



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

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A Perthshire Miller

Lixmount House and its People

Disruption at Marnoch

Brechin Archives

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The Scottish Genealogy Society

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Front Cover:

The Society's Coat of Arms

Back Cover:

Backgammon table said to have belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots,
held in the Brechin Archives.

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The Scottish Genealogist

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A Perthshire miller's tale: John Deuchars 1695-c.1779

Charles D. Waterston

The name Deuchar or Deuchars is associated with the Parish of Fearn in the county of Angus some 9 miles North by East of Forfar and 7 miles west of Brechin. Deuchar Hill rises to 970 feet (NGR. NO.467627) on the southern slopes of which is the mansion of Deuchars which was owned by the Deuchars of that Ilk from the 10th century until 1818.¹ A member of that family is said to have fallen at Harlaw in 1410 where his body was found on the battlefield with his hand clenched around his sword-hilt. "His attendant curt the hand off by the wrist and brought it home hand and sword as the too true evidence of his master's fate and unmistakable sign of his valour".² Humbler folk by the name of Deuchars may well have migrated westwards from Angus along the drove roads to Alyth where, in earlier days, the name was quite common.

The subject of this article was the younger of twins, Thomas and John, born to David Deuchars in 1695. They were baptized on 7th December 1702 when it was recorded in the Parish Register "David Deuchars in [pitnarobb ?] had twins baptized tho' 7 yrs., oldest called Thomas the younger called John".³ This curious record provides a fascinating window through which we see how the politico/religious turmoil of the time affected an Alyth family. The twins were born when Episcopacy was ascendant in the National Church. John Lowson MA had been presented and collated to Alyth Parish Church by the Bishop of Dunkeld in 1686 "but was much absent from his pulpit being in Edinburgh". William of Orange and Mary Stuart ascended to the English throne in April 1689. In Scotland the Convention of Estates, by the Claim of Right, offered the throne of Scotland to them but stipulated that Episcopacy in the Church of Scotland should be abolished



View of Alyth in the 1860s

and Presbyterianism restored as the preference of the people. This accorded with King William's religious upbringing in the Netherlands and Presbyterianism was restored. Lowson was deprived of his charge at Alyth by the Privy Council on 19th October 1689 for not reading the Proclamation of the Estates, and not praying in terms thereof. Despite this, however, he continued to live in the manse until his death in 1698. Seventeen years of confusion followed when the Presbytery and heritors were either unable or unwilling to fill the vacancy in Alyth and the parish was served by various ministers, probationers, and one intruder.⁴ There was no settled ministry until John Thomson MA was called to Alyth on 12th December 1701 and by the Presbytery on 7th January 1702.⁵ In Rev James Meikle's opinion John Thomson was "probably the most lovable and beloved minister that Alyth had had since the Reformation".⁶ Except for faithful Sunday worshippers, Thomson found the parish in a neglected state. New Elders were appointed and visited the whole parish, district by district, catechising. It may well have been on one such visit that Mr Thomson met the Deuchars twins, now aged seven, and persuaded their father that they should be baptised.

John Deuchars married Helen Andersone in 1741⁷ and they had a family of at least seven children. All were born at mills since John was a miller. The first four were born at what became known as Mill of Condie (National Grid Reference NO 285500) which lies on the north bank of the River Isla between Shanzie and Dillievairst two and three quarter miles west north-west of Alyth Church and is marked as Condie on Stobie's map of 1783.⁸ The eldest child was David (1742) whose birthplace is recorded as "Miln of Cumno",⁹ Thomas (b.1743) was born at "Miln Camno",¹⁰ Barbara (b.1745) at "Miln of Cumno"¹¹ and Elizabeth's (1747) at "Miln of Combdy".¹² James Meikle has recorded the name variants of what became Condie and, writing in 1925, described how busy the place would have been in John Deuchar's day.

Though this has been purely and merely a farm for about a quarter of a century, yet within recollection there were at Camno concurrently a meal mill, a wauk mill, a foundry and a millwright's shop.¹³

The place of birth of the younger children, James (b.1756),¹⁴ Margaret (b.1759)¹⁵ and Helen (b.1760)¹⁶ was stated to be Millhaugh, Milnhaugh or Miln Haugh. The meal mill of Millhaugh, sometimes referred to as the Mill of Alyth, lay at the east end of the Den of Alyth (NGR NO 2435 4868) on the site of a later mill (1834), originally a meal mill but later a sawmill, near Bamff Road which suffered partial collapse in 2004.¹⁷

It was in the fourth year of his ministry at Alyth that Rev. John Robertson MA (1737-1772) had married John Deuchars and Helen Andersone. In 1750 John found himself again subject of notice in the Parish Church for he and two of the town's bakers had

set the mill "a grinding of their wheat on the Lord's day." These confessing their sinful behaviours "with seeming sorrow, were

sessionally rebuked, and suitably exhorted and dismissed". But though they had not to appear as penitents before the congregation the affair was publicly intimated for the pulpit next Lords Day.¹⁸

John's temptation was not unique for the miller of Alyth had done so on 15th August 1708 and at first "showed no sense of sin". However he acknowledged it in the following week!¹⁹

The importance of the mill to the Earl of Airlie is shown in the copy of a Charter by David Ogilvy Earl of Airlie in favour of James Mustard dated 20th September 1788 in my possession. Following on a Decreet of Adjudication, properties in Alyth of which the Earl was the feudal superior and formerly possessed by the deceased Charles Robertson, passed to James Mustard. Among the "privileges and libertys of the said Town of Alyth" which Mustard could enjoy was the "privilege of Brewing". Of particular relevance to Mustard as a brewer was the following burden imposed by the Earl;

Astricting also the said James Mustard younger and his foresaid and the Tennants and Possessors of the said Houses, Yards and Land to carry and transport their whole Grindable Corns Growing and Malt that shall be brewed on the foresaid Subjects to the Milne of Alyth to be grinded thereat for payment of the Multure Knaveship and Ring Bear²⁰ and for performance of all Services to the Tennant and Possessor of the said Milne conform to use and wont. Astricting in like manner the said James Mustard Younger and his foresaid to frequent the said Milne with the whole Corns brought by them and Kilne dryed within the said Barony for payment of free Multure conform to use and wont.²¹

Where no legal process was involved no such document was issued by the Earl of Airlie when properties, of which he was the feudal superior, changed hands. This document was probably produced as part of the legal process following the Decreet of Adjudication on Charles Robertson and his heirs.

The Particular Register of Hornings and Inhibitions²² for Perthshire has provided evidence for the later history of the Deuchars at Millhaugh. The failure of the harvest in 1772-3 caused widespread hardship in Perthshire and although the miller may have got a high price for what little grain he had to grind his stones would soon lie idle for lack of business. That John Deuchars was financially embarrassed at that time is shown by his effort in law to be reimbursed by his many debtors in obtaining:

Letter of Horning, John Deuchars, Milnar of the Mill of Alythe Against John Cairncross in Alyth and others. Presented by James Paten writer in Perth.²³

The Register itself lists the names of some two dozen debtors, mostly from Alyth and district with the amount owed and the nature of the loan, many of which had

been outstanding for years.²⁴ As we shall see from later events, the miller at the age of 78 may well have wished to square his accounts before retiring from Alyth Mill and handing over his duties there to his son John.²⁵ His younger son James was becoming a farmer and had probably been living with the family at Alyth Mill while learning his business on local farms. The young man was now aged 18 and his father would have been anxious to see him settled. I believe this was made possible for the miller through his wife Helen Anderson's family connection with Andrew Anderson in the township of Sherrifmuir who may have been her brother.

Sherrifmuir was a township on the Atholl Estates in the Barony of Laighwood where, in 1735, three equal tacks were held by Alexander Murray, Andrew Anderson and John Robertson, each for "6 poultry and fifty merks Scotts". Andrew Anderson had paid "Fifty Merks scots" on entry in 1733. His entry in the rental book was unsigned since he "depons he Cannot Wryte".²⁶ By 1760 the three equal tacks at Sherrifmuir were held by Alexander Farquharson, Gilbert Ambrose and conjointly by John and Andrew Anderson who had held theirs since 1756. It is most probable that John and Andrew succeeded their father who may have died in 1756. Their rent remained at fifty Merks and six poultry (£2-15-6 Sterling).²⁷ It is possible that the John Deuchars, who registered the birth of his twins at Sherrifmuir in 1769,²⁸ was Helen's son born in 1749. This John Deuchars never had a tack at Sherrifmuir and no mention of him is made in the Atholl Estate rental books. He and his wife may have been staying with James and Andrew Anderson when their twins were born and perhaps it was in honour of their hosts that the twins were named James and Andrew. If this John Deuchars was indeed Helen's son, we know he was a miller not a farmer. That her son James (born 1756) obtained the rental of one third of Sherrifmuir in 1774 and remained neighbours of the Andersons for the next twenty-five years is also suggestive of a relationship between Helen and the Andersons in Sherrifmuir. However Anderson is a common name in Alyth and Clunie and what the relationship was has not been established.

Unlike the fertile soil of Alyth, the crops yielded by the uplands of the Forest of Clunie were hard won by ridge and furrow agriculture which had hardly changed since the days of the 1st Duke of Atholl. The 2nd Duke's lavish expenditure on his various properties had been supported by steep rent rises which tenants could pay only by supplementing their income by flax spinning and reeling for the linen trade which was now flourishing in nearby Perth.²⁹ James Deuchars was unmarried which makes it probable that one or two of his sisters may have joined him at Sherrifmuir because spinning was women's work. That his elder sister Elizabeth did so is likely since in 1783 she was married by Rev. John Brodie, minister of Kinloch, to William Nicoll³⁰ who, three years later, resided at Blackcraig when their eldest son John was baptized.³¹ Blackcraig is a short walk of a mile and a half from Sherrifmuir.



The Pack Bridge, Alyth, 1816



The Pack Bridge, Alyth, ca 1890

James had been at Sherrifmuir for less than a year when the Boston Tea Party took place and the situation in America rapidly deteriorated into armed conflict. In April 1775 the American Revolutionary War began and it was to last until 1783. Lieutenant-Colonel James Murray, younger brother of the recently deceased 3rd Duke of Atholl, at once offered to raise a regiment of Highlanders to serve under him in America but this offer was declined by the government. In 1777, however, the 4th Duke renewed the offer which was accepted. The Atholl Highlanders were to serve under Col. Murray for three years or until the end of the American War.³² It was probably this situation that led to a census of all men over sixteen years of age on the Duke's Highland estates being held in 1778 to determine the available manpower. The names of James Deuchars with Andrew and James Anderson in Sherrifmuir all appear on the census but no further personal details are given.³³ Press Acts do not appear to have been applied during the Revolutionary War so local recruitment must have been difficult. For James Deuchars and his sister Elizabeth, however, the threat of pressure being put on James for military service must have been a lasting worry.

In September 1782 James married Susan Rattray³⁴ and Elizabeth's services were no longer required at Sherrifmuir. As we have seen, she was now free to marry John Nicoll which she did in 1783.

In 1778 John Deuchars the miller and his son John had received Letters of Horning for payment of £9:10:0 sterling in rent for a Grass park at Whiteside belonging to James Chalmers, Writer in Perth.³⁵ For the genealogist this entry is of interest because John Deuchars senior is then at Mill of Fyal, Alyth, and John junior was still at the Mill of Alyth but had left to stay at Fyal before the debt was paid. In the following year John jr. had a daughter Elizabeth baptized who was born at Fyal.³⁶

A much weathered stone in the Old Alyth Church graveyard possibly marks the grave of John Deuchar junior which has been transcribed as:- "[by ——— Deuchar ———] *In memory of her husband & their father John Deuchar late in Alyth d.181- aged 63 years.*"³⁷ John Deuchar junior would have been 63 in 1812. Doubt remains, however, for the stone may commemorate contemporaries in Alyth of the same name of whom the most probable was John Deuchars (b. circa 1755) who married Beatty (Beatrix) Elizabeth Robertson circa 1778/9, lived at Fyal, and had a family of nine children. The oldest, Peter (born in 1779) was a farmer at Fyal then innkeeper at Mill of Fyal.³⁸ This John Deuchar would have died in 1818.

The Rent Rolls of the Atholl Estates and the discerning eye of the professional archaeologist tell us how very different the social life in the Forest of Cluny was when James Deuchar obtained his lease in 1774 than when he left it in 1779. In 1774 he became part of an interdependent community of townships (fermtouns) and farms which was to reach its peak during his tenancy in the late 18th century. James Stobie's map of 1783³⁹ shows the settlements of Buckinhill, Roughsheal,

Whistlebair, Sherrifmuir, Dulater, Bog Mill, Bogs and Ranegaig many of which, after they were abandoned, no longer appeared on later maps and were remembered only by a local jingle:-

Easter Bog, Wester Bog
Dullater
Bog, and Bog Mill,
Whistlebare, an' Shirra' Muir
An' bonnie Birkin Hill⁴⁰

The tenants of Sherrifmuir would have had no lack of social interchange with the hill folk of the Forest of Cluny. We know from the Rent Roll of 1760 that close by were James McGlashan and John Ambrose at Whistlebair. Duncan Farquharson at Dulater and John Scott at Bog Mill were less than half a mile away. Less than one and half miles away lived Andrew Ambrose at Ranegaig, Alexander Young at the Boggs, and William Elder and John Scott at Roughsheal.⁴¹ Unfortunately the rent roll of 1774 does not name the tenants who were neighbours of James Deuchars.

The 3rd Duke curbed rising rentals but, when they did occur, the rise was usually accompanied by a grant to improve the property of the tenant. The 4th Duke, however, saw that the linen trade would recede in the face of competition from cotton, in which he had an interest in the new cotton mill at Stanley, and saw no future in ridge and furrow cultivation of his marginal land. Ridge and furrow agriculture in the Forest of Clunie had hardly changed since the days of the 1st Duke except that the country people had taken to planting potatoes "which eases them of the former heavy Burthen of buying meall".⁴² By the end of the 19th Century, breeders of the hardy "Cheviot" had produced a sheep the effect of which on the Highland economy has been described as "a technological change in no less a sense than the great mechanical changes in contemporaneous industry".⁴³ By 1800 sheep country in highland Perthshire was developed on the dryer heathery lower altitudes.⁴⁴ The 4th Duke realised that the Forest of Cluny would be suitable for Cheviots but, for commercial success, flocks required to be large and, to provide an adequate grazing acreage, amalgamation of settlements would be required.

Stobie was the Duke of Atholl's factor and, in a letter to the Duke in 1798 he wrote that he was making up a new rental book and completing calculations for a better division of Laighwood and the Forest of Cluny.⁴⁵ James Deuchars had a rent augmentation in 1785 when he was warned that his tenure would expire in 1799. By 1809 all the settlements in the Forest of Cluny had been cleared with the exception of Leduckie and Neilston both of which are on the lower land near Laighwood itself. The sheep farm resulting from Stobie's "better division" of the Forest of Clunie was rented by George McRitchie from 1809 for a yearly rental of £735; a sum considerably more than twice the total rental paid by the previous tenants.

After cultivation ridges and terracing was abandoned the land of the Forest of Clunie remained largely undisturbed and buildings were left to weather and collapse. This provided the archaeologists of the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings of Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland) with a unique opportunity to survey what survived and publish the results of their survey.⁴⁶ The lands and buildings of Sherrifmuir are mapped (p.161) and the buildings of the three tacks, each with its own kiln, are mapped in detail (p.162). The buildings formed two groups, the larger to the south west and the other two to the north east. One may speculate that the buildings to the south west were those occupied by James and Andrew Anderson and their families since, although comprising one tack, there are two larger houses and two kilns in the complex each with associated outbuildings. The north east complex has two principal houses, probably occupied by the other two tenants, one of whom would have been James Deuchars, each with associated outbuildings and a kiln.

Along with the introduction of sheep farming, the 4th Duke developed forestry and game preserves on his estate. Although the legal position of hunting wild animals on private estates was unclear at that time, after his tenants in the Forest of Clunie had been resettled, the 4th Duke issues the following Advertisement on 29th June 1801:

As the duke wishes to preserve game upon the estates at Perthshire he hopes that no gentleman will shoot or form parties for shooting thereon particularly in the Forest of Clunie and Hill and shooting grounds at Dunkeld, Dungarhill, Dalnaspidal and the upper part of Atholl. Keepers have orders to detain poachers and unqualified persons found in their districts.⁴⁷

For the writer, the sixteenth century Packhorse Bridge in Alyth recalls not only drovers and traders but also ancestors. For me the bridge spans not only the Burn of Alyth, but also the deep river of time. More than two centuries ago the bridge would have resounded to the footsteps of my father's ancestors John and Margaret Sandeman⁴⁸ and William and Christian Blair.⁴⁹ From the present work I now know that my mother's forebears, John and Helen Deuchars, would also have walked over the Packhorse Bridge. My descent from them may be briefly stated.

As we have seen James, John the miller's son, farmed at Sherrifmuir and his rental there ceased in 1799. While at Sherrifmuir James and his wife Susan Rattray had at least five children of which three were boys. William (1781?-1844), the eldest, began his working life as a farm servant of James and Elizabeth Robertson at Wyndend of Loaning in Clunie (Grid Ref. NO1045406) but joined the 9th Regiment of Foot, The Cameron Highlanders in 1805 and saw active service as a Sergeant at Copenhagen, Walcheren, Spain, Portugal and as a Colour Sergeant at Waterloo before retiring as a Barrack Warden at the Cavalry

Barracks, Nottingham, during the Chartist Riots, where he died a bachelor.⁵⁰ Their youngest son was Andrew (1797-1861) who also remained a bachelor. He became a shoemaker in Alyth where he owned a number of properties including his house and yard at the Cross of Alyth where he died and was buried in the nearby Old Church Cemetery. Their middle son James Dewar (1789-1858)⁵¹ became a hand-loom weaver and lived in the parish of Clunie until 1808 when he married Anne Keay (1777-1858). He then moved to the home of his wife at Nether Kincairney where the eldest of their nine children was born in the following year. They had a short stay in Dundee. By 1814 however he had returned to Blairgowrie where he lived and died at his home in William Street. In his later years James became a wood sawyer and manufacturer. Their son James (1817-1904) went to Perth in 1833 where he served his apprenticeship as a cloth merchant and opened a drapery store McNaughtan and Dewar in George Street in partnership with his relative Robert McNaughtan. Robert was married to Elizabeth Nicoll, a direct descendant of the miller John Deuchars daughter Elizabeth and her husband William Nicoll. Robert's mother Jessie Kinnear (1823-) was the sister of his partner James Dewar's wife Martha Kinnear (1831-1917) who James married in 1853. My grandmother Margaret Dewar or Robertson (1861-1951) was the sixth child of James Dewar and Martha Kinnear after whom my mother Martha Dewar Robertson or Waterston (1893-1993) was named.

That was a wearisome paragraph indeed, but one the genealogist is required to write. For me, however, as I stand on the Packhorse Bridge of Alyth, it is the heart that speaks rather than the head, and Scott's words come to mind:

Land of my sires! What mortal hand
Can e'er untie the filial band
That knits me to thy rugged strand!

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Thanks also to the Alyth Family History Project for generously supplying old illustrations of the town.

Alyth Family History Project
www.alythparishchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/AlythFHP

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- ¹ *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland* vol.iii, ed.F.H.Groome 1883, p.12.
- ² A. Jervise and J.Gammac, *The History and Traditions of the Land of the Lindsays*, 2nd ed. Edinburgh 1882, pp.230-1.
- ³ OPR 7th December 1702, Parish 328, vol.0010, Alyth
- ⁴ J Meikle, *The History of Alyth Parish Church* 1933, pp138-146
- ⁵ *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* vol.5, p.250.
- ⁶ J Meikle *op.cit* 1933, p.161.
- ⁷ OPR 28th July 1741, Parish 328, vol.0020, Alyth
- ⁸ James Stobie *The counties of Perth and Clackmannan* 1783.
- ⁹ OPR, 22nd June 1742, Parish 328, vol.0020 Alyth
- ¹⁰ OPR, 11th August 1743, Parish 328, vol.0020, Alyth
- ¹¹ OPR, 13th October 1745, Parish 328, vol.002, Alyth
- ¹² OPR, 4th August 1747, Parish 328, vol.0020, Alyth. This entry is the only one of John Deuchar's children to be described as "Daughter to John Deuchars & Helen Anderson" others give only the father's name.
- ¹³ James Meikle, *Places and Place-Names Round Alyth*, Paisley, 1925, pp.68-9.
- ¹⁴ OPR, 3rd June 1756, Parish 328, vol. 0020, Alyth
- ¹⁵ OPR, 6th January 1759, Parish 328, vol.0020, Alyth.
- ¹⁶ OPR, 14th June 1760, Parish 328, vol. 0020, Alyth.
- ¹⁷ James Meikle *op.cit.* 1925, p.126. *Alyth Voice* November 2004, pp.1 and 9.
- ¹⁸ James Meikle, *op.cit.* 1933, p.229.
- ¹⁹ James Meikle, *op. cit.* 1933, p.153.
- ²⁰ Multure, a proportion of grain payable to the miller; Knaveship, a proportion of grain payable to the miller's assistants; Ring Bear, meal cast between the millstone and its casing, regarded as the miller's.
- ²¹ MS, (Copy) *Charter by David Ogilvy Earl of Airlie following on a Decree of Adjudication In favor of James Mustard of the Houses Lands & others within mentioned. Dated 20 Sepr. 1788. Particular Register for Perthshire 1815.* In possession of Charles D. Waterston, Edinburgh
- ²² Old legal terms in Scotland. Letters of Horning, a warrant in the name of the sovereign charging the person named to act as ordered, eg. to pay a debt. Letters of Inhibition, a warrant prohibiting a debtor from burdening or alienating his heritage to the prejudice of his creditor.
- ²³ *Minute Book of the Particular Register of Hornings, Inhibitions etc. Perthshire.* Scottish Archives D.93/8, 11th November 1772 and 18th January 1773.
- ²⁴ *Particular Register of Hornings, Inhibitions etc. Perthshire.* Scottish Archives D192/7 11th September 1772.
- ²⁵ Except for their dates of birth nothing is known of John's elder brothers David and Thomas who probably died in childhood since John, as the eldest surviving son, was now his father's heir.
- ²⁶ Rent roll of the Estate of Laighwood 1735, Blair Castle Archive
- ²⁷ Rent roll of the Estate of Laighwood 1760, Blair Castle Archive.
- ²⁸ OPR, 27th October 1769, Parish 339, vol.0010, Clunie
- ²⁹ L.Leneman *Living in Atholl 1685-1785*, Edinburgh University Press, 1986, 30.
- ³⁰ OPR Caputh 24th November 1783.
- ³¹ OPR Blairgowrie, "24th September 1786, William Nichol and Elizabeth Deuchars of Blackcraig had a son baptized named John."
- ³² L.Leneman *op.cit.* 1986, pp.61-2, 138-9.
- ³³ Blair Castle, MS2607, Bundle 2, 1778, Jan.3 List of Laighwood and Drumbuie tenants and cottars.

- ³⁴ OPR Blairgowrie 20th September 1782, Jas. Deuchars in P. of Clunie & Susan Rattray in this P. having been regularly proclaimed & no objection offered were married.
- ³⁵ *Particular Register of Hornings, Inhibitions etc. Perthshire*. Scottish Archives D192/7 23rd July 1778.
- ³⁶ OPR. 17th September 1779, Parish 328, vol.0030, Alyth
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- ³⁸ I remain grateful to Mr Alexander D. Deuchar of Clatford, Wiltshire for this information derived from his outline family tree enclosed with his letter of 23rd May 1994.
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- ⁴⁰ Quoted from J.A.R. Macdonald, *The History of Blairgowrie*, Blairgowrie 1899, p.251 *History of Blairgowrie*.
- ⁴¹ Atholl Estates Rent Roll, 1760, Names of Tenants of the Barony of Laighwood.
- ⁴² Thomas Bissett to the Duke of Atholl 1776, Atholl Muniments 65 (2) 41 quoted by L. Leneman op.cit. 1986, p.35.
- ⁴³ Eric Richards, *A History of the Highland Clearances. Volume I: Agrarian Transformation and the Evictions, 1746-1886*. London and Canberra, 1982, p.190.
- ⁴⁴ Malcolm Gray *The Highland Economy 1750-1850* Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh 1957, p.87
- ⁴⁵ James Stobie to the Duke of Atholl, 24th February 1798. NRAS 59(5) 21.
- ⁴⁶ *North East Perth: An Archaeological Landscape*, ISBN 0 11 493446, 1990.
- ⁴⁷ Atholl Muniments 234 Box 48(1) No. 108.
- ⁴⁸ G.L. Sandeman *The Sandeman Genealogy* Edinburgh, 1950, p.1.
- ⁴⁹ C.D. Waterston, "The Blair Stone of Rattray deciphered: a Proof of Ancestry" *The Scottish Genealogist*, lxiii, 2016, 42-51.
- ⁵⁰ C.D. Waterston The Letters of Sergeant William Dewar (1781?-1844) *Journal of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science*, xix, 2012, pp.5-34
- ⁵¹ Although the Miller of Alyth and his family used the surname Deuchars or Deuchar, later generations called themselves Dewar. However, they should not be confused with the Dewars or Doirs of Appin of Dull, hereditary keepers of the Crosier of St Fillan.

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The lead-up to the formation of the Free Church of Scotland: Disruption at Marnoch

Bruce B. Bishop FSA Scot, ASGRA

In 1836 Mr David Henry, after being ordained as a minister in Nova Scotia in 1833, returned to his native Scotland because of his failing health and became assistant to William Stronach at Marnoch. He was presented to the parish as Minister in 1837, following the death of Mr Stronach, and took on the tack of the farm of Eggie in 1841.¹

This presentation brought the Heritors, the Congregation and the Church into serious conflict, as, at the same time, John Edwards, who had been educated at Marischall College, Aberdeen, and was formerly the schoolmaster of Boharm from 1809 to 1814 and of Grange from 1814 to 1841, was presented to the parish by the Trustees of James Earl of Fife. His "Intrusion upon the People of Marnoch" was the chief cause (along with similar events at Auchterarder and Lethendry) of the Disruption of 1843. Under the Veto Act of 1834-5, a majority of male heads of families were given the right to disapprove in the election of a minister to a vacant parish. A second presentation was given by Lord Fife's trustees to David Henry, whereupon Mr Edwards obtained an interdict of the Court of Session² and raised an action to have it declared that the Presbytery were bound to take him on trials. The legal disputes continued until 1841, when, on the 18th May Mr David Henry was admitted as minister of Marnoch, but on the 25th May Mr Edwards was eventually admitted as the minister of Marnoch and served the parish until his death in 1848.

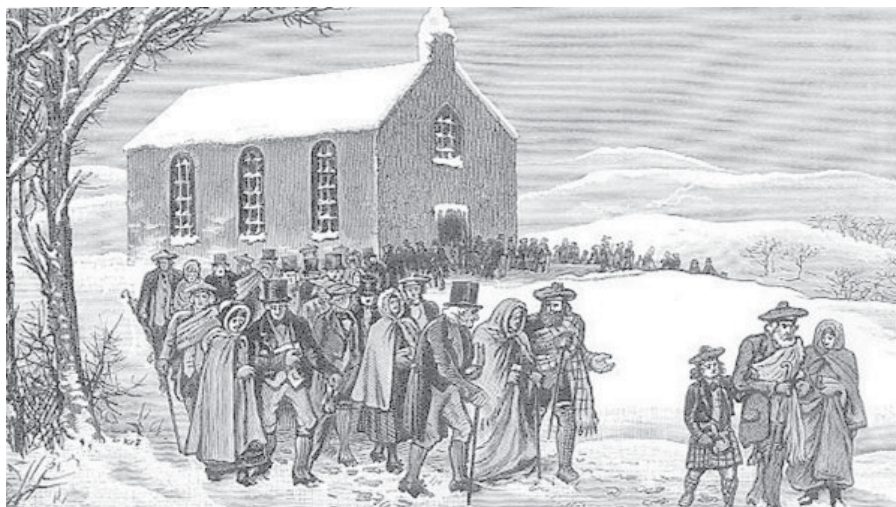


Illustration: The Intrusion at Marnoch. From Annals of the Disruption 1843, by The Revd Thomas Brown DD, MacNiven and Wallace, Edinburgh 1893. Copy in the SGS Library.

The Disruption in Marnoch made the headlines in the newspapers. The Aberdeen Newspaper "The Banner" dated 23rd January 1841 revealed the whole story over two broadsheet pages,³ reproduced here in a much-edited form.

Thursday the 21st of January 1841 will continue a memorable day in the annals of the Church of Scotland. Our readers already know that the contumacious and suspended clergy of Strathbogie had set apart that day for the commission of the most daring act of Intrusion ever perpetrated in this country ... We do not hesitate to say that the Intrusion of Mr Edwards into Marnoch, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, from the opposition alike of patron, or people and of the Assembly is without parallel in the history of Scotland, or Scotland's Church ...

Stormy as Wednesday had been, and few more stormy days have been experienced for many years, deep as the snow lay on the face of the earth, and gathered as it was in large and almost impassable wreaths on every highway in Banff and Aberdeenshire, the interest of the people of Marnoch in the threatened proceedings of the day overcame every dread of danger or difficulty by the way; and, early in the morning of Thursday they were seen in little companies from every quarter, with some stout man leading the way ... wending their way towards the spot where a most unhallowed desecration of scriptural and sacred ordinances was about to be perpetrated.

The Intrusionists, including Mr Edwards, after some difficulty with the crowds, entered the church at 11am and the meeting started. There were so many people in the church that one of the beams supporting the gallery began to give way, but everyone made it to safety and the meeting continued. The legal arguments often gave way to personal insults, and the congregation began to tire.

Having read the protests Mr Duncan said – 'as agent for the Elders, male heads of families and communicants of Marnoch, I have only to say that they will take no further part in these unconstitutional proceedings. They wait for a better time and another court. They can have no further business here: and they will, I believe, all accompany me now from the church, and leave you to force a minister on the parish against the people's will, but with scarcely one of the parishioners to witness the deed' (great cheering). The people of Marnoch immediately arose from their seats in the body of the church and left the house where they and their fathers had long worshipped in silence, and many, doubtless, in sorrow.

Surely what a spectacle then presented. Old men with heads white as the snow that lay deep on their native hills, the middle aged, and the young who were but rising into life ... they left the church ... they went out many in tears but all in grief.

The ones who remained, the intruders, stated their cause, but most of the people of Marnoch had left their church for the last time.

David Henry joined the Free Church in 1842, and a new church was built by public subscription in the village of Aberchirder to a design by James Henderson. David Henry was minister of the Free Church at Marnoch from then until his death on 7th October 1870. He was predeceased by his wife Margaret Corbet, and they had one daughter.

References

¹ NRS GD16/28/501/1841

² NRS CS275/4/215 1842

³ NRS CH3/1492/12/1 'Intrusion of Mr Edwards upon The People of Marnoch' Extracted from the "Banner" of 23d January 1841.

March talk

Carlops, a corner of Linton parish high in the Pentland Hills, is now better known for its connections with the Allan Ramsays, both the father, the poet/ librarian, and the son, the 18thC portrait painter, and the new commemorative Blue Plaque and Festivals, but once it was a thriving industrial area.

On 20 March James Waugh will recount "Mining and Lime Quarrying in the Carlops area".

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Lixmount House and its People

Rosemary Philip

DELIGHTFUL RESIDENCE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF EDINBURGH

To be Let, Furnished, Entry at Whitsunday. The MANSION-HOUSE of LIXMOUNT, TRINITY, consisting of Drawing-Room, Dining-Room, Library, Eight Bed-Rooms, Dressing-Closets, Kitchens, Laundry, Servants' Hall and apartments, with every suitable accommodation. There are also excellent Stables, Coach-House, and Coachman's House &c. Lixmount is within two miles of Edinburgh, and near to the Trinity Station on the Edinburgh and Granton Railway.¹

This advertisement appeared when Lixmount was to let in March 1848. An imposing house, its grounds on the south of East Trinity Road, Edinburgh, extended from the modern Craighall Road to Beresford Avenue and south to the Anchorfield Burn. **George Andrew** (1740-1819), writer in Edinburgh, acquired the land in North Leith parish from William Scot in September 1792. The East Park "7 acres 2 roods and 38 falls of easter and wester Rudmyre",² together with 5+ acres north of the road and 3+ acres to the west, were part of the lands of Trinity Mains feued by the Master of Trinity House.³ For present purposes I am concerned only with East Park, where George's house was built in 1793. My interest results from living in a street within the former grounds of Lixmount, an interest shared with Dr Hugh Dinwoodie, who until recently lived where its stable block once stood.



1770: Leeks in Glen Dochart (An exact map of Breadalbane in Perth Shire by G Cameron)

George's first wife, Helen Butter, died childless and in 1793 George remarried. His second wife, Catherine, was the daughter of Hugh Campbell, 9th of Lix.⁴ Although regularly calling himself "of Lix", he never owned the lands of Lix in Glen Dochart, which were sold in 1700 and became Forfeited Estates in 1745, so "of Lix" expressed nostalgia rather than reality. Hugh owned land in Strachur⁵ on Loch Fyne, where Catherine and George married. Old maps show "Lix" as Leeks or Lics⁶ from the Gaelic – not, as one well-meaning friend assured me, because LIX was 59 miles from Glasgow! George named his house as a tribute to Catherine's family.

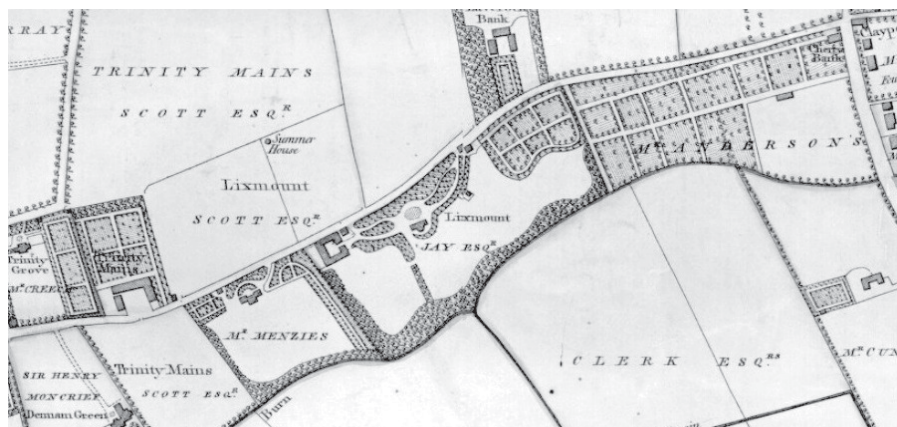
George Andrew was occasionally described as Writer to the Signet,⁷ but never appeared in W.S. records. After 1774 directories showed him in closes off the High Street, at 45 Princes Street (1786-93) and Old Assembly Close (1794-1811). Princes Street marked his move from the Old Town to the New with a consequent rise in status, before he acquired his country house at Lixmount. While he lived at Lixmount, Old Assembly Close may have been his 'office' address, but he lived there after leaving Lixmount. An entry in the Register of Deeds showed it had eight rooms on the fourth storey.⁸ After 1812 the Andrews lived at 11 Salisbury Place.

Unfortunately George had financial problems. A Notice to Creditors⁹ dissolved the Copartnership between him and Allan Macdougall WS in October 1796. He owed sums totalling £16,970, of which more than £13,600 was to the co-partnership or to Allan Macdougall, with sums of a few hundred pounds each to nine individuals. The relevant deed¹⁰ lists the properties conveyed to the Trustee for his creditors in November 1796: a) Old Assembly Close, b) Lixmount, c) a house of four storeys, garret, cellars and stables, d) a house of two understories – the latter two on Princes Street built by his erstwhile father in law, William Butter, e) several small landholdings in Glassary, Argyll and d) his moveable effects. Glassary is on Loch Fyne, roughly opposite Strachur, which may explain how George and Catherine met. Earlier sasines recorded mortgages raised on his different properties, but it is not clear what lay behind his problems.

Only two children's births were recorded: Margaret Campbell at Lixmount in August 1794 and James Wilkie in Old Church Parish in December 1796, so George must have left Lixmount by then, although no attempt was made to sell the property until 1800. James died young as George later referred to his only son, John,¹¹ who left no trace in the OPRs. But Margaret's inventory was given up in 1827 by John Andrew, writer, following in his father's footsteps. George died in March 1819 aged 78 and Catherine in 1833, both recorded in Colinton buried in a family aisle or vault. This suggested a hope of identifying George's birth, but no such vault has survived. At a very late stage Dr Dinwoodie was able to find his baptism in Cullen parish in December 1740.¹² George's will referred to his "most dutiful affectionate and in every respect deserving wife", but although he left everything to her, she did not benefit at all.¹³ His whole estate was still in the hands of the Trustee for his creditors, and any personal

property not part of the trust was exhausted in paying debts and funeral expenses. As will become clear, many owners or tenants of Lixmount either had serious financial problems or were very prosperous.

Lixmount was repeatedly advertised for sale in 1800.¹⁴ The upset price was reduced to £2,700¹⁵ but little interest was shown, and in 1801 the house was “To Let Furnished or Unfurnished”.¹⁶ Eventually **William Scot** re-acquired the East Park from the Trustee for George’s creditors, and sold it to **John Jay** in August 1803, who appeared on Ainslie’s map of 1804. John was a Leith merchant at North Charlotte Street (1801), appearing as John Jay & Co. in Elbe Street (1805-7), then in partnership with William as J & W Jay at 17 St John Street (1808-10) and Gayfield Square (1810-11). Although no such births appear in the OPRs, they were probably brothers, because they were admitted Burgess together in 1809 and their children were fairly close in age. John and his wife, Helen Livingston, had five children, born in Glasgow 1799, in Edinburgh 1800 with three at Lixmount, all recorded together in North Leith. At William’s marriage in 1807, he was a “merchant in Rotterdam”,¹⁷ so must have gone to Holland to learn the other end of the trade. His first son was born in 1809 at Lixmount Cottage, presumably rented from John.



1804: Layout of East Park (John Ainslie)

The Jays were later described as merchants “in extensive trade in Leith”.¹⁸ But their financial woes became evident within a few years when they were taken to court for non-payment of various sums.¹⁹ They were involved in a very long running dispute over the payment of freight for a cargo of tallow, hemp and flax from Riga. Although the Admiralty Court cleared them in 1810, the shipmaster rejected this and the dispute dragged on until 1822. The shipmaster’s agents were none other than Ramsay Williamson & Co. who will re-appear later. Meanwhile the Jays were sequestered, having “suffered in the distresses of the country in 1810”.²⁰ By 1812 John Jay was in Woodford Wells, Essex, after setting up “a Mercantile Academy in which his great knowledge of mercantile

affairs has enabled him to acquire some little money by the most severe of all Labours, the instruction of youth".²¹ But sequestration suggests that his knowledge of mercantile affairs was perhaps not so great. In 1814 William reported to the Trustees for the creditors that funds recovered allowed payment of merely 2s 2½d in the £ (and that only with the help of friends), which was accepted. He remained just long enough to sort out their affairs before returning to Rotterdam.

When Lixmount came up for sale in 1811, the advertisement mentioned its "very extensive views ... beautiful situation ... fruit trees of the best kinds and qualities". It sounds idyllic. Also mentioned were Summer Lodge and Lixmount Cottage, adjoining Lixmount and "capable of accommodating a genteel family".²² Only the right sort of neighbours were welcome! The two Lodges on either side opened on to a curving drive that led up to the house; by the west entrance stood the stable block. When **Thomas Williamson** (1756-1838) bought Lixmount in June 1812, he could not foresee it would remain in his family for nearly 60 years. Thomas set up in business in Leith in 1784 with his cousin, Robert Ramsay, and uncle, Robert senior, all three from Dundee. The latter was admitted burgess in March 1785, allowing Robert junior and Thomas to be admitted advantageously soon after as his son and son-in-law. Thomas' mother was Lilius Ramsay, and the family connection became closer still when Thomas married Elizabeth Ramsay, his cousin and Robert's sister, in 1785.²³ They had nine children before moving to Lixmount. In 1817 Lixmount advertised a Shetland pony for sale, "warranted sound and quiet with children. Owner having no further use for it."²⁴ I like to imagine their children playing in the garden, riding their pony in the extensive grounds and enjoying the fruit from those fruit trees. Lixmount gardeners also grew prizewinning vegetables and flowers.

Ramsay Williamson & Co., merchants, were based in Bernard Street in Leith for 45 years or more, importing timber from Danzig, wheat from Copenhagen, hemp from St Petersburg, red wine from Bordeaux and much else besides,²⁵ also acting as agents for the captors of prize ships. After Robert junior's death without issue in 1814, Thomas continued the business, assuming his eldest son, George, as partner on terms that ensured Thomas remained very much in control.²⁶ The business must have been successful, because Robert had bought the estate of



1852: Details of Lixmount with its extension
(Ordnance Survey)

Maxton in Roxburghshire in 1811 and Thomas had his portrait painted by Raeburn, both clear marks of social aspiration and achievement. Mention of this Raeburn portrait in Thomas junior's will²⁷ led to contact with Charlecote Park in Warwickshire, which has proved a most fruitful connection. After Robert Ramsay junior's death in 1814, Thomas inherited Maxton, with liferent to Robert's widow. He was then more often "of Maxton" than "of Lixmount". Before 1817 he built a large single storey extension to the west of Lixmount, probably to cater for his family, but there is no direct evidence of its purpose. In 1826 he added another acre or so of ground, part of Cherrybank, to the east of East Park, making nearly nine acres in all. When his wife died in October 1832, he resolved to add the Ramsay surname. From that very day the family became Williamson Ramsays.²⁸ The last directory listing for Ramsay Williamson & Co. was in 1829, by which time Thomas would have been 73. Presumably he then retired and George was unwilling to carry on the business.

When Charles X of France left Edinburgh in 1832 after exile in Holyroodhouse, huge crowds gathered to say farewell from the Chain Pier. One Williamson daughter presented him with a white silk favour, which Charles gallantly kissed and placed on his left breast.²⁹ When Thomas died at Maxton in 1838,³⁰ **George Williamson Ramsay** (1796-1841) inherited Lixmount, only to die unmarried three years later. He was involved latterly in a partnership with Robert Watt, commission merchant in Quality Street (now Queen Charlotte Street), Leith; the only known details of this business announced the expiry of the partnership in April 1840.³¹



Sketch of Lixmount House held at Charlecote Park

In the 1841 census George is shown with two female servants, a gardener at Lixmount Lodge and the other lodge and cottages let separately, as they continued to be. He had his portrait painted in the uniform of a Lieutenant in the Scottish Yeomanry by a Frenchman, Charles Achille d'Hardiviller, who also painted a very showy portrait of his younger brother, Robert, Captain in the Black Watch. George is standing in front of a large country house, which Dr Dinwoodie surmised might be Lixmount. It was hugely satisfying to discover that Charlecote held a pencil sketch of Lixmount, identical in every detail to this portrait. At last we had an image of the house to add to the many word pictures from newspaper advertisements.

The second son, **Thomas Williamson Ramsay junior** (1798-1871), who inherited Lixmount, spent his working life in India employed in the HEICS. The inscription on a very elaborate silver centrepiece, now at Charlecote, provides all that is known of his career there. He returned to Britain after George's death.

*Presented to Thomas Williamson Esquire by the inhabitants of the Provinces under the Bombay Presidency. The Sirdars (native chiefs) of the Deccani and the principal native merchants and others of Bombay in token of their respect, esteem and gratitude for the ability, zeal and success with which during an official career of twenty-three years as a servant of the Honourable Company especially while filling the high and responsible offices of Revenue Commissioner and Secretary to the Government. He laboured to develop the resources of the country, to improve the condition of the people and to promote their best interests eminently conducing thereby to render British rule in India a blessing, establishing at the same time a lasting claim on the people as a friend and benefactor. November 1842.*³²

While Thomas junior owned Lixmount, he rarely lived there. The house was let to a succession of tenants managed by agents, while Thomas remained in London, living on independent means at 113 Park Street, Westminster (1851) and 16 Queen's Gate, Kensington (1861) where he died in 1871.

The first tenant was **Colonel George Scott** of Malleny (c.1770-1846) from 1843 until his death. Lieutenant Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Foot, then the Edinburgh Militia, he married a Major General's daughter 25 years his junior, so it was a thoroughly military household. In the 1841 census George aged "70" and "Mrs Col. Scott" were at Malleny in Currie. George's will contained a long list of



One of the Williamson Ramsay graves in South Leith churchyard

his properties, some held as security for loans and all left to his wife: land in Liberton, Inverkeithny, Haddo, tenements on Princes Street, a house in George Street, flats on St Andrew Square and St James Square and an extensive brewery



Gravestone of Thomas Williamson Ramsay in
Kensal Green Cemetery, London

Photograph kindly supplied by Henry Vivian-Neal of
The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery
www.kensalgreen.co.uk

with granaries, counting house and stables on the south back of the Canongate, the site of the future Scots Parliament. With an estate of over £45,000, he had no financial problems.³³

Nobody was recorded at Lixmount in 1846-8, but **Carl Joachim Hambro**, the Danish founder of Hambros Bank in London, was certainly there in July 1847, reputedly so that his wife could enjoy the sea bathing. She must have been a hardy soul! Hans Christian Andersen stayed with him during a visit to Edinburgh – and in 2005 the Council marked the writer's bicentenary by erecting a plaque on the surgery that stands today on part of the Lixmount site. Andersen found Edinburgh "as picturesque as Constantinople and Stockholm" but thought the New Town "modern but tedious". In particular he dismissed "its regular quadrangles" which reminded him of Scottish plaid.³⁴ It was then that the advertisement quoted at the beginning appeared, and it reappeared with identical wording through the 1860s.

The next tenant from 1849-51 was **John Thomson Gordon** (1813-65), educated at Edinburgh Academy and University before being called to the Bar in 1835. Briefly

Sheriff of Aberdeen in 1847, then Sheriff of Midlothian from 1848 until his death,³⁵ he was also Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen 1849-50, President of the Speculative Society (the 'Spec') 1833-36³⁶ and elected FRSE in 1849.³⁷ He was notable among his contemporaries for "the extent of his scholarship, the richness of his fancy and the natural eloquence of which he was possessed".³⁸ As Sheriff he chaired innumerable public meetings and attended umpteen dinners; more unusually he umpired the Grand National Golf Tournament in Edinburgh in 1859³⁹ and was also Patron of Sanger's Circus, where "words were inadequate to convey ... the thrilling exploits of Mr James Crockett, the Lion King".⁴⁰ He and his wife were extremely hospitable, whether entertaining members of the Royal Scottish Academy, the Lord Provost and other municipal worthies, or 230 children from Newhaven who were marched up the hill and very kindly treated. The 1851 census showed the couple with five children, butler, page and seven female servants.⁴¹ They clearly lived in considerable style, which resulted unfortunately in their having to leave Lixmount shortly after. John's whole means were conveyed to trustees in February 1852.⁴² He borrowed £2,500 from the bank to discharge his debts, and was repaying this in annual instalments of £400, but died suddenly in Caen, Normandy in 1865.

Nobody was listed at Lixmount in 1852-53, but the **Earl and Countess of Kintore** were certainly there in August 1852, when their son, Algernon Hawkins Thomond Keith-Falconer was born. He later became 9th Earl of Kintore and Governor of South Australia in 1889.⁴³ This was probably a summer let, perhaps for the bracing seaside air. Lixmount was rented in 1854-57 by **Douglas Cheape** (1797-1861), born in Fife and called to the Bar in 1819, who occupied the Chair of Civil Law in Edinburgh from 1827-42. The 1855 valuation roll listed Lixmount's yearly rent at £160, the highest amount of any year. Douglas and his wife, Anne Rose, had no children. In 1857 they moved to Trinity Grove – the house, not the modern street. Douglas' will left everything to various relatives, adding delightfully that his brother should see that "my 2 ponies and my little dog end their days in comfort and never pass into strange hands".⁴⁴

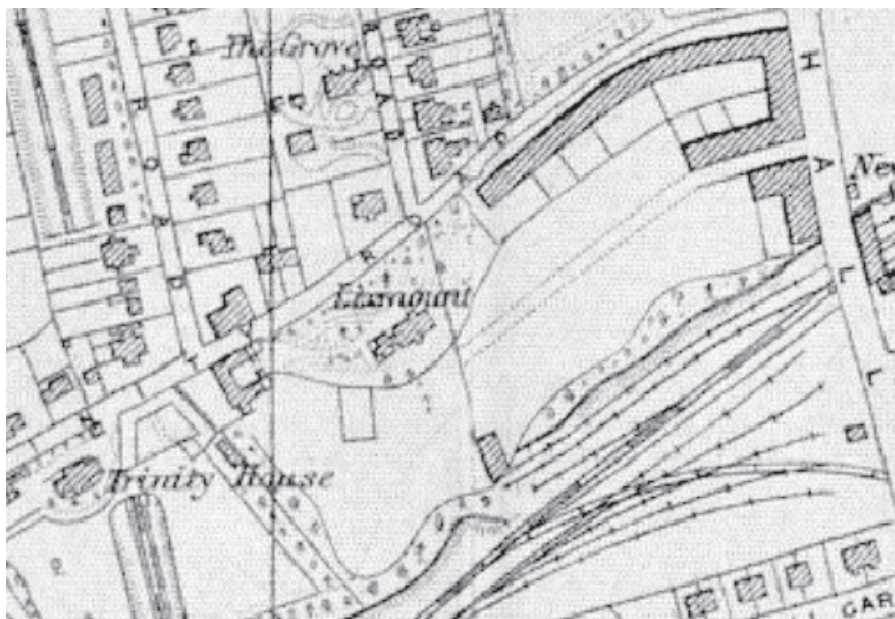
After another gap in the record **James Taylor** (1801-90) rented Lixmount from 1859-61. Born in Bo'ness, he became a successful corn merchant and partner in Taylor, Bruce & Co. in Leith. In the 1860s the firm appeared regularly in the press importing oats, wheat, barley and pease from Odense, Stettin or Nantes and flour from Hamburg. Known for his business acumen, he was a director of the Caledonian Railway and National Bank of Scotland. In 1855 James went on to the Town Council – Leith, of course, not Edinburgh – and soon became Provost. By 1860 he was so busy with other commitments that he was frequently absent and felt he could not continue as Provost. He was much respected and got through business meetings with astonishing speed. "Provost Taylor usually sat, watch in hand, and was ever ready to suppress what he regarded as irrelevant discussion", so that most meetings finished in fifteen minutes! "In the course of his long life he gained the friendship and esteem of a wide circle of friends. He

was a man of great integrity, active, prompt, and energetic in the conduct of business."⁴⁵ Having amassed a huge fortune – his estate was over £240,000⁴⁶ – he built a mansion, Starley Hall, near Burntisland where he spent his summers but died unmarried in Edinburgh aged 89.

Repeated advertisements in the 1860s showed the house was unoccupied, although there were surely short lets. "Lost & Found" in 1867 advertised a "Coat (Fur) Lined & Padded with Silk".⁴⁷ The finder returning it to Lixmount would be rewarded, but who was its mystery owner? Thomas Williamson Ramsay certainly visited, as his will was executed there in 1864. When he died in 1871, he was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, but commemorated alongside other family members in the south east corner of South Leith churchyard. His personal estate amounted to more than £240,000, a huge amount, equivalent to £8.9m in 1995, not including 36,000 rupees in Bank of Bengal stock.⁴⁸ His name frequently appeared in the press listing donations to this or that philanthropic charity, £10 each to the Destitute Society and the House of Refuge, and £5 to the Night Asylum, for example, while his £25,000 legacy⁴⁹ enabled Leith Hospital to build an extension. He left £500 plus a £75 annuity to a faithful servant for her "extraordinary good conduct and fidelity to her master". In the heady days of steam not surprisingly he held many shares in railway companies, in both Britain and India.

In 1872 Thomas' trustees sold Lixmount⁵⁰ to **John Bruce**, a corn merchant in Leith who never lived in the house. He may have been James Taylor's partner in Taylor, Bruce & Co but frequent changes of partnership make it difficult to prove that. The house was sold with a sitting tenant, **John Neill** (1814-78), yet another Leith corn merchant. In the 1871 census John and his wife, Isabella, appeared with their daughter, Julia Helen. In 1875 after renting for some years John Neill bought the whole property, promptly mortgaging it for £5,500. This was still outstanding at his death three years later, which seems to have triggered the first feuing of parts of the property for development. Their other daughter, Ella, had married Hugh Colquhoun, a Glasgow tea merchant in 1868, who died just three years later, so Ella returned to live with her mother until Isabella's death in 1883. When Lixmount was let again, the advertisement mentioned its "Parterre and Pleasure Grounds".⁵¹ The 1885 valuation roll showed the tenant of House Garden & Stable as Captain Henry Preston R.A. about whom nothing is known.

In 1888 John Neill's trustees conveyed the property to three of his children, **John William** (1844-1920) and **Lindsay** (1846-1911) both in the Indian Civil Service, resident in Jubbulpore (Jabalpur), and **Ella Colquhoun** (c.1847-1906), by then in Bristol.⁵² Both sons married in India but retired to England, John William in London and Lindsay in Cheltenham. With her brothers in India, Ella acted for all three in feuing off more plots from the east end of the property. Flats were built in the early 1880s named Lixmount Terrace, then Lixmount Villas. Eventually they just became part of East Trinity Road. The details were



1899: Development encroaching on Lixmount (W & A K Johnston)

complicated but the general process was clear. It must be the trustees we have to thank today for the absurd traffic jams at the narrow end of East Trinity Road.

In 1891 **Jemima William Sanderson** (1838-1921) was renting Lixmount with three children. James, the eldest was born in India – another strand that repeats itself through this account. Jemima's unmarried sister, Anne Souter, lived at Trinity House immediately next door. When the Sandersons returned from India in about 1866, Jemima lived with her sister for some years and three more children were born there, before they moved elsewhere. The opportunity to rent Lixmount was clearly very convenient for that reason. The stables were still in active use at this period. In 1895 James advertised for sale "Yum Yum, a piebald cob mare ... regularly ridden by owner and driven by a lady ... make clever polo pony".⁵³ But what of Jemima's husband, a shadowy figure? Four children were born to the couple in Edinburgh and directories list Alfred Sanderson MD at Jemima's addresses in the 1870s and 1880s. But the couple were mostly living apart. In 1871 Alfred was Surgeon with the Hyderabad Cavalry Contingent, in 1881 a boarder in Cecil Street, Westminster, in 1894 at the East India United Service Club in London, and in 1901 living with some young relatives in Douglas, Isle of Man, where he died in 1904. He had a significant career as Surgeon-General in the Madras Army and latterly in London. His obituary says: "He went through the Indian Mutiny and received medal and clasps; served at the War Office, as a member of the Army Medical Board in London, and before his retirement was offered by the Madras Army the Deputy Surgeon-Generalship of the whole of

British Burmah.”⁵⁴ He was also Member of the House of Keys, the lower house of the Manx Parliament, for South Douglas.

Less easy to explain is the fact that the second son, Alfred Nicholson Sanderson, a stockbroker, never lived with his mother again after she left Trinity House in 1872. Alfred aged about 5 remained there with his aunt. Was she lonely? Was he her favourite nephew? Was he on bad terms with his mother? Who knows, but she left him out of her will, knowing that her sister, Anne, had provided amply for him. In 1896 Lixmount was split in two; the western half “called Lixmount with Garden and ground adjacent”⁵⁵ was sold to **Alfred Nicholson Sanderson** (1867-1939), while the rest was sold off for development. A mutual division wall was erected, but the heyday of Lixmount was over. Jemima and three children were still at Lixmount in 1901, while Alfred junior remained at Trinity House.

In the 1905 valuation roll the house was vacant, the stables separately let. Repeated For Sale notices appeared until April 1905 when Lixmount was to be sold by public roup “including Mansion-house, Two Smaller Houses, Stabling &c. The Grounds extend to 4.84 Acres or thereby. Upset Price, £6,800”.⁵⁶ But it never made the upset price and the advertisement on 21 February 1906 was the very last. The house, large and imposing though it was, was no longer desirable. Perhaps it was too large and imposing? Or just old fashioned? From August 1906 further plots were feued and sold to the two builders who built many local houses. Lixmount must have been demolished soon after because Lixmount Avenue was feued in 1907. The wonderful geo-referenced maps on the National Library of Scotland’s website show that the house sat astride the future Lixmount Avenue at around numbers 8/10, while the stables stood on the corner of Beresford Avenue. Shortly after his aunt’s death in 1906 Alfred junior married Elma Margaret McDougall or Fenton-Livingstone. She had been engaged to him aged seventeen, but in 1892 married John Nigel Edensor Fenton-Livingstone. While John was absent in South Africa in 1899-1903, Elma and Alfred had visited London hotels as “Mr and Mrs Napier Stewart”; she is said to have lived a fast and rackets life in London, where Alfred indulged her taste for expensive furs and jewels. When John returned, both he and Elma admitted adultery and the subsequent divorce made headlines in the press.⁵⁷

It was granted in March 1905. In 1911 Alfred and Elma were still at Trinity House with Elma’s two sons. Lixmount House was no more, although Lixmount Lodge, Summer Lodge and Summer Cottage still survived. Later the couple lived in Barnes; after Elma’s death in 1920 Alfred moved to Tighnabruaich, where he died in 1939.

Now I look out of my dining room window and imagine I can see the ghostly shape of a large house about 80 yards away with sheep grazing peacefully, in place of suburban gardens and the sound of passing traffic.

I am very grateful to Dr Hugh Dinwoodie without whose encouragement and patient prodding this account would never have been written; also to Frank Storr

at Charlecote Park, whose “Frank’s Forages”, researched for the benefit of Charlecote guides, have been a most valuable source. Sketch of Lixmount reproduced with the permission of Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy.

Maps are reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

References

- ¹ Scotsman 25 March 1848
- ² Sasine abridgment 5976 19 December 1794
- ³ Sasine abridgment 6839 4 January 1797
- ⁴ OPR Strachur 534.2/1, 19 March 1793
- ⁵ Landownership in Scotland in 1770: Loretta Timperley shows Hugh Campbell of Lix under Strachur & Stralachlan. The parents are said to have married in Strachur in 1747.
- ⁶ An exact map of Breadalbane in Perthshire: G. Cameron, 1770; The Deserted Settlement at Lix, West Perthshire: Horace Fairhurst in Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 1969
- ⁷ George Andrew’s burial entry (19 March 1819) calls him WS, but elsewhere he is a writer.
- ⁸ RD5/167, p.517
- ⁹ Edinburgh Advertiser 14 July 1797
- ¹⁰ RD4/260, pp. 893-915
- ¹¹ RD5/168 p.693
- ¹² Admission Register of Notaries Public 1700-1799 Vol.1 (Scottish Record Society, 2012) born to Walter in Deskford. George was actually born nearby in Cullen.
- ¹³ RD5/168 p.693
- ¹⁴ Caledonian Mercury 4 January 1800
- ¹⁵ Caledonian Mercury 5 April 1800
- ¹⁶ Caledonian Mercury 19 January 1801
- ¹⁷ OPR 692/1 May 1807 William’s father in law had been minister of the Scots Kirk, Rotterdam.
- ¹⁸ CS233/K/3/5 item 11
- ¹⁹ CS239/L/17/53 for example: J & W Jay owed £2,799 plus interest to Leitch & Smith, Glasgow merchants, in November 1810.
- ²⁰ CS233/K/3/5 item 11
- ²¹ CS233/K/3/5 item 12
- ²² Caledonian Mercury 26 September 1811, repeated October and November.
- ²³ OPR South Leith 692.2/11 7 June 1785. Robert junior married three weeks later.
- ²⁴ Scotsman 28 July 1817
- ²⁵ Collectors’ Quarterly Accounts for Leith sampled: E504/22/56 (April–July 1812) and E504/22/129 (October 1829–January 1830)
- ²⁶ RD5/1838/605 p.559
- ²⁷ Thomas junior’s will RD5/1871/1415 pp.159-179. The portrait is at Charlecote, because Thomas senior’s daughter, Archibald (yes, daughter) married Sir Henry Fairfax; their grandson married a Lucy of Charlecote. Frank’s Forage no. 35
- ²⁸ Memorial recorded at Lixmount 7 October 1832 RD5/1838/605 p.607
- ²⁹ Scotsman 19 September 1832, white being associated with French royalty.
- ³⁰ Scotsman 25 October 1838
- ³¹ London Gazette No 19853 p.1134
- ³² Inscription from Frank’s Forage No 10A
- ³³ Trust Disposition and Settlement RD5/1846/763 p.125 and Inventory SC70/1/67
- ³⁴ A Forgotten Tourist: Kyle McKibben in Lothian Life online magazine 8 November 2010.
- ³⁵ Listed in Sheriff Court Records on NRS online catalogue
- ³⁶ History of the Speculative Society 1764-1904, p.128
- ³⁷ Former Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh 1783-2002
- ³⁸ Obituary in the Scotsman 5 December 1865

- 39 Scotsman 21 September 1859
- 40 Scotsman 21 November 1859
- 41 The baby was Charles Dickens Gordon. John was an admirer and received a letter from Dickens, now held in the Charles Dickens Collection of the University of Pennsylvania.
- 42 Trust Disposition and Assigination by John Thomson Gordon, 14 February 1852
- 43 Burke's Peerage 107th edition (2003)
- 44 Douglas Cheape's Will SC70/4/78
- 45 Provosts of Leith series in Leith Burgh's Pilot, 18 May 1895
- 46 James Taylor's Inventory SC70/1/282, p.969. His Will SC70/4/243 shows many charities that were to receive legacies. His £240,000 estate was equivalent to £11.1m in 1995.
- 47 Scotsman 3 December 1867
- 48 Thomas junior's Inventory SC70/1/154 p.773
- 49 The Life and Times of Leith: James Scott Marshall (Edinburgh, 1986) p.80
- 50 Sasine abridgment 5930 16 May 1872
- 51 Scotsman 5 May 1883
- 52 Sasine abridgment 15126 11 June 1888
- 53 Scotsman 13 April 1895.
- 54 Portraits 1904 in Isle of Man Examiner Annual
- 55 Sasine abridgment 8366 24 November 1896
- 56 Scotsman 5 April 1905
- 57 Edinburgh Evening News 13 December 1904, 14 February 1905.



APPRECIATIONS

The Society is saddened to announce the deaths of two of its long-term volunteers.

Peter Worling died on 20 December 2016 and Elizabeth Dennis or Nicoll (relict of Gordon Nicoll, another volunteer) died on 10 January 2017.

Both will be missed and the Society extends its sympathies to both families.

Right: Elizabeth as a young woman.



Use it or lose it!

Hidden and Forgotten Information

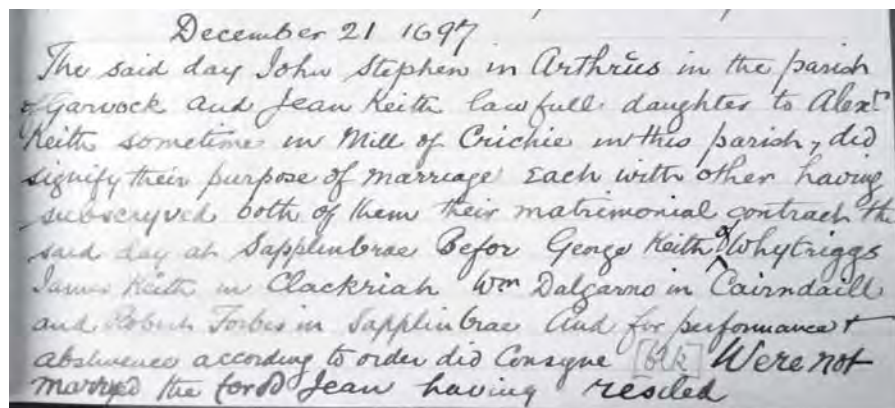
Dr Joseph J Morrow QC LLD

Scottish individuals and societies, and beyond to the Scottish diaspora, have varying levels of interest in personal and organisational history. This may be the specific research of a family genealogy or the story of an organisation's history. There are many wellknown records in public and private collections which can assist in this process and begin to build up a picture of what the family or organisation was about. However, after scratching the surface around the more well-known and public archives, there are also hidden and often forgotten records held within the archives of organisations which are not in the public domain.

The Brechin Diocesan Archives are one such treasure trove. This collection is held at the University of Dundee and contains 10,000 records, rare books and manuscripts created by the Diocese of Brechin. The collection was founded in 1792 and was handed over to the University in 1962.

The records contain insights into the complex history of the Episcopal Church and, despite there being no statutory duty on the Church to keep records, this and other Diocesan archives exist which contain unique information. The Brechin Diocesan Archives hold a wealth of information which is not to be found elsewhere, and its records burst with material on the Diocese and on the counties of Kincardine, Angus and Perth. The information can be consulted online at www.dundee.ac.uk/archives.

The materials range from information on churches and clergy, administrative records, sermons and discourses, correspondence, transcripts, baptismal and other registers, plans and a few photographs. You can, for example, find in the Archives the records of the Diocese of Brechin from 1774 to 1995.



Old Deer 'jilted grooms' 1697

The Archives also contain unexpected gems, such as a backgammon table which is said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. Part of the provenance of this table is contained in the Archives – this artefact was given to Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes of the Diocese by a Mrs Bruce of Clackmannan (there are also numerous documents relating to Bishop Forbes in the collection). Other material which caught my eye was a little volume, “Sketch Pedigrees of Some of the Early Settlers in Jamaica”, which gives insight into some of the North East families who emigrated to Jamaica, outlining – in some cases in detail – their family trees. The material in the Archives on people has unique, and often most engaging information. There are, for example, entries concerning the birth of twins on 20 July 1774, 17th century marriage details from the Old Deer area, and records of 1697 relating to “jilted grooms”.

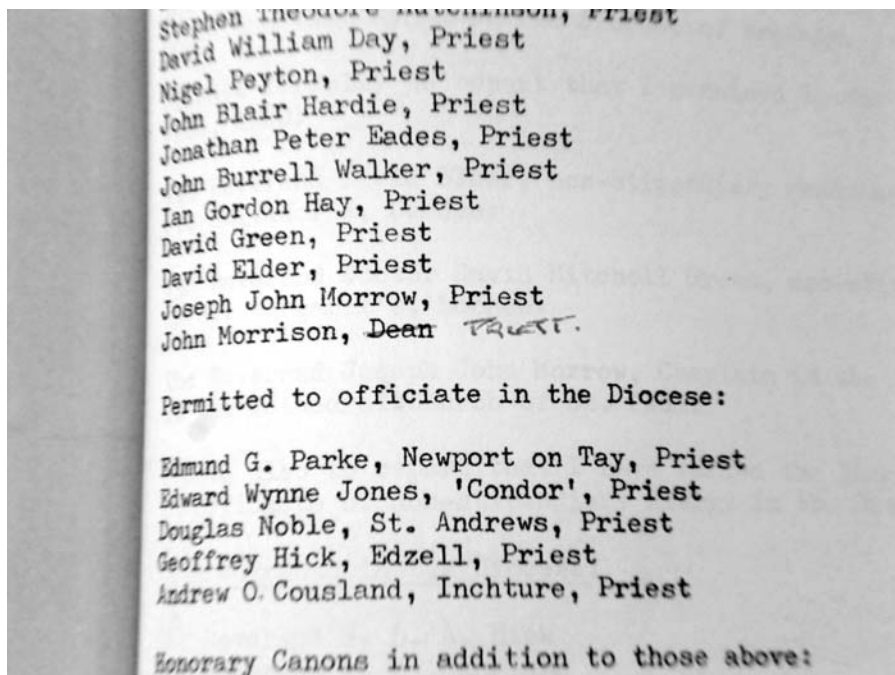
For those who have a specific interest in Church history, the collection contains the “Seat Letting Book of St Mary’s Arbroath”, funeral registers from Stonehaven

No. of Pew.	No. of Sitting.	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF SEAT-HOLDER.	No. Taken.	Price per Annum.	Half-yearly Term.			Half-yearly Term.			Yearly.
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
17	4.	Mrs Smart	1	8/	"	4	"	"	4	"	8
		John Scott	1	8/	"	4	"	"	4	"	8
		Stewart Mill	1	8/	"	4	"	"	4	"	8
		John Smart	1	8/	"	4	"	"	4	"	8
		Miss Thomson - Poor	1	8/	"	4	"	"	4	"	8

Seat Letting Book, St Mary's, Arbroath, 1868

to Dundee, confirmation registers (for example from St Margaret's, Lochee), lists of tenants of the Diocese of Brechin, and detailed statistical returns. Each of these records could provide the basis for an article in itself.

There is also up to date information, such as a list of Clergy from 1981 – in which I found my own name as “Priest of the Diocese”. On the same page, an error had been discovered beside the name of Revd John Morrison, who had against his name the designation of “Dean. This has been scored out and replaced by the word “Priest”. In fact, both the original entry and the corrected one were wrong, as John Morrison was a Deacon in St Martin’s Church, Dundee. I use this as an illustration of how histories can be built on simple errors and go astray from the factual reality. The keeping of archives such as the Brechin Archives and their constant updating and use is essential for accurate recording of organisational and family histories. If this is not continued and valued, then the information, in essence, is simply lost.



List of Clergy, 1981

The collections in the Diocese of Brechin Archives are often forgotten, alongside many other archives which are not held in public collections, and the material and information contained in them needs to be used. So when it comes to such valuable collections remember the popular saying, "Use it or lose it!"

Photographs by J.J. Morrow", by consent of The Brechin Archives



May outing

The proposed visit to Botanic Cottage in the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh is now confirmed for 1pm on Saturday 13th May 2017. This will commence from the John Hope Gateway and include an introductory talk. Some members will remember the inspiring lecture given by Dr James Simpson on 22 October 2012 on "The Strange Migration of Botanic Cottage".

As usual, numbers are limited, so please book your place(s) at the Library.

0131-220 3677



RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Compiled by Joan Keen & Eileen Elder

TALES FROM IRELAND & ENGLAND SCOTTISH DIASPORA TAPESTRY	HOMEcoming SCOTLAND
THE CHURCH ON THE BRIDGE; THE STORY OF A CITY CENTRE CONGREGATION [AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH, EDINBURGH]	
MITCHELL/EDSALL GENEALOGY; PIONEERS CREATORS BUILDERS VOL 2	MITCHELL, WILLIAM RAY II
MITCHELL/EDSALL GENEALOGY; # PIONEERS CREATORS BUILDERS VOL 1	MITCHELL, WILLIAM RAY II
ABERDEEN CHARLOTTE STREET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BAPTISMS 1845-1855 & 1868-1903	FARRELL, STUART (COMP)
BUIST FAMILY OF FIFE. [Series of 35 articles in six volumes]	TRACY, MICHAEL
WHITEKIRK, ST MARY'S CHURCH [EAST LOTHIAN]: MORTCLOTH & BURIAL RECORDS	DODD, JOY, comp.
TIPPERARY WAR DEAD: HISTORY OF THE CASUALTIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR	BURNELL, TOM & RUTH
PERTH. MIDDLE FREE CHURCH: BAPTISMS 1845-1871, MARRIAGES 1845-1858	FARRELL, STUART
NEWLANDS: BROADLEY, ENZIE, BANFFSHIRE, SCOTLAND: GENEALOGY AND A FAMILY STORY	NEWLANDS, ELIZABETH
NEWLANDS OF BANFFSHIRE: TERRA NOVA 1855-1955. PART 2	NEWLANDS, ELIZABETH
NEWLANDS OF BANFFSHIRE: TERRA NOVA 1855-1955. PART 1	NEWLANDS, ELIZABETH
NEWLANDS OF BANFFSHIRE: NEEDLES IN A HAYSTACK. BANFFSHIRE DATA WITH A FEW TREES	NEWLANDS, ELIZABETH
NELLFIELD CEMETERY, ABERDEEN. [PART 1] INTRODUCTION, INDEX AND PLAN	ANESFHS
NELLFIELD CEMETERY, ABERDEEN. PART 2 - CEMETERY SECTION A	ANESFHS
NELLFIELD CEMETERY, ABERDEEN. PART 3 - CEMETERY SECTION B	ANESFHS
NELLFIELD CEMETERY, ABERDEEN. PART 4 - CEMETERY SECTION C	ANESFHS
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 9: ST ANDREWS KIRKTOUN AND KIRKHILL, LINKWOOD, NEWMILL, PITGAVENY, INCHBROOM, BARMUCKITY, CALCOTS AND FORESTERSEAT NOW PART OF THE PARISH OF ST ANDREWS-LLANBRYDE. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 14: GARMOUTH, KINGSTON, ESSIL, LUNAN AND NEWTOWN FORMING THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PARISH OF SPEYMOUTH. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 13: INNES AND LOCHHILL, LEUCHARS, URQUHART, COTTS AND SPEYSLAW, MEFT AND LONGHILL, MAVERSTOUN, BINNS CORSKIE, THREAPLAND IN THE PARISH OF URQUHART. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 12: FORMER PARISH OF OGSTOUN, COMPRISING GORDONSTOUN, COVESEA, ETTLES, DRAINIE, SALTERHILL, ARDIVOT & BALLORMY, MUIRTON FORMING THE WESTERN PART OF THE MODERN PARISH OF DRAINIE. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 11: FORMER PARISH OF KINNEDDAR COMPRISING LOSSIEMOUTH, BRANDERBURGH, STOTFIELD, COULARDHILL, KINNEDDAR, AIKENHEAD. PRIOR TO 1850. NOW PART OF THE PARISH OF DRAINIE. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 10: VILLAGE OF LLANBRYDE, COXTON AND COTTS, SHERIFFSTON AND DARKLANDS, PITTENSAIR AND HATTON, CRANLOCH AND TEINDLAND. PRIOR TO 1850	BISHOP, BRUCE
GUWAHATI WAR CEMETERY, ASSAM, INDIA	HEWSON, EILEEN

ERIN TO EDINBURGH: 19TH CENTURY IRISH IMMIGRANT FOREBEARS

IN SCOTLAND AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

OWENS, EILIS CATHERINE

LANDS AND PEOPLE OF MORAY. PART 15:

STYNIE, REDHALL, BOAT OF BOG, MOSSTODLOCH, COWFORDS, BALNACOL,

DIPPLE, ORBLISTON PRIOR TO 1850, FORMING THE SOUTHERN PART OF

THE PARISH OF SPEYMOUTH

BISHOP, BRUCE

GORDON BUCHANAN: A FAMILY HISTORY

BUCHANAN, GORDON

FREE CHURCH CONGREGATION OF PORTOBELLO

BAIRD, WILLIAM

FAITHFUL AND BRAVE: A CELEBRATION OF JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

MACLEOD, JOHN

from *Recollections of a Scottish Novelist* by L. B. Walford, 1910

(In 1855 her father, Sir John Sinclair, bought a house in Eton Terrace, Edinburgh.)

In some ways we children liked the change, but there was one drawback: the Dean Bridge.

The Dean Bridge, to some of us, was a nightmare. From its height it was, and we heard whispers of this in the household, a favourite resort of suicides; while we also had our secret terror of being either blown over ourselves, or seeing such a fate befall another, on every windy day. This may sound absurd; but be it observed the reign of "King Crinoline" had begun, and with every gust that swept down the deep-cut valley below the bridge, the hoops flew about, and could with difficulty be prevented flying over the fair owners' heads.

What a thralldom that crinoline was! Not a kitchenmaid cleaning the doorsteps, not a beggar in the street, but must have something, whatever it was, which bulged and swung, and was a source of supreme discomfort, but without which she would not have felt it decent to be abroad. Going to bathe within our grounds at Mull, with merely a sortie-debain over our bathing gowns, we nevertheless could not venture forth without the inevitable appendage. Once, being only twelve, I tried it, but felt so miserable and ashamed, that I had to run back to the house, and return inflated and happy. My best frock stood out straight like a Japanese parasol. I used to wonder what the Fairchild family would have thought of it, when of poor Emily, dressed for the archery meeting by the ultra-fashionable Louisa, we learn that "her skirt was short, fully displaying her ankles", and the reader is expected to be as shocked as were her parents at such an apparition. The strange thing was that, so far as my recollection serves me, neither old nor young resented the incubus which had been thrust upon us. We were wedged together in carriages, with hoops billowing up to the roof; we scuttled crab-like through turnstiles; we were unable to pass in gangways; we endured every imaginable form of inconvenience, and heard ourselves derided for it by fathers, husbands, and brothers, and we boldly faced them, vowing that come what might, we would never, never give up our crinoline! How we jeered at an old beau, a great admirer of our sex, who protested that all beauty of outline was now gone from a woman's figure. We thought him the silliest old fool imaginable. We devoutly trusted that we at least should never see "beauty of outline" thus exposed again indeed I am sure that we fully believed it never would be so and when it is remembered that for twelve years the infatuation lasted, it will be seen that there was something to be said for our conviction.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2017

All SGS ordinary meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL (unless otherwise stated). Admission free to all.

- 20 March "Mining and Lime Quarrying in the Carlops Area" by James Waugh
10 April "Banishment and Transportation" by Ken Nisbet.
13 May Visit to the Botanic Cottage, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
Please book at the SGS Library
18 September "Rich Seams: Mining Kirk Sessions and High Court Records for your Scottish Ancestors." by Margaret Fox, Archivist.
16 October "The Builders of Edinburgh's New Town" by Dr. Anthony Lewis, Curator of Scottish History
20 November "Scottish Italians – Immigrant Families in the 20th Century" by Mary Contini

SGS meetings are open to all – bring your friends!
(Small donations from non-members will be appreciated.)

New Register House Research Evenings 2017

(in conjunction with Standard Life FHS)

Please telephone the Library (0131-220 3677) for dates and to reserve your place.

Around Scotland

To discover programmes of our sister societies, log onto www.safhs.org.uk, to access the list of members and follow their links.

Anglo-Scots

(a branch of the Manchester & Lancashire FHS)

Anglo-Scots meet at 2pm on Saturdays at Clayton House, Piccadilly, Manchester.

Scotslot Meetings 2017

Scotslot is a group of family historians with Scottish ancestry, who meet in Hertfordshire to talk about topics of mutual interest.

Scotslot meets in Southdown Methodist Church Hall, Southdown, Harpenden, Herts, at 2pm. Venue, dates and topics are subject to change and visitors, who are very welcome to come along, should check in advance either by post to: Scotslot, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4DB or by email to stuart.laing@virgin.net

SAFHS Conference 2017

Building Bridges: Making Connections

Next year's Conference will be hosted by ASGRA (The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) on Saturday 22nd April 2017 at Bay Hotel, Burntisland Road, Kinghorn, Fife KY3 9YE.

