



# THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

**JUNE 2007**

**A Border Frolic**

**From Berwickshire And Back**

**At The Court Of The Lord Lyon**

**Perth Episcopal Church**

**The Birthplace Of Sir John A MacDonald**

**QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

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**Vol. LIV No. 2**



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*Front Cover:* The Society's Coat of Arms

*Back Cover:* Sir John Alexander MacDonald, first Prime Minister of Canada, photographed in 1862 by William James Topley. Reproduced by permission of McCord Museum, Montreal.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

### **Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the Society are held September to April in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm around the 15th of the month. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the meeting is held the following Monday.

### **Membership**

The current subscription is £16. Family membership is £19 and affiliate membership £20.

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### **Correspondence, Subscriptions, Publications**

General correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Secretary and subscriptions to the Membership Secretary ([subs@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:subs@scotsgenealogy.com)). Information about the Society's publications and back numbers of *The Scottish Genealogist* can be obtained from the Sales Secretary ([sales@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:sales@scotsgenealogy.com)). All correspondence should be addressed to 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL, Scotland. Email: [info@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:info@scotsgenealogy.com)

### **The Scottish Genealogist**

Relevant articles are welcomed by the Hon. Editor and preferably should be submitted in MSWord or rtf format via email or on a CD Rom. Illustrations are preferred in .jpeg format. Members' queries are also welcomed for inclusion in the magazine: a £2 per entry charge is made to non-members.

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# Finding Sir John Alexander Macdonald's true birthplace – a genealogist's challenge

by Graham Evan MacDonell

As any family historian or genealogist knows, accurate identification of a person – any person - rests on ascertaining their BMD – their birth, marriage and death records - before attempting to verify a family tree. An error in judgment – based on wrongly transcribed information or on a misinterpretation of written information - can alter a person's attribution to what could be a long strand of ancestors.

Finding information after 1855 in Scotland is much more simple than prior to the inauguration of statutory records. While Old Parish Records are fairly reliable, there are omissions and incomplete records that one has to contend with. That and the variance in information stored more often than not results in hours and hours of research to find and verify one minor piece of information.

And that is what has happened in a four-year pursuit of information revealing and verifying the precise birthplace of one of Canada's most famous politicians.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald was the first and third Prime Minister of Canada (from 1867 to 1873 and 1878 to 1891) who died 'in office' on June 6, 1891 at his home, Earnscliffe, in Ottawa. His death is recorded in detail and at great length in the national newspaper, *The Globe*, in the days before and after his death on June 6, 1891.

Sir John's two marriages are well recorded – firstly to Scottish-born Isabella Clark (a cousin through his mother's half-sister, Margaret Shaw, who married Alexander Clark of Dalnavert) on September 1, 1843; secondly, on February 16, 1867 to Huguenot descendant, Jamaican-born Susan Agnes Bernard, sister to Lt.-Col. Hewitt Bernard, a senior official in the office of the Attorney-General, Canada-West

(when Sir John was its premier) and sometime sharer of the bachelor's quarters together at the Quadrilateral in Ottawa. [Bernard had become the executive secretary to the Quebec Conference in 1864 during the early days of attempts to confederate Canada.]

But it is Sir John's actual birthplace that eludes discovery and verification.

While many Scots have never heard of this Glaswegian-born lawyer and statesman, fewer even know that he was born in 1815 in the heart of their world-renown city – or so we have been led to believe by historians and lesser writers on Canada's most famous politician. Populist writers – including most internet sources and encyclopedia scripters – cite Sir John's birthplace merely as Glasgow.



*By the photographer  
William James Topley.*

*Reproduced by permission  
of the McRord Museum,  
Montreal.*



Among the most noted and esteemed biographers is Sir Joseph Pope, Principal Secretary to Sir John (1882-1891), whose "*Memoirs of the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald, G.C.B.*" only mention Sir John's birth in a footnote on page three of Chapter 1, "Early Days", when he cites his birth along with three other siblings:

*Margaret, born July 7, 1813; John Alexander, born January 11, 1815; James, born October 17, 1816; Louisa, born March 29, 1818. These dates are taken from a memorandum-book of the late Mr. Hugh Macdonald's, who, not satisfied with recording the year and the day, has marked down in every case the minute of his children's births. Readers of the stars may be interested to know that Sir John Macdonald was born at a quarter-past four o'clock – whether a.m. or p.m. does not appear.*

(Hugh Macdonald (1782-1841) was Sir John's father, born in Rogart, Sutherland, and who died in Kingston, Ontario twenty-one years after taking his family to Canada.)

More contemporary biographers include Donald Crieghton, author of the twin set, "*John A. MacDonald: The Young Politician – The Old Chieftain*" (The MacMillan Company of Canada Limited, Toronto, 1952) who skipingly cites his birth as "*he had been born on January 11, 1815 in Glasgow.*"

Even recognized historical writers, such as Donald Swainson, "*John A. MacDonald – The Man and the Politician*" (Toronto, 1971), only refer to his birth as Glasgow.

A contemporary of Swainson's was Lena Newman, compiler of the most interesting "*The John A. Macdonald Album*" (Tundra Books of Northern New York, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901, 1974), who erroneously puts his birthplace of Brunswick Place, "*across the Clyde River from Glasgow, in January 1815.*" She does, at least, explain that the General Registry Office, Edinburgh, gives the tenth as his birthdate, but his father (Hugh) entered it in a memo book as the eleventh, at that is the day Canada honours his anniversary.

Even the "Mother Corporation", the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, (aka CBC) with what may seem to be 'deep pockets' that can sustain very esoteric drama productions which much of the populace fails to watch, could afford to send to researchers to Glasgow in the 1960s armed with technology of the day – a Super 8 mm movie camera – and produce a short feature on Brunswick Lane, purported to be Sir John's birthplace.

The archived footage, accessible via the Internet, re-enforces the popularly-held notion that Sir John was born at 22 Brunswick Lane – that was, originally, part of a three-storey structure jutting out into Brunswick Street between Trongate and Wilson Street.

Surviving in part from 1807 (or earlier) until the post-World War Two period, this non-descript, architecturally insignificant building housed merchants of varying kinds

during its 200 year-long life – including Sir John’s father’s businesses between 1810 and 1816.

Today, it stands derelict – housing what was once a pub, the “Fox and Hound”, and reputed to have been, in its time, a massage parlour and a house of ill-repute.

Yet when a photograph of it is compared to a sketch reputed to be the Macdonalds’ home during that period, there are obvious differences which lend support to a select few authors’ contention that Sir John was born on the south side of the Clyde.



Brunswick Lane



The Macdonalds’ home in Glasgow near the ferry connecting the city to Laing. Could that mean Langside?

### *Anecdotes but no proof...*

Anecdotal information to that effect has been recorded by a number of highly credible authors; however, it seems that the only writers who are more specific are those who knew him as well as a few contemporary writers with academic or serious lay backgrounds.

From Edgar B. Biggar’s “Anecdotal Life of Sir John Macdonald” (1891), page 12, we find: ***“It was while they lived in one of a row of stone tenement houses near the (Laing) ferry landing, just across from Glasgow, on the Clyde, that John Alexander Macdonald was born.”*** Biggar’s book is based on information collected during Sir John’s lifetime and from his relatives, mainly his sister-in-law, Maria Clark (Isabella’s younger sister), who married John Alexander Macpherson, and who were the parents of James Pennington Macpherson (Sir John’s nephew), the author of the second most credible book on the eminent politician, “Life of the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald” (Vol. 1, 1891).



In that, Macpherson recounts (from talking with his mother, Maria): *“During the time the Macdonalds were at Glasgow, five children were born – William, Margaret, John, James, and Louisa, the first four on the opposite side of the Clyde from the city, the last in a house situated at Duke Street, a continuation of George Street.”* (Pages 74 and 77)

Retired History Professor Ged Martin (University of Edinburgh), a specialist in Canadian studies, reveals in the text delivered as the seventh in the series of Standard Life Lectures in Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, in October 2004, entitled, *“John A. MacDonald: Scotsman or Canadian?”* that:

*The Macdonalds lived in residential area called ‘Lauriestown’, just across the narrow river, and it was here, ‘in one of a row of stone tenement houses’, that the future prime minister Macdonald was born. Unfortunately, the refined atmosphere of Lauriestown was disrupted by the construction of a colliery tramway. The middle classes began to leave for the comfortable districts on the west side of the city and eventually Macdonald’s birthplace was engulfed in the terrible slums of the Gorbals. His own family had gone by 1818, but in their case business was evidently not prospering, for they moved to Duke Street, in Glasgow’s smoky east end.*

Professor Martin substantiates young John A. Macdonald’s existence in Glasgow with additional anecdotes and has revealed, in other writings, two highly-reputed sources that back up his claim that the wily politician was born south of the Clyde and not in the Merchant City above the shop operated by his father, Hugh, as part of the partnership, ‘Macdonald and Halket’, dealers in bandanas in the cotton industry. In his research, he reveals two sources: Edgar B. Biggar and James Pennington Macpherson.

Among the more current Canadian writers is Patricia Phenix, a federal government employee, who has scribed, *“Private Demons – The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald”*, (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 2006), wherein she states on page six:

*“Soon after (Hugh and Helen Macdonald’s marriage on October 21, 1811), they moved into a tenement house near the ferry landing linking Laing to Glasgow ...Despite her age and the austerity of her living conditions, Helen gave birth to five children in rapid succession.”*

Although Phenix does not footnote her point, undoubtedly it has been extracted from Biggar’s 1891 account of Sir John’s birth. Note though that she says a ferry landing linking Laing to Glasgow, which could put it on the north side, near the Glasgow Green.



She might be inferring Laing by the order that the states the two names; however, since the ferry was known as the Laing ferry, it could just be a figure of speech saying it that way.

### *An OPR citing birth...*

While many authors cite Sir John's birthdate as January 11, 1815, his OPR shows otherwise. Sir John A. Macdonald's birth is noted in the Official Parish Records for the City of Glasgow in the month of January, 1815 on Roll 644/21, Page 198, Entry No. 7. It cites his birth date as January 10, 1815. He is reputed to have been born late in the evening. (Recall that Sir Joseph Pope has pointed out that it was a quarter past four o'clock.)

As Pope's writing implies, Sir John's father, Hugh, despite lacking qualities that he could have adopted from his own father, John Macdonald, the Merchant Macdonald of Rogart and Dornoch, he had one redeeming quality – maintaining fastidious notes. He is reputed to have noted the birth of each of his five children and many other significant events in his and their lives.

Did Hugh record his son John's birth the following day at a church near his place of employment in 1815? During 1813 to 1815, he was working with his partner at 22 Brunswick Place and moved at some point to 4 Virginia Street – the current site of Marks and Spencer on Argyll Street. The Glasgow Post Office Directory of the day also reveals a Hugh Macdonald, agent at 29 Ingram Street – next to a fire station that is now a pub and restaurant. While we know where Hugh worked, we are still trying to verify his places of residence and the birth places of his children, especially John Alexander.

Was Sir John A. Macdonald born in Laurieston as Biggar, Macpherson and Phenix allude to or was Canada's foremost politician born in a flat above his father's business at 22 Brunswick Place. The Post Office directory of the day shows that Hugh was working at either 29 Ingram Street or 4 Virginia Street between 1814 and 1816 but also at 22 Brunswick Place between 1813 and 1815. When did he move from one to the other?

OPR entry, anecdotal information, post office directory listing – how do we really determine where Sir John Alexander Macdonald was born?

*Graham MacDonell is a former teacher and journalist/public relations practitioner who currently works for the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland. A life-long learner, Graham has returned to university for the seventh time in his life to pursue a PhD in Genealogical Studies and Scottish History at the University of Strathclyde. He has studied the family life of Canada's first and third Prime Minister extensively and makes presentations on the Glasgow-born politician whose life began in poverty in the Merchant City and ended in near-regal admiration in Ottawa, Ontario, on June 6, 1891.*

## **A PM from Scotland, you say! Yes, it's a long tradition!**

**More by Graham Evan MacDonell**

Recognition of a Scottish-born prime minister of the United Kingdom is not too often a happenstance. There have been six of them. Recognition of a Glasgow-born prime minister of the United Kingdom is even less of a happenstance. There has only been one.

We have recognized one U.K. prime minister - Liverpool-born William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898), who is, of course, commemorated by a statue in George Square, placed there with the permission of the City Fathers and paid for by subscribers of the day. (Gladstone served as a Conservative when representing two English Ridings, as a Whig when serving for the University of Oxford and as a Liberal when serving to three Scottish constituencies!)

Currently, we have Edinburgh-born Tony Blair (Anthony Charles Lynton Blair), (1953), our sixth Scots-born Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who has served since 1997. And then there is a PM-in-waiting - Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Tony Blair's Labour Party government since 1997, who is – as some expect – destined to be Prime Minister, hailing from Giffnock. Needless-to-say, we may well have had John Smith from Argyll as a Scot-born prime minister had he not died prematurely of a heart attack on May 12, 1994, while representing Monklands East and destined to be the next prime minister.

During the twentieth century, we have also had three – the fifth, fourth and third Scots-born: (fifth) James Ramsay Macdonald (born in Lossiemouth, Morayshire), (fourth) Henry Campbell Bannerman (born in Kelvingrove, Glasgow) and (third) Arthur James Balfour, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Balfour (born in Whittingehame, East Lothian).

Looking back to the nineteenth century, we have the second Scots-born George Hamilton Hamilton-Gordon, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Aberdeen (born in Edinburgh).

Further back in time, we have the first Scot-born Prime Minister, John Stuart, Earl of Bute, who served from 1762 to 1763, for only 317 days for the Tories. He was born in Parliament Square in Edinburgh.

There are also those of Scottish families or of Scottish descent, such as Harold MacMillan, Alec Douglas-Home – and, in the future, David Cameron?

Interestingly enough, we have had two Dublin-born U.K. prime ministers – William Petty and Arthur Wellesley. And, uniquely enough, the U.K. has had one Canadian-born prime minister - Andrew Bonar Law, of a Scottish family, who was born in New Brunswick in 1858 but came to live in Glasgow at the age of 12 (in 1870).

But what about Scots who have become prime ministers outwith Scotland?



We have had two Scot-Kiwi prime ministers. Down under, we have had Sir Thomas Mackenzie, Scottish-born, businessman and politician, who was for a short time, prime minister of New Zealand (1912) and who later served as High Commissioner in London during World War I. Then there is Hill of Fearn-born (near Tain), Peter Fraser, (1884-1950) who served as prime minister in New Zealand between 1940 and 1949.

And, two Scot-Canadian prime ministers – Sir John A. Macdonald (the subject of the foregoing essay) and Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, 1873-1878, born in Dunkeld.

Australia too has had Scots at the political top. No less than eight of her Prime Ministers were born in Scotland, and at least another five were of direct Scottish descent. Three Premiers of Australian states were born in Scotland, and another two to Scottish emigrant families.

Sir John has been recognized in many ways in his adopted country of Canada – statue, schools named after him, ships named after home, streets, avenues and squares. And, as we have alluded to, many books have been written about him.



Sir John aged 52 in 1867.

Here in the United Kingdom, Sir John has been granted – posthumously, mind you – his own Coat of Arms by the Lord Lyon King of Arms on May 28, 1970 and is entered on the 67<sup>th</sup> page of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Volume of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. He was appointed a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath on June 29, 1867, and elevated to a Knight Grand Cross of the Order on November 25, 1884, and allotted a stall in the Order's Westminster Abbey Chapel of Henry the Seventh on July 1, 1974, albeit after some prolonged discussion.

### *Commemorations in Scotland...*

And, here in Scotland, Sir John's grandfather, John Macdonald, the merchant Macdonald of Dornoch, is commemorated by a cairn outside of his birthplace near Rogart, Sutherland. That cairn was dedicated by another Canadian Prime Minister, John George Diefenbaker, whose maternal ancestry stems from Strath Kildonan in Sutherland.


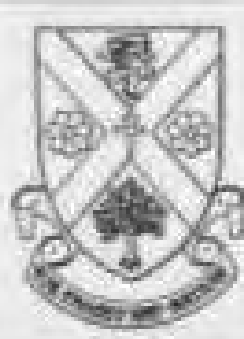
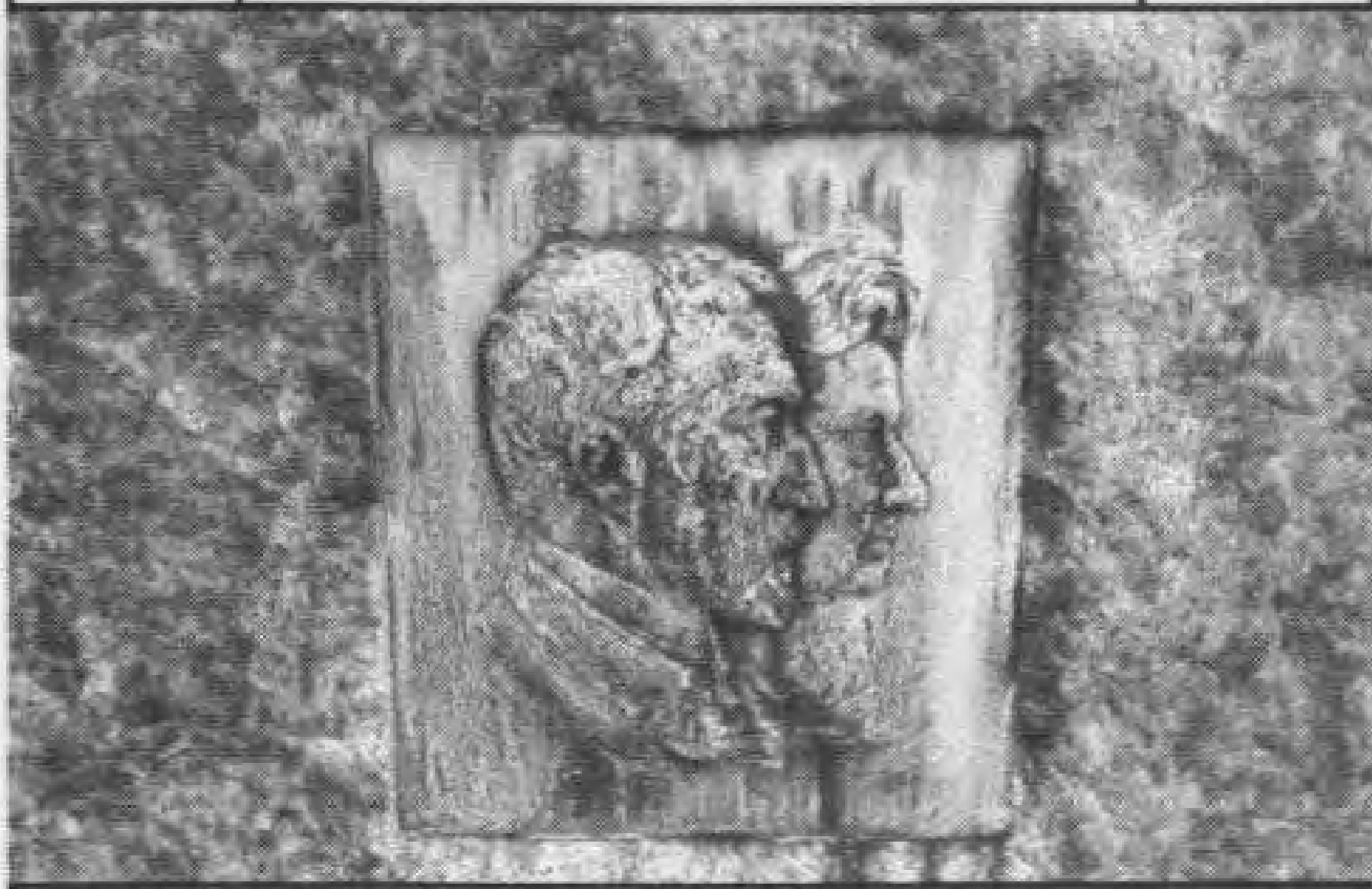
At Dalnavert, near Feshiebridge and Aviemore and the Rothiemurchus Estate, there is a small cairn commemorating the birthplace of Sir John's mother, Helen Shaw, and of his first wife, Isabella Clark.

In Glasgow, the Ramshorn Kirk steeple on Ingram Street bears a plaque commemorating Sir John A. Macdonald's political achievements - placed there by

the Archaeological and Historic Site Board of Ontario.

That is the extent in Scotland of any recognition of Canada's most famous prime minister. For a Glasgow-born lad who became a political icon in the British Empire's largest colony turned dominion, perhaps it is time that the City Councillors reviewed the legacy of its 'favourite sons' albeit not within Scotland's, if not at one point Europe's, economic powerhouse.

(Written April 2007)

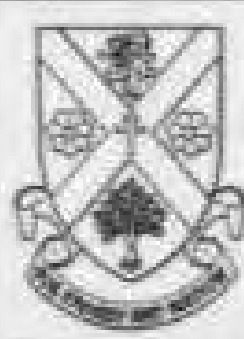
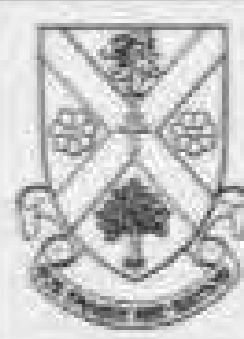

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## **A Border frolic and its consequences**

**by Rosemary Bigwood**

One spring day in March 1808, a group of youngsters decided to make a day's expedition from Coldingham down to Lamberton, some miles to the south near the border with England. What ensued and was termed "a frolic" turned out to be a very expensive outing as it resulted in a civil court case heard in the Lauder commissary court.

For many researchers, the commissary courts are chiefly associated with the settlement of testamentary matters, especially in the confirming of testaments and appointment of executors, but in the pre-Reformation period, through these courts, the bishops exercised a wide jurisdiction concerning such matters as divorce, marriage and desertion, as well as actions for slander and contracts made under oath. The commissary courts were abolished in 1560 but were reconstituted as civil courts three years later, in 1563. Even after the Reformation, the bounds of the commissariots were still based on the old bishoprics. They were presided over by commissary officers and they continued to give judgements on similar matters as before. Cases of divorce could only be heard in the head court at Edinburgh, but many matrimonial disputes came up before the officers of the "local" commissary courts. Detailed papers have survived for a number of cases among the processes of each commissary court and the following case from Lauder commissary court (CC15/4/65) is interesting from the point of view of social history, in giving a picture of a day out by young country people in the early nineteenth century, but more particularly in illustrating Church attitudes to marriage and the way in which the commissary officers reached their decisions in such cases.

### **The Outing**

On Sunday 13 March 1808 Janet Runciman, daughter of James Runciman in Northfield (a farmtoun lying about a mile and a half north of Coldingham), met up with Robert Paterson, a joiner in Coldingham, and some other friends and they all made their way down to Lamberton Toll – a walk of some five to six miles. The account of what happened next differs according to the evidence of Janet and of Robert later heard in court. Robert said that he "having in a frolic with the petitioner (Janet) and some of their companions taken a trip last spring to Lamberton Toll, a marriage was in jest proposed". Janet had a different interpretation of the affair and of Robert's subsequent behaviour.

### **Irregular Marriages**

Lamberton Toll, just north of the border between England and Scotland, was one of several places (including Gretna) where it was popular to perform irregular or

clandestine marriages. A regular marriage at this time had to be performed by a clergyman in presence of two witnesses and after the due proclamation of banns. A clandestine marriage was one celebrated by a minister of some congregation but without the publication of banns, while a marriage performed just in front of witnesses was termed irregular. Both clandestine and irregular marriages were legal and binding but frowned upon by the Church since it was not always easy for the minister to find out what had happened. In fact, the kirk often welcomed evidence of a marriage performed at such places as Lamberton or Gretna – or by well-known marriage brokers of whom there were a number – as written proof of the marriage was often provided. The kirk session usually summoned the couple and, having examined the circumstances, demanded repentance of the parties concerned and fined them before acknowledging their married state. The case was then minuted in the kirk session minutes and often this was the only evidence of a marriage which had not been entered in the parish register.



Lamberton Toll

In this case, however, it seems that the matter was thought too serious for the kirk session – there is no mention of it in the kirk session minutes of Coldingham – and it was therefore heard in the local commissary court, that of Lauder. Robert Paterson in his evidence to the commissary officer stated that “some sort of lines were no doubt interchanged but no consummation ever took place and next day the parties laughed at the whole proceedings as a farce”. Apparently both sets of parents then



heard about the affair and “having taken alarm” a meeting took place when, as Robert claimed, both Janet and Robert mutually declared before witnesses that they did not consider themselves in any respect bound to each other by what had passed and gave up the lines for the purpose of being cancelled and all doubt upon the subject was therefore dispelled.

This, however, was not the end of the matter and in January 1809 the case was brought before the commissary court of Lauder sitting at Eyemouth. In her petition, Janet stated that in the month of March 1808 she was married to Robert Paterson and “that the petitioner and her said husband cohabited together for some time when at last he deserted the petitioner and refuses even to give her aliment.” She therefore was “under the necessity of praying your Lordships to appoint this petition to be served upon the said Robert Patterson and thereafter to ordain him to adhere to the petitioner his wife her society fellowship and company and to cohabit, converse with, treat, cherish and entertain her at bed, board and otherwise as a married person should do to his wife and failing thereof to make payment to the petitioner of ten pound sterling of yearly aliment”.

### He said...

On receiving a copy of this petition and having prepared replies to it, Robert’s lawyer claimed that “as the circumstances upon which the petitioner (Janet) would now found a marriage were a mere frolic upon which no consummation ever took place or *copula* followed, the same could legally be given up or resiled from by the consent of parties and that having accordingly once given their consent to this effect before completion by consummation and delivered up the only document upon which they could found claim the one against the other, neither are now at liberty to recur to what originally happened.” Robert, described as son of William Paterson, joiner in Coldingham, was then stated to be “a young man in no respect able to provide for himself or to support a family.”

Robert’s defence in his claim that he was not legally married rested on the fact that the marriage had not been consummated. To be legal contract, a marriage by consent (without a clergyman or banns cried) could rest on three separate conditions. A civil marriage could be completed by consent alone or in front of witnesses, given verbally or written or even inferred by the conduct of the parties. Secondly a contract was legal if a promise or engagement to marry was followed by *copula*. Thirdly, marriage could be inferred from cohabitation – being habit-and-repute husband and wife.

### She said...

Janet Runciman was also examined in court and her account of the proceedings varied somewhat from that presented by Robert. She claimed that on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1808 she was married to Robert Paterson, joiner in Coldingham by the Reverend George

Lamb at Lamberton Toll bar before two witnesses and that afterwards she set out for Ord, accompanied for part of the way by Robert Paterson and James Manwell, a weaver in Coldingham. The next evening she again met up with Robert and James near Coldingham and then went on to her father's house, while the two men went back to their respective houses. "This happened upon a Monday and to the best of her remembrance, or rather is certain, that on the Thursday night immediately following between nine and ten o'clock she and Robert Paterson came to her father's house and were for the first time bedded." Over the next four or five months he frequently came to her. She also stated that in the two or three weeks before their marriage he had paid her frequent visits and her friends knew that they were "a courtship pair". The reason that Janet did not return to her father's house on the evening of the marriage was that she was ashamed to meet her mother and father as she had not told them about the marriage and she and Robert had agreed to keep the matter private till Whitsunday when Robert said that he proposed taking a house.

It was at this point that things began to go wrong. Robert began to prevaricate and suggested that it would be better to wait till Martinmas to take the house. About five months after the marriage, Robert came to Janet and told her that Mr. Hamilton, the session clerk of Coldingham, had twice been "upon him" to show their marriage lines and he asked her to hand them over so that he could show them to Mr. Hamilton. In her evidence, Janet reported "that she was at first rather averse to part with the marriage lines but upon his giving her his hand that he would bring them back to her again she at last gave them up to him." According to her evidence, her doubts were well founded. "From that time he never cohabited with her nor came near her father's house and when she saw him afterwards at a distance about the town he plainly shunned her company or having any conversation with her."

Having lost her original marriage certificate, Janet then had to get a copy of her marriage lines from Lamberton Toll which was then produced to the court:

Lamberton Toll barr 13<sup>th</sup> March 1808

These are to certify all whom it may concern that according to the established rules of the Church of Scotland Robert Patterson and Janet Rinchman (sic) were solemnly united by me in the Holy bonds of Wedlock and so far as it can be known they are free of all Church censure which is attested by these witnesses.

George Lamb, minr.

William Ker ) witnesses

Margaret Ker )

Hannah Kerr witness

Jas. Manwell witness

In the face of this evidence, Robert did now admit that he was married to Janet Runciman at Lamberton Toll bar on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1808 by the Reverend George



Lamb to whom he paid about eight shillings for his trouble in coming from Berwick to marry them, but he repeated his defence that he had never slept with the pursuer after their marriage.

And the consequence was...

On 28 March 1809 the commissary having considered all the evidence and the petitions of both parties delivered his judgement. He found "that the said Robert Paterson and Janet Runciman were married upon the thirteenth day of March eighteen hundred and eight and ordains the said Robert Paterson to adhere to the said Janet Runciman his spouse as craved in the petition". Realising no doubt that these expectations were unrealistic, he went on: "And ay and until he shall so adhere to her and cohabit, converse with, treat, cherish & entertain her at bed and board, as it becomes a married man so to do, to his lawful wife" Robert Paterson was liable to pay to Janet in name of aliment the sum of £10 sterling yearly, to be paid to her half yearly in equal portions. He was also to pay the expense of the process which was modified to the sum of 23s. sterling and he also had to pay for the expense of extracting the process according to court regulations. This meant that the decree had to be properly registered so that action could be taken upon it.

There is an interesting and rather human note added at the bottom of the decree:

"NB. In claims of this sort – so much for aliment & so much for house rent should be demanded. The commissary's idea in this case is 20/- for house rent and £9 for aliment – nearly 6d. a day. These with the woman's own industry will it is hoped keep her comfortable."

The settlement seems to have been a very generous one. In the *First Statistical Account* for Coldingham (written circa 1796), the minister reporting on conditions in his parish, stated that a maid servant was paid £3-£4 a year and a hynd's wife received between 3d. and 6d. a day for weeding turnips and potatoes. A ploughman or carter, living on a farm, received an annual wage of £6-£7. There was almost certainly some inflation over the next decade when the wars with France put up prices but it still seems that Robert would have had difficulty in paying the required aliment to his wife.

It is frustrating that one does not know what happened to this couple. This court judgement did not solve the human problems. It would have been very difficult to enforce the payment due by Robert Paterson to Janet and he may well have crossed the border into England to escape his responsibilities. The couple were officially married but there is no evidence in the parish registers of Berwickshire that they lived together and had children. No entry has been found for the death of Janet Runciman in Scotland after 1854 - and so they vanish from our records.

# James Watson, Berwickshire Carrier

by Jessie A Denholm

I am sure that readers will agree that the task of the family historian does not end once we have established the identity of our ancestors. We then want to find out more about the lives of our ancestors and the society in which they lived. For those of us who have ancestors from fairly “humble” walks of life, it can be difficult to get specific information about their working lives. If, however, your ancestor happened to be a carrier in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it might be possible to find out quite a lot about his working life using information from Pigot’s 1837 Directory.<sup>1</sup>

Some of my own ancestors were millwrights based in Chirnside in Berwickshire and I initially looked at the “Chirnside” page of the Directory to get some idea of the society in which they lived. This told me about the tradesmen and shopkeepers, gentry, clergy and professional persons who lived in Chirnside and would have known my own ancestors. I was, however, intrigued by the final entry for Chirnside where under the heading “Carrier” we are told that James Watson went to Edinburgh every Tuesday. Would it, I wondered, be possible to find him in Edinburgh or at any point en route?

According to the Directory, Chirnside is 50 miles from Edinburgh. A long distance carrier at this time would be able to cover about 30 miles a day given a good road. James Watson would have been using one of the best roads in Scotland, the Edinburgh to Berwick road, and the first place in which one would look for him would be Dunbar in East Lothian. Sure enough he is there -listed as one of three carriers to leave from the Grey Horse (in Dunbar High Street) every Tuesday for Edinburgh via “Linton, Haddington, Tranent, etc”

|                |                              |   |                        |                       |
|----------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bannockburn .. | Alexander Monteith ..        | Stevenson's, 3 Merchant street ..                                       | Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sat.. | Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sat. |
| Bannockburn .. | John Gentles ..              | Sharp's, 100 Grassmarket....  | Wednesday & Saturday   | Wednesday & Saturday  |
| Bathgate ..... | John Geddes.....             | White Hart, 132 Grass market.....                                       | Tuesday & Friday ..... | Tuesday & Friday      |
| Bathgate ..... | Peter Kerr.....              | Sharp's, 100 Grass market.....  | Tuesday & Friday ..... | Tuesday & Friday      |
| Beauley .....  | J. and P. Cameron .....      | 51 Lothian street.....  | Tues. Thurs. & Sat.... | Mon. Wed. & Friday    |
| Beauley .....  | Wm. Cossar & Jas. Inrie..... | Sharp's, 100 Grassmarket.....   | Thursday & Saturday..  | Friday & Monday       |
| Beith .....    | Thomas Howey & Co.....       | 3 Bristo st, 58 Leith st, & Timber bush ..                              | Daily .....            | Daily.                |
| Belford .....  | Thomas Howey & Co.....       | 3 Bristo street and 58 Leith street ..                                  | Mon. Wed. & Friday ..  | Mon. Wed. & Friday    |
| Belford .....  | John Hogg.....               | Green's, 123 Grass market, & Dod's,<br>20 South back of Canongate ..... | Wednesday .....        | Thursday              |

Extract from Pigot’s Directory 1837: Carriers from Dunbar to Edinburgh, Chirnside, etc.

Since James Watson would already have done about 28 miles when he got to Dunbar, it is unlikely that he went much further that day. Perhaps he spent the night in East Linton. There is, however, no trace of him in the Directory at any of the towns between Dunbar and Edinburgh.

When he gets to Edinburgh he becomes visible again. The Edinburgh section of the Directory contains long lists of all of the towns served (directly or indirectly) by carriers from Edinburgh. These lists tell us the name of the carrier, where he was based in Edinburgh, the day of his arrival and of his departure. James Watson arrived

in Edinburgh on Wednesday and left on Thursday. He stayed at 19 South Back of Canongate (nowadays Holyrood Road). This was a specialist “carrier’s inn” run by Mrs Janet Steel. She would have provided overnight accommodation for the carriers, stabling for their horses and (one hopes) secure accommodation for the goods consigned to them. The carriers list also shows that John Watt, the East Linton carrier, also spent Wednesday night at that address. We, therefore, know the name of someone whom James Watson met once a week and can perhaps image them enjoying a convivial evening at Mrs Steel’s inn or indeed at the next-door inn where the other two carriers listed on the Dunbar page spent the night.

|                  |                          |                                     |                        |                     |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Ceres .....      | Charles Jackson .....    | Grant's, 203 High street .....      | Tuesday .....          | Wednesday.          |
| Ceres .....      | J. & P. Cameron .....    | 54 Lothian street .....             | Tues. Thurs. & Sat. .. | Mon. Wed. & Friday. |
| Chirnside .....  | James Weatherhead ..     | Miller's, 20 Cowgate .....          | Wednesday .....        | Wednesday.          |
| Chirnside .....  | — Denham .....           | Carson's, 26 Cowgate head .....     | Friday .....           | Friday.             |
| Chirnside .....  | Robert Thompson .....    | Henderson's, 49 Candlemaker row ..  | Wednesday .....        | Wednesday.          |
| Chirnside .....  | James Watson .....       | 19 South back of Canongate .....    | Wednesday .....        | Thursday.           |
| Cockburnspath .. | William Christison ..... | Johnston's, South back of Canongate | Tuesday .....          | Wednesday.          |
| Cockburnspath .. | John Hogg .....          | Green's, 123 Grass market, & Dod's, | .....                  | .....               |

Extract from Pigot’s Directory 1837: Carriers from Edinburgh to Chirnside.

On Thursday James Watson sets out back to Chirnside. We can catch up with at East Linton where the Directory says that he leaves for Chirnside every Thursday. The Directory entry for Dunbar tells us that he leaves from the Grey Horse for Chirnside every Friday. He would also meet up with two other carriers at the Grey Horse – Charles Belany from Ayton and John Hogg from Berwick – perhaps another convivial evening! He would arrive home in Chirnside late on Friday.

At this point our direct information about James Watson’s movements runs out. We don’t know for certain how he spent the remainder of the week but, using information about other carriers and their customers it id possible to build up a fuller picture of his working life.

Another Borders carrier who also set out for Edinburgh on Tuesdays is known to have spent Mondays going around the countryside “for the purpose of procuring eggs, butter and poultry for the Edinburgh Market”. <sup>2</sup> James Watson may well have done the same and indeed this would help to explain why he finds it worthwhile to make the two day journey to Edinburgh. Berwick is only nine miles from Chirnside and he could have been there and back in a day. If, however, he was carrying his own goods in the form of fresh produce for the Edinburgh market, he would find that leg of the journey worthwhile. So we can imagine him on Tuesdays setting out from Chirnside laden with eggs and butter, live poultry and whatever else local people wanted to send northwards.

When he got to Edinburgh on Wednesday, one of his first concerns would have been to dispose of the eggs, butter and poultry and he would probably have a regular arrangement with a provision merchant and a poulterer. Some of the goods he had brought in might have had to be handed on to another carrier for transport to their ultimate destination. For instance, if someone in Chirnside wanted to send something to Bathgate in West Lothian, it would be sent round to the White Hart Inn in the



Grassmarket where John Geddes, the Bathgate carrier, would pick it up on Friday. Other goods would simply be unloaded to await collection.

### **CARRIERS.**

To AYTON, Charles Belany, from the Grey Horse, every Friday.  
 To BERWICK, John Hogg, from the Grey Horse, every Friday.  
 To CHIRNSIDE, James Watson, from the Grey Horse, every Friday.  
 To DUNSE, Ann Perry, from the Wheat Sheaf, every Saturday.

To EDINBURGH, LINTON, HADDINGTON, TRANENT, &c. Charles Belany, John Hogg and James Watson, from the Grey Horse, every Tuesday, and James Black, every Wednesday.  
 To GIFFORD, John Rattray, from the Grey Horse, every Mon. & Wednesday.  
 To HADDINGTON & LINTON, John Purvis, from his house, High st, every Tuesday and Friday.

Extract from Pigot's Directory 1837: Carriers from Edinburgh to Bathgate.

Some goods would have arrived at 19 South Back of Canongate – possibly from other carriers but more likely from sources within Edinburgh. Some of the wealthier people living in and around Chirnside would have written to friends, agents or suppliers in Edinburgh to arrange for goods to be dispatched via the Chirnside carrier. An example of this sort of thing, we can turn to the published correspondence of Jane Carlyle (wife of Thomas Carlyle).<sup>3</sup> In July 1828 Jane found that her stocks of tea, coffee and sugar at her home in Dumfriesshire, were running low. She did not like the quality of the goods that could have been obtained in nearby Dumfries and, therefore, wrote to her friend Eliza Stodart in Edinburgh to ask her to buy the goods in Edinburgh. Eliza was asked to Pollard's shop in North Hanover Street and buy three stones (forty-two pounds) of brown sugar in two different grades together with a small loaf of white sugar and five pounds of ground rice. She was then asked to go another shop in Waterloo Place to buy six pounds of tea and two pounds of ground coffee. These were to be sent round to Mr Pollard who was asked to box them up with the sugar and ground rice and send it to the first available Dumfries carrier. The extensive carrier network enabled wealthy people to live in rural areas but still enjoy the high quality goods that were available in Edinburgh.

On the return journey, James Watson would have been carrying whatever luxury goods had been ordered by the gentry and professional people living in and around Chirnside. He may also have bought some goods to sell on his own account – the home of another Borders carrier was said to be stacked with hams, cheeses and much else besides after a journey to Edinburgh.<sup>4</sup> He would almost certainly have brought in consignments of spirits, principally whisky. It might be thought that such heavy goods would have been shipped to Berwick and then taken nine miles by road to Chirnside. This would have involved payment of extra taxes when imports passed through the English port of Berwick.

James Watson would have got back to Chirnside on Friday. He probably spent Saturday delivering in and around Chirnside the goods that he brought in and selling anything

that he had bought on his own account. On Sunday we assume that he was to be found in Chirnside Kirk.



Extract from *County of Berwickshire*, by Greenwood, Fowler & Sharp, 1826.  
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.

At this point readers may want some conventional genealogical information about James Watson and his family. He was born at Foulden in Berwickshire on 28 November 1784 – his parents were George Watson and Isable Hewit. His father died in 1792. James married twice – first to Isabel Bruce and secondly to Jannet Jeffray. By the time of the 1841 census, he was living in Chirnside with his wife Jannet and five children. His occupation was shown as “agricultural labourer” but his 22 year old son Robert was a carrier. Perhaps all those years spending four days a week on the road in all weathers, not to mention the three nights spent in inns, had taken their toll and he had decided to hand the business on to the next generation.

In June 1846 the North British Railway opened its line from Edinburgh to Berwick. This was the end for the stagecoaches and long distance carriers that had operated on this route. There was still scope for carriers to operate, either taking goods to and from railway or on short distance routes not served by railways. The 1851 Census shows James living at Hutton in Berwickshire and working as a carrier – probably on short haul local routes. Two of his sons had opted for the security of jobs on the new railways. Robert was no longer a carrier but was living in Galashiels and working as



a railway foreman and a younger son, Peter, was a railway goods deliverer. Two other sons were serving apprenticeships in skilled trades – one as a millwright, the other as a blacksmith.

Before the coming of the railways, carriers such as James Watson occupied a key position in rural society. They provided people in the locality with regular access to better markets for their produce and gave the wealthier people access to the wide range of consumer goods available in major towns and cities. They even carried a few passengers – it was a cheap but slow and uncomfortable way to travel. As James Watson was in Edinburgh once a week, he would have been able to bring back all the latest gossip and news about the latest trends. Carriers had a reputation for hard drinking but they also had to work hard and enjoy the trust of their customers – they were responsible for the safe-handling of other people's goods and money. If any of James Watson's descendants are reading this, they can be proud of their ancestor and the role he played in his community. If your ancestor was a carrier I hope that this article will inspire you to find out more about his working routine.

<sup>1</sup> Pigot's 1837 Directory –available for various counties from Stepping Stones  
[www.stepping-stones.co.uk](http://www.stepping-stones.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> New Statistical Account, Smailholm, Roxburghshire,  
available on <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/>

<sup>3</sup> Campbell, I (ed), *Thomas & Jane*, Edinburgh 1980, pp 52-55

<sup>4</sup> Gordon, *To Move With The Times*, Aberdeen 1988, p163

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## SAFHS News

SAFHS has published the 1st Edition of an an inventory of Scottish Graveyards and Cemeteries. This 1st Edition covers about 70% of Scotland and shows the location of each site, with additional information such as each site's date of opening (if known), whether the monumental inscriptions been transcribed and if so who holds the records, whether the location is in local authority control or privately-owned, and other useful information. Produced on CD, it can be purchased from the Scottish Genealogy Society on-line shop or by contacting the Society directly. The second edition, which should complete the coverage of the country, will be published next year.

Following a very successful SAFHS Conference at Culloden Academy at Inverness this year, the 2008 SAFHS Conference will be hosted by the Lanarkshire Family History Society at Motherwell Concert Hall on Saturday 26th April. The theme of the conference is yet to be announced. In 2009 the conference will be in Aberdeen, and in 2010 in Livingston, West Lothian.

*Ken Nisbet*



PERTH EPISCOPAL CHURCH LIST  
28th APRIL 1742

Submitted by John Irvine

Recently an old Perth Ecclesiastical document came up for private sale and with the date being so close to the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion this only added to the importance of the document.

I have transcribed the document which gives about 60 names / families as shown below.

Facsimile of Document (Part)



Please note Spellings used are as per original document

A List of the Contributors of the Episcopal Congregation in Perth and what each Person pays towards the suport of the same. The following Persons pays each year as follows acording to their Subscriptions. (Margin note – Perth April 28<sup>th</sup> Year 1742)

| NAME                        | Sterling |    |   |
|-----------------------------|----------|----|---|
|                             | £        | s  | d |
| Lady Lovet                  | 01       | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Findal ?               | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs. Murray                 | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Young                   | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Eupham Gall             | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Lady Gourdie & Daughter     | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Doctor Carmichel            | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Dollric or Dollrie & Family | 01       | 05 | 0 |
| Mr. James Lindsay           | 00       | 05 | 0 |

| NAME                       | Sterling |    |   |
|----------------------------|----------|----|---|
|                            | £        | s  | d |
| Mr. William Lindsay        | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mr Smith                   | 01       | 00 | 0 |
| Lady Piteucher             | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Jackson & Ballie Blair | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs Ann Murray             | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Binon                  | 00       | 07 | 0 |
| Mr Murray Goldsmith        | 00       | 03 | 0 |
| Kencarukie                 | 01       | 00 | 0 |
| Mr John Ritherford         | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Lady Carnbadyr daughters   | 01       | 00 | 0 |
| Lady Mercer                | 01       | 00 | 0 |
| Lady Moncrief              | 01       | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Stormond              | 01       | 10 | 0 |
| Mr Stirling                | 01       | 00 | 0 |
| Mrs Martin                 | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs Wilson                 | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Snells                 | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Arnet                  | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mr David Conquerer         | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Lady Drumsay               | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Futheringham           | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Lady Bonhard               | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Murrishal             | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs Davidson               | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Monzsie               | 00       | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Kellie                | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Patton                 | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Duncan Henderson & Family  | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| John Stewart Glover        | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Mrs Anne & Joan Grahame    | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Mrs Rebeca Conquerer       | 00       | 04 | 0 |
| William Hall               | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Mr Hue                     | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Patt. Conquer & Family     | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Rob. Sanders               | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Joseph Taylor              | 00       | 03 | 0 |
| Mrs. Culbert               | 00       | 02 | 0 |
| Alex Duff                  | 00       | 05 | 0 |

| NAME                    | Sterling |    |   |
|-------------------------|----------|----|---|
|                         | £        | s  | d |
| Mrs. Lawther & Sister   | 00       | 05 | 0 |
| Charles Robertson       | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| George Drumond          | 00       | 15 | 0 |
| The Earel of Airlie Son |          |    |   |
| Evlieks Children        | 00       | 15 | 0 |
| Mrs Christian Drumond   |          |    |   |
| Coldars three sons      |          |    |   |
| Duncan Campbel          |          |    |   |
| James Maxton            |          |    |   |
| Alex Lindsay            | 00       | 02 | 6 |
| Thomas Young            | 00       | 02 | 0 |
| <i>Blank</i>            |          |    |   |
| Mrs Robertson           |          |    |   |
| Mrs Mary Brown          |          |    |   |
| Mrs Carmichel           |          |    |   |

Perth 28<sup>th</sup> April 1742. The Ministers and Managers of the Episcopal Congregation in Perth undersubscribing do order James Bayne their Treasurer to carry about the within List to such of the Members as have not yet contribute toward the Suport of the Episcopal Meeting - House to the End that every Individual may either sign or signifie to the said James what they will voluntarily contribute yearly to the said End and ordain him to make a Report of his Diligence to his next Meeting.

#### Signed

Robert Lyon  
Geo. Stirling  
Wm. Lindsay  
JA: Smyth  
P Murray

What can we learn about the people named in the document and where the congregation met?

The first and most obvious book to consult was *The Episcopal History of Perth, 1689-1894* by George Farquhar. Another source is the St John's Perth Episcopal Church History Website which also uses Farquhar's book quite extensively.

Here we learn in 1689 the Scottish Episcopal Church was disestablished and disendowed because of its adherence to the Jacobite cause. The two Perth clergy were turned out of St John's Kirk which was the only Church in the city of Perth. At first things were very difficult but by the Toleration Act of 1712, Episcopalians were allowed to seek other meeting places, and in Perth they asked for the use of the



unoccupied East Church, the Choir of St John's Kirk, which in those days was divided into three. Perth Presbytery refused this and so they found a Meeting House elsewhere and various clergy kept services going.

Then came Good Queen Anne's death, followed by the first Jacobite Rebellion in 1715. After it, the Perth Episcopalian clergyman, Rev Henry Murray, and his assistant had to leave the city, and their Meeting House was demolished. By an Act passed in 1719 Episcopalian clergy were forbidden to hold services unless they took an oath of loyalty to King George I. If they disobeyed they were imprisoned and their Meeting House closed for six months. However, Mr. Murray with his assistant, Rev Laurence Drummond, returned in 1722.

In 1735 Mr. Murray died. Mr. Drummond was a semi-invalid, and so in 1739 rev Robert Lyon, a young man, was asked to come and assist him. This proved to be an unfortunate choice, as Mr. Lyon introduced practices of which some of the congregation disapproved. They were so dissatisfied that they invited another clergyman, Rev George Sempill, to take his place. Bishop Rattray, however, officially deposed Mr. Sempill but he continued to minister to his congregation. Mr. Lyon and those who approved of his practices had to rent another Meeting House, and so out of this schism there came to be two Episcopal congregations in Perth.

It had been difficult enough after the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion for Episcopalians to

#### HOW CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS WENT IN PERTH BETWEEN 1740 AND 1745.

IN order to give a consecutive account of the affairs of our Bishopric, we were led in the last chapter to advance to the year 1744. We must now return to the year 1741, and gather together what is known to us concerning the two Congregations themselves between that date and the year 1745.

As for the irregular Congregation, all that is left to us is contained in two notices, which are as follows. There is a passing sentence in the *Presbytery Record* a good many years later (1748), which assumes it as matter of common notoriety that Mr. George Sempill went on officiating after his deposition. And the Rev. Robert Lyon in a letter dated *July 14th, 1740*, says:—"He most presumptuously takes upon him to administer in Holy Offices and did officiate on Sunday last in our Meeting-House, but, blessed be God, to as thin a congregation as before, and I have no reason to doubt but that he will continue so to do." We shall hear of him still being in Perth some years hence.

With regard to the regular Congregation, the Bishop, in a letter dated *June 21st, 1740*, speaks of it as "still flourishing," and in the Managers' Minute Book (which by some strange chance, is preserved to us at Pitlochry) the following fifty names occur as signing a certain resolution. The likelihood appears to be that they represent at least the great bulk of the *Communicants*:—  
Lau. Drummond; Rob. Lyon; Thos. Carmichael; John

Campbell; Jas. Lindsay; Geo. Drummond; Patrick Conqueror; Wm. Lindsay; Jos. Taylor; Thos. Murray; Wm. Lindsay; L. A. Grant; Ja. Smyth; George Stirling; David Conqueror; P. Murray; John Stewart; G. Young; J. Rutherford; Jas. Stewart; Thos. Rattray; James Honey; Duncan Henderson; John Balneavis. Then on another page come the female names:—M. Stormont; A. Lovett; Jean Murray; Helena Murray; E. Gray; Euphemia Bayne; Marg. Fraser; Rebecca Grant; Anna Murray; Stewart Rose; Margaret Rose; Isabel Hunter; Cecilia Martin; Anna Murray; J. L. Young; Ma. Oliphant; Ma. Kinloch; Christina Mercer; Ann Drummond; Mary Drummond; Elizabeth Schaw; Mary Brown; Helen Brown; Barbara Smyth; Isabel Murray; Alison Ogilvy.

Being forcibly excluded from the "Meeting-House" proper, they did not, of course, renounce their claim to it. But, as the whole Episcopal Church was barely, if at all, accorded legal existence, they had little chance of making good their rights, and that all the less, inasmuch as the Civic Authorities were prepared to countenance those, who were in a state of rebellion against the Bishop. Only one course was, therefore, open to our friends,—namely, to provide themselves with another temporary *place of worship*. Accordingly, on *June 18th, 1740*, we read:—"The Meeting find it necessary in the meantime that a convenient House be looked out for accommodating the Congregation for the worship of God on the Lord's Day and other days, and do therefore appoint (a Committee) to provide a convenient House for the Congregation, and whatever they shall do therein shall be ratified by the Meeting." A suitable building was therefore rented, but all attempts to identify its site have proved unavailing.

From *The Episcopal History of Perth, 1689-1894* by George Farquhar.

worship. Now came a further catastrophe - the 1745 Rebellion. Rev Robert Lyon was an enthusiastic follower of Prince Charles and went as Chaplain to one of the Jacobite regiments.

In a list of persons reported to the Duke by General Hawley, the following names of undoubted Churchmen occur:—

"That the said Robert Lyon, non-jurant Clergyman, a noted Jacobite and suspected to be Popish, went from Perth with the Pretender and his Rebel Army, September, 1745." The witnesses are the same that witness against John Rutherford and the rest of Lyon's congregation. "And that, when the news of the battle of Preston reached Perth, Mr. Lyon's windows were illuminated, and the letters C., P. R. in large characters and the lights shining through them; and it's informed that, when the Rebel Army were in England, the said Lyon was in Highland cloaths, bearing arms." We have seen that this last particular is directly contradicted in Lyon's own narrative.

\* Fittis's *Gleanings*, pp. 191 to 202.

When the rebellion failed, he was tried and executed for his part in it. Many Perth Episcopalians of both congregations were imprisoned under very harsh conditions, including both Mr. Drummond and Mr. Sempill.

It must be noted how closely the Farquhar publication of the congregation list from the surviving minute books in 1894 mirrors that of the newly discovered manuscript document.

From *The Episcopal History of Perth, 1689-1894* by George Farquhar

"John Rutherford, Writer, habit and repute a Jacobite in so far as he has always attended public worship in Robert Lyon's non-juring Episcopal Meeting-House, where the King and Royal Family were never prayed for, and which was a noted nursery of Jacobitism and Rebellion, although the said John has sworn the oaths to Government as a Public Notary, Sheriff Clerk Substitute, and as Procurator before the inferior Courts of Perth, and that the said Rutherford did, on *September 11th* last, openly insult and throw off the hats of some of the inhabitants on the street for not bowing to the Pretender when he was passing out of Perth." Other Churchmen on this list are:—James Lindsay; Duncan Henderson; — Stewart: shoemaker, merchant, and journeyman glover respectively.

George Drummond is accused of "aiding in the assault upon the loyal inhabitants, who were ringing the bells on *October 30th, 1745*, being the King's birthday," and of "being otherwise a tool of the two Rebell Governors of Perth."

Mr. James Smyth, Surgeon; Mr. George Stirling, Surgeon; and Mr. James Oliphant, Merchant, brother of Gask, "did introduce several ladies to the Pretender, both in his bedroom and also in the Town House." They are also accused of taking part in the affair of the bell-ringing on George II.'s birthday.

Mr. William Hall is a "noted Jacobite, and alwise attended Mr. Lyon's Meeting-House," and is accused "of furnishing carriages for cannon to, and otherwise serving, the Rebels."

William Lindsay, Wright, is "a noted Jacobite, and a disciple of Mr. Lyon's," and is accused of "felling and cutting down the Town of Perth's planting, and fitting the wood for pallisades to the Rebels."

From *The Episcopal History of Perth, 1689-1894* by George Farquhar.  
A valuable extract showing the occupations of some of the congregation.

The only Episcopalian, who appears actively on the Hanoverian side, is Patrick Conqueror, who bears witness against John Rutherford. The probability is that he did not stand altogether alone, but it is uncertain whether he was Orthodox or Corbsite.

Patrick Conqueror and family appear in the congregation list.

And so, after having discoursed for about 20 minutes in a spirit of charity towards men, and with a deep and chastened sense of fear towards God, he resigned himself into the executioner's hands. The method in which the prisoners, in various batches, and to the number of 77, were put to death was this:—They were first hanged for three minutes, and then disembowelled. It is much to be feared\* that life was not in all instances extinct before the second process was proceeded with.

Robert Lyon's execution 28<sup>th</sup> October 1746, Penrith

A sorrow-stricken friend of Mr. Lyon must have been present on the scaffold with him, for some of his blood was preserved and set within the glass jewel of a ring. This ring is now in possession of Miss Christian Bruce of Dunimarle, and bears the following inscription on the outside of the circle:—"Mr. Robert Lyon, E.S.P. (*Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ Presbyter*), 28th October, 1746, ætat 36;" and in the inside the legend runs:—"Pro rege et patria trucidato." Some of the sawdust also from the scaffold was collected and formed into a pin-cushion. This is now in possession of the same lady, who owns the ring; and on the silk of the pincushion is printed in the centre a white rose, round which appear the names of the 77 martyrs.

An interesting  
tit bit.

A full text copy of *The Episcopal History of Perth, 1689-1894* by George Farquhar can be viewed online courtesy of the University of Toronto who have scanned the book on [archives.org](http://archives.org)

This particular copy of the book was a presentation copy from the author to a Robert McDonald. George Farquhar was Canon and Precentor of Perth Cathedral.



## Profile:

### SIR MALCOLM INNES OF EDINGIGHT KCVO WS

At the Society's Annual General Meeting in February tributes were paid to the good work of our outgoing Honorary President, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, who has retired after serving for over 15 years. Each year his good humour has helped to ensure the smooth running of the Society's business, and he also represented us on other occasions, such as the International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences at St Andrews in 2006.

He presided over our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, in 2003 and later at the dinner at the Royal Scots Club.

Sir Malcolm was of course more widely known to the public as Lord Lyon King of Arms, from 1981 to 2001, when he was responsible for the grant of arms to several hundred petitioners - as well as for a fascinating range of ceremonial occasions, such as State Proclamations and Services of the Order of the Thistle. Occasionally he had to give warnings against the misuse of armorial bearings.

He was appointed as a Writer to the Signet in 1964, before serving in the court of the Lord Lyon as Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records from 1966 to 1981. He also served as Carrick Pursuivant and later as Marchmont Herald. After retiring as Lord Lyon six years ago, he was appointed as Orkney Herald of Arms Extraordinary. His close interest in heraldry and genealogy was inherited from his father, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms from 1945 to 1969. Sir Malcolm now intends to edit some of the papers his father left behind.

At the same AGM the Society elected Mr Robin Blair LVO WS to succeed Sir Malcolm as Honorary President. Mr Blair was a partner in a firm of Edinburgh solicitors before he succeeded Sir Malcolm as Lord Lyon in 2001. The fruitful link between the Society and the Lyon Office will be maintained.

After some deliberation, Council decided that the most appropriate way in which to thank Sir Malcolm for his many years of service to the SGS would be to encourage his leisure pursuits and thus he was presented with gardening vouchers, which we hope will give him much enjoyment during the next 15 years. He was also presented with a commemorative certificate, designed and hand-executed by Craig Ellery.

*Angus Mitchell & Jim Cranstoun*

## GROS News

The SGS is fortunate to have two members of its Council, Mr Angus Mitchell and Mr Kenneth Nisbet, on the User Group for the New Family History Centre.

The new Centre, which after building delays will open in Spring 2008, is a combination of the services currently offered by the General Register of Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland and the Lord Lyon's Office. Most visitors who currently use New Register House will then make use of new search rooms within the ground floor of Register House. This has also meant the conversion of the Dome Room at the back of Register House into a search area.

A new computer system will be in use, replacing the current DIGROS system, and will be very similar to the search fields used on the scotlandspeople website, but unlike that website the facility to search modern records will continue to be available. The new system will also mean that seats may be booked either for a single day, or for any number of days, from your home computer without the need to turn up and queue at the door.

There will be a new pricing structure with the cost of a day's search reduced to £10.00, and if you book for 10 days the 10th day will be free. (These will not need to be 10 consecutive days). For those who have not used the facilities before, or who have a very restricted time for searching, there will have an area allowing a free two-hour search period. This new pricing structure will mean that the current half-day search will no longer be available. The cost of evening visits will increase to £200.00 per group, so that the Society would encourage members to make use of the bi-monthly evening visits, for which the SGS currently charges of £9.00 per person, before the charges must be increased accordingly.

It is hoped that the new system will, like the scotlandspeople website, allow the facility to look at Testaments and Inventories (up to 1901) alongside the Parish Registers, Birth, Death and Marriage Entries, Minor Records, Census Returns and the records of the Court of the Lord Lyon, all on the same database. This will include also the Church Session records when their digitisation has been completed. Discussion has also been taking place with the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland with a view to the digitisation of some of its records.

Confirmation has been received that any records currently available to be viewed free at the National Archives will continue to be free.

*Ken Nisbet*

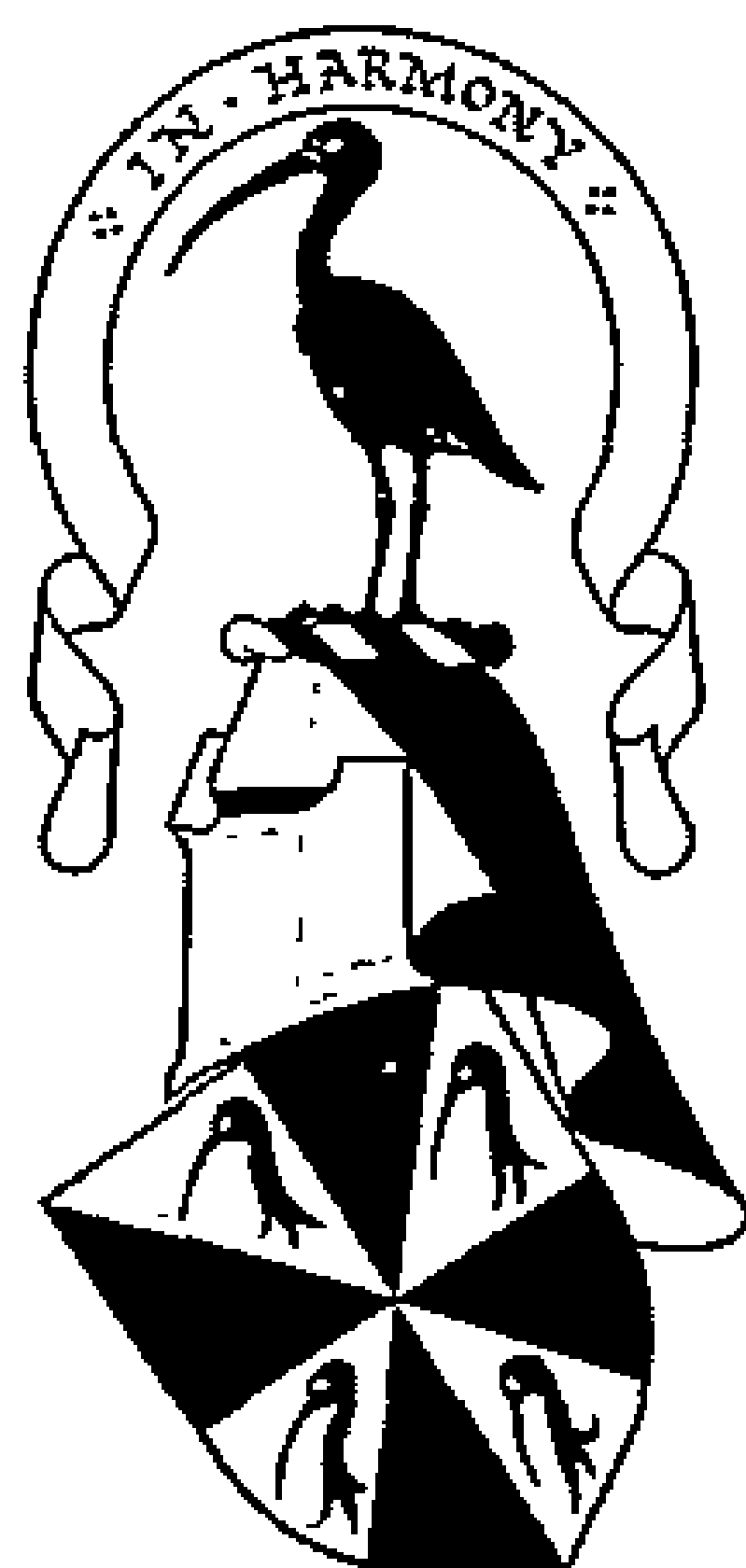
# The role of the Court of the Lord Lyon in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

by Robin Orr Blair

There can be few, if any, offices which have been in existence and are still performing the same function, for as long as that of the Lord Lyon. The office dates certainly from 1318 but may have existed before then, and the Court of the Lord Lyon still performs the functions laid down by an Act of Parliament of 1592. The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland was created by Act of Parliament in 1672 and has operated ever since.

Scotland is unique in having the only heraldic authority in the world that has been created by Act of Parliament, and in being the only country in the world where the display of unauthorised Arms is a criminal offence. Prosecutions are rare, but the existence of the statutory machinery to protect existing grants of Arms and to prevent the unauthorised display of Arms is a very important factor in the strength of the Scottish heraldic regime.

There are about 12000 entries in the Public Register and now about 120 applications are submitted every year either for new grants or for matriculations from existing grants. The Court of the Lord Lyon is as busy as it has ever been since 1592.

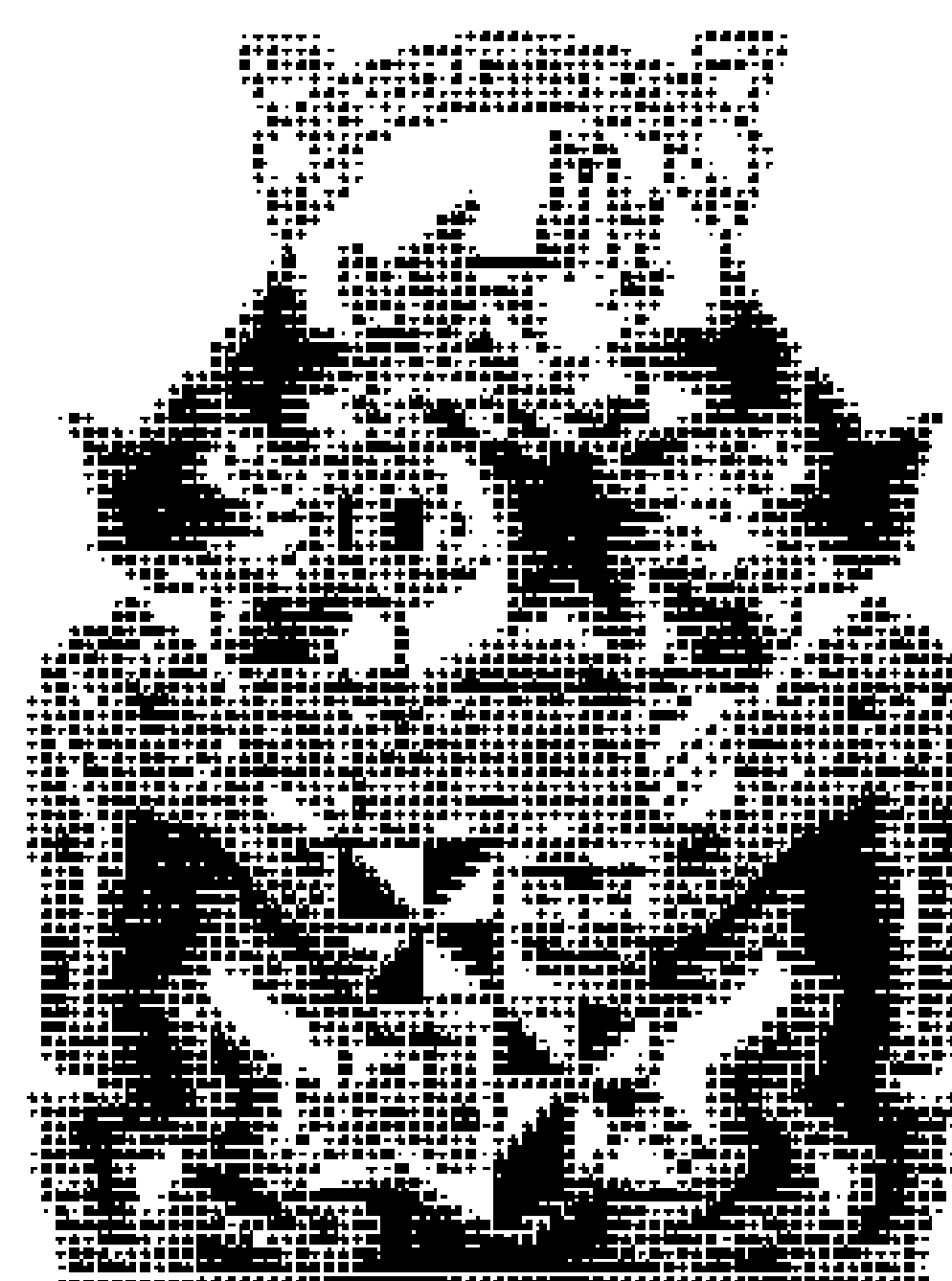


Arms of Donald Draper Campbell  
© Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland

Some features of the Scottish system of heraldry make it unusual. One is the very strong link between a surname and the design of Arms. It has been possible over the years to ensure that all designs for individuals with a particular name have had a visual similarity. Of course every shield is unique and can be held only by one person, but the designs used, for example, by anyone with the name Campbell will all have a recognisable similarity.

Another feature is the clan system, again unique in its particular form to Scotland. It is heraldic law which determines the succession to the chiefship of a clan. Whoever is entitled by law to succeed to the chief's Arms is automatically the

chief. The clan system has lent itself to the maintenance of visual similarity of designs. Normally the chief's Arms are the simplest version of a design and more complicated versions are devised for other members of the clan family. This is a very attractive aspect of Scottish heraldic design



Arms of the Duke of Argyll  
© Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland



because it allows any Campbell, for example, to have his own personal Arms with a clear link, in its design, to the Arms of his chief, the Duke of Argyll.

The increasing interest in genealogy all over the world has meant, for Scots, an increasing interest in heraldry. Once a person has succeeded in tracing his or her ancestry, then it is often an attractive idea to make public the success of the search and to preserve the information by having a coat of Arms recorded, with some of the genealogical detail, in the Public Register. The Court of the Lord Lyon also maintains the Public Register of All Genealogies and Birthbrieves in Scotland. This is used where a person wishes to record a fuller genealogy than they might wish recited in an entry in the Register of Arms, and where a full record of proof of all the events recorded in the genealogy has been provided.

Individuals can petition the Lord Lyon for a grant of Arms when they are domiciled in Scotland or own property in Scotland, or if they are resident in any part of the Commonwealth other than England. If an individual does not fall into the jurisdiction in this way, but has an ancestor who was born in Scotland, then, if his or her ancestry can be proved back to the ancestor, a Petition can be made for Arms to be granted in memory of the ancestor. The Arms granted in memory of the ancestor can then be matriculated, with suitable differences, for descendants of the ancestor. A number of such applications are received every year, often from Americans.

Corporate heraldry is very much alive. Commercial businesses, clubs, clan societies, local authorities and other organisations continue to see heraldic designs as a mark of their own authenticity and stature, an image which is not always conveyed by a commercial logo or trademark. There is certainly no sign of heraldic design being regarded as outdated or defunct.

Flags are another area of interest. Where a heraldic design is involved, the Lord Lyon has to give approval and recent examples have been the flags devised for use in Shetland and in Orkney.

It is often thought that the Lord Lyon is “responsible” for tartan. That is not the case. In fact there is no official register of tartan. Records are kept by two privately-run bodies. As a result of a private member’s bill recently proposed in Parliament, the question of how an official register for tartan can be created is under consideration at present by the Scottish Executive.

The more public face of the Court of the Lord Lyon is seen in the ceremonial which takes place in Scotland involving the seven Scottish Officers of Arms, the Lord Lyon, Albany Rothesay and Ross Heralds and Unicorn Carrick and Bute Pursuivants. Generally six or seven events take place each year. The presence of Officers of Arms at the Opening of each Session of Parliament is an indication that this part of Scotland’s history and heritage remains meaningful in contemporary times.

One feature over recent years has been the increasing number of lectures and

engagements undertaken by Officers of Arms. These have included a number of visits and lecture tours in the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Interest overseas in Scotland's heritage and in the functioning of our historic institutions in the present day is enormous and visits by the Lord Lyon and other Officers of Arms have been warmly welcomed. Genealogical tourism is believed to account for a significant number of visitors each year to Scotland. The affinity which so many people overseas feel to their Scottish roots, especially through the clan structure, is likely to continue to provide continuing interest in Scotland's heritage. The Court of the Lord Lyon has responded to this and has an important part to play.

Making information more accessible to members of the public is a challenge which the Lyon Court has faced over recent years. The Public Register of Arms has been digitally photographed and is now held electronically, providing the Court with the capability to search the register using computer technology. Within the next 12 months access to the Register will become available over the internet and it will be possible for certain details from the Register to be viewed. The exact arrangements for this are being worked out at present. This will provide another valuable source of reference for genealogists.

Ensuring that an institution as ancient as the Court of the Lord Lyon remains relevant and of interest in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is important, both for Scotland's historical heritage and also for the benefit of individuals and professionals who wish to undertake heraldic and genealogical research. The amount of interest that exists would seem to indicate that this is being achieved and it is to be hoped that this will long continue.

## Advertising in *'The Scottish Genealogist'*

Our journal now accepts advertising  
for things relevant to genealogy.

A full page (black and white) is £80,  
half page £40, and a quarter page is £20.

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**[info@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:info@scotsgenealogy.com)**

# The North Highland Archive, Wick

by Craig Ellery

For those family historians researching their roots in the far north of Scotland, a visit to the North Highland Archive collection in Wick is essential. If the distance involved makes this difficult, the Archive can be contacted by e-mail, 'phone or letter, and the website is worth a look (see below for details).

The North Highland Archive was established in 1995 to provide an archive service for the Caithness area and is currently based in Wick Carnegie Library, Sinclair Terrace, Wick.

It is part of the Highland Council Archives and is responsible for "locating, preserving and making available documents and other records relating to the history of Caithness."

The Archive holds records largely relating to county Caithness, dating from 1589 until the present day, and these records can be consulted by members of the public, free of charge, in the searchroom. Staff are always on hand to advise, but due to limited searchroom accommodation, appointments are recommended, especially in summer.

The staff are happy to undertake an archive or genealogical search upon request but are obliged to charge for this service.

The Archive holds records pertaining to official bodies, companies, families, societies and individuals, which have been identified as being of long-term historical interest. Records can be of any age, from centuries-old to something created yesterday, and the information may be contained in one document or in boxes of papers. They may be in different formats, such as paper, parchment, photographs, videos, tapes and digital files. The North Highland Archive prides itself on preserving in secure and environmentally-controlled conditions these unique and irreplaceable records of our past.

The Archives include:

- Local authority archives, including those of Caithness County Council, the Burgh of Wick and the Burgh of Thurso;
- School records – these start in the 1840s;
- Poor Relief records – these cover most Caithness Parishes, Halkirk, Wick, Thurso and a good collection of letter books from 1840s onwards for Latheron parish.;
- Police records;
- Maritime records, including Wick Harbour Trust (harbour master diaries giving day-to-day activities), Thurso River Harbour Trust; Customs and Excise (see also in National Archives of Scotland); Fishing Boat registers; Royal Naval Reserve records;
- Records of individuals, clubs and societies;



- Maps and architectural plans including the papers of Sinclair McDonald Architects (council housing and schools architects records, and local housing records;
- Genealogical resources on microfilm for both Caithness and Sutherland, including 1806 census for Watten parish.

Contact: The North Highland Archive, Wick Library, Sinclair Terrace, Wick, Caithness, KW1 5AB.  
 Telephone: 01955 606432 (UK); +44 1955 606432 (non UK)  
 E-mail: [north.highlandarchive@highland.gov.uk](mailto:north.highlandarchive@highland.gov.uk)  
 Web: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/publicservices/archivedetails/northarchive.htm>

## QUERY

2970 **MACDONALD**, Isle of Coll. I can verify that Neil MacDonald, born 19 August 1787 in Knock, married firstly Mary (Kennedy?) on 31 January 1814 and secondly Flora Kennedy.

Neil's father was Hector MacDonald, born ca 1746/47 in Triallan, who married Marion MacKinnon on 14 March 1787 at Tyree.

I am unable to find Hector's birth or death, or his parents and siblings. Can anyone help?

Contact: Linda MacDonald, e-mail: [bionicbitchofbytown@yahoo.ca](mailto:bionicbitchofbytown@yahoo.ca)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2007

All SGS ordinary meetings now take place in the  
 Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh  
 (unless otherwise advised).

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 8 September  | Saturday – Family History Fair – Gateshead, co. Durham  |
| 17 September | Monday – Ordinary Meeting<br>“Dynasties and Clusters”, by Dr Maurice McCrae, FRCPE                          |
| 22 September | Saturday – Fife Family History Fair – Glenrothes  |
| 15 October   | Monday – Ordinary Meeting<br>“7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots and the Gretna Disaster”, by Ken Nisbet |
| 16 November  | Friday – Ordinary Meeting<br>“Education Resources in National Library of Scotland, by Margaret McBryde, NAS |

New Register House Research Evenings:  
 Contact Library for 2007 dates.

# Genealogical Facts and Scottish History: A Sequel

by David Affleck

In March 2006, an article which looked at this topic in relation to the theme and its application to the family relationships between the Auchinlecks of Auchinleck, the Douglasses of Glenbervie, James 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Morton and the Auchinlecks of Balmanno, was published in the Society's Journal. Much of the material used was then presented in a paper to the 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences held at St Andrews in August 2006 within the theme, *Myth and Propaganda in Heraldry and Genealogy*. Four areas of continuing research were to provide additional material and so complete aspects of the study.

## **James Auchinleck of Kemnay and his wife Janet Hepburn.**

The article referred to a James Auchinleck, an illegitimate son of John Auchinleck, Vicar of Glenbervie, who was the second son of Sir John Auchinleck of Auchinleck.

(He was legitimated in 1494.) After his father's death, and while still a minor, he had taken on the claim against the granting of some of the family lands at Auchinleck in Ayrshire to William Douglas, son and heir to Archibald the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus. William was also to be considered as the future husband of Elizabeth Auchinleck, a cousin of James, if she consented. The young James sought to retrieve his inheritance and challenged the legality of the marriage of William and Elizabeth. The claim for recovery of the land went to arbitration and William and Elizabeth eventually agreed that the young James could occupy part of the Glenbervie lands with the right of reversion.

In my search for heraldic evidence relating to the Auchinlecks of Auchinleck and Glenbervie, there were references to a seal used by a James of Kemnay in 1526. Kemnay had belonged to two Melville sisters who had married the two sons of Sir John Auchinleck of Auchinleck in the mid 1400s. The marriage of James of Kemnay and Giles Melville had been referred to in Professor Fraser's book on the Douglas family as "a marriage without issue." The discovery that within the archive documents containing the seal of 1526 was a reference to the death of the second James Auchinleck of Kemnay in March 1528 and a draft of his testament has enabled me to suggest that James Auchinleck was the complainer as described above and was given the Kemnay land for his lifetime. He had married a Janet Hepburn, one of the three daughters of Sir Adam Hepburn of Craggis. Her earlier marriage to a John Somerville had been dissolved in 1515/1516. She and her two sisters<sup>[1]</sup> had inherited the estates of her father in Aberdeenshire and Muretoun at Forfar after the early death of her brother. James and Janet had a son William, and a daughter Cristine was also named in the draft will. William was served heir in 1549 and became William of Schethin, which was part of her inheritance. Later William had five daughters, and to pay for their tochter, his lands were acquired by George Auchinleck of Balmanno.

Privy Council records disclose that William had an illegitimate son named Robert who was legitimised in September 1574 and who became servitor of George Auchinleck of Balmanno. It is possible that this was the Robert who played a part in saving James VI from being kidnapped by Francis Stewart, the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell (son of the Regent Moray and Lady Jean Hepburn, sister of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell who married Queen Mary), but more research on that is needed. It is a further example of the contribution of genealogy to Scottish history.

### **The Auchinleck chaplains of Drumlethie and of Perth.**

There are references to a Sir James Auchinleck in Vatican records dating from 1530 when he resigned the living at Glenbervie, but he continued to hold office as chaplain at Drumlethie nearby and appears as a witness to the marriage contract in 1543 of an Alexander Falconer and Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie. He is designated Sir James, and on two occasions he acted as a witness along with a George Auchinleck. His ancestral link is obviously significant but cannot be located from public records currently available. Could there be a link with another Sir James designated in later Privy Council records as “of Perth?” He had a natural son, Thomas, who was legitimised by the Privy Council in 1578. In the same year he is listed as a servitor to the Earl of Morton. What can now be confirmed is that he was not the James Auchinleck of Kemnay referred to earlier. But there is evidence of a small cluster of priests with the name Auchinleck, notably a Robert Auchinleck who witnessed a charter as vicar of Menmuir in 1549 and who was still receiving the living there and at Drumlethie before 1567, when he is succeeded on his death by a John Auchinleck, reader at Glenbervie from 1563 to 1580. It is a complicated family group, as it appears that Andrew, the father of George Auchinleck, was married on three occasions: firstly to the daughter of Sir George Douglas of Pittendreich, who appears to be the Jane Douglas who died in December 1556 and who had a son John acting as executor; then to a Katherine Raitt who died on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1563 and whose only lawful son, Adam, was named executor in her will; and then to Jane Allardes who was alive at the time of his death in February 1582 and by whom he had a son, Andrew. What it indicates is that in addition to children of Andrew’s three marriages, a potential two- or three-generation cluster continued to hold church office there after the death of Alexander, the significant priest at Glenbervie, who died in Rome in 1525/26. There is no record of this Alexander having children or having been married, but he would then be the exception to this Auchinleck group of married priests. Auchinlecks later than 1580 in the area appear to be some of the “bairns” referred to in the will of Andrew Auchinleck’s last marriage to Jane Allardyce, but we know only of the eldest of that group, Andrew. It is interesting that the wills of Katherine and Jane were not registered until 14<sup>th</sup> April 1592.

Work on the Auchinlecks of Perth in the mid 1500s will be a future project.

Meanwhile another significant link has emerged. In Appendix 6 of the book on Robert



Stewart Earl of Orkney by Peter Anderson (1982) there are notes on his servants and followers. One of these listed is a Thomas Auchinleck, a Notary from 6<sup>th</sup> January 1576, born between 1550 and 1551, son of James Auchinleck of Perth. His protocol book contains entries for Perth and Angus in his early years and he then appears to have acted in Orkney. His testament designates him as commissary of Orkney. (SRO CC 17/2/2)

### **Sir John Auchinleck, Priest at Holy Trinity at St Andrews.**

The article made a passing reference to Sir John Auchinleck, chaplain at Holy Trinity in St Andrews in 1526. He appears to have had a more significant role, being referred to as the granitar of the Priory of St Andrews in 1539 and, in that same year, being described as servant to the Maister Household which involved him being responsible for transport of the King's cupboard from St Andrews to Kinghorn and of silver from St Andrews to Dundee and back. Was he the Johannes Afflec listed as a student at St Andrews University for the period 1509 to 1510? Was he the Sir John who was a chaplain at Inverness and who had a link with a David Learmont? He was installed there in 1509 by the Bishop of Moray who was also Commendator of Pittenweem. What is certain is that in 1546, he was one of the chaplains to the initial group who captured St Andrews Castle and took revenge on Cardinal Beaton. He is referred to along with John Knox in the Privy Council minutes as a conspirator in the murder of Beaton and sentenced to imprisonment on the French galleys. Knox was to serve nineteen months as a galley slave based in France, but Sir John Auchinleck is described by Knox as spending his sentence in the Forth. His living at Crookston and Kiltarn was forfeited.

John was still in St Andrews in 1554 when he applied for absolution for killing in defence of the castle after the murder of Beaton. For someone who took part in a significant event in Scottish history, it is surprising that his family links have not yet verified to date. It is now possible to suggest what may have happened to him after 1554 based on the following information, that Pittenweem and St Andrews Pories were increasingly linked from 1540 and that he became John, the Chamberlain of Pittenweem. He is first mentioned in 1558 when he and his wife, Isobel Wood, a granddaughter of Sir Andrew Wood, received land which was formerly part of the Pittenweem Priory. They are recorded as occupying a house at the south-west corner of the Priory buildings and had three children before his death in 1568. Interestingly, Andrew Auchinleck, the father of George of Balmanno, makes an appearance when he acts as Sasine Director for the Pittenweem land they acquired immediately before the Reformation of 1560, and John's will appears to have been recorded at the same time as Andrews in 1583, even although he died in 1568. It is possible that they were brothers but this cannot yet be verified. Interestingly, this is the only record traced of Andrew acting as Sasine Director at that time.

There are a number of other factors that reinforce the network of influence in the St

Andrews/Pittenweem area to which John, Chamberlain of Pittenweem, could have been linked to at the time of the Reformation, and these are now being investigated. One factor would include being part of a network involving the Regent Moray and John Wood of Largo.<sup>[iii]</sup> Previous suggestions that he moved from St Andrews to be a reader at Glenbervie in 1567 and holder of the living at Menmuir from 1567-68 now appear to be flawed.

### **John Auchinleck, “the last of the Roman priests.”**

John Auchinleck, Warden of the Greyfriars of Haddington from 1560, was first recorded as a friar there from 1543. His role in that office is described in some detail in *The Scottish Greyfriars* by David Bryce, as he appears to have deferred successfully the transfer of the property to the Burgh of Haddington and also delayed accounting for the income until 1572, when he was then granted a pension and later appointed a reader at Athelstaneford in 1574. There are earlier references to him as a friar at Greenlaw. Revisiting Privy Council records has now indicated that he was probably John, the third son of Andrew and his first wife, and who along with Archibald Auchinleck of Cumledge in Berwickshire were frequently listed as brothers to George Auchinleck of Balmanno. His apparent skills in management of land would fit with the same skills of George Auchinleck of Balmanno and John Auchinleck, the granitor at St Andrews Priory and possibly Chamberlain of Pittenweem. There are later references to the name of Auchinleck in Haddington Burgh records and it is possible that he was as worldly as the Elizabeth Hepburn, Prioress of the Nunnery at Haddington. He died at Athelstaneford on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1578.

### **Patrick Auchinleck, Head of the grammar school at St Andrews**

The March article did not mention this significant person living in St Andrews in the 1570s and acting as Minister of “Goddes Word” to Morton’s household. He was probably at the University of St Andrews in 1565-56, and he was appointed

Minister at Balmerino in Fife at the same time that he was a member of the Kirk Session of St Andrews Parish Kirk. He was also appointed in Morton’s regency to be a member of a committee charged with the task to introduce ‘ane form of grammar’ in Scotland. In January 1578, he was appointed “by the Crown” to be Presenter/Chanter of Moray. In that year, he also became minister at Alves Kirk near Elgin, where he died in 1581. It was therefore tempting to see him as part of the Balmanno network, but evidence from his will indicates that his wife, Margaret Guthrie, had extended family at Elgin, and some of his estate is given to family of the Auchinlecks of Dundee, with three members of the network listed as owing him money at his death.

### **James Auchinleck of Twedy.**

The final potential link with this man, who was referred to in a letter of 1627 written

by Sir George Auchinleck, has also been investigated. In that letter it is suggested that if there were writs relating to the loss of the Auchinleck estates, held by this man or his father or grandfather, these would have been given to the Balmanno family. There had been a branch of the Auchinlecks in the Lanark area first referred to in 1296. The land of Tuedy was acquired as a gift by the first James Hamilton of Fynart of Tuedy and is recorded in 1535. He lost his lands after his death for treason in 1540 but it was restored to his son, James, by 1542. The land of Tuedy then transferred to a James Auchinleck in 1542. This appears to be related to the marriage of James to a Marion Hamilton, whose will is available for study but gives no clues as to genealogy other than her husband and possible children. The life of the first James Hamilton of Fynart is covered in some detail in the research by Jamie Cameron on *James V* and the relationship with Sir George Douglas and the red Angus line was clearly antagonistic. There is nothing to suggest an affinity with the Douglas of Glenbervie line, he is described as anti-reformer and, against that background, James of Tuedy must have belonged to a separate network, perhaps with earlier family connections.

## Conclusion

The theme of the International Congress of 2006, with its emphasis on *Myth and Propaganda in Heraldry and Genealogy*, offered an opportunity to revisit past errors and reconstruct the relationship between some of the Douglas and Auchinleck family networks of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It also reinforced the use of genealogy as a contribution to the study of Scottish history. It was not possible to make a full disclosure of these further findings in the conference paper, but this additional article allows them to be recorded for future information

I am grateful for the help of Rosemary Bigwood in assisting in the interpretation of earlier Scottish documents relating to this research.

- i One sister, Helen had married Patrick Hepburn of Waughton. The second sister, Elizabeth, had married Alexander Livingstone of Duniface.
- ii He was to become secretary to the Regent Moray and be designated John Wood of Tullidavie. He would have been a brother to Isobel Wood.

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## New Website

The new Lochaber College UHI Mallaig Electronic Library was created as a contribution to Highland Year of Culture 2007. Funding was provided by Highland 2007 and the Crofters Commission.

The first entry is the 19th Century Napier Commission report into the life and times of Highland crofters and cottars, one of Scotland's most important historical records. Now for the first time, it is available from the online elibrary.



# RECENT ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

Compiled by Carol Stubbs

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Biographical dictionary of Mull people: Macleans<br>(mainly in the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries) <sup>1</sup> | Jo Currie, comp.                 |
| Blackburn: the story of West Lothian's cotton and coal town <sup>2</sup>   | Sybil Cavanagh                   |
| Dennyloanhead village<br>(part of Denny parish) burials, pre-1855 (vol. B13)   | Central Scotland F.H.S.          |
| Easdale, Belnahua, Luing & Seil:<br>the islands that roofed the world  | Mary Withall                     |
| George Mackenzie, crofter & tailor of North Gairloch,<br>Ross-shire, Scotland  | Johnston, Murray G.              |
| Gus am bris an la: Kilninian, Kilmore, Calgary, Ulva,<br>Gometra, Treshnish (monumental inscriptions)                            | Margaret Brown et al             |
| Hearth tax records:<br>Angus coastal parishes from Monifieth to Arbroath 1691  | David Dobson                     |
| Hearth tax records: Burgh of Dundee 1691   | David Dobson                     |
| Hearth tax records: Montrose and neighbouring parishes 1691  | David Dobson                     |
| Historical sketch of the Municipal Constitution of the city of Edinburgh... (1826) <sup>3</sup>                                  |                                  |
| History of Kilmore church  | Hilary M. Peel                   |
| Keppie descent   | Jim Keppie                       |
| Kilchattan kirkyard,<br>including the monumental inscriptions  | Zoe D. Fleming, comp.            |
| Lachlan Macquarie: from Mull to Australia  | Fiona Marsden                    |
| Memorial inscriptions of Langholm parish:<br>Part 1: Langholm (Old) and Staplegordon churchyards<br>Part 2: Wauchope churchyard  | Brenda Morrison & R.B. McCartney |
| Memorial inscriptions of<br>Watcarrick and Eskdalemuir churchyards   | Brenda I. Morrison, comp.        |
| North Berwick burial and mortcloth records   | Joy Dodd, editor                 |
| Old Haddington   | Craig Statham                    |
| Roxburghshire: 1841 Census: an indexed transcription:<br>Ancrum, Ednam, Linton, Makerstoun                                       | Graham & Emma Maxwell            |
| Roxburghshire: 1861 Census: an indexed transcription:<br>Roxburgh, St. Boswells, Smailholm                                       | Graham & Emma Maxwell            |
| Ruthwell parish church<br>graveyard monumental inscriptions  | Dumfries & Galloway F.H.R.C.     |
| Scottish family tree detective:<br>tracing your ancestors in Scotland  | Rosemary Bigwood                 |
| Scottish maritime records 1600-1850: a guide for family historians   | David Dobson                     |
| Searching for Scotch-Irish roots in Scottish records 1600-1750 <sup>4</sup>  | David Dobson                     |

Selkirkshire: 1861 Census: an indexed transcription:

Kirkhope, Roberton

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Tracing your Scottish ancestry

(revised and updated by Leslie Hodgson)

Kathleen B. Cory

1. In the Foreword, family historians are warned about *serious shortcomings* in Mull records- some do not exist, others from 1827-1855 were possibly destroyed in a fire in the manse of Kilninian, and there are many discrepancies in dates, with *censuses full of people up to 10 years too young*. Facts in this book are obtained from many sources.
2. Appendix gives the main dates in the town's history from 1764-2005. Chapters include coal mining, shops & pubs, recreation, schools, and are illustrated with many photos. There is a short list of mining fatalities
3. This book lists, among others, Aldermen & Lord Provosts of Edinburgh from 1296-1582, Lord Provosts, Bailies, Deans of Guild & Treasurers from 1583-1826; Trades Councillors, Deacon Convenors & Deacons of the 14 Incorporated Trades of the city from 1730-1826. Also illustrated are the arms of the city, the Merchant Co. and the 14 Incorporations.
4. This booklet covers such subjects as church records, burgh records, port books, university, family and estate records, with background information and explanations, and many examples. It gives addresses of Archives and Family History Societies and libraries in S.W. Scotland; also a bibliography of S.W. Scotland family histories, a general bibliography, and index of names.

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## Two useful Research Aids in the Library.

Have you ever looked in the files on the big table? They could help you with your research.

**The Blue Book** - Census holdings in the library. This file details all the information available for all the census returns. They are arranged alphabetically, by County and Parish. It also lists the available Indexes, whether printed, fiche or CD, and also the Census Films we hold.

**The Black Book** - Monumental Inscriptions, Death and Burial Records available in the library, likewise arranged alphabetically, by County and Parish. Every graveyard for which we have MIs is listed, published or unpublished; with shelf marks to locate them. Burial/mortcloth indexes are included, as are also the years for which burial records are available in the OPRs .

We regularly purchase data published by all the Scottish Family History Societies and aim to keep both these files regularly updated. If anyone observes any omissions, please let us know.

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

The article on the Fogos of Row in the last issue (March 2007) was extremely interesting and readers may wish to know that the samplers of Jane Mathie Laurie Fogo and her mother and aunt are in the National Museums of Scotland collection, registration numbers A.1987, 55, 56 and 57.

Robina Taylor, Jane's mother, and her older sister Margaret, were the daughters of the Town Clerk of Linlithgow, James Taylor, and his wife Jean Dick, who were 'irregularly married' in January 1771. Robina was born in Linlithgow on 24 April 1784 and Margaret on 24 February 1787. Their samplers are both the same, showing a charming little Palladian villa with a central pediment, of a type found on a great many Scottish samplers. There is a green chenille lawn with a green and white picket fence round it. At the top are the arms of Linlithgow, a black dog chained to a tree and three small birds, in an octagon and opposite another octagon with a large thistle with the 'Arms of Scotland' round it. Inbetween is a verse from Proverbs XXXI, 'Favour is deceitful...'

By contrast, Jane Mathie's sampler, beautifully executed though it is, is extremely boring, being composed half of alphabets and numerals and half of a verse on 'True Dignity', all done in light brown silk. All three are framed in polished wood frames.

They were bequeathed to the museum by the widow of the last Row-Fogo, which is how they spelt the name. Information on the makers was written on the back of the samplers, but Robina and Margaret had both included their parents' initials on their work, and their own ages, so that we can confirm that they were done in 1792 when Robina was 8 and Margaret 10. As their mother was dead by then, her initials are in black. Jane would have been 9 in 1817 when she completed her sampler.

Naomi Tarrant, BA, FSA Scot, FSA  
Clothing and textile historian

*Readers may wish to visit an exhibition of samplers, 'Love is Sunshine, Love One Another', at Edinburgh's Museum of Childhood, which finishes on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007.*

*A second exhibition of samplers from several Scottish museums is touring the east of Scotland during 2007 and 2008. Please consult [www.simplysamplers.org](http://www.simplysamplers.org) for details.*

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I enjoyed the article on "Syllodioch and the Craigs" (March 2007) and wondered if the derivation of the name could be from the Gaelic, "Sileadaich", a handkerchief. Possibly three or four hundred years ago when Galloway had the Gaelic, it was let as such a "wee bit of ground" and thus it acquired the name – who knows?

*Forbes Meek, Glasgow*



# Mary Sidney Douglas and the Douglasses of Strathendry

by Rory G Cunningham

I was very interested to read Caroline Makein's article in vol. liv No. 1 on Mary Sidney Douglas and am able to supply some more information concerning her and her husband's family.

On p. 19 Caroline refers to David Douglas, later Lord Reston, one of the tutors of Mary's husband Robert, and the heir of Adam Smith. Lord Reston's elder daughter Cecilia, who married the Rev. William Bruce Cunningham, was my great-great-grandmother. I have a number of family letters dating from the early part of the nineteenth century mainly written to David's wife (and first cousin) Elizabeth which add some colour to the account Caroline gives of the family.



First of all I can clear up the question of Mary's burial place and that of her husband and son. It is the family vault at the Kirk on the Green in Leslie, which sits beside the Rothes family vault and is being repaired by Fife Council. This vault contains four marble shields, commemorating Mary; her husband Robert; their son William; and Col. Clephane and his wife (it also has an earlier memorial to a member of the Melville family, which I do not believe to be related – I assume the Douglasses bought the vault from the Melville family but this is only a guess). These shields tell us that Mary was born on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1796 and died on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1882;

that her husband Robert (baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1794) died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1844 and their son William – whom I also believe to have been their only child – died on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1833; that Col. Clephane was born on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1821 and died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1887; and that his wife Anne was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1830 and died on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1882.

William is said to have died after having been thrown from his horse. This must have been a regular playtime hazard, as is shown in a letter written by my ancestor Cecilia (then aged 12) to her mother Elizabeth from Strathendry on August 12<sup>th</sup> 1825:

*"You may be thankful I have not broke my neck, for Adie<sup>1</sup> was riding on his poney and I on Bobby, Adie began to canter on his poney and M<sup>r</sup> Bob took it into his head to run*

*off with me. O the fright I did get, Allan<sup>2</sup> when he saw it turned pale and cried O she'll be off and galloped after him, Cousin Robert<sup>3</sup> called to him to stop for it only made Bob run faster but Allan was in too great panic to hear; he Allan I mean galloped as fast as he could, not get up with My runaway, for a little time Mr Bob never stopped till he reached the stable door, and was not I a very good rider to sit on. Allan told me afterwards that I rode at the rate of more than 20 miles an hour."*

There is one letter written by Mary, to Elizabeth in 1823, which seems to refer to a return to Kilmaron Castle, where Robert's uncle Robert lived, from David and Elizabeth's home in Edinburgh:

*"we arrived yesterday safe & sound about 6 o'clock having had a most prosperous voyage & a very good luncheon at Dunnikier<sup>4</sup>. We found Major Moray in the house having arrived the day before & forced to return home very early this mng which was really most unfortunate Polly<sup>5</sup> was a little tired in the evening so I packed her off to bed early & today she seems quite brisk & vy happy with William whose delight with her & the chair & whip is very great – they are out walking together just now – & she said she was to write to you to prove I had not popped her into the river in crossing – I found William in high health & beauty - but it seems xxxx<sup>6</sup> was far more unhappy at my absence than he was which is mistifying..."*

Robert may indeed have been an able landlord but what little evidence there is points in another direction. There are Strathendry estate papers in the NAS (GD446) which include some letters from David Douglas to his brother Robert, one of which foresees that the "poor old castle" under young Robert's stewardship would not remain long in the family; and one of the letters I have shows Robert writing to uncle David from his Army barracks in Hounslow in 1813 begging for another £100 for new horses & uniform.

Mary's bereavements were indeed a heavy blow. In 1844 Cecilia, by then a wife and mother, writes to Elizabeth:

*"I was sorry the day over cast again for your arriving at Strathendry wherè there was once so much sunshine of young life and so many glad voices now heard no more on earth – you have had your share in those bereavements dear Mama and yet you have more remaining to love than poor cousin Mary..."*

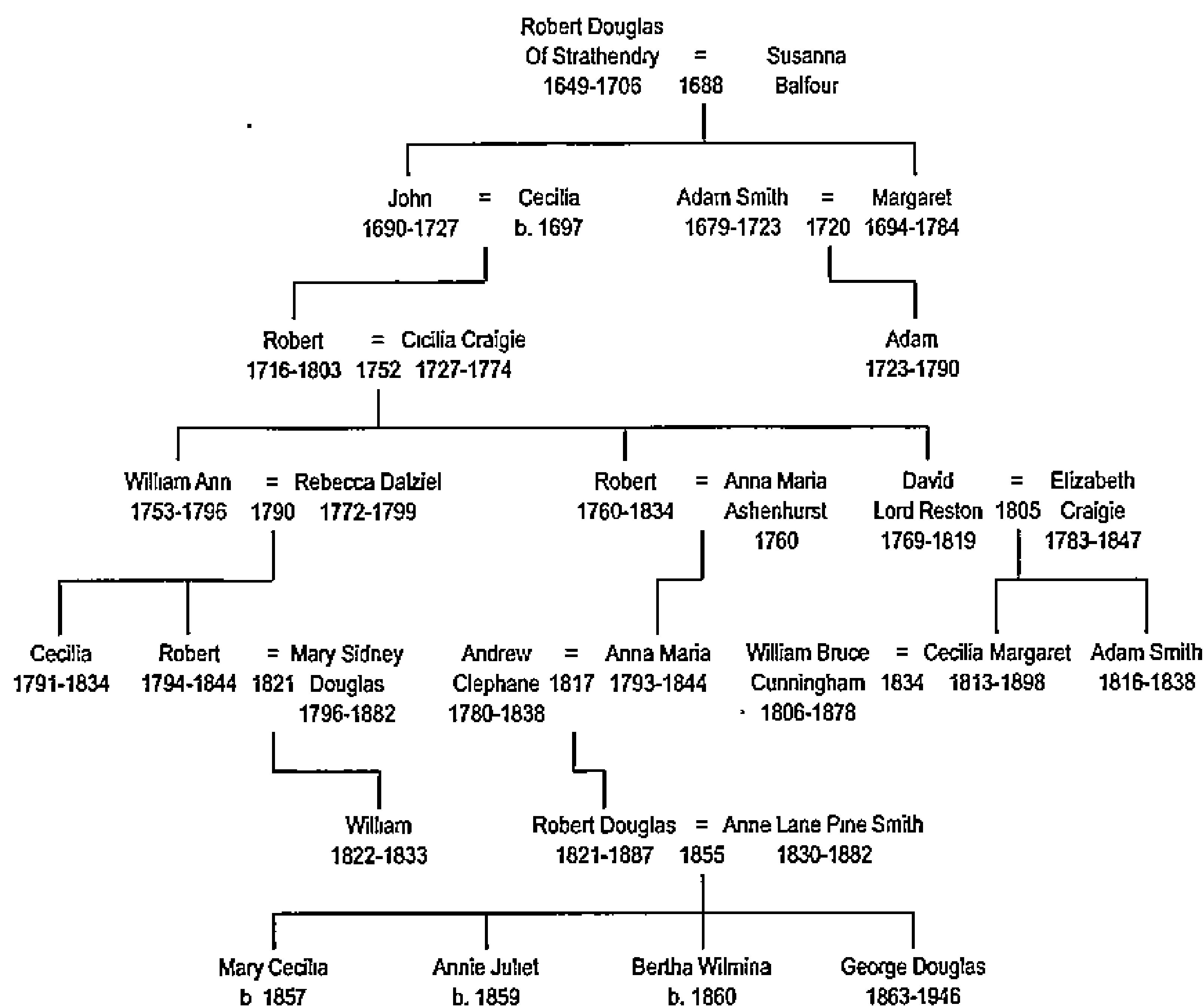
I believe Mary's monogram is on the exterior of a house at the end of the lane leading to the house & castle. The death of Col. Clephane in 1887 seems to have marked the beginning of the end of Strathendry as an ancient family estate. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, i.e. shortly after his death, Cecilia's daughter-in-law writes to her sister:

*"Certainly the young Clephanes<sup>7</sup> do seem peculiar & unsatisfactory but Mrs Cunningham will be glad that there seems no idea of selling the place in the meantime."*

However it was later sold by George Douglas Clephane (or George Douglas Douglas Clephane as he seems to have called himself, as he was baptised George Douglas and

his parents double-barrelled their name) to the Kirkcaldy magnate Robert Tullis, and it has thankfully passed through a number of careful hands since and both the house and the castle are still private homes. I would be interested to hear from any of your readers who know what became of the Clephane family and if there are any representatives. I believe that George died in 1946.

Caroline speculates about the identity of the wife of Andrew Clephane. She was Anna Maria Douglas, the daughter of Robert (brother of William Ann and David). Finally your readers may be interested to know that the portrait of David Douglas's great-aunt Margaret, mother of Adam Smith, has been restored and is now on display at the Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery.



The chart shown above is simplified and does not show all family members.

- <sup>1</sup> her brother
- <sup>2</sup> a groom
- <sup>3</sup> i.e. Mary's husband
- <sup>4</sup> In Kirkcaldy, then the home of the Oswalds
- <sup>5</sup> Cecilia
- <sup>6</sup> illegible; perhaps a dog
- <sup>7</sup> George and his sisters

## Reviews

### *The Scottish family tree detective: tracing your ancestors in Scotland*

by Rosemary Bigwood. Manchester University Press, 2006.

ISBN: Paperback 0 7190 7185 2, £9.99.

The appearance of this monograph is to be welcomed, particularly since Mrs Bigwood's previous book on Scottish family history has been out of print for few years. The new work is a much-expanded version, though continuing the systematic approach apparent in the earlier title. It would be tiresome to enumerate the book's contents - to me it seems to deal with everything that we might expect such a work to contain, and as such bears comparison with Kathleen Cory's *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry*. Mrs Bigwood's enquiry methodology, clearly based on her considerable experience as a researcher in genealogy, is one of the book's most attractive features, allowing the reader/prospective researcher to move with a minimum of disruption from one aspect of her/his family history to another. There is good advice on the problems to be encountered in using basic tools like registration records, census records and old parish registers as well as a comprehensive treatment of secondary sources, including legal records. Inevitably there are omissions. Perhaps the book was completed before the recent changes at the Scottish Catholic Archives, which, though mentioned, it is not provided with an address. A very useful feature is the appendix containing an alphabetical list of Scottish parishes, particularly useful when doing research in the National Archives, since the pre 1975 counties, Sheriff Court, Commissary Court references and appropriate towns or villages are given for each parish.

Mrs Bigwood handles the issue of information available on-line by describing its uses and noting the short-lived nature of many sites. Though the advice given is helpful and sensible perhaps she takes less account of this important new source than a book published in 2006 might be expected to contain. The book has an extensive bibliography relevant to its purpose, which researchers will find useful. The blurb claims this title as suitable for beginners but its true value might be for intermediate and advanced users.

This book may be purchased from the Scottish Genealogy Society, either on the website: [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com) or from the Sales Secretary at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

*Jim Cranstoun*

### *North Berwick Burial & Mortcloth Records*

transcribed and edited by Joy Dodd

Scottish Genealogy Society, 2007. ISBN 1 904060 390

As family historians, we spend more and more time looking at lists – indexes to censuses, parish registers, statutory registers, collections of people of a certain occupation or descriptive lists of documents. Much admirable work has been



completed in these fields in recent years, though occasionally enthusiasm has outrun expertise and omissions and mistakes have detracted from the value of the results. Good listings – whatever their form – can provide an invaluable key to opening another door on the past. It is, therefore, with pleasure, that we welcome the publication of more of Joy Dodd's work – a volume of transcribed entries of burial and mortcloth records for North Berwick covering the period 1661 to 1855.

Despite the various injunctions of the Church, death and burial records were the least well-kept parish registers and for many Scottish parishes there are no surviving registers. In North Berwick there are some records but they are in no way complete. There are scattered entries of deaths for the years 1662-1685, followed by a long gap till 1795 when we find mortcloth records till 1831 and deaths from 1826 till 1855. Joy Dodd has, however, managed to supplement the information in the parish registers from other sources. She found a number of mortcloth and other death entries in the North Berwick kirk session accounts for the years 1661-1683 and 1692-1721, while the burgh records have supplied further information for the eighteenth century – deaths of baillies and town officers mentioned in the burgh court books, accounts of money paid in for the ringing of the town's bell at a funeral and an account of burials in 1735.

It is interesting to note that though there are date overlaps in some of the sources consulted, in very few cases is there more than one entry relating to a particular death or burial in the different records. Michael Cassie died at the age of 71 on 13 October 1829 and the payment of the hire of the mortcloth at his funeral was entered on 25<sup>th</sup> October – but this double reference is rare.

Entries are listed alphabetically under the name of the deceased, with names spelt as they occur in the records, followed by a comment on the entry: mortcloth, burial or age at death if given and very occasionally cause of death. The date given may refer to date of death, of burial or date of payment for hire of a mortcloth when entered by the parish treasurer. The inclusion of all these details, therefore, provides a complete extract of all the information in the entries. One disadvantage of this arrangement is perhaps that it is not possible to see at a glance where the main gaps in the records occur and how many entries were made in each year – but the coverage of each source is clearly stated in the introduction to the booklet.

It is important to bear in mind that indexes and transcripts do not produce all the answers. It is easy to judge the relevance of some of these burial entries – for example, Elizabeth Grieve is described as relict of Wm Skeldon and died aged 74 years in 1832 – but in many cases the details in the records are too sparse to make positive identification of the deceased possible. It may be difficult to determine whether the details of payment for the mortcloth of James Grieve in 1811 – no age or personal description – concern the James Grieve whom you may be researching. This is a fault of the source, not of the transcriber.

This volume of North Berwick burial and mortcloth records is therefore a most useful

addition to genealogical resources for those researching families in the area and is once again evidence of Joy Dodd's meticulous and intelligent work.

*Rosemary Bigwood*

***Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh: Monumental Inscriptions***

transcribed, edited and compiled by Craig Ellery, Scottish Genealogy Society, 2006, £13.50, ISBN: 0 1904060 42 0. The title is also available as a CD for £10.

The Edinburgh Cemetery Company opened Comely Bank Cemetery in 1898. This volume contains 2499 inscriptions dating from the opening year up to the present century. 102 stones are lying face down and therefore cannot be read. As well as giving details of those who lived and died in this area of Edinburgh the cemetery lists many military burials dating from both world wars. During the Great War Craigleith Poorhouse, adjacent to the Cemetery, was occupied by the Second Scottish General Hospital. During the Second War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour Hospital. Section I of the of Comely Bank Cemetery contains the War Memorial and over a hundred gravestones for soldiers, sailors and airmen, not only from Scotland and other parts of Britain but from New Zealand, Australia and Canada, and one from Finland. An interesting if sad feature of many of the deaths recorded in 1918/19 was that they died in the great influenza epidemic. Here were men who had survived the hazards of war but who succumbed during recuperation from their wounds. There are also many military burials in other parts of the Cemetery.

However, most of the stones relate to those who inhabited this placid area of north-central Edinburgh. Being essentially a twentieth century burial ground the inscriptions are largely short and of a personal nature unlike the more informative style of those in Edinburgh cemeteries dating from the middle of the nineteenth century, which often give details of occupations. The book is attractively produced and contains clear plans of the general layout and the main sections of the Cemetery as well as a number of photographs.

This title may be purchased from the Society's website shop: [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com) or by application to the Sales Secretary at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

*Jim Cranstoun*

***A Scottish Family: the Story of Eight Generations***, by Betty Willsher.

Librario Publishing Ltd ([www.librario.com](http://www.librario.com)), 2005. ISBN 1-904440-51-7

The front cover shows two portraits: one in needlework, of a sister by a sister; the second a modern digital photograph of a little girl in her jeans and striped top, clutching what looks like a toy telephone. It heralds what is within the pages, a tale which spans centuries from an era when everything was recorded by hand to the technological age when information flies around the globe at inconceivable speed. And this is indeed a

story of a family of those centuries, recounted not only with historical accuracy and thorough research, but also with great affection.

The story centres largely around the Russell family in Elgin, which was influential in that Burgh by dint of editing *The Elgin Courant*, becoming Lord Provost, and so on. Thus Mrs Willsher was enviably fortunate to have access to relevant printed newspaper and burgh records, as well as to many family letters and journals, which describe both day-to-day activities and travels around the world. Extracts from all these, together with her genealogical research, have been set against the backdrop of national, international and local history, together with social change, to form a very impressive biography of her family. Interspersed, from time to time, are anecdotes, often amusing, of the research journey.

The characters “come alive” on the pages, as any good author ought to ensure. And are we not all descended from *people* rather than Ancestors Nos. x, y and z?

From all the above sources the book is able to portray family members’ endeavours, hopes, delights, discords, anxieties and sadnesses, as well as their usual recorded events, and much of this type of information is unavailable to most of us. Mrs Willsher has wisely kept genealogical tables to a minimum, listing the salient lines at the end of each pertinent chapter.

It’s in a narrative style and is very readable indeed. There are threads followed through the tale, as there are in this history. Amongst other factors, I enjoyed the extracts from journals, recording visits here and there, journeys, concerts and even an air raid. I’m sure that Mrs Willsher’s ancestors, if they could read it, would be astonished by this book!

If anyone intends to publish their own family history, they could do a lot worse than to follow this excellent example.

Betty Willsher’s previous publications include *Understanding Scottish Gravestones*, *How to Record Scottish Graveyards* and *Scottish Epitaphs*.

*Caroline Gerard*

### ***Knowing Your Grandfather: Joseph William Wilson 1879-1958***

by Malcolm Cant. Malcolm Cant Publications, 2004. ISBN 0-9526099 7 5

Although this book is now a couple of years old, it’s well worth a belated review, following that of Betty Willsher’s biography of her family.

Mr Cant set out to discover more about his maternal grandfather’s life, and also of his maternal grandmother’s, rather than to record as much genealogy as possible. This grandfather was born in Minnigaff, Kirkcudbrightshire, and migrated to Edinburgh to become a police officer. Along the way were discovered a few surprises, of course.

In order to record properly his grandparents’ lives, Mr Cant pored over not only the usual main genealogical material but also poorhouse records, school records and many

thousands of pages of police records. The number of hours involved must be close to incalculable. His account of the research involved really should have been dull and tedious, but his narrative style kept me turning the pages to read more and more. He encountered many helpful people on his journey, who have all been acknowledged, with his customary courtesy.

Malcolm Cant is of course weel-kent to Embra folk, who will be unsurprised to learn that the book is sprinkled with many location photographs, both old and new, which we all enjoy so much.

Do not attempt a published family history in this style unless you're at least as good an author as is Malcolm Cant!

*Caroline Gerard*

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## Editorial Introduction

Greetings from your new Editor!

First of all, I'd like to pay due tribute to Gregory Lauder-Frost. In his three-year tenure, he instigated some splendid improvements to the Journal, and on these I should like to build.

In my view, the Journal ought to reflect the broader spectrum of our collective ancestry, demonstrate that family history is not just a matter of collecting hundreds of years' worth of dates of Births, Marriages and Deaths, but also of understanding the lives of our forebears and how their lives may affect ours even now. Sometimes this requires a lot of lateral searching and sometimes the lucky break. Some of the articles in this issue, notably those by Rosemary Bigwood and Jessie Denholm, illustrate this point.

Also, I believe that there are many good writers with fascinating stories amongst our membership, although they themselves may not realise it! Lots of people have had to learn new skills to pursue their ancestry: why not writing too?

I gathered a small team around me, of Joy Dodd and Pam Graham (who now must step back a bit due to ill-health). Talk to any of us, almost any time. In the past few weeks we've received many comments and suggestions, together with practical assistance. Please keep it coming!

*Caroline Gerard*



## DALGETY'S REVIEW – WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MERCHANTS AND SHIPS' CHANDLERS,  
SYDNEY TOWN, 1852

### RULES FOR CLERICAL STAFF

1. Godliness, Cleanliness and Punctuality are the necessities of a good business.
2. On the recommendation of the Governor of this Colony, this firm has reduced the hours of work and the Clerical Staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7am. and 6pm. on weekdays. The Sabbath is for worship, but should any Man-of-war or other vessel require victualling the Clerical Staff will work on the Sabbath.
3. Daily prayers will be held each morning in the Main Office. The Clerical Staff will be present.
4. Clothing must be of a sober nature. The Clerical Staff will not disport themselves of raiment of bright colours nor will they wear hose unless in good repair.
5. Over shoes and Top-Coats may not be worn in the Office, but neck scarves and headwear may be worn in inclement weather.
6. A stove is provided for the benefit of the Clerical Staff. Coal and wood must be kept in the locker. It is recommended that each member of the Clerical Staff bring four pounds of coal each day during cold weather.
7. No member of the Clerical Staff may leave the room without the permission of Mr. Ryder. The Clerical Staff may use the garden below the second gate. This area must be kept in good order.
8. No talking is allowed during business hours.
9. The craving of tobacco, wines and spirits is a human weakness and, as such, is forbidden to all members of the Clerical Staff.
10. Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced, the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30am. and noon, but work will not, on any account, cease.
11. Members of the Clerical Staff will provide their own pens. A new sharpener is available, on application to Mr. Ryder.
12. Mr. Ryder will nominate a Senior Clerk to be responsible for the cleanliness of the main office and the private office and all boys and juniors will report to him 40 minutes before prayers, and will remain after closing for similar work. Brushes, Brooms, Scrubbers and Soap are provided by the Owners.
13. The new increased weekly wages are hereunder detailed:

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Junior Boys (to 11 years) | - 1/4. |
| Boys (12 to 14 years)     | - 2/1. |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Juniors   | - 4/8.  |
| Junior Clerks                                     | - 8/7.  |
| Clerks  | - 10/9. |
| Senior Clerks (after 15<br>years with the Owners) | - 21/1. |

**THE OWNERS HEREBY RECOGNISE THE GENEROSITY OF  
THE NEW LABOR BUT WILL EXPECT A GREAT RISE IN  
OUTPUT OF WORK TO COMPENSATE FOR THESE NEAR  
UTOPIAN CONDITIONS.**

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## **THE GENEALOGIST'S PSALM**

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray.  
It maketh me to lie down  
And examine half-buried tombstones.  
It leadeth me into still court houses;  
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.  
It leadeth me in the paths of ancestral records,  
And ship's passenger lists, for my surname's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the shadows  
Of research libraries and microfilm readers,  
I shall fear no discouragement,  
For a strong urge is within me;  
The curiosity and motivation, they comfort me.

It demandeth preparation of storage space  
For the acquisition of countless documents.  
It annointeth my head with burning midnight oil.  
My family group sheets runneth over.  
Surely birth, marriage and death dates  
Shall follow me all the days of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker, forever.

*Submitted by Margaret Thorburn.*

## **We know who you are**

Over the years the Society has received some interestingly addressed communications: **The Scottish Gynaecology Society** and more interestingly **The Scottish Gene Allergy Society** and with the advent of email, the confusion has increased, as we regularly get emails that start: **Dear Ms Terrace, Dear Victoria** or **Dear Victoria Terrace**.

The latest misnomer occurred in consequence of the closing of the east end of Victoria Terrace whilst building work takes place. To direct customers to businesses on the Terrace the building company erected a notice informing the public of how to access the Terrace and the names of the companies to be found there. Now we know we are a friendly society, but ....

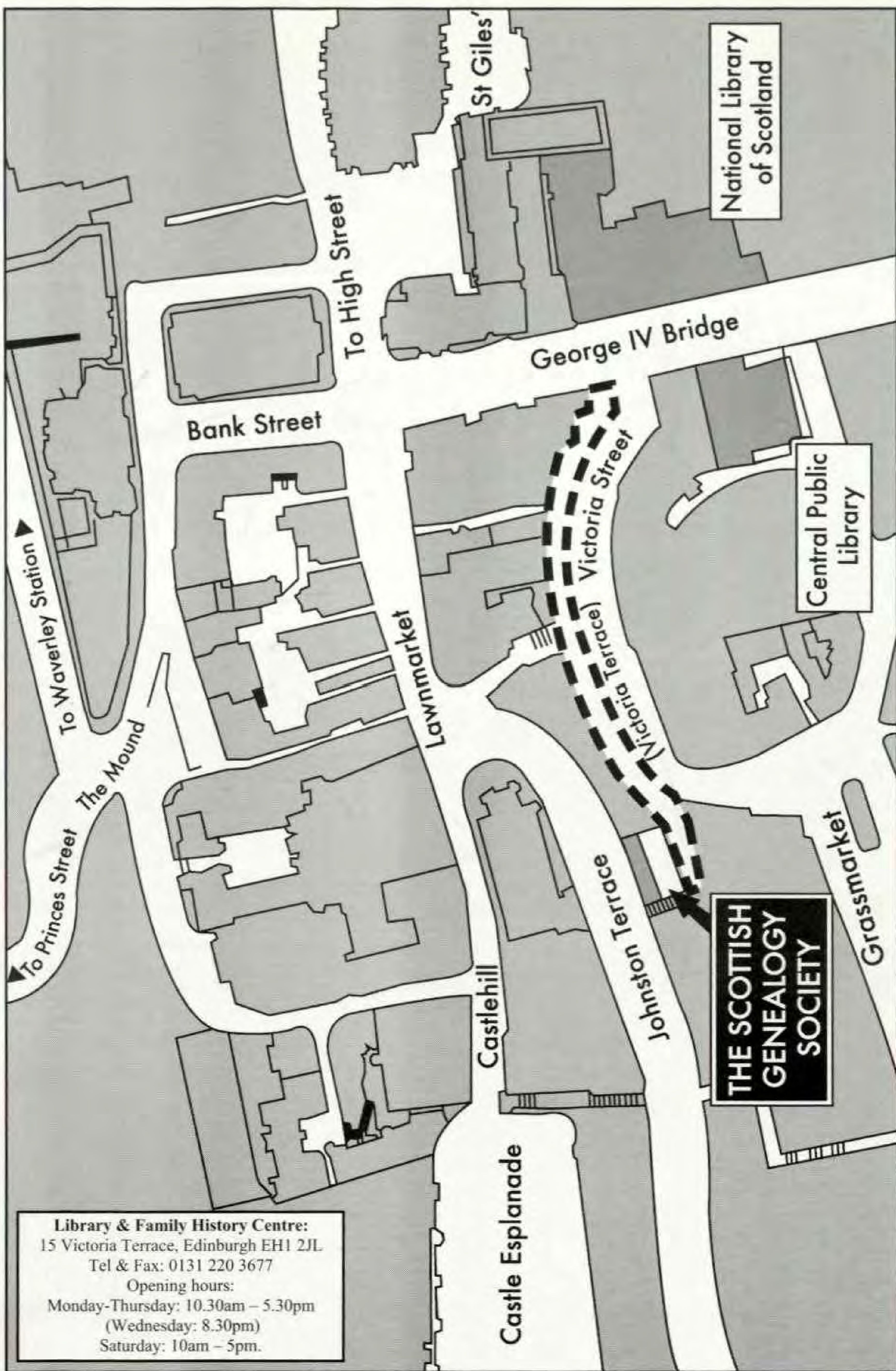


**The Scottish Geniality Society!**  
It has now been corrected.

*(Please see revised map on inside back cover)*

**Contributed by Richard Torrance**





Please note that access from George IV Bridge is suspended until at least December 2008.





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