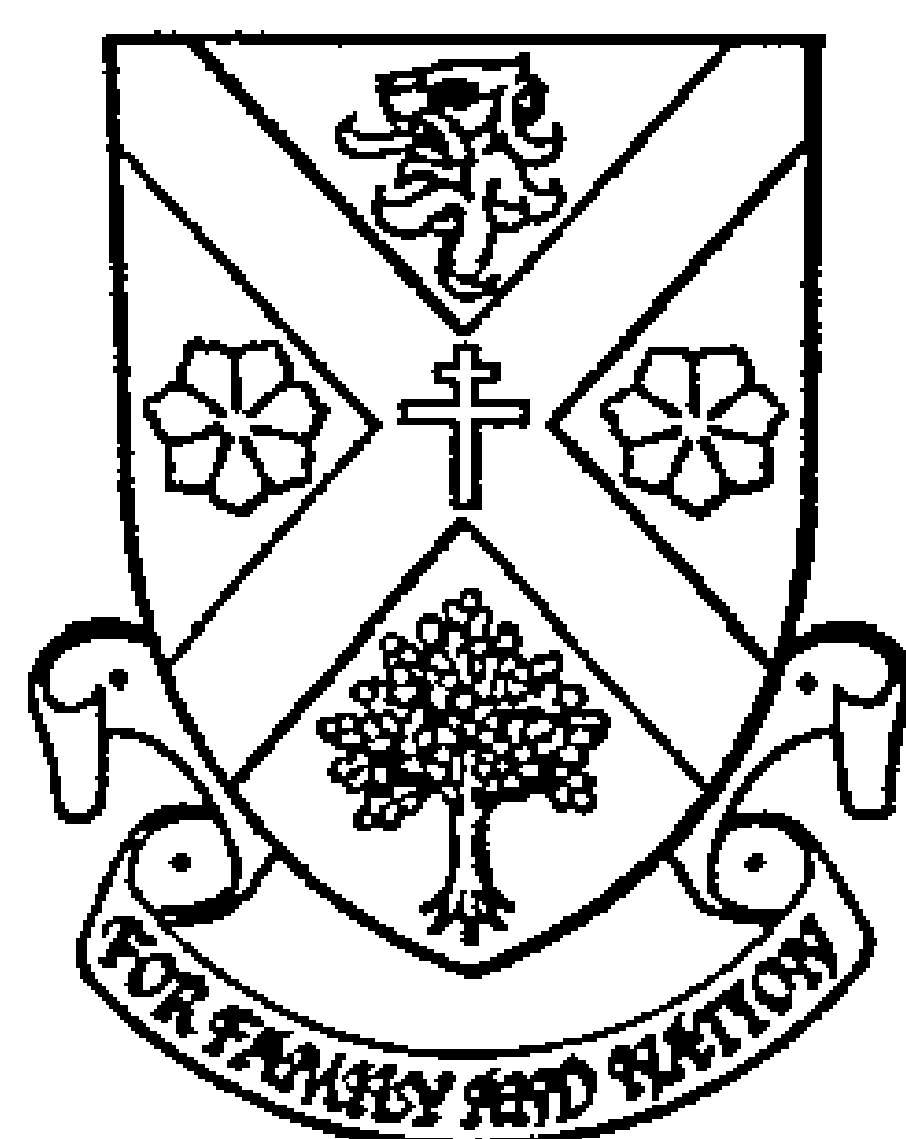


THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY



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Monthly meetings of the Society are held from September to April in the Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh, at 7.30p.m. around the 15th of the month. In the event of the 15th falling on a Saturday or Sunday, the meeting is held on the following Monday.

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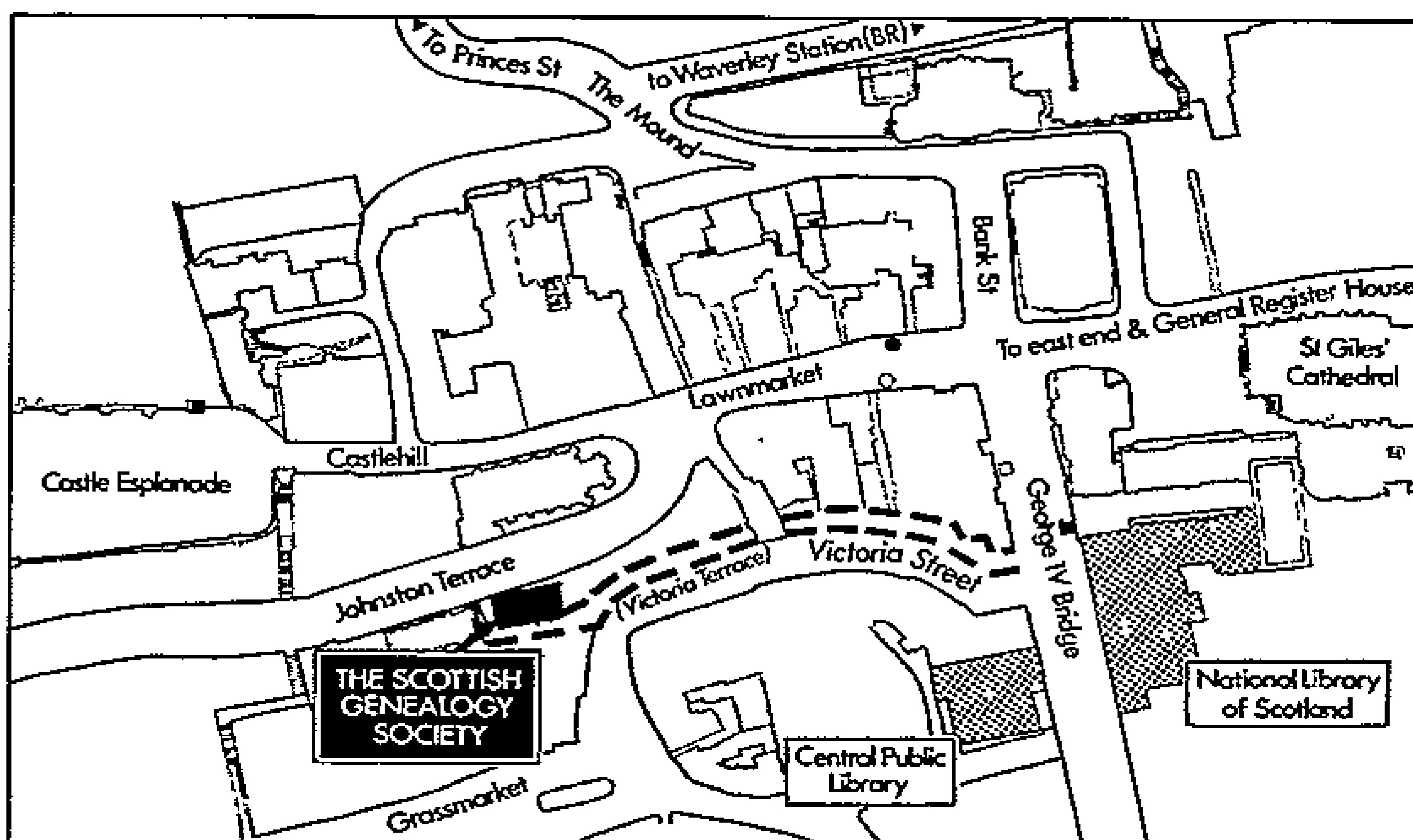
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□ East Scot 23, 46. Fife Scot X52, X60. Lothian 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 40, 41, 41A, 45, 46, 47, 72, 89, 106

DAVID THOMSON, the SCOTTISH FOUNDER of NEW HAMPSHIRE... a GENTLEMAN, and a SCHOLAR

by Genevieve Cora Fraser, Massachusetts

"...but no body can see into those deep Secrets except a few people who stand near the Candle".

Jeremiah Dummer, Agent. Province of Massachusetts Bay in London,
Middle Temple 8th Oct. 1725 ¹

The first known European settlement in New Hampshire, Piscataqua, was founded in 1622, not by an Englishman as one might presume, but rather by a Scottish Gentleman, Mr. David Thomson. The "plantation" was part of the colonization of Nova Albion (New England) under the Scottish King...James Stuart the VI of Scotland, *aka*, James 1st of England...the son of the martyred Mary Stuart, Queen of the Scots.

Except for a handful of statements left by early colonists, few details of the Thomson settlement were known to have survived until May 1876 when the Massachusetts Historical Society printed an article by the noted historian, Charles Deane. According to Deane, an old parchment deed had been placed in his hands some two or three years before by the President of the Society, Mr. Winthrop. The parchment, which had been "discovered among the rich ancestral treasures of a like character", was the 6,000 acre "Piscataqua" Indenture pertaining to David Thomson's grant from the Council for New England.²

Described by contemporaries as a Scotsman, Thomson was living in Devonshire, England as early as July 13, 1613, the date he married Amias Cole at St. Andrews Church in Plymouth, England. Parish records also show that three daughters and one son were born to David and Amias between 1615 and 1620.³

In 1615, the year his first child was born and soon after died, David established an Apothecary shop in a house built by his father-in-law, the Plymouth shipwright, William Cole in 1615. ⁴ And though the preamble to the Indenture, dated 14 December 1622, shows that Thomson continued to reside in Plymouth, there is evidence he also spent time in London, engaged in Council business...and was possibly in New England as early as 1619.

"Articles of Covenants Indentid made and agreed on; the foureteenth daye of December, in the twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Soueigne Lord James by the grace of god of England Franncce and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. And of Scotland the Sixe and fiftieth Betweene....David Thomson of Plymouth in the County of devon gentleman of those Parte,...And Abraham Colmer Nicholas Sherwill, and Leonard Pomery of Plymouth aforesaid marchants of th'other parte." ⁵

Extracts from the Council for New England records reveal that one of Thomson's roles was to inform the Lords, and thereby His Majesty, of the concerns and activities of the Council. He also acted as an agent on behalf of the Council in a variety of other matters.

5th of July 1622: "It is ordered that David Thomson do attend the Lords, with a petition to his majesty for forfeits committed by Thomas Weston, also to solicit the Lords for procuring from his Majesty a proclamation

*concerning the fishermen of the western parts. Likewise to procure some course for punishing their contempt of authority.”*⁶

The petition was acknowledged by the King on the 6 November 1622 with a "Proclamation Prohibiting Interloping and Disorderly Trading to New England in America".

*"Whereby, having received certain information of many and intolerable abuses offered by sundry interlopers, irregular and disobedient persons....We for reformation and prevention of these or the like evils hereafter, and for the more clear declaration of our kingly resolution and just intents, both to maintain our royal grant already made, and to uphold and encourage ...the undertakers of those designs...do hereby straightly charge and command that none of our subjects whatsoever...in New England, presume from henceforth to frequent those coasts...otherwise by the license of the said counsel or according to the orders established by our privy council..."*⁷

July 24, 1622 was the date of the first division of the Patent for New England by the Council for New England. As the record reveals, David Thomson was to meet with the Council Lords, as agent for the Council for New England. The "bounds for the dividends" of the patents for the Lord Duke of Lennox and the Earl of Arundel were also determined at this meeting.⁸

*24th of July 1622: "...Mr. Thomson is appointed to attend the Lords, for a warrant to Mr. Attorney-General for drawing the new patent, Sir Henry Spilman to attend on the same subject."*⁹

This was also the date that the "Tenure for Private Planters" was drawn up. The Tenure stated that "private planters shall hold of the Chamber of State to be established there, and shall have power to create their own tenures to such as shall hold under them". Through this, Thomson's Indenture may have been legally established. In addition, the following entry determined that the feudal system of Old England be continued in New England. "The country is to be called Nova Albion. That there may be power given in to grant patent to create titles of honor and precedency so as they differ in nomination from the titles used here in England".¹⁰

Later that year, in November, Thomson appears as de-facto attorney, treasurer, and general manager for the affairs of the Council.

8th of November 1622: "Mr. Thomson is ordered to pay unto Leo. Peddock L10 (ten pounds) towards his pains for his last employments to New England." 11th of November 1622: "Mr. Thomson is appointed to attend Sir Robert Mansell," concerning Captain Squibb's commission. 16th of November 1622: "Mr. Thomson and the clerk" are directed to "see the tun of iron weighed" to be sent to Whitby. And on the same day "Mr. Thomson is appointed to solicit Capt. Love to pay in the L40 for which Sr. Saml. Argall standeth engaged," etc.

On the 16th of November, Thomson received his patent, or grant, for 6,000 acres and an island in New England, but unlike the Lords, his intent was to actually embark on a colonial adventure.

*16th of November 1622: "It is ordered that Mr. Thomson solicit the adventurers for payment in of their moneys"; and under the same date, "Mr. Thomson's patent was this day signed by the above said Council".*¹¹

Shortly afterwards, Thomson made preparations for his journey, by securing provisions and men for establishing the plantation.

*3rd of December 1622: "Mr. Thomson prepoundeth to have order from the Council for transportation of ten persons with the provisions for New England. And the persons so transported to pay the Council for the usual rate for their transportation, after the expiration of two years."*¹²

At the time Thomson was finalizing plans to establish a colony in New England, Walter Younge, Esq. of Devon wrote in his diary, "There is a great scarcity of money within all this kingdom, so that any man cannot depend on any payment or receat any money due to him, and generally all the country is impoverished".¹³

While Council Lords were busy doling out large tracts of land in the New World for themselves, three men are known to have received grants for 6,000 acres and an island in New England, to be "confirmed in his possession once he occupied the land". These men were Christopher Levett, Abraham Jennings, and David Thomson.¹⁴

Monhegan Island in Maine, was part of the Jennings grant. In 1626, Jennings sold out his store of goods there, valued at £800, to the Plymouth Plantation governor, William Bradford, and to David Thomson.¹⁵ In contrast to the 6,000 acres grant, the grant to the Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation was for 1,500 acres, with 100 extra acres for each settler.¹⁶ Not surprisingly, one of the largest grants, the Massachusetts grant, was reserved for the son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who was the Governor of the fort at Plymouth, England. Gorges was known as the chief architect of the New England colonization plans which were implemented through the Council for New England. Yet, even with the grant for Massachusetts, Thomson played a key role. According to Edward Raymond Turner in *The Privy Council Of England in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, Much business concerning the plantations over seas came before the Privy Council.¹⁷ Two of the most powerful members of the Privy Council, Ludovic Stuart, the 2nd Duke of Lennox and Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel played a dominant role in overseeing and supporting the "the plantacon in the North partes of Virginia in America",¹⁸ otherwise known as New England. A third prominent Privy Council member, appointed to the council for the plantation of New England, was James, Marquis of Hamilton. Ludovick, the Duke of Lennox was a close cousin of the King, in line for the throne. In 1591, King James appointed him Lord High Admiral of Scotland. Ludovick accompanied the King to England, and in 1616 was appointed Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household. His father, Esme Stuart, the first Duke of Lennox was also styled Lord Darnley and Aubigney as had been the King's father, the murdered Henry Stuart.¹⁹ Thomas Howard, the Earl of Arundel was "one of the most enlightened (art) collectors and patrons that England has ever known".²⁰ His son, Henry was married to Ludovic's niece, Lady Elizabeth Stuart. Ludovic, the Duke of Lennox died in 1624; James, the Marquis of Hamilton died in March 1625. King James died a few weeks later.²¹

On 3 March 1619, a Petition for a Charter of New England by the Northern Company of Adventurers had been presented "To the King's most

excellant Majesty". His Majesty's council "residing here in England for that plantation" were to be chosen out of the "noblemen and knights adventurers home about London, others the adventurers both knights, gentlemen and merchants in the western counties; so as the said council do not exceed the number of forty.."

"Upon reading of this petition, their lordships did order that the Lord Duke of Lenox, Lord Steward of his Majesty's household, and the Earl of Arundel shall take notice of the petition, consider of the demands for privileges, and thereupon certify their opinions to their lordships that such further order may be taken as shall be meet". ²²

The Council for New England received their authority from a Royal Patent from King James, dated 3/11/1620: "Ludovico Duci Lenox, et al. Consiliar de Plymouth, Con new Colon de Newe-England, sibi et Successorib. JAMES by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, etc...." ²³

The grant confirmed to the Council, and their successors, all the land of New England and, "lying and being from forty to forty-eight degrees of northerly latitude." ²⁴ The boldness of the scheme raised the ire of Parliament which assembled in 1621 and immediately dissolved into a Committee to address this grievance of the Commonwealth. ²⁵

Among the concerns expressed by the Parliamentary Grievance Committee was that the Royal Charter virtually assured a monopoly by Gorges and the Council Lords, "and that some profit, by a course of fishing upon the coast, may be made extraordinary." Gorges explained that the grant obtained from his Majesty was never intended to be put to private use, and that "...several offers (were) made to all the maritime cities and towns in the Western parts, that pleased to partake of the liberties and immunities granted to us by his Majesty; which was desired principally for our warrant to regulate those affairs". ²⁶

Sir Ferdinando Gorges had to appear twice more before this committee to answer charges and concerns. These efforts spanned from 1621-1624. On December 30, 1622, Sir Ferdinando Gorges' patent for his son Robert Gorges was signed for "all that part of the main land in New-England aforesaid, commonly called or known by the name of Messachusiack, situate, lying and being upon the northeast side of the Bay called or known by the name of Messachuset... together with all the shores and coasts along the sea for ten English miles..." For this privilege, the payment of one hundred and sixty pounds of lawful English money was put into the hands of the Treasurer by Robert Gorges. ²⁷

At the close of the Gorges patent is the following, "And lastly know ye, that we the said Council have deputed, authorized and appointed, and in our place and stead have put David Thomson, Gent., or in his absence any other person that shall be their Governor, or other officer unto the said Council, to be our true and lawful attorney and attorneys, and in our name and stead to enter the said lands...and take possession and seisen thereof...for us and in our name to deliver the same unto the said Robert Gorges or his heirs..." The document is signed by the Duke of Lenox, the Marquis of Hamilton, the Earl of Arundell and Surrey as well as by Sir Robert Mansell,

Doctor Barnaby Goach, treasurer, and William Boles, clerk of the Council²⁸

Thomson settled Piscataqua (NH) in the spring of 1623. In the autumn of that year, Robert Gorges arrived with a company of gentlemen and servants. Gorges returned to England early in 1624 and died soon afterwards. Several years later, Thomson died and his widow, Amias married her husband's close friend, Samuel Maverick, who had arrived in the company of gentlemen with Gorges.²⁹ During the Restoration, King Charles II appointed Samuel Maverick a Royal Commissioner for the New England Colonies. About 1660, Maverick wrote A Description of New England for Sir Edward Hyde (afterwards the Earl of Clarendon) who was then Lord High Chancellor. In the following entry, Maverick documents the arrival of David Thomson to New England.

*"Strawberry Bank. The Great House & Isle of Shooles. -Within 2 Myles of the Mouth is Strawberry Banke where are many Families, and a Minister & a Meeting House, and to the meeting Houses of Dower & Exceter, most of the people resort. This Strawberry Banke is part of 6000 acres granted by Patent about ye yeare 1620 or 1621, to Mr. David Thompson, who with the assistance of Mr. Nicholas Sherwill, Mr. Leonard Pomeroy and Mr. Abraham Colmer of Plymouth Merchants, went ower with a Considerable Company of Servants and Built a Strong and Large House, enclosed it with a large and high Palizado and mounted Gunns, and being stored extraordinarily with shot and Ammunition was a Terror to the Indians, who at that time were insulting over the poor and weake and unfurnished Planters of Plymouth. This house and ffort he built on a Point of Land at the very entrance of Pasccatoway River. And having granted by Patent all the Island bordering on this land to the Midle of the River, he tooke possession of an Island comonly called the great Island and for the bounds of this side he went up the River to a point called Bloudy Point, and by the sea side about 4 milles he had also power of Government within his owne bounds, Notwithstanding all this, all is at this day in the power and at the disposall of the Massachusitts. Two Leagues of lyes the Isle of Shooles one of the best places for ffishing in the land, they have built a Church here and maintaine a Minister."*³⁰

Thomson's arrival is also chronicled in "The Deposition of Phinneas Pratt regarding the planting of the Plymouth (1620) and Wessagusett (1622) Colony."

"...9 (?) of our men weare ded wth famine and on died in the ship before thay Came to the place whear at that Time of yeare ships Came to fish — it being in March. At this Time ships began to fish at ye Islands of Sholes and I haveing Recovered a Little of my . . . th went to my Company near about this Time . . . the first plantation att Pascataqua the . . . thereof was Mr. David Tomson at the time of my arivall (?) att Pascataqua..."

"...Not long after the oferthrow of the first plantation in the bay, Capt. Louit Cam to yer Cuntry. At the Time of his being at Pascataway a Sacham or Sagamor Gaue two of his men, on to Capt. Louit & An other to Mr. Tomson, but on yt was ther said, "How can you trust these

Salvagus. Cale the nam of on Watt Tylor, & ye other Jack Straw, after ye names of the two greatest Rebills yt ever weare in Eingland." Watt Tylor said "when he was a boy Capt. Dormer found him upon an Island in great distress." ³¹

Under the date of 1623, Governor Bradford, in speaking of the Weston Colony states, "There were also this year some scattering beginnings made in other places as at Paskataway, by Mr. David Thomson, at Monhigen, and at some other places, by sundry others." Christopher Levett, one of the three men who was granted 6,000 acres and an island, came over in 1623 and returned the following year. Levett wrote, "The next place I came unto was Pannaway, where one M. Thomson hath made a Plantation. There I stayed about one month." ³² By 1625/26 Maverick, with the assistance of David Thomson, built a fort at Noodles Island (currently Logan Airport) in Boston Harbor and possibly a house at Squantum Neck, which connects to the island at low tide via a sand bar. (The Plymouth Plantation Governor, William Bradford, in his "Letter Book" refers to a Mrs. Thomson as living at Squantum Neck in 1628, presumably after David's death.) Thomson may have chosen to move to the Massachusetts Bay location to better serve as the Acting Governor under the Robert Gorges grant, a position which had become more than a formality following the death of young Gorges. ³³ What became of Thomson's interest in the Piscataqua plantation is not clear. Perhaps he continued to micro-manage it from his Boston Harbor post until his death. What is clear, from Massachusetts Bay Colony records, is that a Mr. John Thomson, Master of the ship the *Elizabeth* of New England, was the son born to David and Amias Thomson in 1619. In 1650, he laid claim to an island in Boston Harbor, which to this day is referred to as Thomson's Island. His claim was supported by the testimony of four individuals. Miles Standish stated that in the year 1620 he had come into this country "and I take it the same yeare I was in the Massachusett Bay with Willjam Trevoyre and then being on the Island lying neere Dorchester And called the said Island; Island Trevoyre and then no natives there Inhabiting... Further I Cann testify that David Thompson had shown me a very Ancient Pattent and that Isle Thompson was in it but the terms of it I cannot remember". The Sagamore of Agawam testified "that in the yeare 1619: or thereabouts as I Remember I went in my own person with Mr. David Thompson and then he tooke possession of the Island before Dorchester he liking no other but that because of the Smale Riuer and then no Indeans upon it or any wigwam or planting..." William Blaxton (Blackstone), one of the first residents of what was to become Boston, Massachusetts, testified that the Island called Tomson's I. is by Dorchester neck, and that I heard ould Mr. Thompson affirm that he had a patten for it and there is a harbor in that island for a boat which none of the rest of the islands had and these that put hoggs there doe it to his consent to my knowledge". ³⁴

William Trevour (Trevor), a sailor on the *Mayflower* and later Captain of his own ship, the *William* claimed that "Thompsons Island" is the formerly called "Island of Trevour" which I took possession of in 1619 and declared the same (as the effect of my proceedings) to Mr David Thomson in London; on which information the said T. obtained a grant and patten for peaceable and

quiet possession of said island to him and heirs forever: - I being in the Company's service at the said time..."³⁵

If the 1619 date is correct, then David Thomson may have been in London about the time the "Petition for a Charter of New England by the Northern Company of Adventurers" was presented to the King. In 1619, Thomson may also have set sail with Captain Dermer or have traveled on one of the many other vessels the merchants of London and Plymouth had trading with New England.³⁶ Evidence that David Thomson was a Scotsman associated with Scottish ambitions in the New World is corroborated by several of his colonial associates. Though in general, there were restrictions placed on the numbers and activities of the Scottish abroad in England. The historian P. Hume Brown wrote of tensions between the two nations, due to the Scottish King's ascendancy to the throne of England: "The spectacle of needy Scots flocking southward, appropriating wealth and capturing lucrative offices, had stirred the jealousy and wrath of all Englishmen", Brown stated.³⁷

David Thomson was not only a Scotsman, he was styled "Mr." and "Gentleman", which leads to the question of exactly who Mr. David Thomson, Gent. was? Why, as a Scotsman, was he allowed to remain in England? And why was he held in high esteem by the English, as well as Scottish Lords closely associated with the King, such as the Duke of Lennox, and as we shall see, by Sir William Alexander, the Earl of Stirling?

Evidence of Thomson's Scottish origin is found in chapter six of Edward Winslow's *Good Newes from New England*, published in London in 1624. It is a journal of events that occurred between 1622 and 1623 at Plymouth Colony

*"...At the same time Captain Standish being formerly employed by the Governor to buy provisions for the refreshing of the Colony, returned with the same, accompanied with one Mr. David Tomson, a Scotchman, who also that Spring began a Plantation twenty-five leagues northeast from us, near Smiths Isles, at a place called Pascatoquack, where he liketh well..."*³⁸

At some point, whether at Piscataqua or at Thomson's Island, David made the acquaintance of the Lord of Misrule, Thomas Morton, the arch-enemy of the Plymouth Plantation notable, Miles Standish. Morton is infamous for the 1st keg party in America. Captain Standish spied upon Morton and his companions, as they drunkenly cavorted with native Americans, during May Day celebrations at his "Merry Mount" dwelling place along the coast of the Massachusetts Bay.

Morton's *New English Cannan*, published in 1637 in Holland, was the first book banned in America. In it, Morton theorizes on the origin of the Native Americans, and also makes note of Thomson's nationality, status, education and level of sophistication.

"...Therefore since I have had the approbation of Sir Christophe gardiner Knight an able gentl. that lived amongst them & of David Thompson a Scottish gentl. that likewise was conversant with those people both Scollers and Travellers that were diligent of taking notice of these things as men of good judgement. And that have bin in those parts any time;

*besides others of lesse, now I am bold to conclude that the originall of the Natives of New England may be well conjectured to be from the scattered Trojans, after such time as Brutus departed from Latium."*³⁹

Sir Ferdinando Gorges was joined in his efforts to colonize the northern portion of the eastern seaboard by the Scottish Knight, Sir William Alexander, *aka* the Earl of Stirling. Sir William Alexander had once been tutor to King James' son Henry, and was a favorite of the royal household. Somehow, the mystery of David Thomson's identity appears to be linked to this Scottish Lord as evidenced by a letter which is preserved by the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. While in England, Sir William Alexander served as Master of Requests to his Majesty for the realm of Scotland, and as Secretary of State, and as a member of the King's Privy Council. Alexander also encouraged King James in American colonization efforts.⁴⁰

In January 1626, following the death of King James 1st, Alexander assumed the role of Scottish Minister resident at Court, advising King Charles 1st "about everything Scottish, and conducting officially the correspondence of Charles with the Council in Edinburgh."⁴¹ Through King Charles, Sir William Alexander was able to execute the American colonial plans initially developed by his father, King James; namely, a grant of territories for Nova Scotia (New Scotland) within the bounds of the Council for New England Royal Patent. This colonization effort was to be paid for through money raised by the creation of Nova Scotia Baronets.⁴²

By 1637, both Sir William Alexander and Sir Ferdinando Gorges were nearly bankrupt from their endeavors. About this time, meetings involving the Council for New England were sometimes held in the home of Sir Ferdinando Gorges' cousin, Lord Edward Gorges, who had been involved in the Council's affairs from the beginning. On occasions, Sir William Alexander was also in attendance.⁴³

On July 4, 1637, Sir William Alexander, writing as the Earl of Stirling, composed a joint letter to the Authorities of the Massachusetts Bay Company, in regard to the rights of John Thomson, heir of David Thomson, and his claim to the ownership of Thomson's Island. Alexander is joined in the letter by Lord Edward Gorges and Sir Ferdinando Gorges. In the original document, the uppermost signature is "E Sterling," beneath it is "Ed Gorges". The bottom of the document bears the scrawled signature of Sir Ferdinando Gorges. (The Massachusetts Historical Society has indexed the document as a letter by Sir William Alexander.)

The letter begins "on behalf of the heir John Thompson the sonne of David Thompson sometyme sirvant to the Councille for those affaires". The concern expressed was that John's mother, Amias, had since her marriage to another man (Maverick) allowed for the disposing of her son's rightful property (Thomson's Island) which "his Father had so hardly obtayned".⁴⁴

The accusation against Amias proved to be unfounded, as demonstrated by John's ability to reclaim the island. Though according to Aspinwall's Notarial Records, in 1640, John's stepfather, Samuel Maverick, did lend money from John's estate with his approval to fellow merchant, Thomas Fowle, and later to his son Nathaniel Maverick. However, the funds were repaid which proves that the Council Lords had worried needlessly.⁴⁵

Three years earlier, Amias Cole, widow of David Thomson, wife of Samuel Maverick wrote a letter to Robert Trelawney sometimes mayor of Plymouth, England. The letter, complete with her signature, was printed in the Trelawney Papers, Vol III of Maine Historical Society, Second Series in 1884.

Nottells Island in Massachusetts Bay the 20th of November, 1635

Good Sir:-

I kindly salute you in the Lord. I am given to understand by divers that my father is verie much incensed againsts me, but by what meanes I know not, and that he hath offered to make sale of his land, notwithstanding he conveyed it to me by his deed (which I doubt not but will prove sufficient,) and had of me fifty pounds in consideration of it, that so the land might remaine to me & my children after my ffathers decease. And now I am enformed that my ffather would fayne dispose of the land & repay this fifty pounds. Now my humble request unto your worship is, that as you loved my first husband, so you would be pleased to doe that favor for me and my ffatherless children as to speake to my father concerning this thing, for I am perswaded your good word to him in our behalfe will much prevaile, and whereas my father (as I am told) would dispose of the land and have mee to take the fifty pounds againe, I shall desire you to intreate him that it may remaine with him, for my children, & that he would not goe about to put the land from us contrary to his deeds and promises. As for the house which I lived in, my father gave it me presently in marriage, and I have left it wholly to his disposeing since I came thence, without haveing any benefitt of it, only to give my father content. And thus craveing pardon for my greate boldnes, not doubting but that you will be pleased to doe me this favour, wherein both I and mine shall ever rest obliged unto you, and thus with my best respects to your selfe & your loveing wife, I humby take my leave, and remaine, your ffriend. Amias Mavericke

I shall intreate you to remember me kindly to Mr. Clemett. ⁴⁶

Perhaps the reason Amias' father, William Cole, a prominent Plymouth shipwright and philanthropist, was "verie much incensed" against her had to do with his belief that Amias favored her second husband, Samuel Maverick, over her son by David Thomson. Cole may have shared this concern with Lord Edward and Sir Ferdinando Gorges. They, in turn, might have informed Sir William Alexander, the Earl of Stirling. And together they contacted the Massachusetts Bay authorities.

My suspicion is that the concern expressed by the Gorges in the letter of 4 July 1637 may have been politically motivated. John Thomson's loss of Thomson's Island would mean the loss of the last strong-hold the Council for New England had in the region. However, the Earl of Stirling's involvement was not with New England, only Nova Scotia and Long Island. The old Scottish knight, writing shortly before his death, may have been genuinely concerned.

Stirling may have known Thomson as a young man. It is entirely possible that the Duke of Lennox, and the King, may have known his father.

Perhaps the Earl sensed that the American landed interests of his own family, plus many of the Nova Scotia Baronets, as well as the interests of the heir of one of the few Scottish Gentleman of the King James era who actively worked to establish a plantation, were about to be swallowed up by English colonial efforts.

To be continued in the September Journal

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- ²⁴ Sir Ferdinando Gorges. *A Brief Narration of the Original Undertakings of the Advancement of Plantations into the parts of America. Especially Shewing the beginning, progress and continuance of that of New England. Written by the Worshipfull, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Knight and Governor of the Fort and the Island*

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TWO PITTENWEEM CLOCKMAKERS NAMED JOHN SMITH

by Donald Whyte FHG, FSG

Much has been written about the ingenious Pittenweem craftsman who made automated musical clocks between 1774 and 1814 but only the researches of the present writer uncovered the fact that two John Smiths worked as clockmakers in Pittenweem, Fife, in the last quarter of the 18th century. In this article we treat of the more famous clockmaker, some of whose work has been well studied, and briefly of the second John Smith.

Another John Smith, for many years a messenger with the Royal Bank of Scotland, in Edinburgh, compiled a useful pioneer work, *Old Scottish Clockmakers, 1453-1850*, published by Oliver & Boyd in 1903. He benefited from works such as *The History of the Hammermen of Glasgow*, by Harry Lumsden and the Rev. P. H. Aitken, issued by Gardner of Paisley in 1912 and

in 1921 published an enlarged edition. The book, hailed as a classic, because there is nothing with which to compare it, contains information about John Smith and especially about his magnificent table clock, now the property of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and preserved at Clarence House.

The table clock, in a splendid gilded oak case, was probably made about 1795, and is spring driven and automated. It indicates the hour, minute and second, day of the month, and number of days in each month. It also has the phases of the moon and the time of her southing. The clock chimes the quarter and strikes the hour. Barrels are pricked for sixteen tunes. During the playing of an air, on the left face, the King and Queen and members of their court march past in procession and below them a squadron of Horse Guards canter past. The right hand controls the music.

Smith took his exquisite pedestal clock, standing nearly five feet tall, to London in 1808, where three of the leading makers valued it at £900, a large sum at that time. He failed to find a buyer and at Edinburgh the following year, exhibited it along with a tall longcase clock and a number of watches and eight day clocks in mahogany cases. The total value of fourteen items was estimated at £1,744.7s.6d. The craftsman organised a lottery and kept the subscription list open for six months. However, he lost on the transaction, receiving only £500. It is not recorded who purchased tickets or who gained clocks.

In 1900, the table clock appeared at a sale in London by Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods, of 8 King Street, St. James's Square. Subsequently it came into the possession of William Brownlee Smith, a Glasgow jeweller and dealer in watches, silver and precious stones. He exhibited the imposing clock at the "Palace of History" Scottish Exhibition of National History, Art and Commerce, in Glasgow, in 1911.¹ It came to belong to the City of Glasgow Council, who gave it as a present to the Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, on the occasion of their marriage, 26th April 1923. Apart from John Smith's notice, the clock has been described by Cedric Jagger, in *Royal Clocks* (London: Robert Hale, 1983), and by the late Felix Hudson, the Dunfermline horologist and antique dealer, in *Antiquarian Horology*, Vol. 15, No. 5, September 1985. He gave further information, aided by the present writer, in Vol. 20, No. 5, Spring 1993.

Other clocks by the Pittenweem craftsman include:

A. A longcase clock, seven feet eight inches tall, in an elegant Georgian case, owned by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, K. T., and preserved at Bowhill, near Selkirk. This clock may be the earliest known, dating from about 1775, and possibly purchased at Edinburgh in 1809. For many years it was at Dalkeith Palace. The clock features tastefully engraved and silvered brass plate details, arch shaped. The main dial has subsidiary dials, the right side one naming the days of the week, with the reminder that the music and automata will not be played on Sundays. The small dial on the left is the manual selector for "Hours & Quarters", "Silent Chimes" or "Silent all the Parts". On the left dial of the clock is a representation of a public building, with Georgian architectural designs. In the arch are displayed the Royal Arms and at each side of the doorway are two armed sentinels in the livery of the City Guard of Edinburgh. In operation, the procession of

Senators of the College of Justice pass the doorway, led by the macer, who doffs his hat at the start. The right hand dial is musical, offering eight Scottish tunes.

B. A longcase clock, eight feet - eight and threequarter inches tall: one of those taken to London in 1808 and valued at £472. This clock, not in full working order, is in the Museum of Scotland. It was owned by Col. John Bald Harvey, of Schaw Park, Clackmannan, who inherited it in 1864 through his marriage to Margaret, daughter of James Fernie of Kilmix, Scoonie parish, Fife, whose father owned it. The clock has magnificent brass capitals, mouldings and cross-banding, and has an automated dial. The japanned main dial is of sheet brass and the style of decoration conforms to the period 1790-1800. In the arch is printed JOHN SMITH - PITTENWEEM. The automated left dial has a castellated facade and bridge over a moat, guarded by two sentries. A cavalryman is featured in the main entry and an upper opening is for a royal procession. The right hand dial is musical.

C. A longcase clock which belonged to Thomas Shaw, sometime Keeper of the *Register of Sasines for Fife*, was sold on the second of a two day sale of his effects to a Mr. Kirk of Guildford, Surrey on 28th July 1858. It passed into other hands but was re-purchased by his grandson, J. Johnston Kirk of Rosend, Guildford at a sale in Dowell's Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh on 12th March 1904. It was marked Lot 244 in the Catalogue and described as "Fine old grandfather chiming clock, by John Smith, Pittenweem; plays four old Scots tunes, "Maggie Lauder", "The Lea Rig", "The Wauken o' the Fauld" and the "The Flowers of Edinburgh"; omits playing on the Sabbath;....in mahogany case".

D. A remnant of a clock which John Smith presented to the Kirk Session of Pittenweem on the death of his first wife is a brass backplate inscribed:

THIS TIME PICE / WAS GIVEN IN / A PRESENT TO / THE KIRK
SESSION OF PITTENWEEM, BY JOHN SMITH / WATCHMAKER
THERE/AS A MEMORIAL/WHEN HE ERECTED/THE HEADSTONE
/ IN SAID KIRKYARD, IN / MEMORY OF HELEN/BROWN HIS
SPOWS / WHO DIED THE 1st MAY 1771, AGED 34 / SEE THE
RECORD OF THE SESSION / DATED THE 7th SEPT. 1771.

It was probably cut by himself, complete with the odd spellings, two years later the Kirk Session commissioned Smith to make a new clock for the church tower. He was in a generous mood when he estimated the clock at £25 for the forty eight hour movement, less than £5 for the old one. The clock was made to strike the church bell, an import from Sweden in 1683. Also in the tower is the town bell, which was used for proclamations and curfews. John Smith's clock gave good service for many years but was eventually changed for an eight day clock with illuminated dials.

While much is known about John Smith as a clockmaker, prior to the researches of the present writer, little was known of his personal life. Extensive inquiries have not established his date of birth, nor his parentage. The fact that he had an Aunt Helen in Cupar², favours Fife as his place of birth but this is unconfirmed. Where he served his apprenticeship is not known but when he married, 24th January 1762 at Edinburgh, he was working as a journeyman in College Kirk parish. ³ His bride was Helen,

daughter of the deceased Thomas Brown, flesher in Leith and Agnes Carse. It was probably not long after that event when he commenced business in Pittenweem. The little fishing town seems a backwater for such a talented craftsman but much trade in those days, because of the state of the roads, was coastal. More anciently, several Fife ports engaged in Baltic trade. John Smith's nearest centres for raw and part finished materials would be Dundee and Edinburgh and probably he crossed the Firth of Forth frequently. He doubtless employed journeymen and apprentices. One of the latter was his nephew, Alexander Oliphant and another was George, son of George Lumsden of Lumsdaine, both spellings appear on the indentures, collier in Pittenweem. The indentures were dated and signed on 7th March 1806 but the lad had commenced work on 1st January 1806.

John Smith's first wife was buried at Pittenweem, where there is a memorial inscribed "John Smith, Watchmaker, Erected this stone in memory of Helen Brown His Beloved Spouse, who died the 1st of May 1771, aged 34 years. Also the said John Smith, who died 1814". On the left column is inscribed the biblical text: "Be ye not slothful, but followers of them who faith and patience inherit the promise. Heb. VI, 12". The right column is inscribed: "How happy the husband, in such sharer of my bed". ⁴

Late in life, November 1809, John Smith married Christian Douglas, party to a Trust Deed & Settlement dated 5th October 1810, providing for the longer liver of them and making legacies for Ann Elizabeth, his niece, wife of Robert Graves, London; his nephew, William Smith, R. N.; Alexander Oliphant, shoemaker, then living with him in a house near Rottenrow, Pittenweem; and the Kirk Session of Pittenweem. The trustees were Rev. Dr. James Nairne, 1750-1819, minister of Pittenweem and John Skirving, factor to Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie, BT. Smith's estate was valued at £907. 3s. 8d. His stock in trade was appraised at £161. 18s. 6d by Alexander Oliphant, watchmaker, and Robert Wilkie, wright in Pittenweem, and included twenty four clocks, five in cases, at £88. 9s; eighteen watches at £49. 5s and his working tools valued at £24. 4s. 6d. Curious items among the latter were "1 Fuzee engine" and an "Electrifying machine", each valued at £3. ⁵ The various documents have provided information for the partial pedigree chart attached. John Smith died on 11th April 1814, survived by his second wife, Christian Douglas, for whom no date of death has been found.

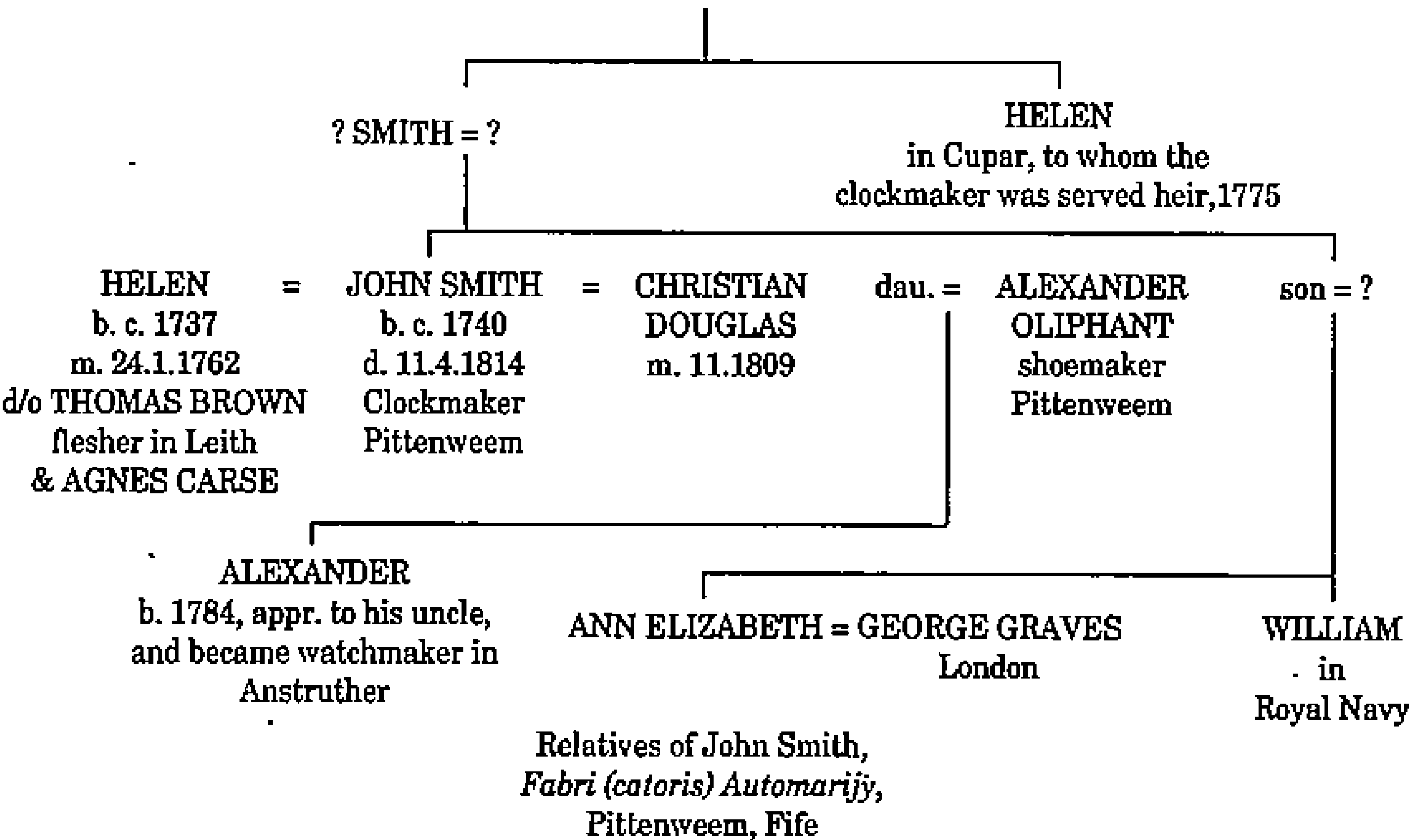
While searching for information about the above John Smith, it became apparent that another craftsman of the same name was working as a clock and watchmaker in Pittenweem between 1770 and 1788. It seems possible that some of his clocks have been attributed to his more famous namesake. The latter signed his clocks JOHN SMITH - PITTENWEEM. On his important table clock, which he hoped to sell in London, he added NORTH BRITAIN. Expert knowledge might verify if longcase clocks signed "Jno. Smith, Pittenweem", were the work of the second John Smith. Such a clock, with white painted face and brass spandrels, was offered for sale by Phillips, the auctioneers, at Edinburgh, 8th December 1989. Another was owned by Walter Gilchrist, church organist at Kirkliston, who died at an advanced age on 18th December 1998. The clock was moved to England by his son Sandy when his father was in care in a nursing home, and is now in his home at

Hazelmere. Unfortunately the weights were lost in transit by a firm of removers.

This second John Smith was born in Kilrenny parish, Fife on 12th February 1754⁶, eldest son of Robert Smith, brewer and Margaret Trail. His name father was John Ramsay, feuar at Kirkton of Largo, who was father of Rev. John Ramsay, 1732-1821, minister at Strachan, 1763-1800. ⁷ The family moved to Balchrystie in Newburn parish before 1771 and John became a clock and watchmaker at Pittenweem. He had property at Balchrystie ⁸ and died before 14th March 1788, when his surviving brother Robert and surviving sisters, Elizabeth, Euphan, Christian and Janet were retoured as his heirs general. ⁹

Notes and References

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- ² *Services of Heirs*, Scottish Record Office, ref. C22/82, fol. 260. In service to his aunt as heir general, John Smith is styled *Fabri(catoris) Automatarij*, proof in 1775 of his mechanical renown.
- ³ Grant, Francis J. (Ed.), *Register of Marriages of the City of Edinburgh*, 1751-1800. Edinburgh: Scottish Record Society, 1922. The printed register, p.726 gives the correct date of proclamation as 7th January 1762 and that of marriage as 24th January. Omitted is the fact that John Smith, at the time of his marriage, was a journeyman in Edinburgh. *Old Parochial Register*, No. 685-1/49, New Register House.
- ⁴ The stone does not photograph well owing to its dark colour and the faintness of the inscriptions.
- ⁵ Commissariat of St. Andrews *Register of Testaments*, 1814-20. Scottish Record office, ref. C20/4/30 and C20/7/6.
- ⁶ *Old Parochial Register of Kilrenny, Fife*, No. 438/1-2.
- ⁷ *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vol. 6, p.111. New edition. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1926.
- ⁸ *Register of Sasines*, Scottish Record Office, ref. RS3/671, 105-110.
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CLAN A MHAIGHSTIR of ARDGOUR

by Gary J. McMaster, California, USA

The Clann a' Mhaighstir was, in pre-Christian times, part of the Earldom of Gallgael. They belonged to the Kaledonioi Tribe of Dicaladones Cruthne, the great northern branch of Picts¹ (the Roman orator Eumenius is the first in whose writings appears, in 297 A.D., the name "Picti,"—that is, "painted"). The Picts were the indigenous people who inhabited the wild mountainous regions of northwest "Caledonia"—as Scotland was then known. They were ancient tribes of "painted men".

It is generally believed that prior to doing battle they would war-paint themselves blue, however, there is also the widely-held opinion that translations of Roman writings tend to relate more the idea that the Picts' body illustrations were actually tattoos. Some details concerning the lives of these early people have become known to us through their surviving artifacts, which include many pictorial "standing stones". They made round houses of timber or stones, grew crops such as wheat and barley, reared cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, fished for bream and haddock, and made simple grooved pottery, utensils, tools and weapons. They were excellent artisans of jewelry. Many of their chambered tombs survive from 4000 BC. It is generally believed that the first people came to Scotland from mainland Europe during the Sixth Millennium BC.

In the early part of the First Century, Julius Caesar sent large invasions from his Roman Army bases in mainland Europe, across the channel into Britain, soon conquering Wales and England. Around the year 80 AD, the Roman Governor of Britain, Julius Agricola, launched the first full-scale invasion of Caledonia. This would be the first of many attempts. The Romans thrust north in Scotland countless of times, trying to conquer the Picts to subjugate them and envelope them into the Empire. To no avail. The Pict tribes were savage and indomitable, and Caledonia itself was an extremely harsh land in both terrain and climate. The Romans did have some tactical successes, though, and at various times even managed to build and maintain several forts in the southern parts of Scotland, but Pict warriors constantly fought them off. The Picts moved about in relatively small, well-trained teams of 100 to 200 tough warriors, which were often too much for the smaller Roman garrisons to fend off. The Romans kept trying to extend their Empire north, and the Picts kept raiding and harassing the Romans in the south. Then, in 122, the Roman Emperor Hadrian visited Britain and ordered the construction of Hadrian's Wall, a high stone wall which would span the entire width of Scotland near its southern border—to keep out these "wild men" of Caledonia. Later, another wall called "The Wall of Antoninus", was constructed. Neither wall stopped Picts raids from the north altogether, though, and the walls were breached several times by both land and by sea. The Roman Legions marched into northern Caledonia for the very last time in 211, and failed to achieve any substantial victory. At last the Romans felt totally compelled to abandon everything they had in Caledonia, and the Picts were left alone. "Leave them to their spiked mountains and bottomless lakes!" was the final cry from the exasperated Romans. Thereafter, the Picts would meet the Roman Army only when they

attacked the Roman forts on the Walls, or tried to get into occupied Britain. In the late 4th Century, the Picts swept over the walls with a great army, while the Romans were besieged by invasions from Saxon pirates who had sailed from north-west Europe, and by "Scotti" (meaning raiders), from northern Ireland. Near the middle of the 5th Century, the Romans were forced to leave Britain completely. It is from these valiant Picts, and from their eventual fusion with the Scots, or "Scotti" (who gradually migrated from Ireland and began settling on the west coast), and with some Norse influence, that are descended the present-day native highland people of Scotland. .

Clann a' Mhaighstir had their original settlement in the west highland Lordship of Lachaber. It was the district now called Ardgour. In the Scots Gaelic language, it was "Ard-Gobhar", or "height of the goats"—referring to the mountain goats which once populated these slopes, which are among the highest in Great Britain. Ardgour is made up of the beautiful and extensive lands which stretch west from the huge and majestic Loch Linnhe (pronounced Linny), Loch Linnhe flows to the gaping mouth of the Great Glen, which splits the northern Highlands of Scotland up through Loch Ness to Inverness and the North Sea. Ardgour starts at Drumsalgie in the north, at the head of Loch Eil, and runs south beyond Corran toward Loch Sunart. I was fortunate to locate, via the Internet, a copy of William Drummond-Norie's hard-to-find literary masterpiece, "Loyal Lochaber", at the new City Library in Perth, Scotland. The Local Studies librarian was kind enough to have it set aside until my impending trip was over. In it, Drummond-Norie paints a beautiful verbal picture of this raw and exquisite region of the Scottish Highlands. Lochaber! Unsympathetic indeed is the man, be he Highlander or Lowlander, Gael or Sassenach [English], who does not experience a thrill of pleasurable emotion, tinged perhaps with sadness, when this name falls upon his ears; what visions of lofty mountains lifting their mighty summits to the clouds does it not conjure up before the imagination; we see as in a dream, stretches of purple moorland, dotted here and there with snow-white sheep; blue sparkling lochs embosomed among the hills, reflecting in their mirrored surface the brown sails of the fishing boats; turbulent rivers rushing merrily along over rocks and pebbles, making sweet music as they go to join the sea; foaming cataracts tumbling noisily from deep corries in the mountain sides, sending up clouds of smoke-like spray, in which all the colours of the rainbow gleam; wee murmuring burns, where the brown trout love to dwell, flowing between banks all thick with ferns and foxgloves, their tuneful voices helping to swell the great harmonious Lobgesang to the Almighty. If this is the vision, how much beautiful is the reality... The air around is fragrant with the scent of wild thyme and bog myrtle, with which the ground at our feet is covered; great clumps of purple heather, growing here in wild luxuriance, give the one touch of local colour that is wanted to harmonise with the tints of the surrounding vegetation. Among the heather the bees go humming merrily as they extract the honey from its tiny bells. The sheep are grazing lazily in the shade of the great lichen-covered boulders, or, perched upon some inaccessible crag, nibble the short grass they have discovered in the clefts of the rocks, regardless of the precipice yawning at

their feet. A great silence, like the silence of some immense cathedral, is all about...broken only at rare intervals by the shrill scream of an eagle, as it swoops down from its rocky eyry upon its unsuspecting prey in the glen beneath; this and the occasional harsh crow of the grouse cock among the heather, are the only sounds...² The Lordship of Lochaber stretched from the River Spey to the Atlantic when Macbeth disposed of the Thane, Banquo. With its heavy rainfall and lack of good farmland, its people were forced to live as subsistence farmers. Its population remained thinly scattered and its social structure—based on the clan system—remained virtually unchanged for centuries.³

It was from the Clann a' Mhaighstir that the name Mac a' Mhaighstir was born. It meant "Son" of the Master. Mhaighstir, or Master, came from the word Magister (i.e. a university graduate). There is a tradition that the first of this family to take the name, did so, because he was the first layman in Scotland to gain the academic distinction of *Atim Magister* (Master of the Arts). It was to be, in the centuries to follow, anglicized into the simpler form of "MacMaster". In some branches of the family, an "s" was added at the end. (For some strange reason, almost everyone wants to add an "s" to the name, although they do it to virtually no other such Scottish surnames—people are not inclined to say MacPhersons, MacGregors, Macleans, MacDonalds, MacFarlanes, MacLachlans, etc., unless citing the names in the plural sense.) Still later, the "Mac" was often shortened to "Mc". This was true of many other "Mac" surnames. Another surname which sprung from Mhaighstir was Masterson.⁴ In all probability the progenitor of this family was connected with the Culdee order of the Celtic Church (later to become the Church of Scotland) and had charge of Cill-Bhaodain (Church of St. Baodan), Ardgour. Later, his descendants would come to possess those lands attached to the Church as vassals of the Lords of the Isles.⁵ The important family connection of the MacMasters with the Buchanan Clan—which remains a powerful one to this day—comes since an early MacMaster was descended, through Murcho, from Colman, third son of the Seventh Chief of Buchanan.⁶ This makes their connection an important one of bloodline—not simply an alliance of convenience and safety that had been sought and granted for mutual protection during prolonged conflict.

Around the year 1400, William MacMaster of Ardgour had, in addition to performing some acts of bravery, been awarded the degree of Master of Arts. As a result of these things, the Buchanan Chief proclaimed to him, "Because of your bravery and brightness, your honour is clearer!" Thus, the Latin inscription on the Buchanan Coat of Arms, "Clarior, Hinc Honis" (i.e., "Brighter, Hence the Honour").⁷ There is an unfortunate misconception in some circles that this motto was attributed to the later accomplishments of George Buchanan, the 16th Century Scottish scholar who was tutor to James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots. I have seen this story perpetuated in print, in Edinburgh's Greyfriars Kirk and elsewhere, but Adams' research (see footnote) is soundly documented in historical fact, and it shows that this was the Buchanan Clan Motto a full century before George Buchanan's birth. (Frank Adam, in his oft-consulted and referenced turn-of-the-century tome, "Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands", refers to

George Buchanan as "that filthy-minded historian who traduced [defamed; slandered] Mary Queen of Scots even to her son James VI, who (whilst his tutor) he malused mentally and physically".) ⁸

In 1406, at the age of 12, James I of the House of Stewart ascended to the throne of Scotland. The second son of Robert III, he had been born in Dunfermline. All of his predecessors since Robert the Bruce had had to contend with the rebellious and powerful Lords of the Isles. They had become Lords of Lochaber during the previous century, and under their rule the clan system flourished. James' older brother David was murdered, reportedly by their uncle, the Duke of Albany, and James was sent to France for safety. On the way, the English took him for ransom. Albany ruled as governor and refused to pay the ransom. Clan wars escalated in the highlands, while border barons terrorized the burghs of the south. Very little of the tax money made it past bandits to the capital of Edinburgh, and James would be held by the English for eighteen years. The Lords of the Isles were MacDonalds, and they ruled the western Highlands, including not only Lochaber but other great landholdings on the mainland, as well as the islands of Islay, Jura, Mull, Colonsay, Tiree and Lewis. Tracing their origins from Somerled, who had expelled Norwegian settlers from Lochaber and Morven in the Twelfth Century, they regarded themselves much as kings in their own right. Donald was Lord of the Isles at this time—the second of the four consecutive Lords. He also considered himself to be the rightful Earl of Ross, and he accepted English aid in an attempt to establish that claim. Intrigue of these Lords with England for support in their continuous expansionism created great turbulence throughout the 15th Century. In 1411, Lord Donald invaded the northeastern plain of Scotland in an attempt to secure the Earldom of Ross. He was halted at Harlaw by the Earl of Mar, who defeated Donald after the savage Battle of Harlaw on 24th July, to save Aberdeen. Donald and his west highlandmen and islemen retreated back to their homelands. One of the many who did not make it back was Hector Maclean (Eachann Ruadh nan Cath, "Red Hector of the Battles"), Chief of Clan Maclean. ⁹ I mention him now as we shall hear more of his family soon.

During the early 15th Century, the right of the MacMasters to the lands comprising the region of Ardgour had been upheld continuously by the Lords of the Isles since the line of these Lords had come into power. It had been the home of the MacMasters for centuries. However, around the year 1432 the Chief of the McMasters is said to have given "offense to his feudal lord by the use of an insulting epithet on the occasion of an interview that had taken place between them, and...the Lord of the Isles...threatened to punish MacMaster for his temerity by expelling him from the lands of Ardgour. For some reason or another, no immediate steps were taken, and MacMaster returned to his dwelling at Clovullin (Cladh a Mhuillin), in the fond belief that his crime had been overlooked or forgotten. This, however, was not the case, as we shall see.¹⁰

Before the aforementioned Hector Maclean was slain in open battle by Sir Alexander Irving of Drum at the Battle of Harlaw, he had been borne several sons in his marriage to a daughter of the Earl of Douglas. One of these sons was named Ewan. "At the time of his father's death, Ewan

was an infant, and the Earl of Douglas constituted himself the guardian and protector of his fatherless grandchild. As soon as he could handle weapons, young Ewan was trained in the art of war and other manly exercises, in which he soon became proficient".¹¹ After a battle in Dunbarton, he "sought his fortune in Ireland, but returned later to Ardtornish when he heard that the Lord of the Isles was engaged in making grants of lands to those chiefs who had supported his cause during the late troubles. Young Maclean is said to have crossed from Ireland in a galley with sixteen followers, among whom were some bearing the names of Boyd and Livingstone. Upon his arrival at Ardtornish, Ewan sought an interview with Lord MacDonald, which, having been granted, he boldly asserted his claim to a share in the division of property".¹² But all of the available land had been divided among earlier claimants, so the Lord was unable to grant the request.

These events seem to have occurred just prior to 1437, when James I was murdered by Sir Robert Graham, and James' 19-year-old son ascended to the Scottish throne as James II. Both James I and II were able to exert almost no direct influence at all in the western highlands and islands. In fact, they both "engaged in practicing dissimulation among...nobles, who were contesting with one another, each engaged in accomplishing his self-purpose. The people were afflicted by almost every scourge which could be let loose upon a devoted country: by internecine feuds, by a severe famine, and by a widespread and deadly pestilence".¹³ The Lord of the Isles Donald, like those before him, was very good at encouraging strife and violence himself, and seemed almost to take glee in it. He told Ewan Maclean that he (Maclean) had a good enough sword arm and enough followers to just take the land he wanted. Then, "suddenly calling to mind the insult he had received from MacMaster of Ardgour, and glad of the opportunity of inflicting punishment upon whom he considered a rebellious vassal, Macdonald turned graciously to Ewan and said, "the spirit of your dead father is in you and you deserve a reward; go therefore and take the lands of "Fiuch!" "Fiuch!" (Anglice, "pshaw!")—this being the objectionable interjection used by MacMaster which had aroused the wrath of the proud hibreidean potentate".¹⁴

Another popular version of the story has the Lord of the Isles saying "Falbh! nach leum thu'n garradh far is iosaille (Off! canst thou not leap the fence where it is lowest?)"¹⁵ The Maclean adventurer, in this version, is not Ewan Maclean at all, but Donald Maclean,¹⁶ the bastard son of the 3rd Maclean of Duart (Lachlan Bronnach—the æswag-bellied), and his second cousin three times over, who was the daughter of Maclean of Kingierloch. Lachlan Bronnach, with Merdoch Gibson, had been responsible for wanton devastation on the west coast of Scotland, and, pushing forward into the heart of Lennox, of reducing that "whole district to the state of a blackened and depopulated district."¹⁷

After a bit more explanation from the Lord MacDonald, Maclean and his followers set sail in their galley for Loch Linnhe. "Late that night they arrived at Clovullin, and having landed, proceeded to the home of the Chief of the MacMasters", which stood a little farther west than the present Ardgour House at Clovulin".¹⁸ Maclean knocked loudly, and demanded food

and lodging for himself and his warriors. "The Chief of Ardgour, having been probably awakened from his slumbers, was in anything but a conciliatory mood, and he refused the request in most insulting terms".¹⁹ Those words were apparently the last he was to utter. It is said that they had scarcely left his lips when the villains brandished their dirks and swords and butchered the unarmed chief. After the murder, the chief's eldest son and heir, known as "the fox", ²⁰ made his escape from the house to Corran Ferry. The ferryman named MacGurraclaich was out fishing at the time, and when young MacMaster shouted to him to come ashore and take him to the other side he received this callous reply: "Ta iad gabhail re-mhath air na cudainnean an nochd' (the "cuddies"[fish] are taking too well tonight)". Young MacMaster was being hotly pursued and was forced to flee to a recess in the glen". ²¹ He sought shelter in the woods, but Maclean and his men found him at daybreak. They are said to have slain the lad "at a spot called Camus a t-Salein (the salt bight) at the north end of Keil Bay". ²² The spot where he was buried is still known as Carn an t-sionnaich ("the Cairn of the Fox"). When MacGurraclaich came ashore at Kilvaodan, not far from the Red Rocks, he greeted the murderer with these words: "Nach math tinn mi sin, a Hhic Ghill 'eathain!" ("Isn't it well that I did that, Maclean!") Maclean's answer, however, put a different complexion on the ferryman's boastful speech and said: "O, seadh, ach dh'ghag thu a bheatha air mo laimhsa, agus nam bitheadh cothrom agad dheanadh tu a' cheart cleas orm-sa' ("O, yes, but you left his life on my hand, and if you had been given an opportunity you would have played the same trick on me")"²³ A slightly different version of Maclean's statement is "If you can betray the man to whom you have sworn allegiance, you will just as easily betray us one day!"²⁴ "Forthwith, Maclean ordered his men to seize MacGurraclaich, and using the oars as a temporary scaffold they hanged him on the spot".²⁵

Donald, Lord of the Isles, then sanctioned the appropriation of all the MacMaster territory by Ewan (or Donald) Maclean—to be known from then on as the "First Maclean of Ardgour". The rest of the MacMasters were said to have fled across the ferry and up to Inverlochy, where the River Lochy flows into Loch Eil, just north of the town of Fort William. Inverlochy Castle was at the time the seat of Clan Cameron". A MacMaster poetess has expressed herself in satirical language as she poured out contempt upon Maclean of Kingairloch and Donald Maclean [again, MacMillan is the source] of Ardgour on learning that they had murdered her chief. One verse is as follows:

*"Nam bitheadh Mac Mhic Eoghainn's Mac Mhic Eachainn
Mar chomhla air aon sgeor;
Cha tugainn-sa Mac Mhic Eachainn,
'S dh'fhagainn Mac Mhic Eoghainn air".*

*"If Ewen's grandson and Hector's grandson
were together on one 'sgeir' (Skerry)
I would not take the grandson of Hector,
and I would leave Ewen's grandson there".²⁶*

There is a haunting MacMaster tradition passed down through the centuries,

that "when the Macleans were harrying the MacMasters out of Ardgour...the last of the MacMasters, who failed to escape, were trapped on the south shore of Loch Eil near a large isolated rock, or boulder, at Garvan, opposite the house of John MacLachlan of Kinlocheil. The Macleans killed these MacMasters [many of whom were women and children], and threw their bodies into Loch Eil; some of these drifted across the loch and were washed onto its north shore where they were buried by MacMasters who had previously escaped and settled on the north side of Loch Eil; that was before the Camerons owned this part of Lochaber. The outlines of the graves are said to be still visible among the short shore grass below and east of the site of Kinlocheil school.... The headman of these Loch Eil-side MacMasters was MacMaster of Achdaliu. The little settlement of Kinlocheil is about a half a mile from the head of the loch (though the name means head of Loch Eil). The actual extremity of the loch is at Drumsallie where the hillwaters of the Fionnlighe and Dubhlighe wind through a grassy plain and sandy shore to mingle with the brackish water of the loch. This place, or rather place-name, derives its name from a hill overlooking it on the north called Druim na Saille (ridge of the willow). ...It is a favourite haunt of that bane of a calm summer evening in the highlands, voracious midges, whose merciless attacks are sufficient to have inspired the Highland Fling, and Druimsallie midges are "the real MacKay".²⁷

Many MacMasters moved south and west across Loch Sunart and Glen Tarberts to the area of Morvern. Donald MacMaster of Drimbury, Scotland (1899) is quoted by Rev. William H. MacMaster, Ph.D., of Edinburgh in *The Caledonian* (August, 1916) as relating that "Seventy years ago there were fourteen families in Morven by the names MacMaster, [and that] when engaged in warfare, it was under the banner of Cameron of Lochiel they fought, and wore the Cameron tartan". Many joined with the MacInneses. Through marriage they became one of the families (sometimes referred to as "septs") making up that Clan as well. A confederation of the MacMasters, MacGilvrays, MacInneses and MacEarcherns existed at one time, and it was known as "Siol Gillevray".²⁸ Places as far away as Galloway, Wigtown and Ayrshire soon became home to a considerable number of MacMasters as they began to move farther and farther out into the rest of Britain, then the world. Colin, son of a John Macmagistir, was a canon of Argyll in 1433.²⁹ Although there were still few written records in the 15th Century, a John M'Master is in record in Lanark in 1498.³⁰ Another John McMaster had a tenement in Dumfries in 1582.³¹ The great Celtic poet, Alexander MacDonald (Alasdair Mac Mhaigster Alistair) was the son of the last Episcopal minister of the Church of the 6th Century Celtic Saint Finnan, on St. Finnan's Isle. Saint Finnan has a namesake also in Glenfinnan, on Loch Shiel.³²

The bloody events of 1437 at Clovullin were not, however, the last to be heard of the name MacMaster in the Ardgour area. On the morning of Monday, 19th August 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stuart arrived by boat at Glenfinnan. A ship had brought him from his home of exile in Rome to rally support in the west Highlands. Glenfinnan lies at the northwest corner of Ardgour—where the Finnan River flows into the northern end of Loch Shiel. The narrow freshwater Loch Shiel is beset by beetling hills and

sawtooth ridges. Rocky screes dotted with heather add to the somber effect.³³ "Bonnie Prince Charlie" was to unfurl his Royal Standard to signify the beginning of his near-successful campaign to challenge the Hanoverian throne. It must have seemed to "The Young Pretender" and the others present that day as a desolate location for a scene of such high pageantry. The raising of the Stuart colours in Scotland at the age of twenty-four was the culmination of his childhood dreams and adolescent aspirations.³⁴

MacDonald and Cameron clansmen joined him on that day in loyal support, as well as many others, to swear allegiance to the Cause. They would fight to the death under Prince Charles who, although Catholic, was descended from a true Scottish King, and swore to tear Scotland free from English bondage once and for all. "The MacMasters at this time were closely associated with the MacLachlans of Cruanan, and that may account for Alexander MacMaster of Corriebeg, servant of Coruanan, carrying Lochiel's standard at Glenfinnan, instead of the hereditary standard-bearer".³⁵ The Sheriff MacMaster-Campbell confirmed this story in Somerled MacMillan's book, *Bygone Lochaber*. "Indeed, an Angus MacMaster, alias Campbell, was an officer in Lochiel's Regiment. This officer was probably Angus Bain (MacMaster), tenant in Corriebeg during 1745 and 1750, and again in 1788, when he and three others,—Allan Bain, John and Sarah MacMaster—shared tenancy".³⁶ The last of the name to hold a tenancy in Corriebeg ("Coire beag," "little corrie", lies east of Kinlocheil) died there about 1813. If you go to Glenfinnan today, visit the Visitors' Centre there. Inside, in their fascinating and detailed diorama of the event which is based on reputable historic accounts, you will see that one of the two younger Highlanders assisting the elderly Lord Tullibardine, Jacobite Duke of Atholl (Duke William) to hold and unfurl the red, white and blue Stuart Royal Standard for all the world to remember—is a MacMaster! The royal flag spread its folds upon the afternoon breeze and was blessed by Hugh Macdonald, Catholic Bishop of the Isles, and ôthen from more than a thousand throats came a great Gaelic shout of welcome to *Prionnsa Tearlach Rìgh nan Ghaidheil* (Prince Charlie, King of the Gael), which rolled like the mutterings of distant thunder along the glens, echoing from crag to crag and hill to hill, startling the hinds among the heather and affrighting the eagles in their rocky eyries. From every scabbard leaped the broad shining blade of the claymore, as if thirsting for the blood of the hated Hanoverians; hundreds of glittering weapons flashed brightly in the sunlight; bonnets were thrown aloft; pipes skirled, banners fluttered in the wind; enthusiasm was in the very air and infected even the most sedate and cautious of those who, drawn thither by duty or curiosity, were witnesses of the remarkable spectacle".³⁷ Whether it was Alexander or Angus, or still another MacMaster who helped to unfurl the banner I do not know. It is also documented, in English prison records, that a Malcolm MacMaster and a William MacMaster, both fighting in Lochiel's regiment in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie, were later prisoners of the Hanoverian army. Both of these MacMasters were imprisoned at Inverness in June of 1746. Malcolm's "home or origin" was listed as Fort William, Inverness, and William's as Argyllshire (neither far from Ardgour).³⁸ By a bit of contrast, history relates that Buchanan of Drumnakill "earned

the curses of all Jacobites and upright people by basely betraying the gallant Lord Tullibardine"³⁹ around the same time. Of course, any group as large as the Buchanans is bound to have its ôheaviesö as well as its heroes (depending, of course, from which side you are looking at the situation). Personally, I can truthfully say (begging Will Rogers' pardon) that I have never met a Buchanan that I did not like! In his book *Romantic Lochaber*, Donald MacColluch writes about the widow of a John MacMaster, a crofter up in Banavie (just north of Fort William), around the time of the Disruption (1843) who, widowed, was left to rear her family on the meager produce of her little croft and a pension of one schilling and sixpence per week, awarded to her for her husband's services. Her husband had been a noted teacher of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. ôMrs. MacMaster was a very religious and independent-minded woman, and although a Lochiel estate order had been issued that no one was to give shelter to the Rev. Thomas Davidson, the secessionist minister from Kilmallie Parish Church at the Disruption, she made accomodation for him in the ben⁴⁰ end of her humble home after he had been forced to leave three other temporary lodgings. He was even forced to leave Mrs. MacMaster's small cottage and find temporary accomodation in Fort William. As long as Mrs. MacMaster remained alive her cottage, which would be thatch-roofed at that time, it was a resort for the religious worthies of the old type in the Highlands and many of the stalwarts of the Disruption movement, including the noted Dr. Candlish of Edinburgh, sojourned under its roof-tree and discussed the tenets of their belief around its peat fire. Although living in humble circumstances one of her grandsons, John Macleod, became a Doctor of Divinity and principal of the Free Church College, while another grandson was Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell of Campbeltown, a prominent worker in Highland organizations, especially in the Gaelic aspect.⁴¹ MacCulloch also tells of "a very religious layman named Donald MacMaster (around the end of the 1800's), a short-built man, fresh-complexioned and energetic old man, with a small rounded white beard. At that time, he had a small shop in Corpach (where Loch Eil converged with Loch Linnhe)". At the age of 12, he had been taken by his parents out of the Kilmallie Parish Church at the Disruption. "Speaking of Mr. MacMaster, the Rev. Murdo MacKenzie, who at one time was Free Church minister of Kilmallie, said, "Donald MacMaster was the most powerful man in Gaelic prayer I have ever heard", and when referring to his death, Principal John MacLeod, D.D., of the Free Church, said, "Donald MacMaster's passing closed a chapter in the religious history of Lochaber". At the time MacCulloch, as a boy, met MacMaster, "he was a staunch member of the Free Presbyterian Church—the Seceders—which broke away from the Free Church in 1893".⁴²

Fort Wilham is a popular town for visitors to Scotland. If you visit the Highlands, be sure to include this beautiful town in your itinerary. Then make it the thirteen miles south along the east side of Loch Linnhe to the small town of Inchree. From there, look west across the Corran narrows and you will see mountainous Ardgour. There are no roads up there, and it is a region into which only the most hardy and experienced hikers are recommended to venture. Sgurr na h-Eanchainne rises steeply to almost

2,400 feet. Beyond it, rising even taller, is the highest point in Ardgour—Sgurr Dhanhnuill. The rest of Ardgour is all somewhat similar—rugged, mountainous and beautiful, deeply cut by lochs and glens. This is truly one of the most magical corners of Scotland. A mid-19th-Century gazetteer describes the "Ancient Lordship of Lochaber" as "one of the most dreary, mountainous and barren districts of Scotland", where, suitably, the country's last wolf may have been shot (by Sir Ewan Cameron in 1680),...[but] few modern writers would describe as "dreary" such beauty spots as Glens Nevis or Roy, or Lochs Arkaig or Garry.⁴³ You will find much of Lochaber's ruggedness in Ardgour, but it does not skimp a bit on natural beauty.

The historic Corran ferry still relentlessly plies back and forth across great Loch Linnhe after all these centuries—albeit a modern motorized one these days. If you are driving an automobile, you can take it across now as well. You can go over for a walk-about or drive-about, round the ancient territory of the MacMaster Clan—even if just to relax and have a hot "cuppa" at the local tearoom in Corran. Walk along the peaceful beach and around the flat pasture lands between the feet of the giant hills and the majestic silver loch. The name of MacMaster is still well known there—as it has been for hundreds of years.

I would beseech you to go down to the village of Clovullin, a half-mile south from the Corran ferry on the Strontian Road. It may be of interest to note here, that from the Strontian Lead Mines (farther up the road near the town of Strontian) opened in 1722, came the discovery of the element strontium, a soft, ductile, malleable, silver-white metal. One of its isotopes, Strontium-90, is a frequent fission fragment of atomic explosions of uranium bombs. It is an important constituent of the residual radioactive dust that comprises the deadly "nuclear fallout" of these explosions. These Strontian mines were once manned by French prisoners-of-war, and provided bullets for the Napoleonic Wars.⁴⁵

"Northwards from Corran the road leads along the open outstretched skirts of the high green hillside of Ben Keil, or Beinn na Cille, and close to the shore. About a mile north of Corran and at the foot of the hillside is the old little burial-ground of Cill Mhaodain, or Killevaodain, surrounded by a stone wall, where lies Ewan MacLachlan, the famous Gaelic scholar, his grave marked with an upright granite tombstone. Although buried here, he was born on the opposite side of the loch, at Torracalltuin of Coruanan. Here also lie the departed chiefs and their families of the Macleans of Ardgour".⁴⁶

"The place-name Corran has been given two derivations. The Gaelic word corran can mean a crescent-shaped sickle, or pruning-hook, and a bay of similar shape. It can also mean a symmetrical tapering low point of land like the tip of a sickle or spear. Local people favour the first meaning of the word, but Professor Watson, in his *Celtic Place-Names*, gives the second meaning. Both derivations are appropriate at Corran because it has a lovely crescent-shaped bay, while at its eastern end the land tapers to a point at Corran Narrows".⁴⁷ "During the Jacobite Rising of 1745 Corran Narrows was a bottle-neck where on several occasions naval sailing-vessels sailing to and from the fort at Fort William were ambushed by Highlanders firing from the shore on both sides. They became so troublesome that a punitive landing

party was sent there which destroyed the houses on both sides of the Narrows and burned all trees and other growth likely to give shelter to snipers".⁴⁸

About a half-mile north of Corran ferry, a tree-lined avenue branches off to the left into the grounds of Ardgour House, a Georgian mansion built in the early 1800s to replace the previous home of the Macleans, which had been burned.. Presently, a company called Lochbank, Ltd. owns it, but it was still, until just a very few years ago, the home of the Chief of Clan Maclean. After it's sale to Lochbank, Ltd. in 1995, it was extensively upgraded. It is now a holiday home, catering to groups of up to twenty-two guests. The well-known burial place of the MacMaster Clan Chief (or his son and heir?) is nearby, in a copse of trees which would have been a deer park in ancient times. Behind the house is "Maclean's Towel", a beautiful waterfall. There is an ancient prophecy that the Macleans will hold Ardgour until "Maclean's Towel" runs dry. The caretaker tells me that in the 1940s or 1950s a descendant of the MacMaster Chief sued the Macleans, unsuccessfully, to reclaim the lands through the Scottish court system. Some day soon I hope to find the court records, but I do not have an exact date to enable me to do this. In the meantime, I continue research on different parts of this ongoing saga. Just recently I received a very nice letter from Sir Lachlan Maclean, the 28th Chief of the Clan Maclean, and a true gentleman. He knows little of the his Clan's relationship with the MacMasters, for most his family's papers were taken to Rome by his ancestor who fought with Bonnie Prince Charlie and, like the Prince, fled to Rome after their defeat. He does, however, acknowledge that the Macleans were "fairly unpleasant" to the MacMasters, the MacInnes and the MacQuarries on Ulva. Of course, countless families suffered horrible atrocities at the hands of greedy neighbors in those centuries. But now life is a great deal easier in these most civilized parts of our world. All that cruelty is so much ancient history. The Clans now get together at Highland Gatherings and share the most interesting stories of their ancestors they have heard, interspersed with drams of their favorite single malt whiskey. The bloody battles on the hills and moors have been replaced by good-natured rivalry at most, at the clan tents and on the athletic field. They now consider themselves, and rightly so, brothers and sisters in this great world, brought together in whatever state or country they live, by a common heritage and a proud and ancient history.

Well, that is the story thus far. There are, I am sure, hundreds of thousands of MacMasters, with all the various spellings of the name which have evolved over the years, MacMaster, McMaster, MacMasters, McMasters, throughout the world. Although I do not yet have the name of the first of them to emigrate to the Western Hemisphere, I am sure that they must have come over soon after the first colonizations, looking for new opportunities, with visions of a better life for themselves and their posterity. I hope that this historical treatise gives many members of this ancient family some rare insight into their beginnings. For whatever other national or ethnic blood their ancestors have brought into their family, the DNA and chemical make-up which they have inherited down through the centuries along with the

surname MacMaster (in any of its present-day variants), can more than likely be traced all the way back to ancestors who inhabited what is now the Highlands of Scotland thousands of years before the birth of Christ.

"Walk where each sunset weeps on Ardgour, mighty raw and red".

Anonymous

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- ¹⁴ Drummond-Norie, William, *ibid*, p. 33.
- ¹⁵ *ibid*, p. 33 (footnote).
- ¹⁶ Somerled MacMillan and Donald B. MacCulloch whose books are cited in this work and were published way later than Drummond-Norie's, maintain that it was Donald Maclean, not Ewan MacCulloch writes also that Donald later had a son named Ewan. Sir Iain Moncreiffe also alleges it was Donald, and that Donald's father, Lachlan Bronnach, was the son of Hector Maclean. None give their sources.
- ¹⁷ Tytler, *History of Scotland*, Vol. II, p. 128.
- ¹⁸ MacCulloch, Donald B., *Romantic Ardgour, Arisaig and Morar*, p. 17, W. & R. Chambers, London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland / Moray Press, Edinburgh, Scotland (2nd Ed.), 1948.
- ¹⁹ Drummond-Norie, William, *ibid*, p. 33.
- ²⁰ *ibid*, p. 33.
- ²¹ MacMillan, Somerled, *Bygone Lochaber*, p. 99, private printing, Glasgow, Scotland, 1971
- ²² Drummond-Norie, William, *ibid*, p. 17.
- ²³ MacMillan, Somerled, *ibid*, p. 100.
- ²⁴ Adam, Frank, *ibid*, p.
- ²⁵ MacMillan, Somerled, *ibid*, p. 100.
- ²⁶ *ibid*.
- ²⁷ MacCulloch, Donald B., *ibid*, p. 273.
- ²⁸ Adams, Frank, *ibid*, p. 80.
- ²⁹ *Papal Letters* (Calendar of entries in the papal registers relating to Great Britain), Vol. VIII (1427-1447), p. 468, London, 1893-1933.
- ³⁰ *Extracts from the records of the Royal Burgh of Lanark, with charters and documents*, (1150-1722), p. 10, Glasgow, 1893.
- ³¹ Edgar, Robert, *An Introduction to the History of Dumfries*, Dumfries, 1915 (written c.1746)
- ³² John Keay & Julia Keay (ed.), *Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland*, Harper. Collins, U.S.A. and Hammersmith Publishers, London, England, 1994.

- ³³ McLynn, Frank, *Charles Edward Stuart: A Tragedy in Many Acts*, p. 135, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1988.
- ³⁴ *ibid*, p. 136.
- ³⁵ MacMillan, Somerled, *ibid*, p. 101.
- ³⁶ MacMillan, Somerled, *ibid*, p. 100.
- ³⁷ Drummond-Norie, William, *The Life & Adventures of Prince Charles Edward Stuart*, Vol. I (of 4 volumes), pp. 169-170, The Caxton Publishing Co., London, England.
- ³⁸ *Prisoners of '45*, pp. 163-164, (in the collection of the Scottish Room, Edinburgh Central Library, Edinburgh, Scotland).
- ³⁹ Adam, Frank, *ibid*, p. 203.
- ⁴⁰ Modest homes back then were referred to as a "but an' ben", as one end of the building served as the living quarters ("but") and the other end was for the farm animals ("ben"). Quite a cozy and practical arrangement, actually. For an excellent example of this, visit the famous Burns Cottage, birthplace of Scotland's Poet Laureate, Robert Burns, in Alloway, Ayrshire (southwestern Scotland).
- ⁴¹ MacCulloch, Daniel B., *ibid*, p. 100.
- ⁴² MacCulloch, Daniel B., *ibid*, p. 244.
- ⁴³ *Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland*, Edited by John Keay and Julia Keay. ⁴⁴ *The New University One-Volume Encyclopedia*, J. J. Little & Ives Co., Inc., N.Y.C., 1961.
- ⁴⁵ Miers, Richenda, *Cadogan Guide to Scotland*, p. 414, Cadogan Books plc, London, England, 1991.
- ⁴⁶ MacCulloch, Daniel B., *ibid*, pp. 17-18.
- ⁴⁷ *ibid*, p. 16.
- ⁴⁸ *ibid*.

Honorary Member - William M. Lawson BL, FRICS

Mr. W. M. Lawson has accepted the invitation of the Council of the Scottish Genealogy Society to become an Honorary Member of the Society for his outstanding achievements in Hebridean genealogy, a notoriously difficult area for the non Gaelic speaking genealogist, where written records are sparse but oral tradition strong.

Mr. Lawson, who was born in Stirling, graduated in law at the University of Glasgow and then qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. He lectured in law at the Department of Land Economics at the former Paisley College of Technology, now the University of Paisley, for some years.

His great passion was for the Western Isles and their history, in particular their oral traditions and family history and he taught himself Gaelic. After moving to work in Stornoway, he set up a Genealogical Research Service and Resource Centre, *Co Leis Thu?* (Who do you belong to?), at Northton in the Isle of Harris some twenty years ago and has now amassed there more than seventeen thousand, five hundred family tree sheets covering nearly every household in the Outer Hebrides over the last two hundred years. This also contains information on families from these parts who emigrated to Canada, the USA and Australia.

Mr. Lawson has encouraged local history groups to gather and preserve their oral traditions. He has also published books on crofting history as well as aids for the study of genealogy in Harris and on emigration from the Western Isles.

Hon. Secretary

SALES CATALOGUE UPDATE

CORRECTIONS

- a) The Following Monumental Inscriptions are again available
- | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Kincardine 19 parishes of mid 19th century. 321pp | £13.00 | 440 grams |
| Dunbartonshire Pre-1855, 206pp | £8.50 | 302 grams |
- b) The printed contents in the Sales Catalogue for Stirling East are in fact the contents for Stirling West and visa versa.
The corrected entry for Stirlingshire on page 11 is thus

Stirlingshire

- *Stirling West. Pre-1855 MI. A4, Baldernock, Balfron, Buchanan, Buchlyvie, Campsie, Denny, Dennyloanhead, Drymen, Dunipace, Fintry, Gargunnoch, Inchcaillench, Killearn, Kilsyth, Kirk O' Muir, Lennoxtown, Strathblane
- | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|
| | £10.00 | 315 grams |
|--|--------|-----------|
- *Stirling East. Pre-1855 MI. A4, Airth, Bothkennar, Cambuskenneth, Falkirk, Larbert, Logie, Muiravonside, Pleau, Polmont, St. Ninians, Slamannan, Stirling
- | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|
| | £12.00 | 370 grams |
|--|--------|-----------|

NEW BOOKS/MICROFICHE FOR SALE

- a) Irish Emigrants in North America, part 4
- | | | |
|--|-------|----------|
| | £4.50 | 80 grams |
|--|-------|----------|
- b) Registration Districts
- | | | |
|--|-------|----------|
| | £3.50 | 88 grams |
|--|-------|----------|
- c) The following 1851 Census Booklets published by Lanarkshire FHS.

Lanarkshire

1851 Census Index in paperback

Blantyre	£4.50	Dolphinton	£1.30
Cadder, Part 1	£4.20	Douglas	£4.50
Cadder, Part2	£4.20	Dunsyre	£1.30
Cambuslang	£5.20	EastKilbride	£5.90
Carluke, Part 1	£5.20	Glassford	£3.50
Carluke, Part 2	£5.20	Libberton & Quothquan	£2.10
Carmichael	£2.10	Pettinain	£1.50
Carmunnock	£1.80	Shotts, Part1	£4.80
Camwarth	£5.50	Shotts, Part 2	£4.80
Carstairs	£2.50	Stonehouse	£4.50
Covington & Thankerton	£1.70	Symington	£1.50
Crawford & Leadhills	£3.20	Walston	£1.50
Crawfordjohn	£2.50	Wandell & Lamington	£1.40
Culter	£1.50	Wiston & Robertson	£2.10
Dalziel	£3.90		

- d) **Lanarkshire**
1861 Census Index on MICROFICHE of Glasgow Central
- | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| 8 fiche | £13.50 | 25 grams |
|---------|--------|----------|
- e) **Inverness**
1851 Census Index on MICROFICHE of Inverness Burgh
- | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|
| 4 fiche | £3.00 | 10 grams |
|---------|-------|----------|

NEWS in BRIEF and EDITOR'S NOTES

Dates for your Diary.

10 June	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House 6.30pm.
24 June	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
08 July	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
22 July	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
12 August	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
26 August	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
07 September	Tuesday - Irish Family History Conference, Belfast and Dublin, details below.
09 September	Thursday - Members visit to New Register House, 6.30pm.
15 September	Wednesday - Ordinary Meeting, <i>Poles apart -together again</i> - Mike Jodeluk. The Library will close early at 5.30pm.
25/26 September	Saturday/Sunday - Third Fife Family History Fair, Kirkcaldy, details below.
18 October	Monday - Ordinary Meeting, <i>Oral History Techniques</i> - Ian MacDougall.
16 November	Tuesday - Ordinary Meeting. <i>Scottish Whaling: a chill reminder</i> - David Henderson.

Ulster Historical Foundation, Family History Conference 1999

The Foundation conference entitled "Searching for that Elusive Irish Ancestor: A Millennium of Migration" is the ninth conference in the series, and is designed for anyone with an interest in Irish Family History. This conference is designed specifically for hands on research for beginners or seasoned genealogists in some of the most important archives in Ireland. There will be more than twenty speakers covering the many aspects of the theme. The conference will commence in Belfast on Tuesday 31st August 1999 and will finish on Tuesday 7th September. For full details of costs, accommodation and booking form *Tel. 01232 332288, Fax 01232 239885 or write to Ulster Historical Foundation, 12 College Square East, Belfast BT1 6DD.*

Third Fife Family History Fair

Fife Council Libraries are hosting their third Fife Family History Fair in the Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September, with a Ceilidh on Saturday evening. The theme is "Upstairs Downstairs". A programme of lectures covering life in the "big house" will be presented. Two lectures will be given by Rosemary Bigwood, "A Gentleman's Life" documents the careers and family of those "above stairs" and "A Life of Labour" sources the family histories of the labouring classes; other speakers will elaborate on this theme. There will also be a lecture for beginners on tracing your Scottish roots, and an exhibition of books, software and the Internet, with family history societies from all over the country in attendance. On Sunday there will be special library openings, guided walks and visits to archives. Tickets for Saturday £11.00, exhibition only £1.50, Ceilidh £7.50 adults £4.00 children, family of four £20.00. For further details and booking form *Tel. 01592 412939 or 412934 or write to Janet Klak, Fife Council Central Area Libraries, East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1XT.*

Scottish Record Office, Change of Title

Earlier this year the Scottish Record Office became the National Archives of Scotland. The SRO was a title of convenience adopted after the second World War when responsibility for the registers and records of Scotland was divided. This title is not used anywhere in statute, and its meaning is not always clear. Therefore it was decided to give NAS a name, which is more readily understood by the public in general, and is a more accurate statement of what they actually do. The address for any enquiries is: *National Archives of Scotland, HM General Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YY, Tel. 0131 535 1314. For enquiries relating to historical research Tel. 0131 535 1334, Fax 0131 535 1360.*

The Data Protection Act and Genealogists

In 1984 new legislation was passed to control the way in which personal information is handled in computers. The Act affects everyone who owns a computer or who has any personal data processed by computer, even if the computer belongs to someone else. The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA, has produced a leaflet priced 40p which attempts to explain the main points as they affect genealogists using computers.

SCOTTISH GENEALOGY WORK in PROGRESS

Co-ordinator: Karl Ian Ransome, e-mail: Karl.Ransome@dial.pipex.com

Submissions received by May 1999.

Archie Lumsden, Blebo Craigs, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5UQ.

As historian for the House of Lumsden Association, I am researching LUMSDEN, all variants, all periods, world-wide.

AT LAST - THE SALE OF THE 1881 SCOTTISH CENSUS INDEX

At long last the hundreds of Scots who laboured long and hard in indexing the 1881 Census for Scotland can purchase a copy of the Index. Since the completion of the work in 1996 the sale and marketing of the Census has been a running sore of discontent between the Scottish Family History Societies and the GRO Scotland. When the GRO(S) announced that the price for the census fiche would be £4.00 per fiche as opposed to the English price of 20p, there was an immediate outcry of protest from the Societies and the Scottish Press.

The Scottish Societies immediately stopped all work on the project. The dispute ran for seven weeks during which meetings were held between the GRO (S), the Genealogical Society of Utah and SAFHS in an attempt to get the GRO(S) to change their mind over the proposed £4.00 charge. Representations were made to the Deputy Register General strongly protesting against the proposed charge and pointing out that the transcriptions were being carried out on a voluntary basis at no cost to the General Register Office and that individual Societies had incurred considerable costs working on the project. The price of £2924 for a complete set of Scottish fiche was well beyond the reach of most Societies.

The dispute was resolved when the GSU devised a way of crediting the Societies with work done by all participants in their areas. This meant that all the Societies would not only receive free fiche for the areas they completed but would receive a subsidy towards future purchases in extra fiche. Societies were also offered work in other areas of Scotland that enabled them to receive even further quantities of fiche. The GRO(S) also gave a complete set of the Scottish fiche for the Societies' use that was housed in the Scottish Genealogy Society's library in Edinburgh. Although SAFHS had managed to negotiate a reasonable deal for the Scottish Societies, it was far from satisfactory for the world's Family History Societies as the GRO(S) refused to alter the proposed charge of £4.00

Now three years on GRO (S) has waived any rights to marketing the 1881 Scottish Census data in CD-ROM format. The GSU launched this product on Tuesday 27 April along with the 1881 Census data for England and Wales. The *1881 Census Index of the British Isles* will be sold to the public as a set of 25 CD-ROMS for £29.75 including p. and p. The set contains a Resource file Viewer CD, eight National Index CD's and sixteen data CD's arranged in eight geographical regions: Scotland; East Anglia; Gt. London; Midlands; North Central; Northern Borders & Miscellany (I. O. M., Royal Navy etc.); South Western and Wales & Monmouth.

The product can be ordered from the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Distribution Centre, 399 Garrets Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0UH. Telephone 0121 784 9555, Fax 0121 789 7686. All orders should be prepaid, cheques made payable to "Church of Jesus Christ of LDS". Visa and Mastercard are accepted quoting card number and expiry date. The CD-ROM's will also be available separately at a cost of £15.00 each.

Negotiations continue with GRO(S) regarding future sales of the Scottish Census in microfiche format. It is understood that GRO (S) are reviewing the future market for records in microfiche format and their pricing.

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

compiled by Marjorie Stewart, Hon. Librarian

Antiquarian Notes & Queries (Falkirk), Vol. 1, 1908	J. Love
History of Clan MacFarlane	J. MacFarlane
Deeds, 1809-1900, Reg. with the Sheriff Court, Fife, Part 1, A-Han	
Jaarboek	
Foudland, Slate Quarries & Crofters in Aberdeenshire	Ann Dean
Irish Emigrants in N. America, Part 4	D. Dobson
Nairn Riverside Church MI's	comp. S. Farrell
Croy Churchyard MI's, Inv.	comp. S. Farrell
The History of Edinburgh, reprint of 1779 edition	H. Arnot
Scot. Military Hist. Soc. & Black Watch - Notes	
The Orkney Balfours, 1747-99	R. P. Fereday
1841 Census Index - Borthwick, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Carrington, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Cockpen, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Colinton, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Fala/Soutra, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Glencross, MLN	
1841 Census Index - Heriot, MLN	
Before Endeavours Fade - WW1 Battlefields	R. E. B. Coombes
Glasgow since 1900 - photographs	P. Harris
The Kellys of County Down	
Bathgate, (Paulville), Original Cemetery	trans. M. & T. Harkness
Bathgate, (Paulville), Original Cemetery & First Extension	
	trans. M. & T. Harkness
Towards Democracy in Scottish Education	A. Bain
Gaps in History - Renfrewshire	
Genealogical Research Directory, 1999	K. A. Johnson & M. R. Sainty
Who Was Who in Edwardian Scotland	comp. P. Bell
The Genealogical Services Directory	comp. R. Blatchford & G. Heslop
Inhabitants of the Inner Isles, Morven & Ardnamurchan	
	N. Maclean - Bristol
Royal Naval Division Roll of Honours, Anson Division	
Annual Report of Keeper of Records of Scotland, 1997-8	
The Highland Clan MacNeacail (MacNicol)	W. D. Sellar & A. Maclean
Epitaphs & Inscriptions in N. E. Scotland	A. Jervaise

REVIEWS

The Highland Clan Macneacail (Macnicol): A History of the Nicolsons of Scurrybreac

by David H. Sellar and Alasdair Maclean and edited by C. B. Harman Nicolson. XVI + 80pp + illustrations. ISBN 1 8999272 02 X. Published by Maclean Press, 10 Lusta, Lochbay, Waternish, Skye IV55 8GD. £12.95.

By post in the UK £14.45, overseas £15.65.

This is a splendid new account of one of the oldest Hebridean clans from its remote Norwegian past until its dispersal around the world in modern times. David Sellar, well known as a genealogist and lawyer, deals with the historical part, while Alasdair Maclean treats of monuments in stone, song and story.

The chiefly line of Scurrybreac, Isle of Skye, were vassals of the Mac Donalds but like the Mackinnons and others, became a clan in their own right. Many Nicolsons and MacNicol who considered the Scurrybreac chief to be head of all Nicolsons and not simply *Clan Mhic Neacail Scurrybreac*, were troubled in 1983 when Sir David Arthur Henry Nicolson of Carnock petitioned the Lord Lyon for recognition as "Nicolson of that Ilk", which implied chiefship. The petition was granted, and rightly so, as he could prove his connection with the Nicolsons of Lasswade, who were styled "of that Ilk". Those Lowland Nicolsons were a prominent Lowland legal family but extensive research has shown they had no link with the Nicolsons and MacNicol of Gaeldon, whose ancestry was undoubtedly Scandinavian.

This decision of the Lord Lyon, encouraged C. B. Harman Nicolson of Atlanta, Georgia to gather information and to correspond with the chief, Iain MacNeacail of Scurrybreac, living in Australia. Subsequently, he commissioned David Sellar and Alasdair Maclean to research the history and traditions of the Scurrybreac family and their cadets.

Some accounts place the MacNicol in Lewis following a marriage with a MacLeod heiress and a probable move from Assynt and Coigach but David Sellar reveals startling new evidence of how the Nicolsons appear to have been proprietors of Lewis until the island was wrested from them by the MacLeods. They settled in Skye under the MacDonalds at the commencement of the sixteenth century. Various cadets and Nicolson families in various parts of Scotland are noticed in this profusely illustrated book. There are colour photographs of the clan chief and his late wife, of his armorial bearings: those of Hammond Burke Nicolson of Balvenie (1995): and of The Highland Clan MacNeacail Federation (1997). Moreover, there are pictures of activities, including the dedication and ceremony of purchase of land at Scurrybreac in 1989.

Alasdair Maclean's part of the book is a fascinating record of tradition in poetry, song and story: an illuminating reminder of what narrow academic research can lose by ignoring such a rich source. The footnotes, appendix and index make this well produced book a model study of a Highland clan.

Sennachie

Dictionary of Scottish Biography, Vol. 1, 1971-1975,
edited by Kenneth Roy. 175pp. Hardback. ISBN 0 946724 41 5.
Irvine: Carrick Media, 1999. £28

This new biographical work is a very readable as well as useful reference book, listing two hundred and fifty prominent individuals who died between 1971 and 1975. Further volumes by Carrick Media, publishers of *Who's Who in Scotland* are scheduled and the next volume, 1976-1980, will treat of distinguished Scots such as Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Grieve), 1892-1978, the controversial author and journalist.

The present volume contains lengthy biographies of famous Scots, including Dr. Norman Dott, 1897-1973, the well known neurosurgeon; Dr. Annie I. Dunlop, 1897-1973, historian and medievalist; Dr. John Grierson, 1897-1973, the documentary film pioneer; Neil M. Gunn, 1891-1973, novelist; Eric Linklater, 1899-1974, novelist and historian; Lord John Reith of Stonehaven, 1889-1971, creator of the BBC; Compton Mackenzie, 1883-1972, novelist; John Boyd Orr, 1880-1911, scientist; Sidney Goodsir Smith, 1915-1975 and many others, some in less detail. An interesting feature consists of the comments of family members, authors and commentators.

We find no fault with the biographies, but in his foreword, the editor gives scant credit to previous biographical writings. He lauds Chamber's *Biographical Dictionary*, published 1832-34, in eight volumes: since then in a single volume, but omits to mention William Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, originally issued in parts, and in three handsome volumes, 1878-80. Then there are the *Who Was Who* volumes published by A. & C. Black and the multi volume *Dictionary of National Biography*, currently being revised. Shorter works include *Famous Scottish Lives* (Oldham 1967) by Ian Fellows Gordon and *Famous Scots* (Gordon Wright Publishing 1984) by Forbes Macgregor. However, the new work deserves a warm welcome.

Donald Whyte

LETTER to the EDITOR - THE FORRESTERS OF LEUCHARS

Since writing the article which appeared in the March 1999 issue we have had a lucky break. I mentioned Marion Campbell (Grant) who may have lived to be 102 years old. We have found a record in the OPRs for Dornoch in Sutherland.

"10 January 1837. Widow Grant or Campbell, Asdale, age 101, Decay of nature."

This has not helped much. We had assumed, from the ages of children, that she was born in the 1740s. Now we have searched the 1730s. We have not found her in the records of Dornoch. Did she come from somewhere else, and if so, where?

A friend has questioned whether a mistake in the last paragraph of my article was my error or that of the printer. I should have written:

"We have still much to do - and these are only three lines from my *thirty two pairs* of great, great, great, great grandparents."

Stan Forrester, Acarsaid, Kishorn, Strathcarron, Ross-shire IV54 8XA

QUERIES

- 2803 **HOWIE** Searching for parents and information for William Howie b. c. 1750s, Robert Howie b. c. 1755, Samuel Howie b. c. 1759. These brothers settled and died in Charlotte, NC, USA. Wm. and Robert m. dau's of Ann and John Howey also settled and died in Charlotte, NC, USA. *Sandra Howie, 1827 Summey Ave. #5, Charlotte, NC, USA.*
- 2804 **STORY/STORRIE/LUNN** David Story or Storrie m. Janet Lunn, dau. of Robert and Elspeth or Euphemia m. s. Hope, at Robertson, 15 Dec 1833. Children: Margaret; Elizabeth; Euphemia and William b. Robertson 1834-1841. Joan Armstrong; Mary and Helen b. Bowden 1848-1852. Robina b. Ancrum 1855 and David b. Cavers 1857. David d. pre 1889 and Janet in Hawick 1889. At that time William lived at Saughtree, Castleton. Information on ancestors/descendants welcomed. *Robert MacGregor, P. O. Box 205, YASS, N. S. W., Australia 2582.*
- 2805 **MCINNES** Trying to trace descendants of Ann McInnes b. 1822/26 Lismore & Appin, Peter McInnes b. 1830/31 Lismore & Appin, Allan McInnes b. 1837/38 St. Ninians, Stirling & Isabella McInnes b. 22 April 1841 St. Ninians. Isabella may have had a twin brother or sister. They were all children of Duncan McInnes and Agnes m. s. McColl, who were b. Lismore & Appin in 1792, m. there 23 Feb 1817. Duncan d. St. Ninians 1842 and Agnes d. Stirling 1877. Three other sons Duncan b. 1821/22; Angus b. 12 Aug 1825 and John b. 11 Sept 1827 born Lismore & Appin emigrated to Australia. Brothers Hugh; Donald, my g-g-father and Alexander b. 1837, d. 15 July 1855 were born in St. Ninians in a cottage called Todholes. Please contact *J. McInnes, "Kinlochaline, Knockard Crescent, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JG, Scotland. Tel/Fax 01796 472800.*
- 2806 **KIDD/SMITH** My g-g-father Andrew Kidd b. 9 Sept 1863, Larbert moved to Canada in 1912. Looking for the descendants of his 12 siblings. One brother John Kidd, b. 17 June 1847 was residing at 52 High Station Rd., Falkirk in 1911. The parents of these 13 children were William Kidd b. 1823 in Carriden, d. 1889 Larbert and Mary Smith b. 1828 Falkirk, d. 1911 Larbert. William Kidd was the son of John Kidd and Christina Cairns. John Kidd was the son of Alexander Kidd and Christina Boyd. Mary Smith was the dau. of James Smith and Elizabeth Nisbet. Andrew Kidd m. Christina Donnelly 1889 in Dunbartonshire. She is the dau. of Peter Donnelly and Christina Weir. Would like to correspond with anyone connected to these families and/or has information. *Terence Kidd, Box 28013, Cambridge, ON. N3H 5N4 Canada or e-mail: Terstamp@aol.com*
- 2807 **SMITH** of Dunsyre My family were living in the vale of Dunsyre from at least 1650 to 1830. I have struck a gap in information for the period 1700 to 1760, the parish register has some gaps and no record before 1690. The family lived on the farm "Mains of Dunsyre" as did the Grahams and a Somerville in the 1600s. According to the "Memorie of the Somervilles" by the 11th Lord Somerville in 1632, this area was on the fringe of the Somerville lands of Carnwath. The matrimonial

- lines were Graham, Barrie and Frier of Dolphinton. Agnes Maria Smith m. David Traill 1870, they lived in Edinburgh and maintained correspondence with the Australian Smiths until after 1900. Dunsyre was a covenanting church, apparently the Smiths were a strongly religious family. The Statistical Account of 1790 has some helpful info but no mention of individual families there at the time. My query is whether anyone has compiled details of these Smiths or an early history of the village of Dunsyre before 1775 and would they share it with me? I will readily pay postage and copying costs for any help. *Graeme Murphy, 10 Redgrum Place, Calamvale 4116, Australia.*
- 2808 **ANDERSON/MELVILL** I am trying to trace ancestors of William Anderson, surgeon on the *Resolution* 1748-1778. Sisters are Betty and Rabinah. Uncle - William Melville, address in the 1770s North Berwick Mains, Haddington, Haddingtonshire, Scotland. Also possible they had a link with Hurworth on Tees. Any information would be appreciated. *C. Kilpatrick, 6 Crofts, Shore Edge, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL2 8LU, England. Tel. 01706 843282.*
- 2809 **BROWNLEE/FLEMING** Seeking to verify that Rebecca Fleming was the mother of James A. Brownlee, 1733-1817 of Torfoot, Strathven, Lanarkshire. Was Rebecca Fleming the first wife of Thomas Brownlee, 1700-1773? Did she die in 1733/34? Any information to *Patricia Terpstra, 905 Ivy Court, Bellevue, NE. 68005-4720, USA.*
- 2810 **FYFE/PETRIE** Thomas Fyfe b. 18 Jan 1881, m. 22 July 1904 in the Masonic Hall, Forfar, Jane Mudie Petrie b. 29 Dec 1884, Forfar, d. 21 May 1973 Kirriemuir. Jane Mudie's parents were David Petrie and Jane Smith. Jane Mudie Petrie's grandmother was Jean Mudie from Forfar, b. 1827, d. 1918. John Mudie Snr. b. c. 1710, Angus County, m. (1) Isobel Nicoll in 1732 they had four children: Helen; Jan; John and Agnes and (2) Ann Sturrock in 1756. They also had four children: James Mudie; Peter bapt. 1761 at Cadgerton; Anne and William d. in infancy Dundee. Any information to *Mrs. Lorna E. Williams, 43 Church Drive, Mossblown, Ayrshire KA6 5AX, Scotland or e-mail: clueless@globalnet.co.uk*
- 2811 **KERR/THOMSON/RAE/GLEN/BALDERSTON** Wish to share info on antecedents and siblings of my g-mother Jeanetta Thomson Kerr b. 1886 Grangemouth, Stir., emigrated to Canada c. 1907. First child of Alexander Kerr b. 1860 Bothkennar, Stir. in 1885. He was a customs officer in Edinburgh. G-g-father Alexander's parents were John Kerr b. 1834, m. Ann Rae, b. 1836 Grangemouth, 1856, had at least ten children. Alexander's wife Jeannie's parents were Alexander Thomson, merchant sailor and Janet Glen; his mother Ann's were Alexander Rae and Lillas Balderston m. Falkirk 1833. A generation further back, another Alexander Kerr, my g-g-g-g-father b. 1809 Liberton, Mln, m. Agnes Morrison b. c. 1811 Inveresk, in 1833 and later moved to Bothkennar, Stir. and had at least nine children including John above. Please send any info to *Brian Bennett, 152 Wanless Avenue, Toronto, Ont., M4N 1W2, Canada or e-mail: b.bennett@sympatico.ca*

- 2812 **NEWTON** Seeking information on my grandmother Margaret Brown Newton b. Scotland 25 Nov 1873, dau. of Daniel Brown and Ann O'Neil Brown m. Irvine 28 Apr 1865. Came to US c. 1883, siblings: Jenny b. 1870; John b. 1871 and twins Hugh and Elizabeth b. 1880. Will share information on ancestors or descendants. Send to *Mary Newton Clancy, 83 Downing Street, Buffalo, NY, USA 14220* or e-mail *MaryC282@aol.com*
- 2813 **M'CHRUTOUR/MCQUHORTOR/MCQUATTER/MAKQUHATTER/MCQUATER** Not known how or when they came to Carrick; believed to be ancestors of David, John, James, Thomas and George McQuater or Macquater b. 1650-1660 in the parishes of Straiton and Kirkmichael and John and David Macquater in the parish of Kirkmichael, named as Fugitives May 1684; linked to Andrew (White) McQuater b. 1785 Kirkoswald, d. 1869 Alloway, buried in grave no. 20 Alloway Old Kirk. I should like to make contact with anyone who may have links to this family. *Andrew McQuater, Carrick House, 9 The Tithings, Kibworth, Leics LE8 0PU, England* or e-mail *janecarruthers@compuserve.com*
- 2814 **ANDERSON/DEWEY** According to family history, Lady Margaret Dewey b. 25 Dec 1755 near Edinburgh, was the only child of the Earl of Hudelscope. Lord of Dewey Castle. About 1773 to avoid marriage to a cousin she came to the United States with a sea captain Anderson and his wife. She lived with them for about a year. In 1774 she m. the captain's brother Thomas Anderson in New York City. He was possibly b. in Edinburgh and came to New York in 1765. I have information on their descendants but none on their parents etc. Any help to prove or disprove this story will be appreciated. *Cynthia Stanton, 403 Drexler St., Liverpool, NY 13088, USA* or e-mail *stant12@banet.net*
- 2815 **LINDSAY/WILSON** Desire information on parentage and/or death of John Lindsay m. Janet Wilson Sept 1849, both of Tarbolton, Ayrshire. Janet was dau. of James Wilson and Janet Hay. Known children: Janet b. 1849 Burnbrae; John b. 1851 Burnbrae and Mary b. c. 1856. The 1851 Census Burnbrae: John 24 b. Coylton; Janet 19 b. Tarbolton and Janet 1 b. Tarbolton. Can find no birth for John in Coylton. When dau. Mary m. John Wilson 1878, her father was listed as coal miner, her mother deceased. *Barbara K. Tuck, 28 Ruhlig Court, Saginaw, Michigan 48602-5027, USA.*
- 2816 **ROBINSON** Seeking information about the parents and siblings of Daniel Robinson b. 1627 Struan, Blair Athol, Scotland. The book *Scots Banished to the American Plantations* lists Daniel Robinson as a Royalist soldier captured at Worcester. Transported from Gravesend to Boston on the *John and Sarah*, master John Greene, 13 May 1652. Please contact *Doris Dilbone, 6300 Stoker Road, Houston, Ohio 45333, USA.*

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. The objects of the Scottish Genealogy Society are:-
To promote research into Scottish Family History.
To undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy, by means of meetings, lectures, etc.
2. The Society consists of all duly elected Members whose subscriptions are fully paid. An Honorary President and up to four Honorary Vice-Presidents (who will be ex officio members of the Council) may be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, Honorary Librarian, ex officio Members, and not more than ten ordinary Members. A non-Council Member of the Society shall be appointed annually to examine the accounts.
4. Office Bearers, apart from the Hon. Treasurer shall be elected annually. The latter shall be appointed by the Council. Ordinary Members shall be elected for a period of three years and may be re-elected for a further three years, after which they shall not be re-elected until the lapse of one year. At meetings of the Council a quorum shall consist of not less than six members. The Council may appoint a Deputy Chairman from their members.
5. An Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on a date to be determined by the Council, at which Reports will be submitted. Nominations for new Office Bearers and Members of Council shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least one calendar month before the meeting, a nomination being signed by the Proposer, Seconder and Nominee.
6. Members shall receive one copy of each issue of The Scottish Genealogist, but these shall not be supplied to those subscribers who are in arrears.
7. Institutions may be elected to affiliate membership of the Society. The subscription payable by such affiliate members shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. Affiliate members shall be entitled to receive two copies of each issue of The Scottish Genealogist and their members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society. They shall not, however, have any vote at meetings of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for election to membership of the Council.
8. The Council shall have power (in brief) to employ persons to carry on the work of the Society, to publish magazines and pamphlets, to appeal for funds, to hold property and raise money on security of it.
9. **Property**
The title to all property, heritable and moveable, which may be acquired by or on behalf of the Society shall be vested in the names of the Convener, Vice Convener (where appointed), the Secretary and Treasurer for the time being ex officio or in the names of the Trustees of a Trust established for that purpose.
10. No alteration of this Constitution shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting of the Society when a two-thirds majority of members present and voting will be required for an alteration to be passed.
11. **Dissolution**
If the main management of the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call a special general meeting of the Society, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a two-third majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting at such meeting, the management committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable organisation or organisations having objects similar to the objects of the Society, as the management committee may determine.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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