the Countess of Scarborough, who were attacked and taken by force by one named Paul Jones, a subject of the King, who according to treaties and laws of war, falls under the class of rebels or pirates.

The undersigned is consequently driven by force to recur to your High Mightinesses to demand their immediate orders to stop in the Texel, the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough, with the officers and ships companies, and all belonging to them, and further recommends it to be sent on shore, the expence of which shall be defrayed by the King, his Master. Done at the Hague, Oct. 8th 1779. Signed. Le Chev Yorke.

The day of the date of the above memoir Paul Jones arrived here, accompanied by only one domestic. He stayed but a day, and then set off post for Amsterdam to join his squadron in the Texel.

By a letter from Amsterdam we learn that several English gentlemen have been in the company of the celebrated Paul Jones, who relate, that he is proud and haughty, and can talk of nothing but sea affairs, however, he has the good manners not to speak disrespectfully of the English. The only reflection he made worthy of committing to paper was this, he said, "He never did, nor ever would accept of a command, in order to dally with it for his private advantage, which was the way of several commanders of both sides. He would be cut to pieces rather than shuffle with his employers to enrich himself, at the expence of his honour".

By a person who escaped from Paul Jones we are informed that after his first sailing from L'Orient on this expedition (in which he has succeeded too well) a scheme was formed by a number of the seamen to take the ship from him, and pilot her to England, when a Irishman on board discovered the plot.

The men were all called over, and charged with it, but denied any concern in or knowledge of it. The informer was then put in irons; but Jones relied so much on the man's assertion, that he returned to L'Orient, had all the people ordered on shore, and, on a more strict examination, upwards of ninety were dismissed for refusing to swear allegiance to The Congress. Thus he narrowly escaped being taken.

Particular honours have been paid him in France, (Paul Jones) and he is of The Knights of St Louis.

(to be continued in next issue)

REGISTERS OF DEEDS: 'THE INEXHAUSTABLE STORE OF INFORMATION'

A Lecture given to the Society on 17th April, 1973

By GERALD HAMILTON-EDWARDS

The quotation in the title of this talk is from Maitland Thomson's excellent work, *The Public Records of Scotland*.¹ More fully it reads "The Register of Deeds itself is an inexhaustable store of information about the private life of our forefathers . . . the original deeds preserved constitute a collection of memorials of every Scotsman of modern times of the respectable classes, and of many others. I should say that at least one signature of every man in any way prominent who survived 1580 could be found there."

Maitland Thomson was writing in that passage of the main or Court of Session Register of Deeds, but there are other registers of deeds, particularly those of the sheriff courts, in which quite ordinary and undistinguished people may be mentioned. I suggested talking about registers of deeds for two reasons, firstly that many genealogists and other searchers are unaware of the information these registers contain, and secondly because these registers are now becoming more accessible.

The Court of Session Register of Deeds derives from the records kept by the Lord Clerk Register as Clerk of the Council. When the books of the Council were divided into three sections they became the Register of the Privy Council, the Register of the Court of Session and the Register of Deeds.

The lesser courts which kept registers of deeds were the Sheriff Courts, the Commissary Courts, the Courts of the Royal Burghs and, until the heritable jurisdictions were abolished in 1748, the Courts of Regality. It is the records of these minor courts which are now becoming more accessible. The process I forecast in my *Scottish*² book is now in progress. The West Register House is, as you doubtless know, now open. Among other records those of the sheriff courts are being brought into this register house, being sorted out and having lists and repertories made. When I was there in April last (1972) the Forfarshire Sheriff Court records³ had recently come in. This year the Ayrshire Sheriff Court records⁴, several tons of them, have arrived.

These records are now under the control of the Keeper of the Records, but they may, after sorting, cleaning and, if necessary, rebinding and repairing, go back to the district whence they came, possibly to a regional record office of the locality, if such offices are established. It is hoped that local record offices will start indexing their records.

This policy, if carried out, as it is only in the process of discussion, will, of course, mean that these records will not be available for consultation in Edinburgh, but possibly arrangements may be made for certain of them to be brought temporarily to Edinburgh if particularly requested, and in addition some of the more important records may be microfilmed so that they will be available in that form in the capital.

To return to the deeds themselves. These deeds have a clause consenting to their registration in the "Books of Council and Session or others competent" or similar phraseology. But in 1698 other forms of deeds were allowed for registration and preservation, known as probative writs. Such deeds were those correct in form but lacking the clause consenting to registration. They include documents such as letters which might be evidence of relationship, or of intent in testamentary matters. In Chapter IX of my *Scottish Ancestry*⁵ I give examples, including the fortunate discovery of four letters of an ancestor which revealed much information of relationships and largely resulted in the clues which led to the pedigree reproduced in the same chapter.

Another example I have given is the letter of a Daniel Morison to his father living near Lochgilphead, written on 29 November 1808 but not registered in the Argyll Sheriff Court Register of Deeds until February 1810⁶, the year of the son's death, when they were no doubt used as testamentary evidence.

The main Register of Deeds, that is, the Court of Session Register, derived from the proceedings of that court. In 1554 the clerks began to enter the deeds in a separate register. A calendar of the first 44 volumes has been made. Indexes for the second series, beginning in 1661, have been published for each year since then up to 1695. It is intended, I understand, to publish these indexes up to 1700. After that typescript indexes will be made for use in the Scottish Record Office. There are already typescript indexes for the years 1750 to 1754 and from 1770 onwards. The gap of the unindexed portion is thus narrowing.

Unfortunately the published volumes for the years after 1683, do not indicate the type of deed. This means that after that date one needs to look up all the entries to discover whether the deed is a bond, obligation, renunciation, tack, marriage contract, apprenticeship, testamentary disposition or so forth.

Marriage contracts are, of course, particularly valuable genealogically. Scotsmen are fortunate in having the possibility of finding such contracts registered in a public register, a possibility which cannot be expected in England and Wales, though such contracts may be found in Ireland. Equally valuable may be testamentary dispositions. These are found in various registers of deeds and became more prevalent in the 18th century. Thus a testament not found in the Commissariat records may be found in a register of deeds. An example is the testamentary disposition of Mary Irons, widow of the Professor of Civil History in the University of St Andrews, mentioned in my above-mentioned book⁷.

The Register of Deeds of the Commissariat Court was concerned mainly with disputes about testaments or matters concerning divorce.

The most important of the lesser courts were the sheriff courts. The registers of deeds of these courts contain many similar kind of deeds to those in the Court of Session register, but they may deal with a lower strata of society. There are frequently to be found in them deeds concerning ordinary people of no particular prominence. This of course is one of their great values.

These registers are seldom indexed until the 19th century. There may sometimes be an index of the cases at the end of the volume, but this will probably be chronological rather than alphabetical. Where minute books exist, they are the easier tool to use in searching. Even so, where they are not available, it is not a great task to search the volumes themselves; as they nearly always have

marginal guides to the deeds, and marriage contracts are particularly easy to pick out, the margin usually bearing some such entry as 'Contr. Matrimonial', which stands out prominently among the 'ob' 'bd' 'ren' and so forth.

These marriage contracts do not only exist for the wealthy or aristocratic classes. There are plenty of small-propertyed merchants, shopkeepers and others of similar status. I have come across at least one contract when neither husband-to-be nor his future spouse could write their names. But illiteracy has never been an indication of lack of worldly provision!

A marriage contract may often be mentioned in a sasine, which will give its date of execution but unfortunately not always its date of registration. These marriage contracts were sometimes not registered until many years after their execution, sometimes not until some legal reasons arose which necessitated their being registered. That concerning Buchanan of Balfunning in Chapter X of my *Scottish Ancestry*⁸ was not registered until 96 years after it was signed.

Recently I have been examining the registers of deeds of three sheriff courts, those of Perth, Forfar and Ayr, and also the register of deeds of a court of regality, that of Cumnock. From the Perth registers I extracted notes of all marriage contracts in the minute books from May 1665 to November 1669 (13 contracts) and from April 1687 to September 1703 (25 contracts)⁹. This totals 38 over 20 years—not a great many, but when you remember this is only one court and consider the great value of information contained in these contracts, the search is well worth while. I also examined several of the contracts in the registers themselves¹⁰.

The information in them varied, but usually included the names of the fathers of both the prospective bridegroom and bride, quite often also one and sometimes both of the mothers. There may also be useful references to properties owned. Then there are the witnesses, some of whom are likely to be relations. The contract between John Blair and Susannah Henderson, registered at Perth 7 August 1699, gives the following information:—

Contract signed 15 July 1693. John Blair, lawful son to the deceased Thomas Blair of Pockmilne and Susannah Henderson, only lawful daughter to William Henderson, Chamberlain of Menzies and Helen Taylor her mother: *witnesses*: Sir Alexander Menzies (who no doubt signed first because of his rank and position), Alexander Blair of Corbs, James Stewart, late Dean of Guild of Perth, Mr George Blair, brother to the Laird of Bal-lathie, Alexander Hay, one of the present baillies of Perth, Charles Stewart, Merchant Burgess there, Thomas Blair in Gouktown, William Henderson, Maltman in Perth and Charles Tais, notary there.

With Forfarshire I examined the minute books from June 1734 to 30 December 1752 and for considerable periods within these dates the registers themselves¹¹. During that period I found deeds of genealogical value as under:—

Dispositions and/or Assignments	41
Submissions and Decrees Arbitral	39
Marriage Contracts	14
Testaments or Testamentary Dispositions	13
Inventories	7
Registrate Missives or Letters	3
Articles of Roup	1

Assignment and Settlement	1
Bond of Provision	1
Bond of Provision and Obligement	1
Contract of Separation	1
Provision and Declaration	1

The number of submissions and decreets arbitral was considerable. The decret arbitral was usually concerned with some dispute over succession, possibly through a testament, and can be genealogically valuable in consequence.

I also examined the Forfar Sheriff Court Register of Deeds itself from July 1715 to November 1718. At the end of the volume was a chronological index, giving the type of deed and names of the participants. This index, however, only went to folio 123 and the remainder (to folio 236 plus a few beyond unnumbered) were not included in it. One needs to be wary of indexes made contemporarily.

The Ayr Sheriff Court Registers of Deeds had only recently come in and I was glad to have the opportunity of making a particular search in them. This was for a trust right and disposition of 8 January 1762 which was mentioned in an Ayr sasine of June 1783 as registered in the Sheriff Court books of Ayr on 8 February 1779. The deed was made by an Alexander Johnstone in Cumnock in favour of James, his eldest, and Daniel, his second son.

At first I thought I was going to be unsuccessful, as there was an unfortunate gap in the registers between 26 February 1767 and 20 November 1809 and there did not appear at first to be any warrants for that period. However, with the willing assistance of staff, a series termed "Register of Deeds and Protests"¹² proved in fact to be warrants. The particular deed was traced fairly quickly, being quite correctly in the February bundle of its year. This deed added usefully to the details of the family of Johnstone in Old Cumnock which I used in my book as an example of naming customs.¹³

The Register of Deeds of the Regality of Cumnock survived only for the period 1728 to 1738¹⁴, contained in one volume. It proved, however, most interesting. It has been said, as you may well know, that the sovereign handed over to a lord of a regality as much of his powers as he was able to do. This Cumnock register gave a considerable picture of a close-knit community. The population of the village in 1765 was only about 580 and I imagine a good portion of the merchants of the time were mentioned in some protest, probably for having failed to pay a small debt. This register, combined with the parish registers, commissariat testaments and graveyard monumental inscriptions, could build up a list of the inhabitants and picture of the community as Mr J. F. Mitchell has done so well in his 'Tulliallan Genealogy'.

This regality register had nearly all the types of deeds found in other registers of deeds. The one deed, however, I did not find as such was a marriage contract, but I found what was virtually the same thing, a bond by William Farquhar to a James Rankin in Achingilsey, in which the latter, in contemplation of a marriage with Sarah Farquhar, William's sister, made certain provisions for her liferent out of his wadset right of the lands of Achingilsey.

There was at least one 'Latter Will', but the bulk of the volume was filled with protests. These were informal in style, often quoting original notes, e.g. in one by James Johnstone against Andrew Mitchell—"Andrew, one month after this date pay to me . . . in my own shop in Cumnock the just sum of 11 pounds 4 pence Scots for value received from your friend [signed] James Johnstone:

directed to Andrew Mitchell, Chapman, Traveller in Cumnock". Presumably Andrew did not pay, so he was summoned before the regality court. Perhaps after that the participants were not so friendly, but they probably got over it in time.

One hopes the creditor was successful in collecting his debt. Maitland Thomson points out that in primitive times a creditor would try to bring pressure on an obstinate debtor by sitting on his doorstep until he starved, thereby bringing upon him the wrath of the gods. Such a practice today would probably only bring down the wrath of the police and perhaps produce some help from the Department of Social Security.

I found a number of testamentary dispositions in the register. This is obviously a field which should be remembered by those searching for testaments. Two which were particularly valuable to me were those of Daniel Sutherland, Merchant in Cumnock, dated 25 April 1729, and of George Sutherland, his second son, dated the same day and month ten years later. These two dispositions have removed the question mark by Helen Sutherland's name in the Johnstone pedigree in my *Scottish Ancestry*¹⁵ and brought in quite a few other useful facts and proofs of relationship.

REGISTERS OF DEEDS

References

1. John Maitland Thomson, *The Public Records of Scotland* (Glasgow 1922) p. 42.
2. Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, *In Search of Scottish Ancestry*, (1972) p. 159.
3. Scottish Record Office ref. SC47
4. SRO. SC6.
5. Hamilton-Edwards op. cit. pp. 101-8.
6. Ib. p. 109
7. Ib. p. 103.
8. Ib. p. 113-5.
9. SRO. SC49/32/2 & 4.
10. SRO. SC49/30.
11. SRO. SC47/58.
12. SRO. SC6/70.
13. Hamilton-Edwards, op. cit. pp. 73-7.
14. SRO. SC6/79/1.
15. Hamilton-Edwards, op. cit. p. 75.

QUAKER AND METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS

The following new repertories of Quaker and Methodist Church records have recently been placed in the Library, Historical Search Room of the Scottish Record Office:—

CH 10 Quaker records, received April 1972; the introductory note says "A transcript index of births, deaths and marriages in Scotland ca 1622 to ca 1890, prepared by A. Strath Maxwell, is available in the Historical Search Room (ref. 563)".

The original records deposited include births, marriages and deaths relating to Edinburgh, Kinmuck, Ury, Hamilton, Glasgow, West of Scotland and Kelso.

A previous reference in this Journal to quaker records is the article "Scottish Friends Records" by Wm. H. Marwick—vol. vii no. 3 p 1 (August 1960). "Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History" by D. J. Steel (London 1970) pp 207-13 also deals with Scottish quaker records from the standpoint of the genealogist and historian.

CH 11 Methodist Church records. Hitherto the records of the Methodist Church in Scotland have not been readily available to the public, and it does not appear that any reference to such records has so far been made in this Journal. Pages 214 to 218 of D. J. Steel's book quoted above deals with these records and ends with the remarks "Methodist registers are still in the hands of circuit superintendents or ministers and no survey has yet been undertaken. The minister of St Thomas', Gallowgate, Glasgow, holds a burial register 1851-54".

The Repertory includes the following entries:—

CH 11/1/22—list of members of Society in Circuit 1806-41; communicants not in Society 1811; and baptisms 1811-18.

CH 11/2—Edinburgh Nicolson Square Wesleyan Methodist Church, no. 14, baptisms 1801-1871.

CH 11/6—Dunbar, baptisms 1814-84, 1906-44.

J. F. MITCHELL

NOTES ON THE ROSS FAMILY OF PRIESTHILL

By

DONALD WHYTE, F.S.A.Scot., L.H.G.

THE acquisition of a fine silver-banded quaich, bearing the arms of Ross of Priesthill, by the Tain and District Museum, and the difficulty of identifying the initials WR AM, has prompted the collection of some notes on the Ross family. However, it is not yet clear to whom the initials refer. The wheat-ear mark of Alexander Stewart, silversmith in Tain, *ca.* 1825, appears on the metal, but he was possibly only associated with the riveting of the lugs to the cup, and it is thought the quaich itself is much older. From a number of sources the following (incomplete) genealogy has been compiled.

I. DONALD ROSS, Dean of Caithness, 1471-87, is generally acknowledged to be the progenitor of the Ross family of Priestfield, which lies between Kindeace and Delny. He was the second son of John Ross, Vth of Balnagowan, by his wife Christian, daughter of Torquil MacLeod of Lewis, and left a son William.

II. WILLIAM ROSS OF PRIESTHILL, *fl.* 1500, was the father of Donald Ross.

III. DONALD ROSS OF PRIESTHILL died on 9th June, 1571, leaving a son William.

IV. WILLIAM ROSS OF PRIESTHILL AND BALLINTRADY, appears in the *Register of the Privy Council*, 1588 and 1590, as feuding with David Munro portioner of Nigg. He was still alive in 1609, and married Ada, daughter of William Ross of Invercharron and Katherine Munro. Besides a natural son John,

1. Donald, his heir.

2. Hugh, mentioned in a charter of Easterfern in 1617.

3. Margaret, married George Ross of Pitkery.

he left issue:—

4. William, in Ulladail, alive in 1649.
5. Isobel.

V. DONALD ROSS OF PRIESTHILL, who died before 1636, left issue:—

1. Thomas, who succeeded.
2. Margaret, married John Fraser in Kinkell.
3. Isobel, married Alexander Cattanach in Delnies.
4. Helen, unmarried in 1652.
5. Katharine, married William Innes.
6. Barbara, married Donald Ross of Hilton.

VI. THOMAS ROSS OF PRIESTHILL married Janet, daughter of Walter Ross of Invercharron. They had no issue. Janet married secondly, Kenneth McKenzie of Scatwell.

On 12th June, 1767, David Ross (1727-1805), Judge, registered arms as of Priesthill, blazoned thus:—

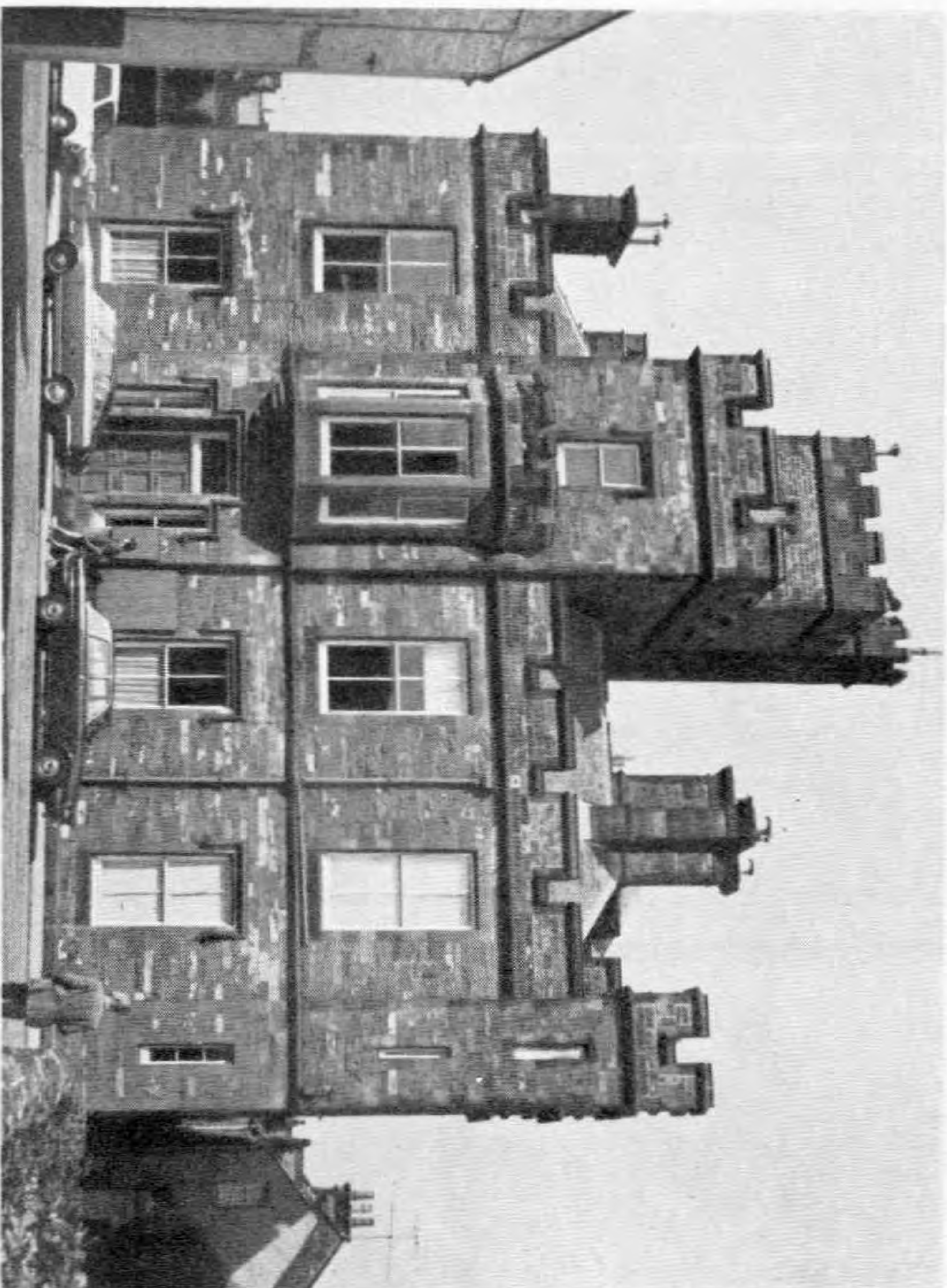
Gules, three lions rampant Argent, armed and langued Azure, within a bordure of the second, for difference. Crest, a dexter hand holding a laurel garland, proper. Motto, *nobilis est ira leonis* (*The wrath of the lion is noble.*)

It is not clear how he matriculated as of Priesthill, as no details are given in the *Public Register of All Arms and Bearings* (Vol. 1, part 1, fol. 209), but the bordure probably indicates he was not in the direct line of descent. David Ross was admitted an advocate at the Scottish Bar in 1751, and became Sheriff of Kirkcudbright in 1757. He was raised to the bench in 1776 as Lord Ankerville. It appears that he held the lands of Ankerville, Alehouse Croft and Mill, in the parish of Nigg, Drumgelly, Shandwick, and other lands in the parishes of Nigg and Logie-Easter, all of which he disposed to William Ross in January, 1787. A few months later the same William Ross, styled of Shandwick, had a disposition from Lord Ankerville, of the lands of Tarlogie, Newton of Tarlogie, Tannittrade, with salmon fishings etc., Morangie in the parish of Tain, and Dibbiedale in the parish of Kincardine, on a bond for £500 and a life annuity of £200 to Lord Ankerville's wife, Margaret, daughter of John Cochran of Ravelrig, whom he married in 1755.

David Ross was son of David Ross, IInd of Inverchasley, by his first wife, Elspet, daughter of James Sntherland of Clynes, and grandson of David Ross, 1st of Inverchasley, by his first wife, Christian, daughter of Hugh Munro of Newmore. This David was quite clearly a younger son of Malcolm Ross of Kindeace, by his wife Katharine Corbat. Lord Ankerville had a family, but nowhere among his descendants does the initials WR AM appear.

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Sheriff Court House, Kirkcudbright

Photo: Donald Whyte

MARRIAGE CONTRACTS RECORDED AT KIRKCUDBRIGHT

The following marriage contracts were recorded at Kirkcudbright in the *Stewart Court Books*, mainly among Deeds, Protests, etc., between 1744 and 1788. These records are in the custody of the Sheriff Clerk, Mr Peter Corcoran, Sheriff Court House, High Street, Kirkcudbright.

Contract dated Dumfries, 19th October, 1697, between John Mitchelsone of Jardingstone, merchant, and Elizabeth, only lawful daughter of James Shortrig, merchant in Dumfries. Registered 11th September, 1784.

Contract dated Dumfries, 6th February, 1712, between James McWhir, merchant-traveller in England, resident in Crochmore, and Janet, lawful daughter of David Aitkine of Tarfrechan. Registered 28th July, 1748.

Contract dated Kirkcudbright, 3rd November, 1716, between Samuel Brown of Mollance, and Margaret, eldest lawful daughter of James McClellan of Auchlane. Registered 22nd October, 1745.

Contract dated Dumfries, 20th December, 1716, between John Turner of Ardwall, and Margaret, lawful daughter of John Crockitt, merchant in Dumfries.

Contract dated Dumfries, 29th May, 1717, between John Herries of Little Mylntoun, and Elizabeth, lawful daughter of John McGeorge of Meikle Cochlich. Registered 25th April, 1747.

Contract dated Poleri, 15th June, 1721, between David, lawful son of James McGuffog in Glenlee, and Margaret, lawful daughter of Alexander Brown in Poleri. Registered 21st May, 1754.

Contract dated 2nd June, 1726, between Thomas McTagart in Skenohon, and Margaret, eldest daughter of the deceased John Carson of Balmangan. Registered 14th November, 1746.

Contract dated 22nd December, 1726, between John Gibson of Glencrosh, and Sarah, eldest lawful daughter of Samuel Thomson, merchant. Registered 29th July, 1757.

Contract dated Dalkeith, 20th September, 1731, between Mr John Welsh, Minister at Anwoth, and Elizabeth, lawful daughter of the deceased Mr John Calderwood, clerk of Dalkeith. Registered 29th January, 1756.

Contract dated Knochtrie, 12th August, 1734, between Robert McClellan of Barscob, and Elizabeth, fourth lawful daughter of Patrick Heron of that ilk. Registered 8th November, 1762.

Contract dated Casencary, 30th October, 1735, between Alexander Donaldson in Bridgestone, and Janet, lawful daughter of William Johnstone, in the parish of Johnstone. Registered 18th September, 1750.

Contract dated 27th September, 1736, between William McCrae in Craigdawes, and William Thomana, lawful daughter of Nathaniel Brown of Carldown. Registered 1st October, 1757.

Contract dated Sennick and Bardarroch, 28th April, 1737, between Alexander, eldest lawful son of Hugh Blair of Dunrod, and Mary, lawful daughter of Col. William Maxwell of Cardness. Registered 19th November, 1762.

Contract dated Minnigaff, 13th February, 1740, between James Stewart, bailie of Minnigaff, and Margaret Bell, his spouse. Registered 30th September, 1748.

Contract dated Stranraer, 17th October, 1740, between Mr John McNaught, minister at Buittle, and Margaret, daughter of deceased James Gordon in Hill. Registered 17th December, 1783.

Contract dated Stranside, 27th February, 1744, between Thomas, eldest lawful son of David Williamson of Mickle Cloak, and Margaret, lawful daughter of William Cairns, younger of Torr. Registered May, 1746.

Contract dated Bardarroch, 11th October, 1744, between John Hynd, Commissary Clerk of Dumfries, and Nicolas, third lawful daughter of Col. William Maxwell of Cardness. Registered 13th June, 1770.

Contract dated New Galloway, 31st October, 1750, between Alexander, son of John McClamroch of Stranfasket, and Margaret, only lawful daughter of Robert McMillan of Nether Holm. Registered 1st February, 1754.

Contract dated Glenton, 16th February, 1751, between Thomas McGeorge of Auchenreoch, and Grizel, daughter of William Mackenzie in Glenton. Registered 5th August, 1751.

Contract dated Corbitoun, Buittle, 20th February, 1752, between John McDowall of Glen, and Margaret, eldest lawful daughter of deceased William Reddock of Corbitoun and Margaret Gordon his relict. Registered 23rd July, 1763.

Contract dated 27th November, 1755, between James Laurie of Redcastle, and Elizabeth Mary, lawful daughter of deceased Samuel Reed, merchant in Liverpool. Registered 10th June, 1757.

Contract dated Kirkcudbright, 27th October, 1758, between Robert MacKeuan, shoemaker in Kirkcudbright, and Helen, lawful daughter of deceased John MacGowan, late of Bograch, and Grizel Sharper his spouse. Registered 25th June, 1759.

Contract dated Dumfries, 4th October, 1759, between Patrick Cochran of Drumstenchall, and Janet, daughter of Robert Halliday of Preston. Registered 23rd October, 1778.

Contract dated Bagbie, 8th February, 1764, between Andrew Rome in Orchardtown and Euphemia, only child in life of deceased John Donaldson of Bagbie. Registered 30th October, 1769.

Contract dated 23rd October, 1770, between Hugh Blair, younger of Dunrod, and Margaret, second lawful daughter of Alexander Copland of Colliston. Registered 25th June, 1771.

Contract dated Kilkerran, 10th November, 1771, between Roger McNaught in Muirface, and Catharine Aikin in Curchcehill. Registered 2nd December 1785.

Contract dated Abbey of Holyroodhouse, 17th April, 1779, and Kirkcudbright, 20th April, 1779, between James Dewar of Vogrie, and Mary, lawful daughter of John Cutlar of Argrennan. Registered 21st March, 1788.

SENNACHIE

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE ISLE OF MAN

WHEN I was on holiday in the Isle of Man recently I took the opportunity of doing some genealogical research which resulted in some unexpected finds and useful additions to our archives.

Being roughly equidistant from Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland, the island is ideally situated from an access point of view and while it offers many attractions to the ordinary holiday-maker, it has the added incentive for the genealogist who can also enjoy a few hours of research work with possibly surprising results.

Having today a population of only some 56,000, the General Registry office is, as might be expected, quite small by our standards but adequate for the number of people requiring to use it at any one time. Unless one is doing research in one of the very common Manx names, it is unlikely that one's work would be prolonged. I was given every facility to make a general search in the Index Books and the assistants were very helpful.

Compulsory registration of Births and Deaths did not begin in the Isle of Man until 1878. Prior to that, some voluntary registrations were made but for the most part one must rely on Church of England records of Baptisms which go back to 1611 and Burials which go back to 1610.

Statutory records of Marriages relate to marriages registered since 1884. Church of England and Dissenters marriage records are held from 1849 to 1883 and Church of England marriage records only, prior to 1849, the earliest record being made in 1629.

For registration purposes, the island is divided into four Districts—Eastern (Douglas), Southern (Castletown), Western (Peel) and Northern (Ramsey) — although in recent years by the far the greatest number of Births and Deaths have taken place in Douglas which has the main hospitals in the island. In fact, the number of Births and Deaths taking place in other parts of the island is negligible. Marriages, of course, take place all over the island and are the chief work of the Registrars outwith Douglas. Those who favour a romantic atmosphere and background for their wedding may get married within the Castle at Castletown, once the Capital of the island.

The Index Books are somewhat bulky volumes and have been in continuous use for nigh on 100 years, new entries being added year after year. Recently it has been found necessary in the Eastern District to start new volumes for those commonly used letters while the less used letters continue to be put in the old volumes. Alphabetical indexing was only by initial letters up to 1924, when full indexing came into use but even after that one has to be careful as I found several instances of omitted names (and even blocks of names) having been added on to the end of a particular year. Considering the amount of usage the Index Books have had it is surprising how well they have stood up, but two or three are now showing signs of wear due to continuous handling and it is to be hoped that the Authorities will give their attention to this matter before they get too dilapidated.

As in Scotland, all the Old Parish Registers are centrally located in the Capital and it is a question of wading through them as they are not indexed. Apart from that, the English system has been generally copied as Marriage Registers only give the name and occupation of the father of the bride and bridegroom, and in the Death Registers the names of the deceased's parents are not given, although as from 1970 the date and place of birth is given as also is the maiden surname of a married woman. The general public are not allowed to have access to the Registers of statutory records themselves and the only way to get information is to purchase a full Certificate but even by Scottish standards the charges are moderate at 35p per Certificate, while by English standards they are positively cheap. A full certificate of Adoption can also be obtained on payment of 35p.

No charge is made for anyone conducting a General Search personally and this includes searches in the Old Parish Registers from which, of course, extracts can be taken. Searches can be undertaken by the Staff and the charges are 10p for the first year searched and 5p for each additional year or part year for each entry in each Church or Parish.

Census Records from 1821 to 1871 (at ten year intervals) are kept in the Library of the Manx Museum in Douglas, where they can be consulted free of charge. Those for 1821 and 1831 are virtually useless to the genealogist as they are merely statistical. That for 1841 is on microfilm but the Library has two microfilm readers which are easily operated. The Staff are most helpful and the reading room there is very spacious. Manx Wills dating from 1628 to 1846 are also kept at the Manx Museum Library but from 1847 to date they are kept in the Deeds Registry in the General Registry building. Likewise, Deeds to Property in the Isle of Man from about 1600 to 1846 are kept in the Manx Museum Library and thereafter in the Deeds Registry.

I feel sure that there must be some genealogists in the Isle of Man and if three or four enthusiasts got together with the co-operation of the Authorities with a view to indexing all the Old Parish Registers and Census Records — a task not beyond the bounds of possibility — the Isle of Man could be far ahead of any of the other countries of these islands.

LAWRENCE R. BURNES

Keeper: William Coull Anderson, Library of Genealogy, Arbroath.

QUERIES

HOWIE: Information is desired about Howies of Lochgoin, Mearns and Craigie, especially about Alexander Howie of Monquhitter or Ellon, Aberdeenshire, who was born in 1790, married Jane Barron, and emigrated to New Zealand between 1853 and 1856.—Mrs Patrick MacIntosh, c/o Lands & Survey, Wharere Block, R.D.6. T. E. Puke, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

HAMBLETON: Charles Hambleton was born about 1766 in Scotland and married Froisine Rollet at Holy Trinity Church, Quebec City in 1795. His wife was related to Hon. Samuel Holland, “major, hydrographe, arpenteur” and to Frederick Rollet, Canadian Officer on the Great Lakes during the War 1812-15. From 1795 to 1809 he lived in Quebec City and is described as “navigateur, capitaine de navire, voyageur des Postes”, and seems to have been seafaring on the St Lawrence and possibly the Atlantic. Between 1809 and 1827 he was first lightman of Green Island, Que., till he died and was buried on Cacouna in 1828. Information is wanted on his birthplace, parentage and relatives, and of the date of leaving Scotland and reaching Quebec. Any details of his life welcomed; he is believed to have been shipwrecked once and possibly traded with Liverpool and the West Indies as master of a ship.—Charles Hamilton, 12 D'Aubigny, Levis, Q.P. Canada G6V 4T1.

AITCHISON-GRIEVE: Walter Aitchison died 6th October, 1877 at Conniecleugh, Cairney, buried Dunbennan churchyard. He was described, in his death entry, as a farmer married to Margaret Paxton (da. Wm. Paxton & Elizabeth Mitchell) and son of Andrew Aitchison, farmer, and Janet Grieve, both deceased (prior to his marriage 10 December 1858 at Broomknow, Aberlemno). Census 1841-1871 lists address as Huntly Lodge, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, and place of birth ca 1809-1816 as Canonbie, Dumfriesshire. He was a longtime employee of the Duchess of Gordon. Any information regarding great grandfather's ancestry, siblings, and life will be gratefully received by Mrs Thomson Hall, 1616 Baker St., Nacogdoches, Texas 75961 USA.

AITCHISON: Wish to identify names in the birthday book kept by grandmother Janet Elizabeth (Aitchison) Thomson: Jan. 5 Eliza Rutherford; Feb. 20 Thomas Lawson; Feb. 26 B. Rutherford; May 1 Janet Aitchison (Wallscord)?; May 10 Helen Aitchison; June 23 Eliza M. Ragg.; Aug. 30 Henry Hyslop Aitchison; Sept. 5 Mary Rutherford; Sept. 17 George Lawson; Oct. 4 James Armstrong; Oct. 7 Robertson Lawson; Nov. 4 John Armstrong; Nov. 14 Margaret R. Armstrong & E. C. Lefore; Dec. 6 Edith Aitchison; Dec. 1 Isabel Stevenson & Andw. B. Aickie. Birth years not given. All believed to be relatives known or living in Huntly during her lifetime 1863-1892. Correspondence invited.—Mrs Thomson Hall, 1616 Baker St., Nacogdoches, Texas, 75961 USA.

FIFE MILITIA — COOK — SAILS or STEELE: David Cook, Sgt. Maj., wife Jean Sails or Steele — stationed Fort George 1799 — son born — Joseph — later Bookseller, Stationer, St Andrews. Have very brief history of movements of Fife Militia, but no mention of Sgt. Maj. David Cook. Does anyone know if Fife Militia had VOLUNTEERS during Napoleonic Wars? Have extract from Sasines of Fifeshire (10387) in which David Cook, gunmaker, Cupar and Jean Steele, his spouse, sold land near the SKINNER STEPS, Cupar, on Mar.1.1811. After exhaustive searches, can find no other mention of David Cook or wife. If anyone can help with further information re the Fife Militia or David Cook & wife, or any descendants of Joseph Cook, their son, please write to Mrs S. M. Gill, 39 Wayside Avenue, Christchurch 5, New Zealand.

WILLIAM McGLASSON, a Scotch lad, kidnapped by an Englishman, brought to Virginia Colony where he was apprenticed to a Carpenter in Richmond, Va. Later he moved to Buckingham county, Va., where he died in 1775-6. Known children were William McGlasson, Jr., Matthew McGlasson, and James McGlasson. Will exchange information.—Mrs R. B. McGlasson, 602 Colquitt Avenue, Houston, Texas, 77006 USA.

HART—SEMPLE: John Hart, B. 6th November, 1808, at Paisley. Married Jean Mason Semple, b. 16th November, 1808, at London, and had issue Margaret, b. 5th June, 1837, Thomas b. 6th September 1835 both at Paisley and William, b. 19th May, 1841. On 15th April, 1842, they sailed from London to Canada and settled at Perth, Ontario. Any information about the ancestors of either spouse welcomed and correspondence with anyone interested in the families of "Hart" or "Semple" of Paisley.—Miss Patricia Craig, 303 Rochester Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Considerable information has been collected about the following families after their arrival in Canada—

JOHNSON: Neil Johnson of Benbecula married Catherine McDonald. His brother James,, born 1817, married Ann McLeod. They with their families emigrated to Cape Breton Island in 1842 or earlier.

JOHNSTONE: John Johnstone of Burnfoot, coalminer, son of John Johnstone, Carpenter, of Glasgow, was born in 1828 and married in 1849 Margaret Taylor, daughter of Thomas Taylor and Janet Wylie Taylor of Galston.

TURNER: James Turner of Poole, emigrated to Canada in 1850's. Information sought.—Mrs N. U. K. Wylie, 2820 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, 13.

WYLIE: Alexander Campbell Wylie, born in Liverpool in 1845, son of George Wylie and May Campbell and grandson of Robert Wylie, collier. The family left Scotland before 1843. Information wanted.

McAULAY—MacAULAY: In 1844 Hugh MacAulay and his wife Flora McLeod MacAulay of Uist (or Stornoway) arrived in Nova Scotia; they had four children, Annie, Murdoch, Norman and John (born 1828).—Mrs N. U. K. Wylie, 2820 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, 13.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

- 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, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, Honorary Librarian, 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 on a date in November to be determined by the Council, at which reports will be submitted.
- 6 Members shall receive one copy of each issue of The Scottish Genealogist, but these shall not be supplied to any Members who are in arrears.
- 7 Institutions may be elected to affiliate membership of the Society. The subscription payable by such affiliate members shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. Affiliate members shall be entitled to receive 2 copies of each issue of the Scottish Genealogist, and to have suitable queries inserted therein free of charge. Their members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society and to borrow books from the Society's Library (but not to send such books overseas). They shall not, however, have any vote at meetings of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for election to membership of the Council.
- 8 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.

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