



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

DECEMBER 2009

James Smith, Author

Scots on the French Galleys

A long way round for a short-cut

Countess Alice of Menteith

Death on the Night Train

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The Scottish Genealogy Society

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Front Cover: The Society's Coat of Arms

Back Cover: Monument to James Smith in Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh.

Photograph by Caroline Gerard.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Society is an academic and consultative body whose constitutional objects are to promote research into Scottish family history and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish genealogy. Copies of our Constitution are available to members upon request. We assist members with modest enquiries, but do not carry out professional research. Private researchers are available, and we can also provide an ASGRA list upon request.

Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Society are held September to April in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm around the 15th of the month, unless otherwise stated.

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The Scottish Genealogist

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James Smith: a lost Edinburgh author disinterred

The story behind the stone

by Jim Cranstoun

Frequently the inscription on a gravestone is just the beginning of the trail of our research on a family or individual. This short account traces some aspects of the life of James Smith, printer, librarian and author, starting from the laconic inscription on his gravestone.

Not far from the lodge at the north-eastern entrance of the Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh, stands a memorial stone built of red sandstone to which some patterning in paint has been applied. A portrait of the subject, James Smith, adorns the upper part of the monument. A slender maiden, in adulatory mode, is extending a wreath up towards him. (The sculptor of this portrait was Charles McBride).



On viewing him the questions immediately arose: Who was James Smith? What precisely were his achievements?

It seems to me that there is a great difficulty for an outsider who arrives in a particular community to adjust easily to its cultural norms. As I was not born in Edinburgh nor spent the first 20 years of my life there I feel deeply ignorant regarding some of its cultural icons. Fergusson, Scott and Stevenson I can just about manage, but I had never heard of James Smith. I am not of that number who denigrate common or popular names. At least petty bureaucrats have little opportunity to mis-spell the name as they commonly do with some others. Another glance at the stone makes one realise that it has not passed the last 120 years with its plumage unruffled. Perhaps this exotic species is not so well suited as the grey obelisks and Celtic crosses, to the steady erosion of wind and rain in the Grange, let alone the silent but menacing and encroaching Doctors of Divinity.

Certainly the inscription below would seem to tell us little enough about our subject:

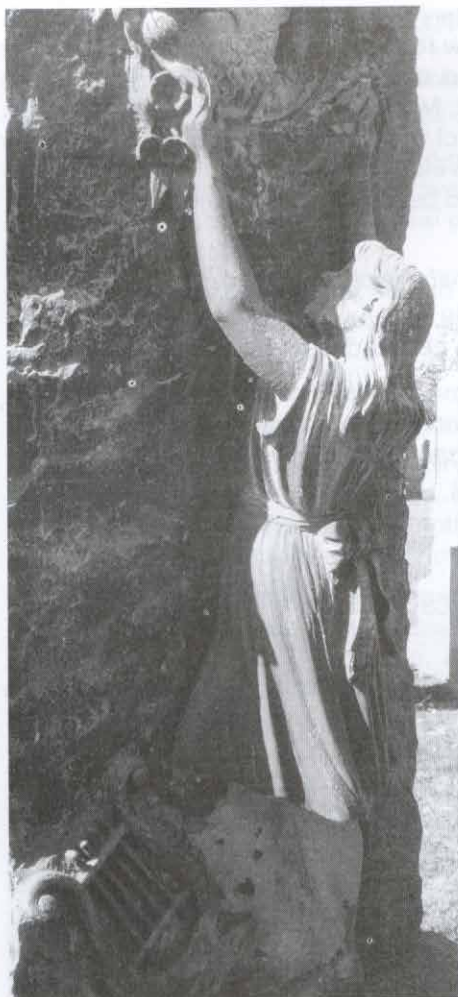
James SMITH, printer and Scottish story writer, born 2 March 1824,
died 12 December 1887, erected by friends and admirers 1889.

The memorial is a public one testifying to his popularity as an author and says nothing of his private life or his family. Fortunately Smith is well documented in birth, marriage and death records and in the censuses from 1851 to 1881. James Smith was born at 7 St Mary's Wynd, then in Trinity College Parish, Edinburgh, on 2nd March 1824, the eldest of three children. His parents were James Smith, coach lace maker, and Sophia Smith. He was married three times, first to Christina Kerr in February 1846, then to Margaret Hutchison in November 1862 and finally to Jane Maxwell (nee Ramsay), herself the widow of a printer, in February 1870. Christina Kerr bore him five children, Margaret Hutchison and Jane Ramsay one each. Jane Ramsay, now described as Jean, survived her husband by over 30 years, dying on 19th November 1919 at Portobello.

These records also give an indication of Smith's career changes. He was apprenticed as a printer at the age of eleven. On completion of his apprenticeship Smith spent some time tramping England and Ireland, working for printers in both countries and gaining much experience of his trade and of life in general. He returned to Edinburgh and became a reader with Aikman, the law printer. Here he was involved in the production of the printed output of the Court of Session proceedings. Subsequently he became manager of this enterprise, though a re-organisation of the business later rendered him redundant. He then resumed work as a compositor, until in 1869 he was elected librarian of the Edinburgh Mechanics' Library, a position he held until obliged to retire due to ill health around 1883. According to his obituarist James Smith was an enthusiastic freemason.

The Edinburgh Subscription Mechanics' Library had been established in 1826 when it was located in Strichen's Close. Thereafter it changed premises three times to different numbers in James Court, before settling for a longer period at 5 Victoria Terrace, just behind Riddles Court, until three years after Smith's death. A copy of the sixth edition of the *Laws and Catalogue* of the Library may be found in the National Library of Scotland. On his death at Parkside Street in 1887 his daughter Eleonora reported that his occupation was 'author'.

Facts other than the monumental inscription give some evidence of his popularity as an author. Surprisingly, there seem to be few of his titles available in Edinburgh libraries though a number of others are cited in the bibliography of the *Scottish National Dictionary*. I have examined two of the titles held by the National Library of Scotland and read one of them: *Habbie and Madge*, a series of dialogues, which carries on a long tradition in vernacular Scottish literature. A portion of *Habbie and Madge*, evidently being released as a serial during the 1870s, is currently displayed on the web site of the National Library of New Zealand. Some of the titles were reprinted quite often. *Habbie and Madge* had reached its sixth edition by 1881, while his *Humorous Scotch Stories* was in its tenth edition in 1875. James Smith wrote in prose and



verse, usually in Scots. It is difficult to place him in the canon of Scottish writing of the nineteenth century. Clearly he was not a 'great' writer and the critics and literary historians of today do not mention him at all, but he does appear to have enjoyed contemporary popularity. A number of his poems appeared in Edinburgh newspapers and he collected these into a volume which he set up and printed with his own hand, being one of the benefits of a printer with literary ambitions. Eventually this was commercially published by Blackwood in 1869. An instance of his popularity was the presentation to Smith in 1875 at the Edinburgh Literary Society of a silver salver and a purse of 200 sovereigns. Smith seems to belong to that sizeable mass of writers, inspired by the twin gods Burns and Scott, with a local following but no national reputation. In this he comes off worse than William McGonagall let alone Neil Munro or J.J. Bell. Nor does James Smith appear to have retained much of a reputation in his native city today. This may be due to the loss of popularity of 'kailyaird' writers during the early twentieth century. His obituarist cites one of his best known

songs with the title *Wee Joukydaidles*. His penchant for popular humour and pathos with a sentimentalist cast was popular with Victorian readers and audiences (James Smith gave regular recitations of his works) but lost popularity with later generations.

Smith left a testament which stated: "I declare that the burying ground belonging to me in the Grange Cemetery should not be sold but after my wife's death, should she remain unmarried, and after the death of Eleanora, my daughter, if she should remain unmarried, should be forever closed". In the course of the testament Smith mentions his son William and his daughter "Christina Moffat or Smith in New Zealand".

He requested that a number of people, including his brother-in-law, Mr John Wright, another brother-in-law, Andrew Ramsay, Peter Hay, printer, Mr Robert Fingle, editor of *N.B. Adventures* and *Ladies' Journal*, Edinburgh, Duncan Macara, stationer in Cockburn Street, Mr Thomas Innes of Messrs Menzies & Co, and William Rose, tinsmith, act as "friendly advisors" to his widow and daughters as regards publications etc. He referred to "my book" (possibly *Poems, songs and ballads*) which had been out of print since 1878.

Publications of James Smith:

Habbie and Madge, a series of Scottish dialogues, 6th ed. 1881.

Humorous Scotch stories, 3rd ed. 1869; 10th ed. 1875;
(*Scottish National Dictionary* cites an edition dated 1850).

Jenny Blair's maunderings, 1870.

The merry bridal o' Firthmains : and other poems and songs, 1866;
(1869 edition noted in *Scottish National Dictionary*).

Peggy Pinkerton's recollections, 1874.

Archie and Bess, 1876

Canty Jack, 1877.

Poems, songs and ballads, 3rd ed., 1869.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks are due to Caroline Gerard for her research on Smith's life and to Jessie Denholm for locating his obituary in *The Scotsman* archives.

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A long way round for a short-cut

by Alison Grant MacKintosh

Why would an ancestor use an alias? I was puzzled at the first documentary encounter with my great-great-great-grandfather Gregor Grant, and not just because either there were at least five of him, or he had married a girl of 16 when he was in his sixties. The real puzzle: why was he described in some records as 'Grant alias Keir'?

The first assumption was that he had some nefarious reason to change his name. In a family disappointingly short of black sheep, he whetted the imagination.

Exhaustive searches in the National Archives showed no evidence that Gregor ever erred on the wrong side of the law, so that first supposition bit the dust.

Perhaps it was his given name, Gregor, that led me next to assume a proscription on one of the surnames, either Grant or Keir. I studied research on Scottish surnames and found nothing. Neither the Clan Grant nor the Clan Keir Societies had heard of such a thing either.

A long chat at the National Archives produced a disappointingly mundane proposal: that Gregor was not a glamorous latter-day Jacobite fugitive, dicing with the law, but was illegitimate, and using the name of either parent interchangeably.

Then I began research on original documents in the Scottish Catholic Archives, and the perspective changed abruptly. Gregor was by no means the only man using Keir as an alias. There were plenty of them – mostly Grants, but also some MacKenzies. If they all traced their ancestry to an unmarried Keir woman, she must have been leading a colourful life, and covering much of the 18th century.

Records were missing for most of the second half of the 18th century, and it was likely that my 4xgreat and 5xgreat grandparents were in that black hole. I concluded that the earliest verifiable date in this line of the family is the marriage of my 3xgreat grandfather Gregor Grant in 1800. But that didn't stop me pursuing every Grant who looked like a possible ancestor.

Until the early 20th century the family had followed the usual naming conventions – not rigidly, but closely enough to suggest that the likely given names for my male ancestors were John, James or Gregor. Going back to 1747 and earlier, before the gap in the records, I noted each of these names, with a surname of either Grant or Keir. I concentrated on addresses in areas where I knew the family had lived:

Inverey, Dalgowan, Auchendryne, Castleton.

It was a dauntingly huge job, with few controls in the sense that mothers'

names are not recorded. Sometimes I sat in the library of the Scottish Catholic Archives wishing I could just photocopy the entire book. Some people had as many as three names – a baptismal name, an alias, and a common name. Between 1711 and 1730 I found at least seven relevant Grants, all with an identifying common name. There were four John Grants, alias Ian Gair, McGoill Gair, Ian Mor Gair, and Ian Og Gair; James Grant alias Shamus Keir, and even more puzzlingly, James Grant alias Shamus McCunnach, and James Grant alias Keir McCunnach.

Luckily in my childhood 'common names' were just that, common, based on things like physical characteristics, the name of a person's father, or the name of his house, so I understood the concept. I could also unravel the pig's ear made of Gaelic placenames by priests who didn't speak the language. 'Achindrain' was obviously Auchendryne. 'Dellagone' was more difficult, but resolved itself into Dalgowan once I remembered that my father had said Grants lived there long ago. But I still haven't located 'Dellachork'.

Then came the eureka moment. Of course, the priests didn't speak Gaelic. This is a matter of record. They were working phonetically. They were finding a way of recording the common names of native Gaelic speakers. Ian Gair, Ian Og Gair, Ian Mor Gair. Gair... Gair ... Keir ... sound the two aloud and it's obvious. We were never called Keir. We were, in large numbers, called John Grant, with the identifying common names of Gair, Og Gair, Mor Gair. And because literacy was solely in the hands of a priest who didn't speak Gaelic, he began to confuse Gair with Keir – as there were plenty of people genuinely named Keir. I knew this to my cost, having wasted days assuming they were potential ancestors.

All I now needed to know was the meaning of the word Gair. I went in trepidation to the Gaelic dictionary, wondering what I was going to find. Crooked nose, like the Camerons? Bandy legs, like the Cruikshanks?

From what I know of Aberdeenshire pronunciation of Gaelic – my great-grandmother Catherine Robertson, born in 1847, was the family's last native speaker – I suspected I was really looking for something like *gear* rather than *gair*, but to start with I trusted the priest's spelling.

Gair had various meanings, including *near*; *a crow*; *a call or shout*; *a laugh*. None of these seemed to fit. Then there was *gairbh*: *a deer's paunch* – and thus also *greedy*. And there was *garbh*: *rough*. My ancestors were beginning to sound unattractive.

Finally I came to *garr*, which means *short*. The Grants are mostly small. This fits beautifully. It also explains why other people, including short MacKenzies, are also recorded as *alias Keir*.

But what about Shamus and Keir McCunnich? Again, these were common names that said something about the individual. My father used to insist we

were descended from Kenneth McAlpine, although I've never understood how, or for that matter how he knew. But imagine one of his ancestors believing this implicitly, boasting about it, to the extent that he was awarded the common name of McChoinnich, son of Kenneth.

So, although I can't prove these men were my ancestors, I do at least know more about them. There was Short John, Big Short John, Young Short John. And there was Keir McCunnich – the short guy who thinks he's descended from Kenneth McAlpine.

Some Catholic archives are now available online (pay-per-view) on the Scotland's People website.

Seminars at the Catholic Archives

25 January

Dr. Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart, University of Edinburgh

Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912): Collecting Folklore in the Catholic Hebrides

22 February

Dr. Carmen Mangion, Birkbeck College, University of London

Dr Agnes McLaren, nun-doctors and the Catholic medical missions, 1900-1936

22 March

Dr. S. Karly Kehoe, UHI Centre for History)

Scottish Catholic Nationalism, 1850-1930

26 April

Dr. Linda Flemming, Napier University

'Jeanie the Jew': Women in the story of Glasgow's Jews

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The birth of Statutory Registration in Scotland

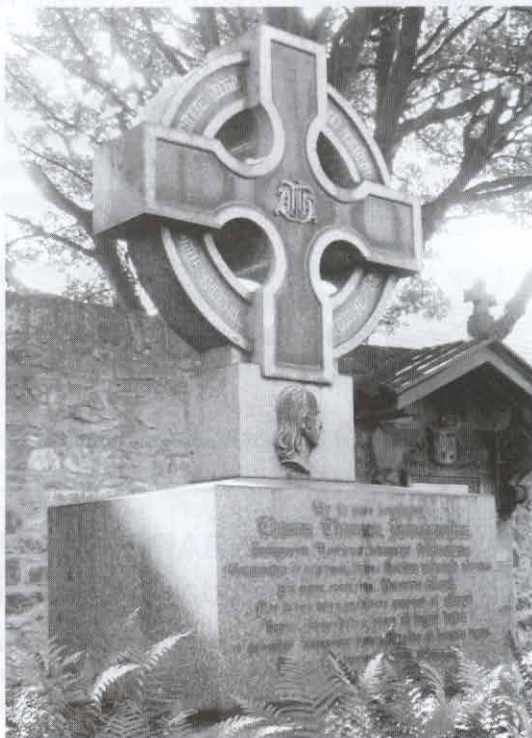
by Bruce B. Bishop FSA Scot

The Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates and the Old Parish Registers, which we all now take for granted as basic genealogical tools, whether in the ScotlandsPeople centre, online or in our local archives, were for many years of the 19th century the source of some bitter arguments and parliamentary disputes.

Some of the earliest attempts to bring in some system of registration of births, marriages and deaths led to considerable opposition. Some of the suggested schemes very nearly resulted in a two-tier system, with the Established Church of Scotland maintaining their own Parochial Registers, and the Catholics, Non-Conformists, Dissenters and others being required to pay for a form of Civil Registration. Although in England and Wales the Registration and Marriage Acts of 1836 superseded what was a very inadequate parochial system, it was to be another 18 years before a similar statutory system was achieved in Scotland.

Unsuccessful Registration Bills for Scotland had been brought into Parliament no less than eight times between 1829 and 1854, but many obstacles were presented, mainly by the church. It was only by the time of the ninth bill that some progress was made. This was 44 years after Thomas Thomson, the deputy clerk register for Scotland, had initially proposed a plan to reform the Old Parochial Registers into a standardised national system for the preparation and custody of these records, and the provision of duplicate records to His Majesty's General Register House.

Although the bills of 1830, 1848 and 1849 passed the House of Lords, they were rejected by the Commons, and



Grave of Thomas Thomson
in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh

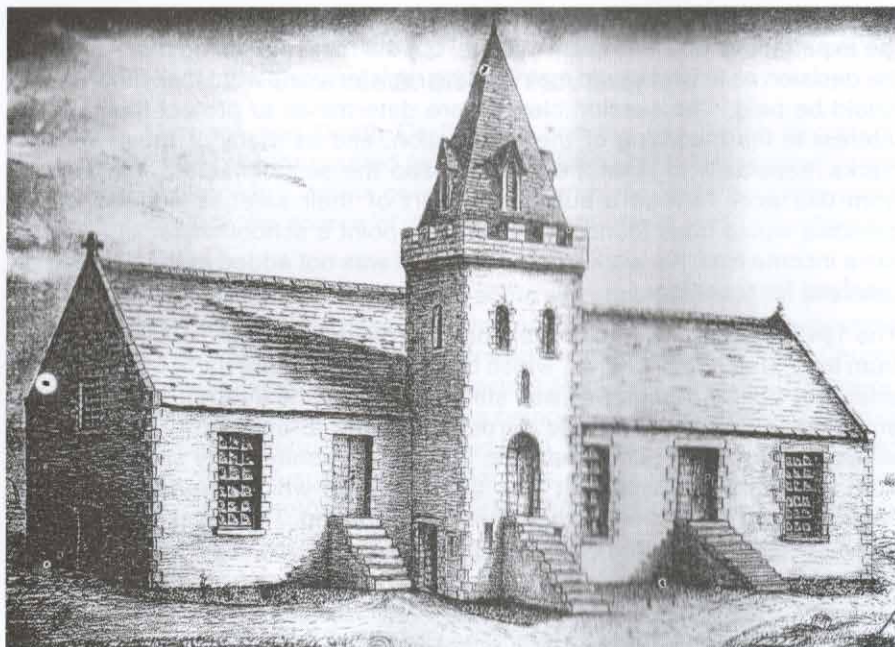
the disputes continued. An earlier bill of 1847 had been improved following the experiences of the English system, but the main stumbling block became the decision as to who would maintain the registers, and what these individuals would be paid. The session clerks were determined to protect their vested interest in the recording of the information, and as many of these session clerks, especially in rural areas, were also the schoolmasters, the income from this work formed a substantial part of their salaries. Indeed, many parishes would have found it difficult to appoint a schoolmaster at all if the extra income from his work as session clerk was not added to the pittance he received for teaching.

The 1847 bill give us some of the most interesting and informative comments from the Established Church, which had only a few years earlier suffered the effects of the Disruption and was still subject to some internal strife. This bill empowered the newly formed parochial boards to appoint a registrar, and effectively rendered schoolmasters, and consequently many session clerks, from holding this position. It was this provision which created a flood of petitions from every level of the Church of Scotland. The session clerks sent a collective petition to the House of Commons in March 1847, and the clause was removed from later bills only to be replaced by one which allowed the session clerks to be appointed as registrars, but only if they met with the approval of the Registrar General. The Church of Scotland saw this as a slur on the character of their session clerks, but the Dissenting Churches saw this as no obstacle and so the arguments continued. Another stumbling block were the very loose marriage laws in Scotland, which permitted "*males aged fourteen and females aged twelve to marry irregularly by mutual consent at any time, in any place, and without parental approval*". It was proposed that only regular marriages celebrated by a clergyman or irregular marriages performed before a registrar should be recognised.

These arguments over who should be appointed as a registrar effectively stifled the bills of 1847, 1848 and 1849 and it was another five years before the act was finally passed.

Some of the petitions which were written by the Kirk Sessions have survived, and an interesting and quite complete example is the one presented by the Kirk Session of Keith, in Banffshire. On the 14th March 1847 the Minutes record that "*The Kirk Session having this day met and convened the Moderator stated that a very obnoxious bill had been brought into parliament for the registration of births and deaths and for the regulation of marriages in Scotland, when the Session appointed a committee consisting of Messrs [Robert] Green, [William] Thurburn, [James] Simpson, [William] Longmore and the Moderator to consider the matter and report*".

So the Moderator, the Revd Mr James Thomson, and the chosen members of Session met during the following fortnight, and presented the conclusions



Keith Old Kirk and Session House

of their discussions.

On 29th March 1847 the Minutes record that "*The committee appointed to report on the Registration and Marriage Bills laid on the table a petition that they had prepared to the House of Commons against them, which petition having been read was approved of a signed coram, and its contents instructed to be engrossed in the Minutes of the Keith Kirk Session it lay as follows:*

*Unto the Honourable the Commons of
Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled*

*The Petition of the undersigned Minister and Elders
of the Kirk Session of Keith in the County of Banff*

Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioners feel themselves constrained to crave the attention of your Honourable House to the terms of two Bills presently before you, intitled respectively "A Bill to amend the Law of Scotland affecting the constitution of Marriage", and "A Bill for Registering Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland"

That your Petitioners recognise to the fullest extent the expediency of establishing throughout Scotland a uniform and official system of registration

and they as fully admit the room which exists for improvement in certain parts of the Law of Marriage in that part of the United Kingdom . That your petitioners are however of opinion that the Bills which have been introduced into your Honourable House with the view of giving effect to the principles above recognised are not only in many respects insufficient for the purposes contemplated but in several of their provisions sectarian in character, unjust in principle, and prejudicial and demoralising in practice.

That as regards the Law of Marriage, that which has for ages been considered the disgrace of the system, vizt; clandestine and irregular Marriages is practically legalized, and authoritatively recognised, whilst the proclamation of Banns, that safeguard against incestuous and forbidden marriages, which has been in force since the Vatican Council in 1216 – upwards of 600 years – if not absolutely abolished is practically done away with by the power given to parties to constitute a marriage regular, valid and binding in every respect by no other ceremony than the signature of their names in a book to be kept by a private official to be known by the name of a registrar. That in this respect your Petitioners consider the Marriage Bill as highly demoralizing in character and most prejudicial in practice".

The Kirk Session obviously did not condone the idea of what would later become 'Registry Office Marriages', as no Banns would be called, but this omission was later rectified. They then came out in support of the schoolmaster, who was also their session clerk, and raised concerns that such men were greatly underpaid.

"That as regards the Registration Bill, whilst there are many of the provisions therein to which your Petitioners might as individuals be inclined to object, they do not as a Kirk Session think it necessary to advert to any but one, vizt; the twelfth clause, which singling out one denomination of Her Majesty's subjects, and one only, vizt; the Parochial Schoolmasters of Scotland expressly declares that class to be unfit for the duties of an office which, for the most part, the Individuals of that class have exercised hitherto throughout the greater part of Scotland, and for an amount of remuneration which scarcely served to deprive their services of the character of being gratuitous.

That such at all events have been the practice in the several parishes of Scotland; that the class in question whilst they are confessedly one of the most useful and respectable denominations of Her Majesty's subjects in Scotland, and whilst they are identified with a system which is and has been the pride and the boast of that part of the United Kingdom vizt; the system of Parochial Schools are at the same time confessedly greatly underpaid for their valuable services; that the exclusion of this class therefore from the Office of Registrar is sectarian in character, calculated to degrade the class, and through them insult the established Church of which it behoves them to

be members, and unjust to these parties themselves who have done nothing to profit their capability for being employed in such capacity"

May it therefore please your Honourable House either to refuse to pass these Bills altogether or so to modify the same as to remove therefrom the provisions therein of which the Petitioners complain".

It is maybe a cause for reflection that if these objections had been upheld, and a statutory registration system had not been implemented, where would we be today? Would we still be searching from parish to parish for those elusive baptisms and marriages, with no central repository for the documents, and of course, no ScotlandsPeople website? Would family history have the enthusiastic following which it now has, or would it be the realm of a few experts delving away in dark and dusty corners? Maybe we should thank the people who, in the face of these objections, had the foresight to push through the changes which have enabled us all to pursue our research in the 21st century, but who at the same time were also able to facilitate the preservation and public accessibility of the old church records and many other documents which add to our greater understanding of the way of life of our ancestors.

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Scots sentenced to the Galleys of France

by Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin

Particulars of some 60,000 men sentenced to serve in the galleys of France between 1660 and 1748 are conserved at the French Naval Archives in Toulon. These men were chained to benches and forced to pull the great oars that propelled the galleys. Each of the large galleys had 52 oars with five men to each oar, working in harmony. It was extremely hard work and the galley slaves were harshly treated. Over the period in question, Spain, the Vatican, the Muslim states, Malta and the Italian republics also relied on captives to tug the oars. During periods of calm, a ship relying on sails was dead in the water, whereas a galley could move at a relatively speedy rate, except in rough weather.

Louis XIV built up his fleet of galleys to strengthen French presence and prestige in the Mediterranean. This increased the need for new sources of manpower, because the supply of captured Turks dwindled and the slave markets in Malta and elsewhere had limited numbers of men for sale. The king of France then encouraged judges to sentence convicts to the galleys, and ordered that deserters, "vagabonds" (men without visible means of livelihood) and others guilty of relatively minor offences should be condemned automatically to the galleys. Most of these unfortunates were Frenchmen, but in going through the registers of those sentenced to the galleys, the author found 167 Irishmen, 104 Englishmen, 87 Luxembourgers and 22 Scotsmen. The names and places of origin of the non-French convicts were, in some cases, slightly distorted as the scribes had difficulty with foreign languages.

In the appendix to this note, the reader will find translations of the entries for the 22 Scotsmen – who deserve being remembered in their homeland. Twenty of them had deserted: eight from Irish regiments in the pay of France, five from Scottish regiments and five from French regiments; in two cases, the regiment is not recorded. (Whatever chance a French deserter had of getting clean away, the odds were stacked against the foreign deserter.) One Scot was sent to the galleys for dealing in contraband tobacco and one for having counterfeit money. Eight stated that they were in their twenties, nine in their thirties; three in their forties; the man convicted of tobacco smuggling was aged 57, and the age of another was not recorded. One claimed that he was a jeweller and two said that they were tailors. Men with a trade had the possibility of being put to work on shore, rather than being chained to the rowers' bench.

The majority of convicts died – usually within a couple of years, because of the harshness of the system. However, the 22 Scots fared better than average, probably because they were younger and, as soldiers, were accustomed to harsh and crowded conditions. Six of them died in the hospital that catered

for the galleys, six others were freed on completion of their sentence or because of intervention by some influential person, and a further six availed of the possibility of re-enlisting in an Irish regiment in the pay of France. The fate of three others is not recorded. One man escaped.

To escape from the galleys was a remarkable feat because the whole system was geared to prevent any prisoners getting away. Large rewards were paid for their recapture and the guards were fined the cost of pursuing the escapee. Moreover, the convict would have to find civilian clothing and get out of Marseille and of France.

Appendix

John Adam, called (*dit*) *Flamand*; son of Andrew (*André*) of Aiguemorte in Scotland; aged 22 years; good build; chestnut hair; oval face; soldier in captain Andois' company, Languedoc regiment; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 17 August 1696, which numbered 221 men including 3 dead on route and one who escaped; condemned by court martial held at Rougelaque on 2 May 1696; desertion; life.

Died in the hospital on 29 August 1700.

William Barclay, native of Edinburgh in Scotland; aged 40 years; medium build; red hair; soldier in the Scottish (*d'Écosse*) regiment; brought as deserter without condemnation.

Freed by royal order 2 May 1698.

James Broome (*Bromme*); son of William and Mary Planne; native of Glasgow (*Gascomm*) in Scotland; unmarried; no trade; aged 45 years; medium build; light-chestnut hair; long face; soldier in captain Birne's company, Berwick English (*recte* Irish) regiment, and in Gudon's regiment; marked with the mark of deserters; arrived from Ypres on 22 October 1705; condemned by court martial at Ypres on 8 September 1705; life.

Freed on 15 October 1706, on condition that he served for six years in the O'Brien Irish infantry regiment.

John Cameron; son of Samuel and Catherine; from Elbron in Scotland; aged 35 years; large build; chestnut hair; oval face; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 17 August 1696, which numbered 221 men including 3 dead on route and one who escaped; condemned by court martial held at Strasbourg on 30 June 1696; desertion; life.

Freed on 2 December 1710, on condition that he served for the rest of his life in the Berwick (Irish) regiment.

Hugh Campbell (*Hugues* or *Yves Camelle*); son of David and Marguerite Park (*Parque*); native of Ougles in Scotland; aged 24; good build; chestnut hair; round face; soldier in Cardel's company, Dorrington regiment; arrived at Marseille on 19 October 1709 on the Paris chain which numbered 309 men including 53 who died *en route*; condemned by court martial held at the camp at Auby on 18 July 1709; desertion; life.

Freed on 2 December 1710, by royal order dated 22 October 1710, on condition that he served for the rest of his life in the Berwick (*Barwick*) regiment.

Marc Dougal, called *Le Marquis*; son of John and Anne Stuard; jeweller (*orphevre*); of Edinburgh (*Dembocq*) in Scotland; aged 25 years; good build; blond hair; oval face; soldier in Shaughnessy (*Charmassy*) company, Clare (*St. Clair*) regiment; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain conducted by Sr. Michel Lambresse on 26 December 1699, which numbered 240 men including two who died on route; condemned by court martial held at Douay on 9 September 1699; desertion; life.

Freed on 2 December 1710, on condition that he served for the rest of his life in the Berwick regiment.

Henry Emerson (*Amerson*); son of William and Elisabeth Gordon; tailor; native of Edinburgh (*Hodanberg*) in Scotland; aged 30 years; good build; chestnut hair; oval face; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 3 May 1698, which numbered 195 men including seven dead on route being two who died of their wounds and five killed in the revolt; soldier in Didolail's company, Athlone (*Athelonne*) regiment; condemned by court martial held at Brisac on 28 October 1697; desertion; life. Freed on 18 March 1699, by royal order.

Denis Estuer, called *La Grandeur*; son of Denis and Christine Flemin; from Scotland (*d'Ecosse*); aged 30 years; good build; chestnut hair; oval face; soldier in captain Mailly's company, Langres regiment; arrived at Marseille on 13 December 1702, on the Paris chain conducted by Sr. Jean Guillemin du Val; condemned by court martial held at the camp near Hagenau on 28 June 1702; desertion; life.

Released on 2 December 1710 by royal order dated 22 October 1710, on condition that he served for the rest of his life in the Berwick regiment.

Alexander Fraser; son of the late (*feu*) Hugh (*Hugues*) and Elisabeth Comine; unmarried; aged 28 years; good build; hair, beard and eyebrows chestnut; oval face; dark eyes; large forehead; native of Quiterlaty, parish of Inverness in Scotland; former soldier in O'Connor's company, Rothe Irish regiment; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain conducted by Sr. Provost on 23 May 1744, numbering 241 men including eight dead and one liberated on route; condemned by court martial held at Sarrelouis on 11 April 1743; desertion; life.

Freed on 16 January 1745.

William (*Wilhem*) **Fremy**; native of Edinburgh (*Ledimbourg*) in Scotland; aged 40 years; medium build; red hair; soldier in the Scottish regiment; brought as deserter from Briançon on 17 May 1691.

Freed on 15 May 1698 by royal order dated 7 May 1698.

Robert Gilherit; Scot; aged 30 years; blond hair; red beard; marked by smallpox; soldier in Douglas (*Monglas*) regiment; condemned by court martial on 28 October 1671; desertion.

Died in the hospital on 25 June 1680.

David Glover (*Glouvert*); Scottish soldier; aged 32 years; medium build; chestnut hair; blond beard; condemned by court martial on 17 October 1671; desertion; life.

Died in the hospital on 4 June 1681.

John Good (*Goed*); son of Robin and Marguerite Eder; married to Marguerite Moore (*Maure*) of Claemanen in Scotland; aged 34 years; medium build; chestnut hair; oval face; soldier in the colonel's company, Irish regiment of Limerick (?) (*Liaume*); brought from Perpignan on 10 February 1694 on the ship *Sainte Anne Bonnaventure* under captain Jean Bouffier of Martigues; condemned by court martial held at Puycerda on 3 January 1694; desertion; life.

Died in the hospital on 26 January 1697.

John Gotrel; son of the late John and Jaragody (?); married to Marie Tesiphane; no profession; native of Aberdeen (*Ebredin*) in Scotland; aged 57; small build; hair, beard and eyebrows light-chestnut; oval face; high forehead; bald in the front part of his head; blue eyes; medium (*moyen*) nose; a contusion on the front lower part of his right leg; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 23 May 1737 conducted by Sr. Duval Dutilheul, numbering 344 men of who four died and one who was freed on route; condemned at Coutances on 11 April 1737 for tobacco contraband and for not having paid the fine of 1,000 *livres*; no time specified but three years according to the letter of the Marine Council.

Freed on 2 September 1740 by royal order dated 30 July 1740.

Adam Kumerge; Scot; soldier in Douglas (*Du Glas*) regiment; tall; dark hair; condemned by court martial on 15 October 1671; desertion; life.

John MacSweeney (*Macserceny*); Scot; aged 30 years; blond hair; beard *poil de vache*; face heavily marked by smallpox; sergeant in Douglas (*Monglas*) regiment; condemned by court martial on 31 October 1671; desertion; life.

Peter Montgomery; native of St. Soutre in Scotland; soldier in the Roussillon regiment; tailor; aged 30 years; good build; chestnut hair; marked with the mark of deserters; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 13 September 1689 conducted by Philippe de St. Preuil, numbering 219 men including four dead on route; condemned by court martial held at Maubeuge in May 1689; desertion; life.

Freed on 26 February 1699 by royal order dated 8 February 1699.

John Olac, son of William and Catherine; unmarried; native of Strichne in Scotland; aged 21 years; medium build; chestnut hair; round face; soldier in the Clare Irish regiment; brought from Grenoble on 28 May 1692; condemned by court martial held at Pignerol according to the provost's certificate dated 12 March 1692; life.

Died in the hospital on 23 February 1693.

George Resse (or Rose); Scot; son of William and Anne Frasier (*Fraisin*); unmarried; aged 23 years; garments tailor (*tailleur d'habits*); aged 23 years; medium build; hair, beard and eyebrows chestnut; oval face; grey eyes; aquiline nose; native of Inverness (*Anne Vernesse*) in Scotland; soldier in Butler's

(*Bouteler*) company, Rothe Irish regiment; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 25 May 1734 conducted by Sr. Michel Robillard, numbering 374 men including four who died on route, two who were detached from the chain by order, and one who was freed; condemned at Arras by Provost judgment on 29 July 1733 on the charges of fabrication and exposure of false money; life.
Died in the hospital on 19 November 1737.

Hugues (or Romain) **St. Clerc** (Sinclair?); of Glasgow in Scotland; aged 30 years; medium build; chestnut hair; marked with the mark of deserters; soldier in the Roussillon regiment; arrived at Marseille on the Paris chain on 28 February 1687 conducted by Romain Bastard, numbering 148 men including three dead on route; condemned by court martial held at Haivie on 21 August 1686; desertion; life.
Escaped from the galley *Vieille Réale* in the port of Marseille on 11 April 1705.

George Suord, called *l'Irlandais*; son of George and Marguerite Lewis (*Louis*); labourer; native of Glasgow in Scotland; aged 21 years; good build; chestnut hair; oval face; soldier in captain the Chevalier de Verdelin's company, Segur regiment; brought from Perpignan by Sr. Trinquere, provost of the Maréchaussée of Montpellier; condemned by court martial held at the village of Ossejo in Sardinia on 8 November 1707; desertion; life.

Freed on 2 December 1710 by royal order dated 22 October 1710, on condition that he served for the rest of his life as soldier in the Berwick regiment.

Robert Thomson (*Thomsony*); Scot (*Escossois*); aged 25 years; medium build; chestnut hair; condemned by court martial held on 15 October 1671; desertion; life.

Freed on 23 March 1700 by royal order dated 10 March 1700.

With thanks to Stephanie Robertson

Queries

2974 Robert **Robertson** b.1790/91 (OPR) m.30.07.1815 to Barbara **MacLaren** b.1800/01 (IGI) at Bridge of Tilt. Their first son was James **Robertson** b.18.02.1818 at Bridge of Tilt (OPR) m.23.10.1853 (IGI) to Christina Alexis **Thomson** b.13.11.1828 (OPR). James and Christina had seven children.
A descendant of this family would like to make contact with other descendants. Please contact Stephanie Robertson on stephr@pt.lu

2975 Information sought about **Dunbar RORISON** b Scotland 1834, married Cathrin Anderson in 1854 at Quebec. Possible siblings: James b Scotland 1831 (his Canadian gravestone says he was from Blantyre); Gilbert b Scotland 1842; Janet b Quebec 1844. Please contact Marjorie Schurman schurman@telus.net

Death on the Night Train to Edinburgh

The Story behind the Stone

by Jessie A. Denholm

This is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission stone which stands in Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh. It commemorates Private John Bell of the 14th Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish) who died on 7th November 1915, aged 31 years.

There are 304 War Graves (of both the First and Second World Wars) in Comely Bank Cemetery. Many of the servicemen and women who are buried here would have died in one of several local military hospitals. John Bell did not, however, die in hospital – he was shot on the night train from London to Edinburgh!

John Bell was a local lad who was born at East Pilton, then a farm about a mile from Comely Bank Cemetery. The 1901 Census shows him as living with his parents, Charles and Elizabeth Bell, at East Pilton Cottages on Crewe Road. His father Charles was the Farm Grieve (a supervisor or foreman) at East Pilton Farm. John himself was shown as being a baker – presumably an apprentice baker as he was then only 15 years old. He seems to have had a later change in occupation as according to the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* of 9th November 1915, he was, before enlisting in the Army, a butler in the household of a naval officer in the South of England.

On the evening of 6th of November 1915 he went to Euston Station in London and joined the 11.30pm train to Scotland. This train would have served both Edinburgh and Glasgow. He was going on leave and had notified his family of his impending arrival. His parents at that time lived at 3 Wardie Steps, off Lower Granton Road in Edinburgh. He was probably planning on arrival in Edinburgh at Princes Street Station to take the first available train on the Leith Branch of the Caledonian Railway to Granton Road Station which was only a short distance from his parents' home.



The Edinburgh newspapers reported that he had a ticket to travel to Forfar and was planning to go to Edzell. No information has come to light about his connections to Edzell.

The train on which he travelled was not some scruffy old troop train. It was the regular night train to Scotland on what is nowadays called the West Coast Main Line. It was composed of modern coaches arranged, as most British trains were until the later years of the twentieth century, in compartments connected by a corridor. It seems not to have been too crowded as John Bell and a sailor were able to get a compartment to themselves. They each took one side of the compartment and lay down on the cushions to try to get some sleep on the long journey north.

Travelling in the next compartment were two Belgian soldiers, a sailor and Private William Cairns of the 9th Seaforth Highlanders. The train set out on its long journey north and Private Cairns got into conversation with the sailor and started explaining to him the mechanism of his rifle. One of the Belgian soldiers later said that he had seen Private Cairns kneeling with his rifle pointing to the cushions behind the seats and with his finger on the trigger. Shortly afterwards there was a loud explosion as a shot was fired.

It is not known where the train was when the shot was fired. Someone did look into the next compartment soon afterwards but concluded that John Bell and the sailor were both sleeping and there was nothing wrong. When the train was passing through Lamington station, in Lanarkshire south of Carstairs, it was discovered that John Bell was dead. The train continued to Carstairs where it would have divided into two portions – the front one going on to Glasgow and the rear one to Edinburgh. When the train arrived in Edinburgh, the Edinburgh City Police removed the body to the City Mortuary where it was examined by Professors Harvey Littlejohn and Lorrain Smith – the Professors respectively of Forensic Medicine and Pathology of the University of Edinburgh. The police also located John's family and one of his brothers went to the City Mortuary to identify him. On 10th November his parents placed an announcement in the *Edinburgh Evening News* to the effect that the funeral would take place at the United Presbyterian Church, Trinity (more correctly the United Free Church, which is now Wardie Parish Church) on 11th November at 3pm and then on to Comely Bank Cemetery.

Meantime Private William Cairns had gone to visit his sister in Uddingston (Lanarkshire). His leave was cut short when the Lanarkshire Police turned up at his sister's house to arrest him. On 14th December 1915 he appeared in the Lanark Sheriff Court on a charge of culpable homicide. He pleaded not guilty and his defence was that the bullet that had caused John Bell's death was not fired from the compartment that he was in and that the cartridge that he had in his rifle had been emptied of its explosive charge. The two professors gave evidence to the effect that the bullet had entered from the

front and exited from the back of John Bell's body - which would suggest that John was lying with his face towards the compartment partition. Those who were present, however, said that he had been lying with his back against the compartment partition. No-one seems to have considered the possibility that someone had moved him. After ten minutes deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of Not Proven, and Private Cairns was free to return to his regiment.

John Bell is commemorated on the Granton War Memorial and it was in the course of researching the names on that memorial that I came across this sad story of John Bell who volunteered to fight for his country but ended up being shot on the night train to Edinburgh.



Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org.uk

The Scotsman – edition dated 15 December 1915 – available online at <http://archive.scotsman.com>

Edinburgh Evening News and *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* – editions of 8th to 10th November 1915

Monumental Inscriptions – *Comely Bank Cemetery Edinburgh*, published by the Scottish Genealogy Society

January Meeting

In the September 2007 edition of the Journal, we reported that the new Heritage Hub had opened in Hawick, in the former Corn Exchange. It houses many archives relating to Borders family history as well as others relating to culture and heritage. It also stages regular exhibitions. On 11th January we are pleased to welcome one of its staff as a speaker at our usual venue. Come along and learn more!

Irish Roots

Irish Roots is the only magazine dedicated entirely to Irish ancestral research within the whole island. It features articles by leading genealogists, as well as research tips and tools. Altogether it is a celebration of Irish ancestry, heritage, culture and tradition. Moreover, it's now on *Facebook*.

See www.irishrootsmagazine.com

Why not be a Volunteer?

by Naomi Tarrant, Library Volunteer

Family history and genealogy societies couldn't exist without their volunteers, for example all the committee members will be volunteers. Look on the inside cover of any such society's journal and you will see a long list of names. Depending on what services are offered, these range from the usual threesome of chairman, secretary and treasurer to editor, bookshop manager or membership secretary. But there are many more jobs that volunteers do for their societies.

This Society has published the work of many volunteers over the years in the form of monumental inscriptions of gravestones and memorials in Scottish graveyards, and more are on the way. Other transcriptions in the pipeline include the burial register of St Cuthbert's parish, Edinburgh. Volunteers are also typing up the handwritten Emigrants card index which will help make it more accessible to users, and it might eventually be available on the website. It will also create more space by getting rid of the cabinet the cards are stored in.

Volunteers are also needed to man the bookstall at Family History Fairs. These range from the main one in London now held in the early spring, to several smaller ones throughout Scotland. During this last summer we also had a presence at The Gathering in Holyrood Park. Fairs are a great opportunity to meet members of other societies and to see what they have to offer. The sales team, who are mainly responsible for this work, also send out books and CDs by post and keep track of all the stock – a very important aspect, and again they're all volunteers.

But the main use of volunteers by the Society is in the Library. Apart from the Librarian, who of course is a volunteer, there are members who man the desk whenever the library is open. We're in need of some more members so that we can keep this going. We're open every day except Friday and Sunday, and also late on a Wednesday. The rota for each day is divided into morning and afternoon, so you can volunteer for just part of a day or for a whole day. Training is given in how to help visitors to use the library and its facilities to their best advantage. There is also the opportunity for visitors to purchase books from the very large selection we now stock.

Recent moves in the Library have seen new book shelves erected, put together by volunteers, and this has led to a re-arrangement of some areas. There are two computers available for searching various programs including Find My Past and Ancestry, to both of which the Society has a subscription. This means those who don't have a PC at home can take advantage of all the new sites that have become available in the last few years.

Despite the greater volume of information that's on the net the library is still a place that can help family historians and researchers to add that extra dimension to their work. If you haven't visited us recently please come in, it's free to members.

BUT what we would really like is some more volunteers so that we can be sure of keeping the library open for members and non-members alike. After all it's your society and being a member means making an effort to support it and its aims in whatever way you can.

Being a volunteer is a great way to meet new people. Those of us who man the library are a friendly group and we would be delighted if you joined us. Helping find answers for other people also makes you more aware of the rich and diverse sources which are available for family history research and coming to grips with the internet opens up new vistas too. For those who are newly retired why not come and share with us those skills you used to use so effectively at work.

So, if you could spare some time, please contact the Librarian, Moira Stevenson.

Moira.Stevenson@scotsgenealogy.com

Tel: 0131-220 3677

Library Closure

To allow for further reorganisation of the Library, the Festive Closure will be longer than usual, from the end of business on **Thursday 17th December 2009** until **Monday 11th January 2010**.

We wish everyone an enjoyable Festive Season and Successful Searching in 2010!

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held a little earlier this time, on Monday 8th February 2010, at the Augustine United Church, although at the usual time of 7.30pm.

After the business part of the meeting, we will be treated to a talk by our new Honorary President, former Council member and Lord Lyon King of Arms, David Sellar, on "The Role of the Lord Lyon".

The Identity of Countess Alice of Menteith (fl 1335-1339): part 1

by Bruce McAndrew

In Fraser's *Red Book of Menteith*,¹ Alice, Countess of Menteith is mentioned as petitioning the English king for assistance in the years following 1335 and it is suggested that she is the widow of Earl Murdoch of Menteith, killed at the battle of Dupplin in 1332. Furthermore she receives the briefest of mentions in the *Scots Peerage*² and in the *Complete Peerage*³ where it is proposed she may have been a member of the Ferrers family on the grounds that Sir William Ferrers (d 1325) and his wife Elizabeth left the manor of Groby to the heirs of their bodies, whom failing to Murdoch of Menteith.⁴

These suggestions were obviously made by authors unaware of the existence of her seal, described by Ellis⁵ as having three shields of arms meeting at their points: top, A chevron bezanty between three stars; right, Three escallops on a cross-hatched field; and left, A saltire and chief. Two impressions of the seal are known and bear the legend S'ALIS/DE ME/THET (*Figure 1*). None of these coats-of-arms bear any resemblance to that borne by the (Stewart) earls of Menteith as found in the contemporary Balliol Roll⁶ for

Le conte de Menteht: Or, a fess chequy argent and azure, a label of three points gules in chief. Neither can they be equated with those of the Ferrers family of which the Chartley branch bore Vairy or and gules and the junior Groby line bore Gules, seven mascles conjoined or as displayed in the numerous English rolls of arms dating from the reigns of Henry III and Edward I.⁷ The last coat-of-arms is identical to that borne

earlier by the de Quincy family, earls of Winchester and constables of Scotland, from whom the Ferrers of Groby inherited their Scottish estates in the mid-13th century.⁸



Figure 1: # EH43/347
Reproduced by kind permission of
The National Archives

Thus an intriguing problem exists - is it possible to identify Countess Alice of Menteith from the three coats-of-arms on her seal?⁹

Before analysing this sigillographic data in detail, it is worthwhile summarising the genealogy and heraldry associated with the early earls of Menteith (*Figure 2*). By the middle of the 13th century, when armory was spreading rapidly throughout the Scottish nobility, Walter Comyn, lord of Badenoch, was Earl of Menteith in right of his wife, Countess Isabel (dspms 1264x73). He was a leading member of Scotland's most powerful baronial family but died without issue in 1258.¹⁰ She married thereafter Sir John Russell (d before 1291), an English knight, and their daughter, Isabel (Russell), when scarcely into her teens, was married to William Comyn of Kirkintilloch (d 1291), great-nephew of Earl Walter. Following his early death, she married Sir Edmund Hastings, younger brother of the Hastings claimant to the Scottish throne in 1291-92, who designated himself lord of Inchmahome; the chief barony of the earldom, in the letter of the English barons addressed to the Pope in 1301, and he later claimed the earldom in right of his wife.¹¹

Comyn heraldry is well established and invariably based on three garbs.¹² Equally, there are numerous examples of the Hastings arms of Or, a maunch gules, though in the letter to the Pope, Edmund Hastings used a seal bearing Three bars wavy, probably of Drummond origin.¹³ However with Sir John Russell we are on much less certain ground; he is stated to be of the diocese of Ely, and to be the brother of Robert Russell.³ Heraldically the closest to the shield on the seal are the arms of the Gloucestershire knight, **Rauf Russels**: Argent, on a chief gules, three bezants.¹⁴ However if Countess Alice was the daughter of Isabel Russell and one or other of her husbands, either the Comyn garbs or the Hastings maunch would be in a prominent position on her seal; this not being the case it is possible to eliminate this line of descent from further consideration.

The elder Isabel's marriage to an English knight, considered her inferior by the Scottish magnates, led to imprisonment, resignation of the earldom, and expulsion from the country. The earldom was then claimed by her cousin, Mary,¹⁵ and the latter's husband, Walter Stewart, a younger son of Walter the Steward (d 1241) and was awarded to them in 1261.¹⁶ Husband and wife are commemorated in the well-known effigy at the Priory of Inchmahome, clasped in each other's arms, where his heater-shaped shield displays arms of a chequered fess with a label of seven points in chief.¹⁷ His seal also bears a fess chequy but with a label of five points. Their son, Sir Alexander Stewart or Menteith (d 1297x1306) supposedly bore Three bars wavy (for the earldom of Menteith) surmounted by the Stewart fess chequy and label, but this represents far too cluttered a coat for this period. Alan (I), his son and successor (d before 10 Mar 1308), re-adopted the original simpler shield. After an uncertain interlude, his brother, Murdoch, had succeeded as earl by

1323, a position he retained till his death in 1332 when Mary, Alan (I)'s daughter, became countess.

These details essentially paraphrase the account of the family in the *Scots Peerage* (1904-14), but need to be modified in light of new findings - an additional earl, and both new and revised countesses. It has been established¹⁸ that Alan (I) was succeeded by his son, Alan (II), Earl of Menteith, who died after 23 August 1315 and before 1323, though it is likely this occurred before 6 April 1320 when his great-uncle was described as *custos* of the earldom of Menteith in the Declaration of Arbroath. That Mary, Countess of Menteith after the death of her great-uncle, Murdoch, (d probably 12 August 1332 at Dupplin), was the daughter of Earl Alan (II) and not of Alan (I) can be demonstrated using the relationships defined in the papal dispensation for the marriage of Thomas, Earl of Mar and Margaret Graham of Menteith.¹⁹

The earls of Menteith were heirs to the earldom of Fife after 1298 when Macduff of Fife and his sons were killed at the battle of Falkirk. It has been proposed that the link was through the marriage of Earl Alexander with a daughter of a Fife earl.²⁰ However as a corollary of the papal dispensation mentioned above, this important connection can only be introduced at a later generation, in Margery, daughter of Earl Colban (d 1270), as the wife of the wife of Earl Alan (I). The onomastics fit well as Margery's maternal grandmother was an earlier Margery, illegitimate daughter of Alexander II, King of Scots.²¹

Turning for a moment to sigillographic data, a seal dating from 1366 has been reassigned to Margaret Abernethy, Dowager Countess of Angus (d after 11 Jan 1369/70) in an earlier paper.⁹ In first position on the seal are her husband's Stewart of Bonkyll arms, followed by her own Abernethy lion to the dexter, while those to the sinister are for her Stewart of Menteith mother. The identification of this matrilineal line allows us to fill lacunae in some other 14th century dispensations and leads to the conclusion that the wife of Alexander, Earl of Menteith (d 28 Sept 1297x1306) was Matilda, daughter of Robert, Earl of Strathearn (d 26 Sept 1237 x Aug 1244), and not of his son, Earl Malise (d before 23 Nov 1271), as originally suggested.²² An updated Menteith pedigree is shown in *Figure 2*.

Painted versions of the Menteith arms appear in the aforementioned Balliol Roll and in the earlier Lord Marshal's Roll for **Le Comte de Manteste**: Or, a fess countercompony argent and azure, a lion passant gules in chief, where the lion may represent the Menteith earls' position as heirs to the Fife earls.²³ But we can conclude there is no obvious connection between the coats-of-arms of the families who held the earldom from 1250 to 1335 and the shields of arms on the seal of Alice of Menteith.

Before exploring the armorial aspects of the seal further, it is surprising that Alice de Menteith, entitled Countess in the documents,⁴ does not describe

herself as such on her seal legend. This is very much at odds with practice at this date when, for instance, Marjorie, Countess of Carrick (1285), Alice de Beaumont, Countess of Buchan (1343)²⁴ and Isabella, Countess of Fife (1369), all countesses in their own right, describe themselves as such on their seal legends. Similarly, ladies who were countesses by marriage were equally careful regarding their status: thus Eleanor de Clare, Countess of Angus (*temp* Edward II), Agnes Randolph, Countess of March (1367), and Margaret Stewart, Countess of Mar (1378) all used Comitissa or such like on their seal legends.²⁵ Consequently, if Alice de Menteith had been Countess *de jure* or the consort of Earl Murdoch, we might reasonably expect the title

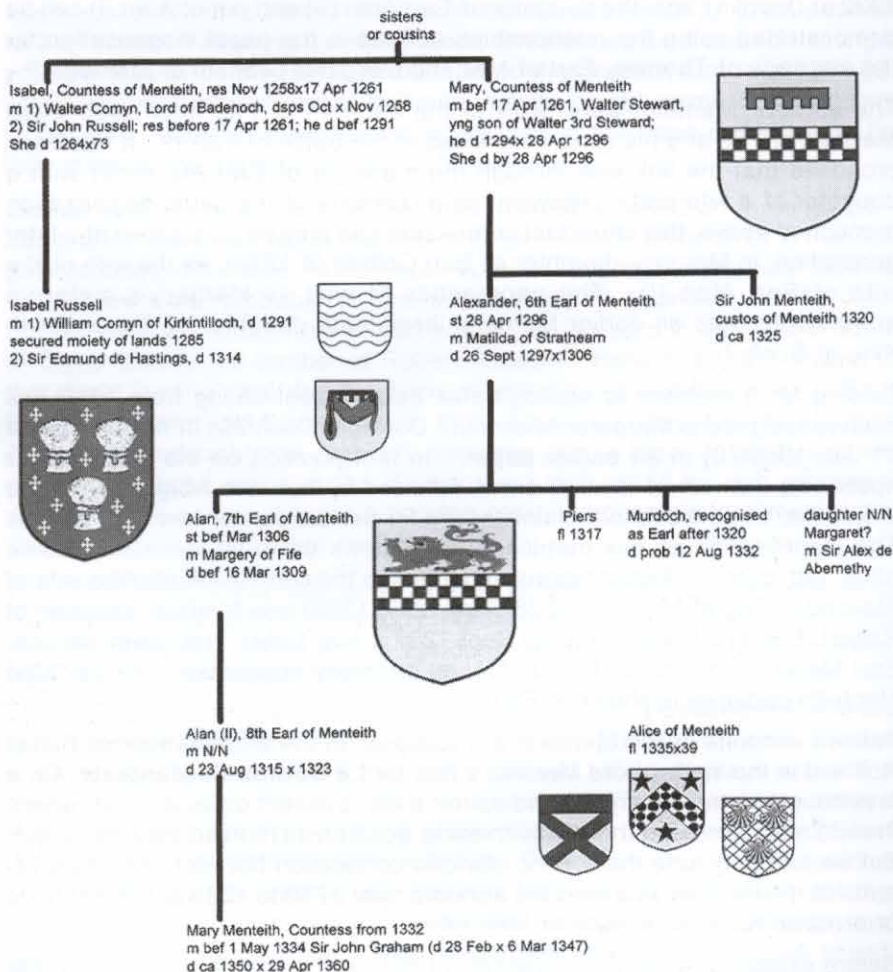


Figure 2: Early Earls of Menteith

to be present on her seal legend. Without it, it is more sensible to see Alice de Menteith as a female relative (daughter, sister)²⁶ of a Menteith earl, presumably Murdoch, recognized as heir to the earldom in England post-1335 to discomfit the Scots who had preferred to revert to the senior line in the person of Mary, daughter of Murdoch's nephew, Alan (II), as Countess (Figure 2).²⁷

The Alis of the legend is a relatively rare Christian name for this period, and consequently is a member of a small group of names that, on occasion, can be traced from family to family. Typical examples are Euphemia, found in the comital houses of Dunbar and Ross, Aufrica among the daughters of Fife, Dervorguilla in the Galloway family, and Orabilis among the descendants of Ness of Leuchars. Alice is not quite so specific; it appears in the house of Lindsay and in the de Ros family, a daughter of which married John (I) Comyn of Badenoch and thereafter is found among Comyn daughters. But a Comyn background for the owner of the seal has already been eliminated (*vide ultra*).

Based on the analogous seals of Mary Ramsay and Margaret Fraser,⁹ and on the analysis herein, a working hypothesis is that Alice of Menteith is a member of the Menteith family, with a husband whose arms were a saltire and chief. However the apparent lack of a Menteith coat-of-arms on the seal is a significant problem; its solution will be the subject of a further article.

Notes

1. Sir W Fraser, *The Red Book of Menteith*, 1880, Vol 1, p 100.
2. Sir J Balfour Paul (ed), *The Scots Peerage* (SP), 1904-1914, 6, 137.
3. G E Cockayne et al (eds), *The Complete Peerage* (CP), revised edition, 1910-1940, 8, 666.
4. J Bain (ed), *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, 1884, 3, 534.
5. R H Ellis, *Catalogue of Seals in the PRO, Personal Seals*, 1981, Vol 2, P1740.
6. B A McAndrew (ed), *The Balliol Roll*, 2002, p 44, where the genealogical data requires to be updated.
7. T D Tremlett & H S London (eds), *Aspilogia II: Rolls of Arms temp Henry III*, 1967; G J Brault (ed), *Aspilogia III: Rolls of Arms temp Edward I*, 1997.
8. Margaret, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester (dspm 1264), married William de Ferrers, 5th Earl of Derby (d 1254). Her heir, after her death in 1284, for the major part of her estates, was her grandson, John of Chartley (d 1312), son of Robert, 6th Earl of Derby (d 1279) whose lands were confiscated in 1266. Her younger son, William (d 1287), granted the manor of Groby LEI, founded the family of Ferrers of Groby, and William (II) (d 1325) adopted his grandmother's de Quincy arms. Their possessions in Scotland included Leuchars FIF and parts of Dregghorn AYR and Irvine AYR.
9. B A McAndrew, *The Scottish Genealogist*, Vol. LVI, No.3 (September 2009) considers what genealogical information can be gleaned from a detailed examination of the armorial seal of an aristocratic lady.
10. A Young, *Robert the Bruce's Rivals: the Comyns 1212-1314*, 1997, p 59.
11. H de Walden, *Some Feudal Lords and their Seals*, reprint, 1984, p 35.
12. B A McAndrew, *Scotland's Historic Heraldry*, 2006, p 43.
13. W R Macdonald, *Scottish Armorial Seals*, 1904 provides details of most of the seals mentioned in this article.

14. C R Humphery-Smith, *Anglo-Norman Armory*, 1973, p 142.
15. A A M Duncan, *The Making of the Kingdom*, 1978, p 584.
16. The Comyns, however, did acquire a moiety of the earldom lands in 1285.
17. J A Stewart, *Inchmahome and the Lake of Menteith*, 1933, p 83.
18. A B W MacEwen, private communication, 19 August 2006. Murdoch of Menteith resigned lands to Mary of Menteith, his 'consanguinie sui' in 1330, generally interpreted as his niece. However MacEwen has pointed out it makes much more sense as his grand-niece; if a daughter of Earl Alan (I) and born ca 1306, then she would have been in her late twenties when married. However if a daughter of Earl Alan (II) born ca 1316x17 then she would have been in her late teens when married in 1333.
19. J P Ravilious, *SP correction: Alan, Earl of Menteith (d ca 1308) and the Earls of Fife*, soc.genealogy.medieval, 21 June 2006.
20. A A M Duncan (ed), *Regesta Regum Scottorum*, 1988, 5, 357 notes the existence of Alan (II) (d 1315x23), son and heir of Earl Alan (I) (d 1308x15) in his commentary on the indenture of agreement with Duncan, Earl of Fife (ca 1315).
21. A key figure is Anne Durward, wife, first, of Earl Colban of Fife (d 1270) and second, of Sir William Ferrers of Groby (d 1287). (D Richardson, CP correction: Anne Durward, wife of Sir William Ferrers of Groby, soc.genealogy.medieval, 19 Dec 2008). Her daughter by her first husband, Margery, married Earl Alan (I) of Menteith. Her son by her second husband was Sir William (II) Ferrers of Groby (d 1325). John de Hastings demised the manor of Wooton in Northamptonshire for life to Margery, widow of Alan, Earl of Menteith (VCH, Northants, 4, 293). It seems likely that Murdoch of Menteith was brought up in England at either Groby or Wooton.
22. J P Ravilious, *The Ancestry of Mary Abernethy: a Menteith Connection*, soc.genealogy.medieval, 5 Dec 2003.
23. If the Lord Marshal's Roll is correctly dated to 1295, the lion in chief cannot represent the Fife connection. It is an appropriate addition to the Stewart of Menteith arms only after 1308 when Earl Alan (II) inherited the title.
24. L C Loyd & D M Stenton (eds), *Sir Christopher Hatton's Book of Seals*, 1950, p 11.
25. There are no exceptions to this rule of which I am aware.
26. A sister of Earl Murdoch would be entitled to use her father's arms undifferenced. In contrast Earl Murdoch as a younger son would bear Menteith suitably differenced and his daughter likewise.
27. This had the added advantage that it maintained the position of the Menteith earls as potential heirs of the Fife earls. In contrast, Earl Murdoch and his heirs had no Fife-based line of descent.

Scotland's Places

A new website was launched on 22nd October 2009 at Inverness, a joint venture between the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS). It aims to bring "authentic information and images together to help you discover places in Scotland", by giving access across different national databases. Available at the moment – as well as many thousands of images – are the 1797 Farm Horse Tax Rolls and the 1872-73 Royal Commission on the Owners of Land and Heritages.

See www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

Registration of Births and Baptisms in a 19th Century Scottish Parish

by Charles Napier

The non-appearance of birth or baptism information in Scottish Old Parish Registers, even when other evidence shows that such births/baptisms have actually taken place, has always been a problem for present-day researchers. Many reasons for the non-appearance have been put forward blaming parents, Ministers and Session Clerks alike.

While researching in the Minutes of the Presbytery of Fordoun¹, Kincardineshire, I came across the following passage, which shows that the Kirk authorities were well aware of the problem and did try to do something about it. The Registers of the various Kirks within the bounds of the Fordoun Presbytery were regularly inspected by the Presbytery, at least twice a year, and generally were shown to be acceptable. The Presbytery met approximately once per month throughout the year in the different parishes within the Presbytery area. On 27th March 1816, the meeting was held in Laurencekirk. After considering the appointment of a new Minister, the following passage appears in the Minutes:

"The Presbytery considering that the Baptism Registers within their Bounds are notwithstanding every step they have hitherto taken to prevent it, still very irregularly & imperfectly filled up, that their irregularity is occasioned by no fault of the part of the Session Clerks, but owing entirely to the negligence of some Parents in either not entering the names of their children at all, or not inserting them in due time. Considering further that, to their knowledge, the interests of many individuals have thus been materially injured, in regard that no legal certificate of any persons birth can be granted but from the Baptism Register. Considering also, that it is a duty they owe to the children born in their parishes, & at the same time the earnest wish of a great part of their bearers, that this negligence so much complained of should be prevented. Recommend, as the only effectual mode of preventing it, that every parent shall get the day of the birth of his child inserted in the Register previous to its baptism, & shall bring to the Minister a certificate from the Session Clerk of his having done so, when he presents the child for Baptism.

The Presbytery desired their Clerk to send a Copy of this recommendation to every Minister of Presbytery, in order that it may be read by him from his Pulpit, & so made known to all concerned."

It is interesting to see that the Presbytery clearly laid the blame for these problems on the parents, or should we just say "parent" because it is inferred from the text that it was the father who was expected to register the birth. No mention is made of the mother. Whether or not the practical steps recommended by the Presbytery were effective can only be verified by doing an analysis of the Baptism Registers of the parishes within the Presbytery, viz. Arbuthnott, Benholm, Bervie, Dunnottar, Fettercairn, Fetteresso, Fordoun, Garvock, Glenbervie, Kinneff, Laurencekirk, Marykirk, St Cyrus. A task for another day!

Reference:

NAS: CH2-157-10, Minutes of Fordoun Presbytery 1809-1829, Page 277.

The British Records Association

by Dr Anthony Smith

The British Records Association was founded in 1932 and is a charity that exists to encourage and assist the preservation, care, use and publication of historical records. Its members include owners and general users of archives as well as professional archivists and historians of various kinds.

The Association organises an annual conference on an archival theme every year, which anyone may attend. In December 2008 our conference titled *Between the Lines: Perspectives on Literary Archives* was held at the British Library 2008, when the keynote speaker was Bamber Gascoigne, while that planned for December 2009 at the Wellcome Institute in London is on the subject *Researching Lives: Medicine, Science and Archives*. We also offer occasional training days, of which the most recent was a well attended day at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research on the research value of twentieth century deeds. A newsletter is issued regularly and a scholarly journal (*Archives*) containing articles, reviews and news appears twice a year. Specific topics are dealt with in our series of occasional publications. Our *Archives and the User* Series is made up of short introductions to particular types of historical records, such as Alice Prochaska's *Irish History from 1700: a Guide to Sources in the Public Record Office* (1986), while our *Guidelines* series of pamphlets provides guidance on practical issues, such as those outlined in *Deposit Your Own Deeds – And Help Preserve Our Archival Heritage*, one of a number of similar publications in this series, which are available in hard copy or online through the Association's website.

Sadly we have not as yet compiled a publication on specifically Scottish archival matters!

The Association, moreover, acts as a lobbying or pressure group from time to time, by seeking to prevent the unwarranted or thoughtless destruction, sale or dispersal of historical papers and by promoting understanding and appreciation of the value of historical archives.

One of the more important and enduring contributions of the Association to archives in Great Britain has been the work of its Records Preservation Section. The principal purpose of the section is to facilitate the transfer of historical records to suitable places of deposit when their owners or custodians no longer wish to retain them. We currently have premises at Finsbury Library in London in which we are able to store records temporarily whilst we determine which record office, library or other location is both appropriate for them and willing to receive them. The underlying aim is to provide a mechanism whereby we can ensure that papers of historical importance are preserved for the future rather than lost or destroyed when those responsible for their preservation no longer choose to discharge that responsibility. We are also keen to encourage the preservation of records at risk from wider social or economic factors, such as those resulting from the closing down or sale of businesses of all kinds, the winding up of societies and associations and the sale or demolition of premises such as churches, clubs and meeting places. With this in mind, we will soon be launching a pilot project to assess these risks and possible ways of mitigating them. The resulting report will be published in order to encourage discussion of its findings with the archival profession and other interested parties.

For the Association is, of course, very far from being the only body with a responsibility for work of this kind. The development in the decades after the Second World War of local archive services across the country created a network of record offices dedicated to preserving historical records in their own geographical areas of activity in England and Wales and to some degree in Scotland. In Scotland there is a difference in emphasis because the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh, unlike The National Archives at Kew, continues actively to accumulate deposits of private archives as well as public records. South of the border, at least, the local record offices are usually the first port of call for potential depositors of historical records relating to particular locales and they normally keep an eye open for records at risk in their localities, though understandably the level of service offered inevitably varies from place to place. These developments have enabled our own activities in the Records Preservation Section to focus especially on finding homes for the clients' records held by London solicitors when the time comes that firms decide or feel compelled to clear out archives from their own premises. But even now our work has not concentrated solely on this

specialised area of activity; amongst many examples, we have very lately completed a major project to deposit in over a dozen different record offices the large archive of the architectural firm Carden & Godfrey and we recently assisted Sir Roy Strong to find a suitable home in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, for important family papers of the historian Sir Charles Oman, which had descended to him.

Although the Records Preservation Section has to exist on a proverbial 'shoestring' because the Association has no public funding at all, we believe we carry out a useful and efficient service and we are confident that the quality of our advice is high, as we benefit from the generously given voluntary support of experienced archive professionals. When we receive an enquiry with which we are unable to deal, we feel sure that we know of an appropriate body to which we can direct the matter for attention. Offers of support for our work, whether financial or in kind, are always welcomed, as they contribute directly to the expenses we incur in our work with historical archives and records. So, if you know of historical archives and papers at risk of destruction or in need of a good home, and nobody seems to be taking any interest in them, it could be worth contacting us for assistance.

Further enquiries about our Association and requests for advice with regard to archival matters may be addressed to:

The British Records Association, Finsbury Library,
245 St John Street, London EC1V 4NB
Tel: 020 7833 0428; email brrecass@btconnect.com
www.britishrecordsassociation.org.uk

Dr Anthony Smith is Chair of the Records Preservation Section, The British Records Association.

An Open Secret

An exhibition of this title opened recently in the West Search Room of NAS (Charlotte Square, Edinburgh). It describes government attitudes towards public access to records and other information from earlier centuries until the Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act of 2001. In display cases are a number of objects of office stationery: quills, inks, stamps – and keys. In the main exhibition area, alongside the chronological developments of secrecy and openness, are reproductions of documents, some fairly recently released and some dating from the 15th Century. There are many selections to illustrate our history, both serious and frivolous, for example suffragettes, espionage and the bombing of Greenock are side-by-side with the Loch Ness Monster, the SS *Politician* and a curious incident from the life of William McGonigall.

The exhibition runs until 30th June 2010. Admission free.

A Life Researching Lives

by Hew Stevenson

A chain of cause and effect, starting with our infinitely remote ancestors, influences our lives today in ways that are not always obvious. Often we live where we live and do what we do and, indeed, we are what we are, because of decisions made not only by ourselves but by our unwitting acceptance of, or deliberate rebellion against, decisions made by our forbears.



ME, WHEN I WAS TEN

I have written a story about one family, my own, the Stevensons. The questions, who they were and what they did, had intrigued me since I was a boy. I can remember the exact moment when this began. I was ten years old and standing near the dressing table in the spare bedroom of our home near Tynemouth – the house where I was born – when my elder brother James showed me a book which my father had just given him. He opened it at a page with some pictures of Stevenson men, including one of Father himself. It was the brand new centenary book of the *Shields Gazette*, the newspaper managed by my father, whose work I knew nothing about until then – only that he went to an office every day. I learned from the book that the newspaper had been started a hundred years before by one of the bewhiskered Stevensons in the book. I recognised him as the man

in the oil painting in our dining room. I was filled with curiosity. Who were all these men, how were they related to each other and to me, when and where did they live, how did they come to own a newspaper?

Father gave copies of the book to my elder brothers, Ronald and James, but my younger brother and I were thought too young until I asked for one too. The next day Father brought two pristine copies home from the office for John and me. The book had a distinctive smell and when now I push my nose right into the join where the pages meet the spine, the smell is still there. It makes me feel a boy again and brings back the excitement of 60 years ago.

From then on I pestered my father for knowledge about our family. He told

me we once had a great chemical works that had closed down years ago, that our family had once lived in Paisley, that the piers at the Tyne entrance where we walked every Christmas Day owed their existence to his grandfather. Many more questions were unanswered: why did the family leave Paisley, where was this chemical works, why did it close? What went wrong? And why the newspaper? Why on Tyneside?

I decided to find out. As a starting point I would try and make a family tree of all the descendants of the earliest Stevensons. My eldest brother Ronald had attempted a similar project one rainy day. It was a task that appealed to his logical and methodical mind. But his interest in the subject was nothing to the obsession that now gripped me.

To my shame, I was so obsessed with 'the tree' that I missed opportunities to add flesh to the bones. I bombarded my great aunts mercilessly with letters demanding full names and dates of birth of their offspring together with date of marriage – and divorce where applicable. With the doggedness of a train spotter, I had to collect every name and date. I met Great Aunt Amy, born in 1857, only once when I was employed to squirt her feet with spray against the midges one summer afternoon. Admittedly, that was before my hobby had begun so I never thought to ask her about her own grandfather, born in 1786, whom she would have seen, touched and spoken to. Even later, when I got interested, Great Aunts Louie and Hilda, born in the 1860s, and Dollie (known as Aunt Do), born 1876, would have happily told me about the personal side of family life if only I had asked.

I fired off letters to every known relative. Father advised me always to say how old I was: only the hard-hearted would refuse to help a schoolboy with his hobby. Gradually the tree took shape. Like a huge jig-saw, parts would be completed and put aside as independent sections until I found, with all the excitement of a treasure-hunter, the vital extra piece that linked them. What started on one sheet of paper had to be copied out again and again with the names spread further apart to allow more descendants to be fitted in. Father brought from the office the tail-end of one of the huge reels of paper used to print his newspapers. This became the master copy. Every day I could hardly wait for the postman so that I could roll out the tree on the linoleum of the nursery floor and, lying on my stomach, write in the latest additions.

My relatives were helpful and indulgent, especially my great aunts who felt it was a great thing for a young boy to take an interest in his forbears. Only rarely did I meet resistance. My father's cousin Jars (James Arthur Radford Stevenson) was unco-operative. I was perplexed to open his letter telling me that it was against his principles

*to make a detailed survey of the dates of departure from
this earthly existence of relatives and those connected
with me ... age is a conspiracy which mankind is*

desperately trying to circumvent. As it is my object in life (and I expect it is yours also) to circumvent the unpleasant tendency to grow old, I avoid the recording of ages, births, deaths and marriages, and so forth, to the utmost.

Would that the ageing process could be so easily delayed.

A breakthrough came when I was 14. We were invited by Great Aunt Hilda to stay one summer on Eigg, the island she owned off the west coast of Scotland. I could hardly wait because she had told me that she had family papers there to show me. Aunt Hilda had been one of the first women MPs. Now, as the Dowager Duchess Runciman of Doxford, she was somewhat formidable to a teenager. When we arrived at Eigg she made no mention of the papers and I dared not ask about them. Then I spotted, underneath the sideboard in the dining room, a large black tin box with 'Stevenson Papers' in greying white letters on the top. When I was alone in the room I sneaked a look. It was unlocked so I lifted the lid to reveal treasure within: bundles of letters with penny-red stamps of Queen Victoria's head, notebooks, diaries and photographs. I quickly closed the trunk before I was discovered. But I could wait no longer. I rushed to Aunt Hilda and asked if I could see the family papers. She gave a great sigh, 'I am so terribly sorry. I hoped you'd forgotten about it. The trunk is locked and I've left the key in my London flat.' What to do? I could not admit that I'd pried already. With much stammering, I pleaded that there could be no harm in my checking that it really was locked. She was very firm: 'It's no use, it's locked.' I pleaded again and she finally agreed to my going to have a look. 'It's no use, I really am so sorry,' she called after me as I raced out of the room. In no time I had the papers spread out all over my bedroom floor while my brother John and some cousins went off to the beach to play in the sunshine. Years later she gave me the box and its contents.

I soon came to be regarded as the natural recipient of family archives when people died, moved house or tidied up their belongings. Another tin box of papers was turned up by her son, the historian Steven Runciman, when I visited him in London on my way home from boarding school. After humping it on the train at Kings Cross I was able to have a good look. There was my great grandfather's account book for 1867 to 1886, from which I have been able to compress the Jarrow Chemical Company's profit in its most successful days; also two small volumes packed with incomprehensible squiggles but with tantalising longhand headings in the margins. They turned out to be JC Stevenson's diaries for 1852 to 1858 written in an early form of Pitman's shorthand. They have been painstakingly translated over 20 years by several stoic friends doing a bit at a time: my mother, my wife, our one-time housekeeper Anne Hinchliffe, and three successive secretaries, to all of whom I am deeply grateful. The diaries provide an unique insight on the development of industrial Tyneside as well as giving an idea of the views and character of

their author and other family members.

As I grew older and more independent, I would drive to visit newly-discovered relatives in person, sometimes, inexcusably, turning up unannounced. One lady would not let me beyond the doorstep, though I could see on the wall behind her a framed address on which I could make out the name Stevenson. She was unwelcoming in the extreme and struck me as a fearful snob. When I asked her about her relatives she said, before closing the door in my face, that she had only bothered to keep up with the Portmans (the 5th Viscount had a Stevenson mother and was one of her cousins). Twenty years later I visited her again. I was now more interested in the people than the bare names and dates. Determined to get what information I could from her I wrote her a tactful letter enclosing, as a present, a copy of my family tree which, when I was 25, I had had printed as a book. She could not have made me more welcome. I stayed the night and she was charming, immensely entertaining and a mine of information. She was sorry she had been so hostile on my earlier visit: she had been distraught, she told me, because her daughter, living abroad, had just had her passport confiscated by the police on suspicion that she had committed a murder.

Some relatives took no end of trouble in suggesting others I should write to. One was Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Stevenson-Hamilton who had once been ADC to the Governor of the Punjab. His military brusqueness was unnerving.

You cannot expect these women to answer you if you insist on asking their ages. I warned you about it before. Try writing to Mrs Mansfield-Hunter again more diplomatically.

The family story was such an obsession that I must have been a poor playmate to my brothers who would be out making a bonfire or flying a kite while I was 'frowsting indoors' with the family tree.

Writing my book has taken a very long time. I started to write a narrative version of the family story when I was the managing director of the *Evening Press* newspaper at York and I continued after I was transferred to the *Bradford Telegraph & Argus*. So much of my life was dominated by problems then endemic to the newspaper industry: competition from free-sheets, printers' strikes, lock-outs, working to rule and union disputes of one kind or another, that the book could only be turned to in relative 'peace-time'. When I moved to the Westminster Press head office my energies were so preoccupied with running a large newspaper group that it was laid aside altogether for ten years. When I retired I was able to take it up again.

This article was adapted from the Introduction to Hew Stevenson's book, Jobs For The Boys. For details of how to purchase a copy and for its review, please turn to page 209.

Annual Report 2009

Council

The Council of the Society has met on a regular basis throughout the year. Amongst the items discussed were the refurbishment of the Library, the updating of the website and computer systems, the Gathering held at Holyrood Park in the summer, as well as other items involving the running of the Society and the Library. Council is also preparing for the Society's turn to host the SAFHS Fair in 2011, to be held at Adam House, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 16th February, Mrs Joy Dodd was elected Chairman of Council and Mrs Moira Stevenson elected Librarian. Dr James Cranstoun's work in both these positions was commended and applauded. Mr Charles Napier, Mrs Irene Townsley and Mrs Elizabeth Watson were elected as ordinary members of Council. At the AGM it was agreed to increase the membership subscriptions to of the society, for the first time in a considerable number of years. After the AGM the Society's Honorary President, Mr Robin Orr Blair, indicated that he wished to retire; the Society is delighted that his successor as Lord Lyon, Mr David Sellar, a long-term SGS member and former Council member, has agreed to succeed him. In June 2009, after several years' invaluable service as the Society's webmaster, Graham Senior Milne stood down from his position.

Publications

New SGS books published during 2009 were *North Berwick M.I.s*, by Joy Dodd, and *Nairnshire Roll of Honour*, by Ken Nisbet.

Forthcoming publications will include the MIs of Grange Cemetery, Rosebank Cemetery, Portobello Cemetery and Dean Cemetery (all due out 2010). In progress are Eastern Cemetery and East Lothian M.I.s, *2nd Battln. 78th Regt. of Foot (Seaforths)*, by Ken Nisbet, *The Burial Index: Grange Cemetery and Death records of St Cuthberts* (no due dates as yet).

Reprints were required of: Angus vols 1, 2 & 4; Alphabet Book – Richard Torrance; Dunfermline Abbey & Churchyard; Dunbartonshire; Caithness vols 1 & 3; East Preston Street; East Stirlingshire; East Inverness; Kilmarnock & Loudoun; Kinross-shire; Kirkcudbright vols 1 & 7 & Cumulative Index; McLellans in Galloway – Richard Torrance; Lanark Upper Ward; Lochaber & Skye; North Perthshire vol 1; Scottish Photographers – Richard Torrance – 4 titles; Renfrew vols 1 & 2; South West Midlothian; West Lothian vol 2; Wester Ross.

Peripatetic Prattlers

The Society is often asked to supply speakers to other groups, in exchange for a donation to the SGS. Thanks to Ewen Collins, Jim Cranstoun, Jessie Denholm, Caroline Gerard, Maurice McIlwrick, Charlie Napier, Ken Nisbet, Ann Pippet and John Stevenson for their contributions. Thanks also to Richard Torrance for creating a powerpoint presentation for such events.

Advertising

The Society advertised in *Family History Monthly*, *Family Tree Magazine* and *Your Family Tree* (all monthly publications); *History Scotland* (bi-monthly); *Visit Scotland Visitor's Pack*; *Family & Local History Handbook*; *Who's Who in Scotland*; *Frae the Fit O' The Walk*, the newsletter of Leith Local History Society and *Discover*, the magazine of the National Library of Scotland

We also arrange to leave SGS leaflets in as many venues as we may, such as public libraries.

New Register House Visits 2009

During 2009 a total of 14 evening visits were arranged. In 2010, there are 14 proposed visits, all jointly with Standard Life FHS, the dates being:

13th January, 10th February, 4th and 30th March, 22nd April, 17th May, 9th June, 8th July, 3rd and 30th August, 23rd September, 20th October, 16th November and 13th December.

'Phone the Library to book your place!

Family History Fairs

Due to the Homecoming celebrations of 2009, it was a bumper year for fairs. We could not attend them all, of course, but we did manage to:

Who Do You Think You Are?, London – 27th February to 1st March

Borders Family History Fair, Duns – 18th April

SAFHS Fair, Aberdeen – 25th April

Leith Local History Fair, Leith – 6th June

Dumfries & Galloway Family History Fair, Dumfries – 27th June

Edinburgh & District Local History Forum, Edinburgh – 24th July

The Gathering, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh – 25th and 26th July

Gateshead National Family History Fair – 12th September

East Dunbartonshire Family & Local History Fair, Milngavie – 12th September

Moray Family & Local History Fair, Elgin – 10th October

Annual Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair, Perth 17th October

Many thanks to the Sales Team, Treasurer and those volunteers who took the time to travel to the Fairs to man our stalls, represent the Society and answer the many enquiries from the public.

Your Ain Folk

The *My Ain Folk* evenings have been revamped as *Your Ain Folk*. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of John Stevenson and Charlie Napier, groups may book visits to our Library to be given guided tours of our resources and facilities, with time afterwards to explore.

Website

This is now being run from the Library. Look out soon for some variations, a new homepage and regular news and updates.

Monthly Meetings

Our first meeting in October consisted of a talk by David McClay, NLS Curator of the "John Murray Archive", and he enlightened us on the vast collection of published and unpublished items which illustrate the many aspects of British history between 1768 and 1920.

In November our then Chairman and Librarian, Dr Jim Cranstoun, shared his extensive research into recent East Lothian history with a lecture on War Memorials, ranging from architect-deigned stone monuments to plaques in schools and churches to articles in newspapers.

The new year began with the tricky subject of Scottish Handwriting, being illustrated with many interesting examples, by Kirsty Stewart of NAS, who succeeded in explaining the different versions used over the years and urged us to practise the techniques for ourselves.

Following the AGM in February, four of our members told us about special items they had brought. Richard Torrance had found that family notes of his grandmother's visit to an aunt born in 1811 referred to earlier generations when a child was taken to view Bonnie Prince Charlie's march south. A notebook of Joy Dodd's contained present lists and furnishings accounts for her grandparents' wedding in 1907. Irene Townsley had an ATS bag containing memorabilia which was given to her and her sister, Liz Watson, to keep them amused when visiting their aunt; and Ken Nisbet showed us a framed medal given to his grandfather's brother in Canada.

In the March talk we were introduced by Caroline Brown to the extensive collections in Dundee University Archives. These contain information on Perth, Angus and Dundee about hospitals, schools, colleges and asylums. Her colleague, Pat Whatley, then gave us details of the online courses in Family History, which are run by the University.

The lecture in April by Roy Pugh, who has written a book on the subject of the Witch-Hunt in Scotland, consisted of the history – especially in the 16th & 17th centuries – of the role of the Kirk in the horrific trials and executions of witches in those times, plus more details about local Edinburgh incidents.

On a beautiful evening in May, 20 members gathered at Thomas Thomson House for an introductory talk before touring the building. In the Camera Room we watched the shift-workers digitising the records. We also saw the indexing process and the Strong Room.

In September, the final talk of the "Year of Homecoming" was given by Peter Wadley of the NAS, the enthusiastic organiser of the six "Famous Scots" exhibition, the 5 selected by that date being Billy Connelly, Sir James Black, Shirley Manson, Brian Cox and Tilda Swinton. (The sixth and last is Sir Jackie Stewart.) He explained that the selection illustrated a range of historical backgrounds.

Also during this year, because of the inconvenience of the construction work on Victoria Terrace, some volunteers were treated to a tour of the new luxury Missoni Hotel building, shortly before it opened for business.

Library

This year at the AGM, Dr James Cranstoun stood down from his position as Librarian, a post he had held since 2001 and had latterly combined with the post of Chairman. Dr Cranstoun brought to the post an exceptional level of knowledge of history and family history research as well as his professional skills in librarianship: members and visitors have greatly benefited from his pleasure in sharing knowledge and also from the extensive support he has given to the Society in many areas.

The priority in the Library this year was a re-organisation of its space and the purchase of additional shelving to allow more room for the ever-increasing book collection and family history files. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who gave of their time and skills to assist with this.

Thanks are also due to Joan Kean, who has taken over the duties of cataloguing the books, and to Russell Cockburn, who deals with the CDs. Over 200 books and CDs have been added to the Library this year. The additional censuses on microfilm, which were donated last year, have now almost all been catalogued and shelved. Internet access continues to be very popular, particularly the information on ancestry.com to which we subscribe.

Regular sessions on the resources in the Library have been started for the volunteers with talks from some of our members.

We continue to help members and non-members who contact us via email, letter and telephone with their family history enquiries, and thanks are due to Ann Pippet for her help with these.

A project to transcribe the various card indexes we hold has been started, the first one being the Emigrants' Index, and thanks to the volunteers who are working on this.

The Society has received group visits this year from people doing classes in family history and also an American genealogical study tour. We had special openings for the Homecoming and were particularly busy in the week after the Gathering which was held here in Edinburgh. Charlie Napier and John Stevenson and their willing team continue to build up the 'Your Ain Folk' programme which supports the group visits to the Library.

The Society can only continue through the goodwill of its office-bearers and volunteers, those who undertake the routine, behind-the-scenes tasks, as well as provide the more public face. Many thanks are due to them all for their continuing, knowledgeable and friendly services.

Media appearances

The SGS was represented in the media in several individual ways.

Firstly Joy Dodd was interviewed on 11th September Radio 4 for the *You and Yours* programme and asked whether The Year Of Homecoming had resulted in an increased interest in Scottish family history.

For an edition of *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine featuring Scottish research, the Society was asked for some sample material for the complimentary CD, and part of *The Retours of Heirs* was selected.

For a later edition of the same magazine Caroline Gerard was asked to pick a choice website for the regular online resources section (NLS Maps Library – as the SGS would be listed anyway).

However, star billing went to John Stevenson. He appeared on television! (See page 218.)

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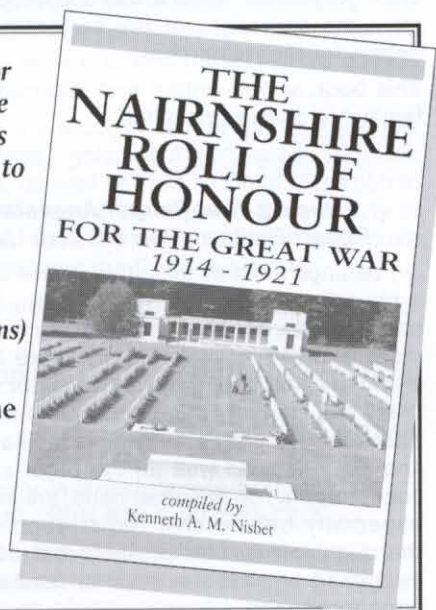
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Book Reviews

The Nairnshire Roll of Honour for the Great War 1914-1921

compiled by Kenneth A M Nisbet; The Scottish Genealogy Society, 2009;
ISBN 1-904060-51-X. £12.00

For any family historian who can trace their ancestors to Nairnshire and the surrounding area at the time of the First World War, this book is an essential part of their research. Not only those people who served in the armed forces, but also those of the lesser-known organisations which were involved in the war effort, such as nurses and boy scouts, all receive mention.

Mr Nisbet has provided a very useful introductory section, detailing information on sources, medals and medal cards, and the local regiments which saw action at this time. There is an extract from the War Diaries of the 4th Battalion Cameron Highlanders, and there are also some interesting photographs at the back of the book.

Most important, though, are the detailed entries, in many cases almost biographies, for each of the men and women of Nairnshire who served their country at this time. There is information on the Regiment or organisation in which they served, and, where known, their regimental number. Details are given of their parentage, and often of their occupation and their employer before the war. A large number of Nairnshire men seem to have emigrated to Canada in the early 20th century, and this information is invaluable to the family historian, as they later returned to Europe as part of the allied war effort. Details of their war service are given, and information on the injuries they received, sometimes in quite gory detail. Addresses and occupations of the parents before the war, and often the addresses of the serviceman or woman themselves, provide further details for the researcher.

This book is well-written and informative, and will be a valuable addition to the family historian's bookshelf.

Bruce B Bishop, FSA Scot

Tracing Your Pauper Ancestors - A Guide for Family Historians

Robert Burlison, Pen & Sword Ltd., ISBN 978 1 84415 985 7, £12.99

On balance most of us, although we occasionally might not like to admit it, have a majority of ag. labs., ploughmen, farm servants, domestic servants.... and paupers littered throughout our family trees. We all tend to get hung up and more involved in exploring our more illustrious ancestors, perhaps desperately trying to chase that gateway ancestor back to royal or noble descent. Sources to these are infinitely more accessible and well-recorded in resources such as the *Fasti* (clergy), *Hart's Army Lists* (military) and the well-thumbed tomes of *Burke's* and *Debrett's*, as well as the other sasine records, wills, among others. 'Our poor paupers', on the other hand, are infinitely more elusive to pinpoint and identify, especially before civil registration periods. However if researched more thoroughly, they can prove to be just as fascinating and worthy individuals, struggling against the odds to feed or better themselves and their very often large families.

Mr Burlison has attempted to redress the balance and offer guidance in his very readable and well-written new book. He has written a comprehensive and well-presented work on exploring poverty from a family history perspective, explaining how charitable relief in its various forms has played a vital role in addressing and supporting the needs of the 'parish poor' through the ages, which gradually evolved into the current welfare state.

The book is divided into three distinct sections:

Section One gives an in-depth introduction into the reasons and circumstances of poverty over the centuries, exploring the history and causes of poverty at all levels of society (even well-heeled aristocrats can fall into the poverty trap!) from medieval to present times.

Section Two is the largest section, in six chapters, and guides the reader chronologically through time with well-researched and written essays on 'Early State Intervention', 'Charity in Pre-Industrial Britain', '19th century Poor Laws', 'Charity and Self-help in the Industrial Age' and 'The Welfare State'.

Its Chapter Eight, 'Destitute Children – A Case Study', is a fascinating read on the plight of pauper children over the centuries, and how their conditions and educational needs were transformed in the mid 19th century by the likes of teacher John Pound and Free Church minister Thomas Guthrie's 'Ragged Schools'. It further discusses the advent of Barnardo's homes for orphans as well as the more dubious (from our modern perspective!) Poor Law Adoption Act (1884), which assisted child migration abroad to Australia, Canada, South Africa and other parts of the Empire.

The third and final Section, 'Searching for Poor and Pauper Ancestors', will probably be of most interest to family historians (certainly to myself!) as the author starts to address the 'nitty gritty' of where to find these elusive pauper ancestors!

After a small introduction indicating where the records can be found, Appendix Two gives an interesting listing of 'The Records', including Almshouses, Barnardo Homes, Bastardy records and Burial Clubs, as well as links to Child Migration in the UK, Canada and Australia. This section could be expanded more fully in future editions to include known resources such as the excellent Poor House records held at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, and the Dundee Library.

Appendices Three and Four give comprehensive lists for further reading and useful internet websites.

On the whole this is a well written and researched book and should be a welcome addition to any family historian's library.

Craig Ellery

Jobs for the Boys: the story of a family in Britain's imperial heyday

Hew Stevenson; Dove Books; 2009; ISBN 978-1-902563-02-2

This is a stunning example of what can be done with a family's history if you have the odd half-century to spare, masses of family documents and (mostly) helpful and encouraging relatives.

The tale starts with a hard-working and ambitious wright in Dalserf, James Stevenson. Within two generations his family owns a large and profitable chemical manufactory at South Shields and a grandson becomes an MP, followed by a great-grand-daughter becoming one of the first women MPs. It describes tales of family members in other professions, such as silk and cotton, law, the Army, exploration, trade from the Empire, education, architecture (the "Queen Anne Revival" style, prevalent in London), journalism, dentistry and medicine (by marriage, the Stevensons were related to Elizabeth Garret Anderson, the first British woman doctor).

It recounts family life, marriages for love and marriages for love of money, the clash of the principles of the Free Church and the slave trade, benign nepotism, commercial ingenuity, politics, social connections, art patronage, employees' welfare, social reform and the instigation of the Volunteer Life Brigade (lifeboats) at Tynemouth in the 1860s.

It's clear, when reading this book, that it comprises only a tiny fraction of the author's available material, and almost any of the chapters could have been a book in itself. Often I found myself wanting to see what had been omitted. If you're interested in the history of the chemical industry, or in early electric lighting, or in 19thC exploration, or in (genuine) Victorian philanthropy, or in women's emancipation, to name a few topics – or just in the story of a family – there is something for you.

Mr Stevenson's years in journalism and editing have paid their dividends, as not only does he write lucidly but he has avoided the trap of too much dry detail, instead distilling the material into a narrative which his readers cannot find tedious. Where historical background to certain events and decisions must be explained, he has done so in a manner which does not disrupt the flow: it becomes part of the story. Through quoting letters and diaries, he finds ways to develop the account of each family member into the depiction of a real human being – sometimes in only a few lines – and he doesn't shy away from recounting family disputes, clashes of temperament, sibling rivalries, unpleasant traits, mental illness, profligacy, scandals and disgraces, etc.

And there are many "throwaway sentences", such as relating that one relative, a Lieutenant-Colonel, marched by the Royal coffins during the funeral processions of both Queen Victoria and Edward VII, or relating that history might have changed if someone had succeeded in (accidentally) drowning Margot Tennant, later Asquith, or relating that the four Stevenson sisters in Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh, preferred to have breakfast in leisurely solitude, so that four copies of *The Scotsman* required to be delivered to the house each morning! And how many of us knew that the island of Vulcano, off Sicily, was once owned by a Scot?

The term "lavishly illustrated" is often used in book reviews, but Hew Stevenson has been in the lucky position of being spoilt for choice. There are hundreds of illustrations, from old family photographs of people and places, to reproductions of paintings and drawings, to documents, to maps, to heirloom items, and even to combinations thereof, such as a charming oil portrait (ca 1830) of a child wearing a coral necklace which is still owned by a relative today.

The family tree of the wright of Dalserf has tendrils which spread all over Scotland, Britain and the world and wrap themselves around places and history. It's not just one family's history and a very readable story, it's a slice of our common history. Whether you're related to this Stevenson family or not, by birth, marriage or employment, this is a fascinating read and I commend it to all without reservation.

Caroline Gerard

Jobs for the Boys can be ordered from:

Dove Books, 42 Canonby Square, London N1 2AW

E-mail: dovebooks@aol.com Price £30 plus £5 p&p (UK)

The book's Introduction can be read as A Life Researching Lives on page 199.

Creag an Tuirc: a Social History of members of the Clan Labhrainn

A.N. McLaurin; CD; published privately; 2009

Calling all MacLarens! Your kinsman Neil McLaurin has compiled a splendid resource of MacLaren/MacLaurin history. He has collated 300 years of it into one CD, describing the clan's journey from dispossessed farmers to scientists, mathematicians, businessmen and clergymen. Furthermore, this history contains some extraordinarily useful detail, which will be enormously useful to any researcher of this name.

The more general chapters describe the various theories of the origin of the name (and variations), the associated arms, crests and tartans, and its first geographical distributions. There are also descriptions of the beginnings of the clan system, life in the Highlands, the role and influence of the Church, population growth and the Clearances. Also there are accounts of the clan's part in various key events in Scottish history, such as the Battle of Culloden and the Appin Murder.

However, the CD's main value is in the wealth of detail contained in the chapters dealing with various locations, whether overseas or in the individual parishes and cities of Scotland. Particular attention is given to some of the parishes of Perthshire, eg Balquhiddy and Comrie, for which the author has researched each farm and township and written descriptions thereof, as well as potted histories of every MacLaren/ MacLaurin family. He has also compiled some Appendices. One of these lists all MacLaren/ MacLaurin baptisms and marriages from the OPRs for Balquhiddy, together with some Testaments, and another lists all of members of this clan enumerated there in the 1814 Census. For these two Appendices alone, the CD would be a very worthwhile investment.

Caroline Gerard

Creag anTuirc is available directly from:

A.N. McLaurin, Victoria Books, Letcombe Regis,
Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 9JQ

E-mail: azurite@tiscali.co.uk

U.K. Price £18 (£15 to Clan MacLaren Society Members), plus p&p.



Ainslie Sanderson Crawford

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.D., F.R.C.A.

We are sorry to report the death on 31st July 2009 of one of the well-known figures at the Society, Dr. Ainslie Crawford, aged 95 years. After retirement from his medical career Ainslie took a great interest in his family history, researching the Crawford, Ainslie, Sanderson and Buchanan families. He was a helper at the Library each Wednesday morning and his quiet, efficient manner endeared him to the Wednesday team of helpers, as well as to the members he was always so willing to help.

Ainslie was born on 24th June 1914 just before the outbreak of the First World War. He was educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University, graduating as a Doctor of Medicine at the age of 22. He went on to gain his Diploma in Public Health before being called up for military service. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the Gloucestershire Hussars. By the time he left the army he had attained the rank of Major. During his army service he met Jack Buchanan, who introduced him to his sister Kathleen. Ainslie and Kathleen were married in 1944.

After the war he worked at the Rush Green Hospital in Essex where he specialised in anaesthetics. After a number of posts in the south he returned to Edinburgh as Consultant Anaesthetist at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. He was responsible, with his team, for developing the Chest Injuries Intensive Care Unit. This work was responsible for a dramatic improvement in the number of patients recovering from serious chest injuries. He retired in May 1979 and, as he said, was the last anaesthetist to put patients to sleep by dropping chloroform on a face mask.

Ainslie had a long and eventful life and he will be missed by his many friends. His wife Kathleen, after a long period of ill health, died in 1987. He leaves two sons and three grandsons.

Contributed by Peter Worling

Other members have added that Ainslie was responsible for a vast amount of unsung work for the Society, especially in the organisation of the Library. For example, he drew diagrams and sorted out – and maintained – the correct order of our very many microfiches. He took particular pleasure in the tuition of new volunteers in the wealth of our holdings and also in listening to the family histories of members and visitors, offering advice where he could. When he could no longer manage to travel by bus, he refused to retire from volunteering, but would take a taxi to and from the Library, to be welcomed by everyone who enjoyed his company, his conversation, his humour, his sharp mind and memory and his interest in almost everything. He had an exhaustive knowledge of Edinburgh, often consulted, and enjoyed attending concerts. Many of us feel that he died far too young!

Marjorie A. Stewart

It was with great sadness that we received news of the death of Marjorie A. Stewart on Friday 23 October 2009.

Marjorie was a keen family historian, and when she settled in Aberdour she quickly discovered the Scottish Genealogy Society. In February 1989 Marjorie was elected a member of the Council and was immediately included in the team that sought out new premises for the Society Library when we had to leave Union Street later that year. In February 1992 Marjorie was elected the Society's Librarian. She organised the rapidly expanding library in a very efficient way and oversaw a great expansion in the library holdings.

She was instrumental in extending the opening hours of the library, always willing to travel from Fife and spend the whole day on duty until a team of volunteers came forward and were able to run the library on that day by themselves. However, Marjory was always on the end of a telephone if any help or advice was required.

In the year 2000 Marjorie stepped down as Librarian, but kept up a correspondence with many family historians she had helped over the years.

A fellow volunteer, John Stevenson, remembers –

It didn't take me long to find a common bond with Marjorie as we had both served in the Merchant Navy.

She worked for Union Castle Line that operated a fleet of passenger liners and freighters between Europe and South Africa and was employed in various capacities looking after the welfare of passenger's children while on a voyage.

In the best traditions of the Merchant Navy she enjoyed "swinging the lamp" by recalling her experiences at sea and always maintained she never drank a gin & tonic until "the sun was over the yard arm"!

I will remember her with some affection.

Although many current members of the Scottish Genealogy Society did not have the pleasure of meeting or corresponding with Marjorie Stewart, they owe her a great debt of gratitude as she was a hard-working and faithful servant of the Scottish Genealogy Society and helped to build the wonderful Library and Family History Centre we now possess.

D. Richard Torrance

Marjorie asked her brother John to invite the SGS to accept any books from her personal library which might fill gaps in its own. Thus a Library Team visited her home a couple of days after the funeral and selected some volumes which will be accessioned in due course. The Society extends both its condolences to her brother on his loss and its thanks for taking time to fulfil Marjorie's wishes for the benefit of our collective knowledge.



RECENT ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

Compiled by Joan Kean

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| The Manx Family Tree | |
| – A guide to the Records in the Isle of Man | Janet Narasimham |
| Through the Lens | |
| – Glimpses of Old Wigtownshire | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| Stenton, East Lothian Monumental Inscriptions | Traprain Survey Group |
| Portrait Index – Fife News Almanacs 1886-1942, | |
| Abercromby – Halisbury | Fife FHS |
| Fife Poor Law Cases (1858-1929) | A J Campbell |
| Tracing Your Secret Service Ancestors | Phil Tomaselli |
| Scottish and Associated Battalions | |
| in the Ypres Salient 1914-1918 | The War Research Society |
| Transcript of Hearth Tax lists deponed upon in 1694 | |
| in the Parishes of North Perthshire | Sheila Mitchell |
| A Study of Country Life in the Shadow of Edinburgh | D M Young |
| The Order of the British Empire | Peter Galloway |
| Clan Hall Society – The Border Reiver | Clan Hall Society |
| Blantyre Mortcloth Records 624 | Lanarkshire FHS |
| Bothwell Mortcloth Records 625 | Lanarkshire FHS |
| Dalziel Death & Mortcloth Records 639 | Lanarkshire FHS |
| Ms Dankeith Cemetery Dundonald | Troon@Ayrshire FHS |
| Ms Dundonald Parish Church | Troon@Ayrshire FHS |
| Ms First Cemetery at Watten Caithness | Caithness FHS |
| Dundee Shipping 1770-1784 Ships, Shipmasters & Voyages | David Dobson |
| Ms Ardersier Cemetery | Highland FHS |
| 1851 Census Girthon Parish, | |
| Stewartry of Kirkcudbright | Emma & Graham Maxwell |
| Heriot & Stow Burials 1691-1819; 1845-1854 | Lothians FHS |
| Newton Burials 1730-1805; 1823-1854 | Lothians FHS |
| Cranston, Crichton, Fala & Soutra Burials 1738-1746; 1853-1854 | Lothians FHS |
| Cockpen & Carrington Burials 1745-1799; 1812-1854 | Lothians FHS |
| Portrait Index Fife News Almanacs 1886-1942 Part 2 | Fife FHS |
| Scottish Genealogy | Bruce Durie |
| An Atlas of Old Edinburgh Second Revised Edition | H N Barrott |
| Kirk Session Burial Register – Dunfermline Abbey Church | Sheila Pitcairn |
| Scottish Family History | Margaret Stuart |
| Corstorphine Old Parish Church | William Wood |
| The Memorial Inscriptions of Lazonby, Langwathby, | |
| Edenhall & Great Salkeld Vol 3 | Cumbria FHS |
| Pre-1900 Memorial Inscriptions of Haile Church | |
| and St Leonard's Church Cleator | Cumbria FHS |
| The Memorial Inscriptions of Crosscanonby | Cumbria FHS |
| Ms St James Burton in Kendal | Cumbria FHS |
| The Ms of Ainstable, Armathwaite, Groglin & Cumrew | Cumbria FHS |
| Ms of the Church & Churchyard of St James Whitehaven | Cumbria FHS |
| The Memorial Inscriptions of Crosthwaite, Lyth, Winstor | Cumbria FHS |

The Memorial Inscriptions of Hutton Roof & Lupton	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of Malmerby, Ousby, Kirkland, Skirwith & Culgaith	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of St Michael & All Angels Church Beetham & St James Church Arnside	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of St Catherine's Church Crook, All Saints Church Underbarrow, St John's Church Helsington	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of Kirkby Thore, Milburn, Newbiggin & Temple Sowerby Vol 6	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of St Mary the Virgin, Kirkby Lonsdale	Cumbria FHS
The Memorial Inscriptions of St Mary's Church Gosforth, St Paul's Church Irton, St Peter's Church Drigg	Cumbria FHS
Additional 20 th Century Memorial Inscriptions in the New Section of St Peter's Churchyard, Drigg	Cumbria FHS
The Family & Local History Handbook 12	R & E Blatchford
Shipwreck Scotland – Five Centuries of Scottish Shipwrecks	The Scotsman
The Moffats	Francis Moffat
Banffshire – The People and the Lands Part 1 The Parish of Keith prior to 1775	Bruce B Bishop
Banffshire – The People and the Lands Part 2 The Parish of Keith from 1775-1850	Bruce B Bishop
The Parishes of Nairnshire Pre-1855 Burial Records: Auldearn 1721-1754, 1816-1854, Parishes of Cawdor, Ardclach & Nairn – isolated records	Bruce B Bishop & Stuart Farrell
Cumbrian Family History Society, St Nicholas Church Whitehaven, Marriage Register 1694-1837	Cumbria FHS
Cumbrian Family History Society, St Nicholas Church Whitehaven, Baptisms 1694-1837	Cumbria FHS
Flint Families of Scotland	Edward S Flint
Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire	E J Graham
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors – The Official Guide 5 th ed	National Archives of Scotland
The People of Cupar 1600-1799	David Dobson
MIs Grange Cemetery Edinburgh, Sections A – E	Scottish Genealogy Society
MIs Grange Cemetery Edinburgh, Sections F – K	Scottish Genealogy Society

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me:

Twelve census searches, Eleven printer ribbons, Ten e-mail contacts, Nine
headstone rubbings, Eight birth and death dates, Seven town clerks sighing,
Six second cousins,
Five coats of arms,
Four GEDCOM files, Three old wills, Two CD-ROMS
And a branch in my family tree.

From Illawarra Family History Group Newsletter, December 2004.

E-mail ifhgsec@gmail.com

Contributed by Naomi Tarrant

Relief Congregations, December 1835

Parish of Langton							
Place of Residence	No.	Distance from church in miles	heads of families	children members	above 12	below 12	No. in each house
Gavinlaw	1	2	2	1	"	"	3
Do.	2	Do.	1	"	"	"	1
Do.	3	Do.	2	"	"	"	2
Do.	4	Do.	1	"	"	"	1
Willm Do. ??	5	Do.	1	"	"	"	1
Do.	6	Do.	2	"	"	"	2
Do.	7	Do.	2	1	"	3	6
Do.	8	Do.	1	1	"	"	2
Langton	9	Do.	1	"	"	"	1
Scotstown	10	1	2	"	"	1	3
Hainewrigg	71	3 1/2	1	"	"	"	1
Pantelyuie	12	1	1	"	"	"	1
White Hill	13	2	1	"	3	"	4
Do. Scotstown	14	Do.	1	"			
			1	2	1	"	4
			3	"	"	3	6
			2	"	"	"	2
			1	"	"	"	1
			2	5	"	2	9
			1	"	"	"	1
Do.	19	Do.	28	10	4	9	51
			10				
			38	"	4	9	51

Polwarth Parish

Place of Residence	No.	Distance for chapel	heads of families	children members	above 12	below 12	No. in each house
Polwarth	1	3	2	1	"	"	3
Do.	2	Do.	3	"	"	"	3
Do. <i>William</i>	3	Do.	2	"	"	"	2
Do.	4	Do.	1	"	"	"	1
Do.	5	Do.	2	"	"	2	4
Polwarth Mile	6	3 1/2	2	"	"	"	2
Coat Hill	7	4	2	"	"	4	6
Mount Robert	8	4	2	"	2	4	8
			16	"	2	10	29
			1	"			
			17	"	2	10	29

Children Members**Greenlaw Parish**

Greenlaw	1	7	2	"	"	4	6
Do.	2	Do.	2	"	"	2	4
	3		1	"	"	"	1
Marchmant Lodge	4	6	2	"	"	"	2
Flourish Walls	5	5	2	"	"	"	2
Wood heads	6	5	2	"	"	4	6
Greenlaw Mile	7	7 1/2	1	"	"	"	1
Greenlaw			12	"	"	10	22

NAS CH2/571/14/1

Contributed by Russell Cockburn

A star is launched!

John Stevenson was approached initially by Mint Productions, the Irish television programme makers, for information about one John Gavin, a shipbuilder in Leith in the early 19th century. (A partnership of Strachan & Gavin built ships on the north bank of the Water of Leith, near St Ninian's Church, in the first quarter of the 19th century.) Clearly the company had learned of John's splendid knowledge of matters maritime and of his enthusiasm for this subject.

Eventually this developed into his researching the Scottish branch of the Gavin family up to the mid 19th century. All John knew at this stage all was it was for "a TV programme being produced for RTE One in Eire". A meeting was set up with the Programme Director at which John was informed that the programme involved was an episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* being produced for RTE (Irish TV) and that the subject was Diarmuid Gavin, a well-known TV gardener and garden designer. They spent six hours visiting East Claremont Street, The Shore, St Ninian's Church (in North Leith), North Leith Churchyard, the National Archives of Scotland, etc.

John was invited to take part in a day's filming for the programme. The production team took over a café on The Shore, where the filming started. The filming continued during a walk-and-chat around East Claremont Street, North Leith and North Leith Churchyard. At the last of these locations, John managed a piece of "product placement" and was filmed holding the SGS's MI volume, *North Leith, New North Leith & South Leith!*

John found the experience fascinating and says that Diarmuid "is a charming man and excellent company. The Gavin Memorial, in the churchyard, proved a bit too much and he had a 'wee greet'".

The programme was screened (in Eire and Northern Ireland only) on 5th October 2009. After its screening Mint Productions generously sent John a courtesy copy of the programme on a CD.

For RTE's promotional webpage, see

http://www.rte.ie/tv/whodoyouthinkyouare/outline_diarmuid.html

Genealogy

- ... is not fatal - but is a grave disease
- ... is to be lived in the past lane
- ... is a haystack full of needles - but it is the threads that I need
- ... is about collecting dead relatives and sometimes live cousins
- ... is where you confuse the dead and irritate the living!

Contributed by John Stevenson

**COLINTON PARISH CHURCH
LITERARY SOCIETY.**

SESSION 1930-31.

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Mr. A. Hutchinson,	Mr. Malcolm W. Scott.

Meetings in the Church Hall, The Loan, Colinton,
at 2 p.m.

Member's Subscription - One Shilling ✓
Admission to Non-Members - 6d. per Meeting.

Member's Name:

SYLLABUS

- 1930.
- Oct. 15 **Dramatic Performance** by Members of Edinburgh Elocution Club. Silver Collection to defray expenses.
- " 22 **Lecture**—"Shaw's St. Joan," by MISS MARGARET KIDD, LL.B.
- " 29 **Lantern Lecture**—"Preserving the Past for Posterity," by J. WILSON PATERSON, ESQ., M.V.O. H.M. Office of Works.
- Nov 5 **A Cinema Record of Kenya Colony, Zanzibar, etc.,** by JOHN LANG.
- " 12 **Exhibition of Country Dancing**, arranged by MR. CRUIKSHANK and MISS ROBERTSON.
- " 17 (Mon) **Inter-Discussion with St. Andrew's Church Literary Society at Juniper Green**—"Conventions."
- " 26 **Holiday and Other Papers** by Members.
- Dec. 3 **Lantern Lecture**—"Beauty & Industry in British Columbia," by MR. RALPH E. STEDMAN, Ph.D.
- " 10 **Concert by Edinburgh Police Male Voice Choir**—Silver Collection in aid of Police Clothing Scheme for Destitute Children.
- " 17 **Debate**. "That the present slogan of 'Safety First' is all against the traditions of our race."

- 1931.
- Jan. 7 **Social Meeting for Members**—Tea Tickets 1/- each.
- " 14 **Lecture**—"The Growth and Development of the Scottish Language," by MR. LEWIS SPENCE.
- " 21 **Lecture** (with Illustrations) by MR. W. R. MILNE, W.S. "Parliament, History and Quaint Customs."
- " 28 **Lantern Lecture**. "The Salvage of the German Fleet at Scapa Flow," by Mr. Charles Patterson, A.M.I.Mar. E.
- Feb. 4 **Short Papers** by Members.
- " 11 **Lecture**—"Modern Poetry," by MR. JOHN IRELAND FALCONER, W.S.
- " 18 **Lecture** "Scottish Folk Songs" (with Vocal Illustrations), by Miss Janet Robb.
- " 25 **Lantern Lecture**. "Through India with a Camera," by Mr. W. D. McLaren.
- Mar. 4 **Lecture**. "Humours of Pulpit and Pew," by Sheriff J. G. Jameson.
- " 11 **Address by the Hon President, followed by the Annual General Meeting.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2010

All SGS ordinary meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (unless otherwise stated). Admission free to all.

- 11 January "Heritage Hub, Hawick" Scottish Borders Archives by Rachel Hosker.
- 8 February Annual General Meeting, and talk afterwards by our Hon. President, Lord Lyon King of Arms, David Sellar, on "The Role of the Lord Lyon".
- 15 March "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy", by Dr Beverly Bergman
- 19 April "Edinburgh's Social Conscience – providing water & fire-fighting services", by Graeme Cruickshank
- 10 May Visit to NLS Map Library. Numbers limited: please book at SGS Library
- 13 September "Images of Scotland by Scottish Photographers pre-1914", by D. Richard Torrance
- 18 October "Websites for family historians", by Ken Nisbet
- 15 November "The Work of the Moray Burial Ground Research Group", by Bruce Bishop.

New Register House Research Evenings (in conjunction with Standard Life FHS):

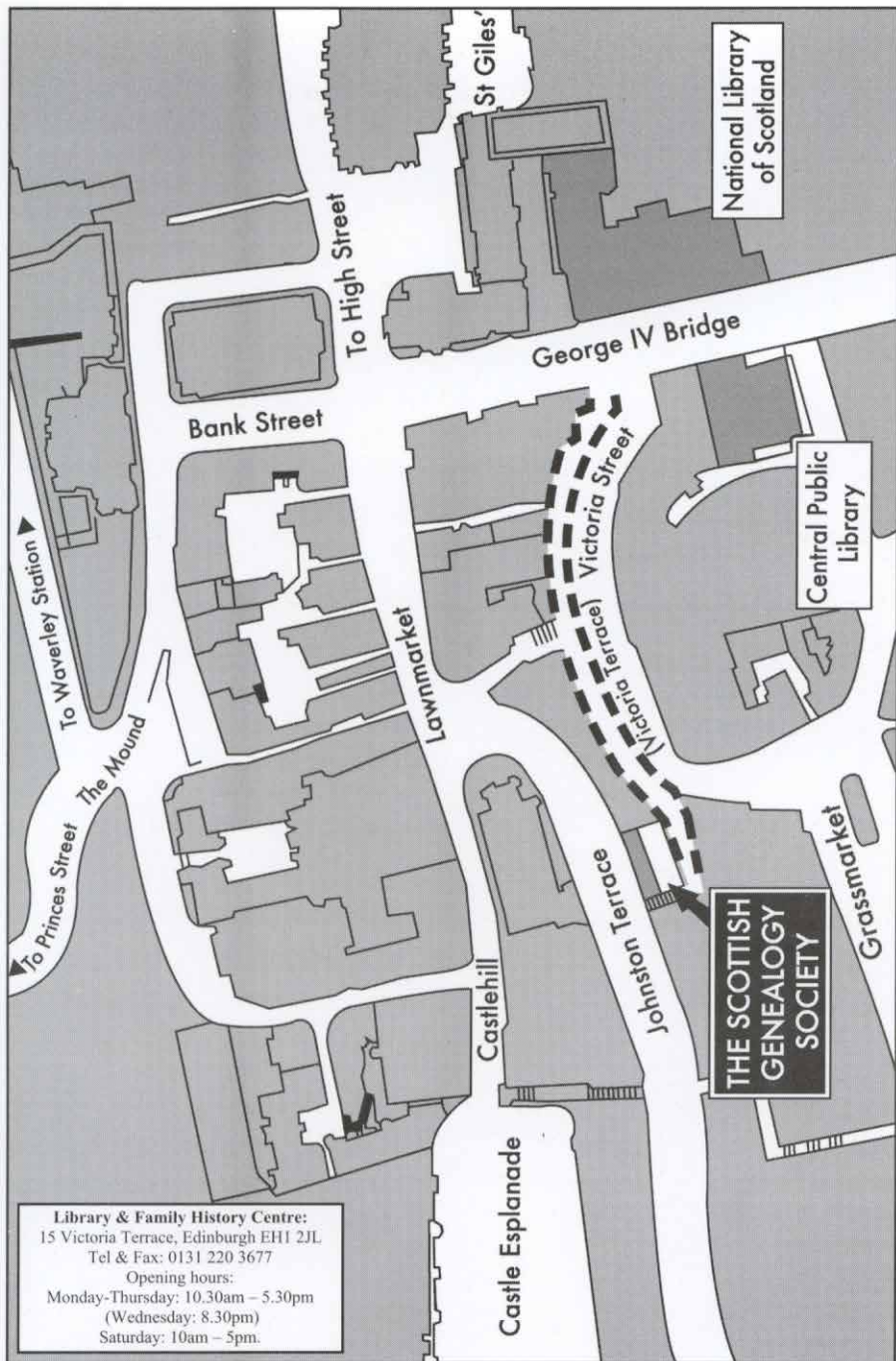
Wed 13th January	Wed 10th February	Thu 4th March
Tue 30th March	Thu 22nd April	Mon 17th May
Wed 9th June	Thu 8th July	Tue 3rd August
Mon 30th August	Thu 23rd September	Wed 20th October
Tue 16th November	Mon 13th December	

Please telephone the Library to reserve your place.

Scotslot

- 16th January 'History of Education in Scotland: Tracing teachers, pupils and schools' by June Wiggins, plus Scotslot AGM
- 7th March 'Local Scottish Records, particularly the Society of Genealogists Library' by Stuart Laing
- 11th April 'Writing up your Family History' by Caroline Norton

Scotslot meets at 2.15pm in Harpenden, Herts. Further details from stuart.laing@virgin.net or Elizabeth van Lottum, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4DB



Library & Family History Centre:

15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

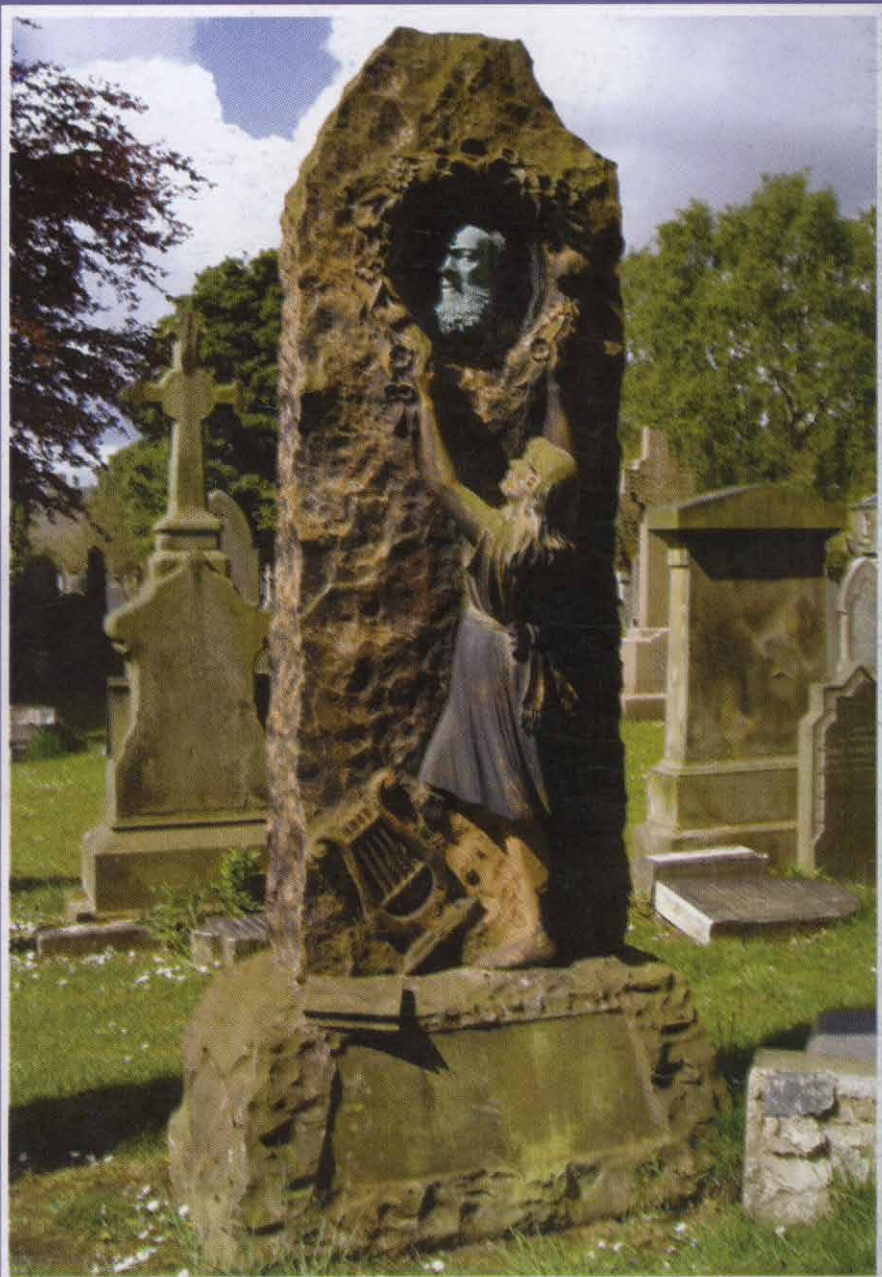
Tel & Fax: 0131 220 3677

Opening hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10.30am – 5.30pm

(Wednesday: 8.30pm)

Saturday: 10am – 5pm.



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