



# THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Time-Keeping in Elgin**

**McKenzie Families in Cape Breton**

**The Scottish President of the U.S.A.**

**A Proposed Forth Crossing**

**Cramond Island**

**QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

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**Vol. LV No. 3**

# The Scottish Genealogy Society

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This edition of *The Scottish Genealogist* was edited by Caroline Gerard, with the valued assistance of Joy Dodd, of Jim Cranstoun, Craig Ellery, and Richard Torrance, of Chic Bower at Sprint Repro and of all our regular and occasional contributors.

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

*Back Cover:* Portrait of Arthur St Clair by Charles Villson Peale 1741-1827 in the collection of The Independence National Historic Park, Philadelphia.

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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

Single membership £16; family membership £19; affiliate membership £20.

The Society is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a charity. Members who pay UK income tax are therefore encouraged to pay their subscriptions under the Gift Aid Scheme so that the Society may recover the tax paid on these sums. Details of arrangements for the scheme can be obtained from the UK Membership Secretary.

### Correspondence, Subscriptions, Publications

General correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Secretary and subscriptions to the Membership Secretary ([membership@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:membership@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: [enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:enquiries@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. Email: [editor@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:editor@scotsgenealogy.com)

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eventually surfaced. Aunt Margaret, of Little Gruinard in North Gairloch, married a master mariner named Kenneth McKenzie and was one of many who sailed across the Atlantic to Nova Scotia. After only a few years the pair and young family then sailed off once more this time around the world to New Zealand. I couldn't resist the temptation to discover more about this family in picturesque Nova Scotia - at least that's how it looks today!

John was the first of these McKenzies documented as a Plaister settler - in the mid 1820s. Within the next decade, Kenneth and Donald McKenzie appear. The last of the four lots and closest to Big Harbour was occupied by Murdoch McKenzie from about 1845. In his early days on the property Murdoch may have joined forces with Alexander McKenzie.

Most if not all five McKenzies originated in Ross-shire, which includes the west-coast Highland parish of Gairloch. This was the time of the Highland Clearances when families left the Scottish homelands in droves, seeking to escape the almost impossible living conditions imposed by landowners and landlords.

To date, here is no documented proof that these McKenzies were related. However, there are indications supporting the idea they were brothers. The families lived side by side at the Plaister Mines Settlement for an extended period of time. The sons of the five McKenzies were given names strongly reminiscent of each other: Donald, John, Murdoch, Kenneth and Alexander.

Various other references suggest the McKenzies were related. In New Zealand one published work records that two men, both named Kenneth McKenzie and both migrants to Waipu in the 1850s, were cousins. Therefore their respective fathers, John and Murdoch, must have been brothers. According to eighty-something-year-old Murdoch MacKillop in September 2007, when living at Plaister Mines many years ago, the McKenzie brothers Donald and Roy referred to "Curly John" McKenzie as one of their "uncles". Their broad definition of "uncle" included the cousins of their father, John P McKenzie. John P was a son of Roderick McKenzie, who would have been a first cousin of John M McKenzie (Curly John) if their respective fathers, Donald and Murdoch, were brothers. Roy was fond of saying he got his curly hair from "Curly John". Furthermore, MacKillop recalls that John P McKenzie corresponded with a relative in New Zealand. The relative could have been the son of Murdoch or one of two sons of John, all three of whom participated in the pioneering migration by sailboat from Nova Scotia to New Zealand in the 1850s. Evidence, perhaps, that John was a brother of Murdoch.

### ***JOHN McKenzie, his old lady and a lighthouse***

John McKenzie landed at Cape Breton about 1826, less than a decade after the Rev. Norman McLeod's historic journey from Scotland to Pictou and on to St Ann's. With John was his wife Lillias and two little boys: Donald born 1822 at Aultbea in North

Gairloch and Kenneth. in Applecross, April 1825. This Kenneth was the one who later married grandmother's Aunt Margaret MacKenzie and eventually settled in New Zealand. One can closely surmise John's arrival date in the Plaister because the christening of his next child was recorded in September 1827, by the Rev. Donald Allan Fraser while on tour of the Bras d'Or region in the autumn of that year. Furthermore, documented land claims made 60 years later state that Grandmother Lillias, described as "the old lady", and her family had occupied the lot since the early 1820s.

John chose a lot comprising 265 acres on the north shore of Big Bras d'Or. At some point Duncan McRae's grant formed John's western borderline and to the north, the properties of John McDonald and Angus Matheson marked his boundaries. Angus Matheson later plays a role in the events surrounding John's family. The boundary between John and Duncan McRae marked the westernmost point of the four McKenzie lots, about halfway along the five-and-a-half mile stretch between Red Point and Bevis Point at Big Harbour.

Many Scots settlers supplemented farming with an income from the sea. Some say John McKenzie died at sea in a storm. Nothing is currently available to show when he died except that Lillias McKenzie was a widow by the time of the 1860 census of Nova Scotia. At a guess, John was born around 1800 and died in the early 1850s.

The early 1850s was also when the Reverend Normal McLeod of St Ann's was readying his followers for the first re-migrant voyage from Nova Scotia to southern and reputedly more friendly climes. Some of the Scots settlers in the Baddeck area, although somewhat independent of the enigmatic Reverend, decided to follow him. Two of John's four sons had signed up as crewmen on the *Spray*, owned by the Mathesons and Stewarts, when the small 107-ton brigantine set sail for New Zealand early in 1857. Perhaps John's death in the 1850s provided the impetus for the young men to leave Nova Scotia. One of the migrant sons was Kenneth, who had crewed with the seafaring Matheson brothers around the coast of Nova Scotia in the years leading up to 1857. In New Zealand, Kenneth established a considerable reputation as a rebel and a mariner. From his sea-side base at Omaha beach near Waipu, Kenneth's smuggling and involvement in the slave trade were renowned. Perhaps he curtailed his activities when his own son was horribly killed by savages who attacked his ship while anchored in the Solomon Islands in 1880.

With two sons permanently absent, the management of John's land fell to his widow Lillias, "the old lady", who divided the land among her two remaining sons. One son, also named John, took on the responsibility of maintaining "the old lady" in her home, presumably his parent's original house. The 1864 map by A.F. Church marks two occupants of this property – one was the other remaining son, Donald, on the western portion, while the widow Mrs McKenzie occupied the east-most tract.

In 1874, the McKenzies granted an early lease of mining rights for gypsum, or Plaster



Of Paris. The brothers Donald and John McKenzie jointly signed a lease allowing access to all of the lands "we now live on" except one acre retained for the purposes of building a "Light House". In the following year, the Crown Minister of Marine and Fisheries paid John McKenzie \$150 for about an acre of his property designated for a lighthouse situated on the shore of the Lake (actually an inlet) of Great Bras D'Or. The location took the family name: "McKenzie Point". John, a mariner by trade, did not enjoy the lighthouse for very long. He died in November 1875, possibly lost at sea like his father. John's widow, Margaret, was left to maintain a young family of seven children as well as her widow mother-in-law.

Margaret's brother-in-law was Donald, whose eldest son was the well-known Captain John A. McKenzie. Donald was not to be outdone by his deceased brother John and in 1880 took his own slice of the government pie. For \$100 he sold to the Crown Minister of Marine and Fisheries a right-of-way across his land from the lighthouse to the Baddeck post road. Meanwhile, in 1882 the elderly Lillias sold 50 acres of the family lot for \$100 to Donald's son, Capt. John A, so that John A. could maintain "the old lady". In 1887, Capt. John purchased another 100 acres, being the west half of the 200 acre lot immediately to his east. Those lands were owned by one of Kenneth McKenzie's sons, probably a cousin once removed.

However, it was not until 1887, about 60 years after John McKenzie originally settled, that his family applied for a Crown Grant for title to the land. Capt John A appeared to lead the family effort in the claim, perhaps because he could read and write. Donald applied for 150 acres and two years later was granted 151½ acres. Surveyor Joseph McLean reported improvements comprising a house and barn to the extent of \$600 and that the wilderness land was timbered with small firs. The rear was worth \$60 per acre and the southwest part was cut up with plaster holes, and the property did not boast a harbour. McLean noted that from where he began the survey at McRae's south eastern corner the area was honeycombed with plaster holes, and anyhow should he lose two more days surveying he could not get through the caves, and may never return.

A further 165 acre tranche of John's 265 acre lot was claimed by Capt John A and the heirs of the deceased John McKenzie. Obviously there was confusion as to whose share the "old lady" had depleted with the 50 acres sold to John A. This was eventually sorted out in Donald's favour - doubtless John's heirs had little voice in the matter since most of them had emigrated to the USA - and so John A was granted 50 acres from his deceased uncle's share. The remaining 63½ acres was named for the heirs of John McKenzie, his widow Margaret and seven children. The "old lady" did not retain title to any land.

Only a year later, Donald sold another right of way across his land, this time to Hector McRae, his westerly neighbour. This was likely the resolution of a dispute between Donald McKenzie and Hector's father Duncan McRae over whether or not McRae



had obtained a Crown Grant of a right-of-way across the northwest corner of McKenzie's land before McKenzie's claim of 1887. Donald secured the support of John A Fraser, MPP, who on his behalf wrote strongly worded protests to the Commissioner of Crown Lands demanding that the Commissioner put an end to McRae's impossible claims.

Immediately upon gaining full title to their lands, Capt. John and his uncle Donald leased out their joint properties of about 300 acres for plaster mining, carefully excluding from the lease the adjacent additional 60-plus acres belonging to John's widow Margaret and her children.

By 1890, now nearly 70, Donald decided to sell two-thirds of his 151½ acre lot to his son William. Ten years later, Donald sold the remaining 51½ acres to his daughter Lillee.

Capt. John A McKenzie sold his two adjacent lots totalling 150 acres to a miner named Norman Carmichael of Glace Bay in 1905. Carmichael also had his eye on the 60-plus acre lot next westwards owned by the Widow Margaret McKenzie and her children. Several years passed before he had assembled all required signatures on a contract to buy the land for the price of \$1, and only then after he had tracked down Margaret and her children scattered coast-to-coast across the United States. Perhaps the land had been abandoned, of little real value.

However, Capt John did not leave the area, for in 1911 he leased from his siblings William and Lillee McKenzie the mining rights of their 151½ acres. Almost immediately afterwards, William and Lillee sold the lands outright to Daniel McRitchie of Cranbrook in BC, formerly of Glace Bay, NS. With that, the entire 265 acre lot originally settled by John passed from McKenzie hands. What happened to John's widow, "the old lady" Lillias McKay McKenzie after 1891 remains a mystery; in that year she was still living at Plaister with her daughter and granddaughter.

### ***KENNETH, his schoolhouse and half-house***

Kenneth McKenzie and his wife Scots born Christina McKenzie (yes, another one) marked out a 200 acre lot by the late 1830s, which is when his eldest child was born. These lands were east of and adjacent to the 265 acre parcel originally occupied by John McKenzie, who died probably in the 1850s. Oddly enough, Kenneth was the only settler in the area who never formally obtained a Crown Grant to his lot. Nonetheless, by 1860 Kenneth is recorded in the Plaister with a family of eight children. The 1864 AF Church map names Kenneth McKenzie as the occupant of this tract of land.

Regardless of the lack of a Grant, Kenneth's title to his land must have been sufficient to regularize his 1867 donation of a quarter-acre adjacent to the access road for the purposes of building a schoolhouse. The Trustees given title to the land were neighbours and principal occupants of the immediate area, Duncan McRae, Donald

McKenzie (probably Kenneth's nephew), and Kenneth himself.

In 1884, by then 73 years old, Kenneth passed his lands to his two remaining sons. First, the younger of the two John K McKenzie paid Kenneth \$300 for the eastern half of Kenneth's lands. For the price, John K also received half the house occupied by his father, including the kitchen and one room in the main building on the ground floor and half of the chamber or second floor with free access to and from the same by the doors, hallways and stairways. Later in 1884, the elder son Donald K secured the western 100 acres from Kenneth, "for the love and affection he hath for his said son and for \$8".

Evidently, John K's purchase in 1884 was partially ineffective, because two years later he paid another \$40 to his father for legal title to the half-house and the land it occupied. Kenneth continued living in the house he had sold out from under his own feet, for in 1896 his death at the Plaster was recorded at Knox Presbyterian church.

John K McKenzie mortgaged his lots of land in 1888 and redeemed the debt one year later. In 1898 he leased out the lands for plaster mining, but died the year following. Donald K McKenzie did not bask in the love of his father for very long; in 1887 he sold his western half of Kenneth's lands to Captain John A McKenzie. These lands formed the larger part of the parcel later sold by the Captain to Norman Carmichael in 1905. This Donald K McKenzie may have been the first postmaster of Plaster Mines, from the opening of the office in 1882 as documented by Canada Post, until his resignation in 1887.

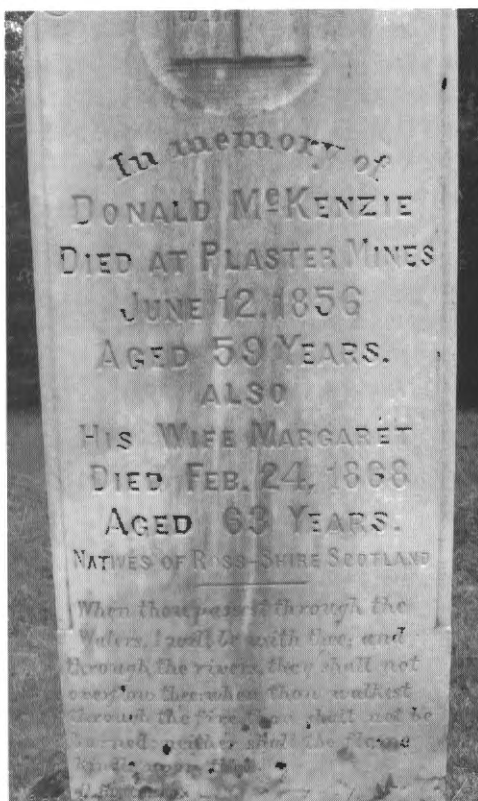
### ***DONALD, his log house and a post-house***

The third parcel of McKenzie lands in the Plaister and next easterly from Kenneth was claimed by Donald McKenzie and his wife Margaret McLennan as early as 1831. He may have been the eldest of the Plaister McKenzies, born 1797 in Ross-shire, Scotland as recorded in 1856 on his gravestone at Man-O-War Point cemetery situated across the Bras D'Or Lake from Plaister Mines. The descendants of Donald and Margaret's sons Alexander ("Sandy") and Roderick remained in the Plaister for well over 100 years. These were two of the McKenzies recorded by the 1864 map by AF Church.

Record of Donald's presence in the Plaister is contained in the Land Grant to his next-but-one neighbour to the east, John Fraser. The survey with the grant of Fraser's land in 1847 records the position of Donald's land which included "Big Pond", itself barely separated from Big Bras D'Or Lake by a thin spit of land. Donald's widow "Peggy" was prompted to secure her family's ownership of Donald's land when she saw her neighbour to the north Alexander Taylor encroaching upon her land. In 1860 she applied for a 196 acre lot, expecting Taylor to be "stopped". Her claim was granted in 1861 for \$82.75. Improvements noted by surveyor Donald Ross included about forty acres cleared, a Log House and a Frame Barn, all made by the petitioner's

late husband and family. The value of the improvements was about £70 and the unimproved value of the land £25. He noted rocks and plaster with which the land was very much cut up, two small brooks, and a good place for anchoring in the Cove, at the Pond.

Donald and Widow Margaret's youngest son Norman took himself to Provincetown, Massachusetts, but unfortunately he died while fishing off the South Carolina coast in 1898. Long-time residents near the Plaister area - the MacKillop brothers - recall two great-grandsons of Donald talking proudly of their great-uncles, one of whom lived in Massachusetts. Murdoch MacKillop, testing his long memory in September 2007, thought it also possible another of the great-uncles drowned at sea after overloading his vessel with fish. This might have been Donald's third son John, who disappears from Nova Scotia records after 1871.

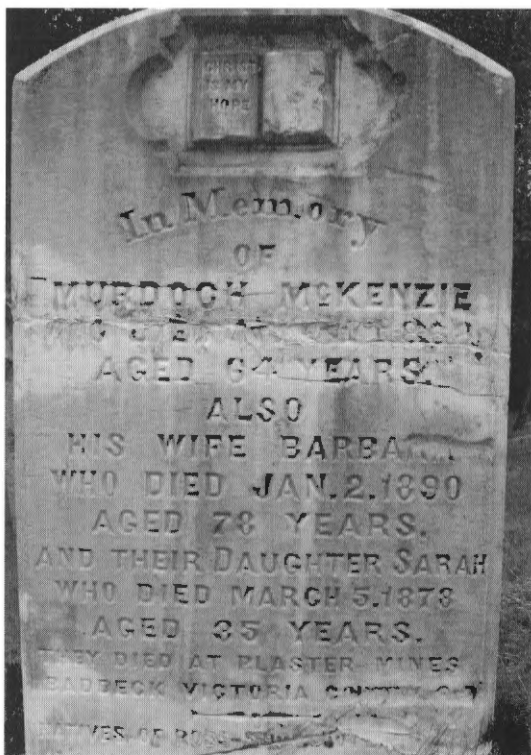


Of the four sons of Donald and Widow Margaret, only the elder two, Sandy and Rod, remained at the Plaister to work the 196 acre property. This the brothers did, including leasing out the lands for plaster mining in 1889. Sandy took possession of the eastern half of his father's property and again leased out those lands for mining in 1904. Roderick's occupancy of the western half was not specifically recorded, although he was the second official Postmaster of Plaister Mines from 1887 until he died in 1916. His son John P McKenzie then took over the role of Postmaster for two years, and John P remained on the east lot long enough to again lease out the lands for mining in 1948. In the same year, John "Jack" and Arthur McKay are recorded in possession of the west lot, Sandy's former lands. Sandy's daughter Mary A McKenzie had married Frank McKay in 1911. One of Sandy's sons married Mary "Mamie" Morrison who, as Murdoch MacKillop informed Kathy Kerr, was the first woman in the area to drive an automobile. James MacKillop now in his mid nineties possessed the even longer memory that correctly recalled the forename of the McKenzie son whom Mamie had married about the time "Jimmy" was born - he recited the Gaelic form of "John", for John D McKenzie.



### *MURDOCH, a post-house and a sticky mortgage*

The last and furthest east of the four McKenzie lots was taken by Murdoch McKenzie around 1845. Only a few years before that, Murdoch and wife Barbara were living at Lead Udrigle in Gairloch, Scotland where the baptisms of some of their children were recorded in the parish registers. Murdoch's occupancy in Plaister Mines was first formally recorded in 1847 through the Grant to John Fraser, whose lands formed the eastern boundary to Murdoch's. John Fraser's lot by 1868 is recorded in the possession of Murdoch McRae, and by 1889 Neil McQueen is the occupier of the land. The distance from the boundary line between John Fraser and Murdoch McKenzie to Bevis Point, which includes the grants to Finlay McLeod, represents the halfway mark along the two-and-a-half mile stretch from the Point to the westernmost boundary of the McKenzie lands originally settled by John McKenzie about 1826.



In the early days, Murdoch appears to have shared his 184 acres with Alexander McKenzie. The two "claimed and occupied" the 184 acre lot before 1870 according to title documentation. It seems improbable that the two would co-sign for important rights and liabilities such as a mortgage were they not, for example, brothers. Alexander, however, moved away from the Plaister Mines before 1871.

In 1860, Murdoch's family of nine is recorded at the Plaister. One daughter apparently had died before Murdoch departed Scotland and one son had sailed from Cape Breton bound for New Zealand a few years before. This son and one of John's sons are recorded as cousins in a historical account of settlers near Waipu, New Zealand.

Of the four McKenzie settlers at Plaister Mines, Murdoch and his family experienced the most difficulty holding on to their lands. Early in 1868, Murdoch and Alexander McKenzie and their respective wives secured a mortgage of £68 on the property.



Only months later, Murdoch died, leaving his widow Barbara with a mortgage and a family including the eldest remaining son, John M McKenzie not yet 20 years old. This was when Alexander departed. To further complicate Barbara's life, the year after Murdoch's death Doctor John Cameron obtained a judgement against Barbara for debts totalling \$66.85. Another year later, in 1870, Cameron assigned this debt to the same individual who held the mortgage of £68.

On the same day in 1874 in which the mortgage was released, two debts against Barbara totalling \$145 were assigned to another party. These debts were cleared two years later, but on that day, Duncan McRae registered yet another mortgage against Barbara McKenzie and four of her children. Only in 1877 was the mortgage finally released.

The Widow Barbara's son, John M McKenzie, led the family to lease out the plaster mining rights of the entire 184 acres in 1889. The lease signatories included daughter Isabella and her husband Roderick Kerr, as well as Catherine McKenzie, who could have been John's sister, his wife, or his sister-in-law, all named Catherine. John M was also the instigator of proceedings to obtain a formal grant of his father's lands. Between 1880 and 1893 he corresponded with the Crown Grant office pursuing ownership of the whole 184 acre lot. He was rewarded in 1893 with a grant of 134 acres, after it became clear that John M's sister Isabella and her husband Roderick Kerr had the right to 50 of the 184 acres. Due to an oversight, the Kerr's 50 acre lot was not marked on the Crown Index sheets at the time. Not until 1966, about the time Guido Perera was purchasing many of the Plaster properties, did a sharp-eyed solicitor in Sydney, Cape Breton, ask that the record be corrected.

Mrs McKenzie (the widow Barbara) and Rod Kerr were the occupants of Murdoch's property noted by AF Church in 1864. Church's map was drawn up many years after 1864 and its author evidently did not realize that in 1864, Mrs McKenzie was not yet a widow. Similar confusion may also have arisen with Frazer's lot, next east to Murdoch's, with Neil McQueen noted as the occupier in 1864.

One of John M McKenzie's sons was Daniel, who was appointed the Postmaster of Plaister Mines in 1923 until his resignation in 1926. Also in 1923, John M leased out his 130 acres for mining. By that time, his neighbour to the west was John A Kerr. John Kerr's wife Mary (McIvor) had filled the role of Postmaster after John P McKenzie in 1921 until Daniel was appointed. John M assumed his son's role as Postmaster in March 1926 until his death only two months later. For the next 15 years the position of Postmaster was held by Daniel Carmichael.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

Kathy Kerr, for her help and encouragement.

Roberta Fraser, for her research.

The patient staff at the Property Deeds Office in the Baddeck Courthouse, and in Halifax at the Crown Land Information Centre.

## A Schoolmaster Edrom, Berwickshire

That Mr. William KNOX was elected Schoolmaster of the Parish of Edrom on the twenty fifth day of January One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty seven. That he was married to Agnes Mitchell on the Eighth of May, One thousand seven hundred and Eighty four. That he has now five children alive Viz Mary born the fifteenth day of March One thousand seven hundred and ninety three. Agnes born on the twenty sixth day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety five, Helen born on the Thirtieth August one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, Alexander born the thirteenth day of November one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine and Peter born on the sixth November Eighteen hundred and one is attested at Chirnside the twenty Eighth day of July Eighteen hundred and ten years by

Will Knox (signature)

Geo McLean Proses

That Mr. William Knox did die on the 22 day of February Eighteen hundred and sixteen years is attested by

John White (signature)

That the aforesaid Vacancy was supplied on the Nineteenth day of April Eighteen hundred and sixteen years by the election of Mr. George Peacock to be Schoolmaster of Edrom Attested at Chirnside the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 1816.

George Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock was married to Mary Gilkie on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1820, attested at Chirnside on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1821.

Geo. Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1821 and baptized on the 20<sup>th</sup> July following named Isabella.

Geo. Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1823 and baptized on the 20 August following – Named Mary.

Geo Peacock (signature)

Jno. Hamilton. Prs. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1825 and baptized on the 27 May following – Named Christian.

Geo Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid Parish of Edrom was declared vacant at Whitsunday 1826 and Mr. Charles Airth was appointed Mr. Peacocks successor as Schoolmaster of that Parish – so attested and signed at Chirnside on the 28 July 1827.

Charles Airth (signature)

Jno. Hamilton Prs. (signature)

Source: National Archives of Scotland Ref. CH2/386/18

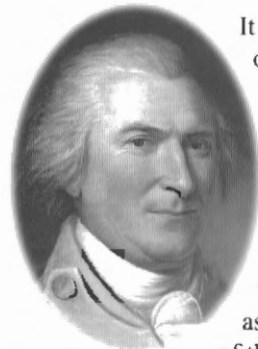
*Contributed by Russell Cockburn*

# ARTHUR ST CLAIR

## The Unknown President of the United States

by David Macadam

It would be strange in any part of Scotland, far less in a county as conscious of its history and genealogy as Caithness, that any of her sons who made good are not remembered or commemorated. In Caithness we fondly recall Viking Earls, agricultural reformers and founders of boys' clubs. So for Caithness and Scotland to have lost track of her greatest-ever political son is extraordinary.



It is utterly forgotten that Scotland produced the ninth President of the United States and this – in my opinion at least – rather beats the commemorative plaque, next to the railway station in Wick, recalling Ulysses Grant's stopping off to nip over to see his cousin Janet.

Of course American history buffs will already have thought that the ninth president of the United States was William Henry Harrison, but then that is rather what we have been taught to think. Most histories of America show Washington as the first President with his election in 1789 after the adoption of the Constitution.

However Washington was not actually the first President. He wasn't even second or third or seventh, he was eleventh; and it makes perfect sense that he was. The period between the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the election of the President of the United States after the adoption of the Constitution begs the question of who was looking after the shop in the intervening years. The answer, unsurprisingly perhaps, was - The Presidents of the United States of America.

Whilst the States were declaring themselves as sovereign, the Continental Congress had to find a way to give itself the power to fight a war, raise funds and do all the things a nation needs to do, and so in 1776-1777 it produced "The Articles of Confederation". Unlike the Constitution this is a document written without much thought to theory but with lots of attention to details and practicalities. After a decade of arguing with the British about where sovereignty lay, the Continental Congress produced a document which doesn't even try to settle it, leaving it for another day. It was simply agreed that Congress should control the war and foreign policy and the States be left to deal with the rest, such that, "Each state retained its sovereignty freedom and independence and every power jurisdiction and right which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to Congress". It was all done in something of a rush and finished on November 15, 1777 and thereafter ratification crawled along; Maryland not ratifying until 1781, by which time it was already clear something stronger was going to be needed.

Meantime a President was chosen by Congress to act in many ways very similar to that of a Consul of ancient Rome. The title is of course similar to the modern President but there were different responsibilities. Perhaps initially these Presidents were closer to a sort of Speaker of the House of Representatives, but as time moved on they began to take on roles closer to those which we might associate with Presidents today. Each, like a consul, held their post for about a year before standing down. In order to distinguish this group of Presidents from their post-Constitutional Second Republic successors, these ten are usually referred to as Presidents of the United States In Congress Assembled. They were, it is true, a somewhat mixed lot of individuals, reflecting a wider spread of origins than those who follow Washington. Some, like Hancock and Lee, are known to posterity and still remembered, but the ninth in line is forgotten even in the country of his birth.

Arthur St Clair was born on March 23, 1736 in Thurso, which was then still a small town in Caithness on the far northern coast of Scotland. His surname was spelt Sinclair and pronounced "Sink-ler", as the name still is in Caithness. He may have altered the spelling to frenchify it and to elevate himself socially above his very minor gentry roots. He does seem to have made a habit of "re-inventing" himself. His father William was a merchant and his mother may have been a Murray. He had a younger brother James who was born in 1738. Despite his grocer background he was a direct descendant of George Sinclair, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness, through John, "Master of Caithness", and his descendants James, John, James, James and finally his father. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University before taking a commission with the British Army in 1757. His career took him to the New World and the Seven Year War (which is remembered in the United States as The French and Indian War). He was with General Jeffrey Amherst at the capture of Louisberg, Nova Scotia. In 1759 he was serving with Wolfe at the Plains of Abraham.

However it seems that he felt that this was the high point of his military life and so he resigned his commission and in 1764 moved to the Ligonier Valley, Pennsylvania, where he bought a large estate and started to improve it by building mills. His merchant's eye served him well and his holdings became the largest in western Pennsylvania. He settled down to the squire's life of being a member of council, a justice, a recorder and a clerk of the orphans' court, as well as a prothonotary.

In 1776, as he turned forty, he decided to take up a position as Colonial of the Pennsylvanian militia, rising almost immediately to the rank of Brigadier-General in August 1776. Brigadier-General or not, his military career was far from luminous. He was a less than successful General, retreating from a safe position at Ticonderoga and losing the fort. He had been sent to defend that excellently-placed fortress with a small garrison, but for whatever reason felt his garrison was too weak to resist John Burgoyne's force and was forced to withdraw. He continued to resist the British from a fall-back position, but many felt he had chosen to withdraw from an eminently-defendable position because he was secretly disposed to the British. For this he was



court-martialled. He was saved by his friendship with Washington, who, it seems, could be relied upon to recognise the difference between incompetent generalship and a double-crossing spy, having had so much experience of both in his staff already. Exonerated, St Clair now returned to duty and was at Yorktown when the British surrendered.

St Clair was elected President on February 2, 1787, through to October 29, 1787. He was the first and last President who was born outside the United States and who immigrated to rise to this office. He was President ICA during Shays's revolution. After the American Revolution there was a state of lawlessness, and people had started to renege on their debts and thus the army was not paid. The landowning class sought to take the farmers to court to recover their monies or to sell off their farms to recover the debts.

A band of debt-racked farmers in Massachusetts were led by Captain Daniel Shays, a soldier of the revolution, who sought to address their grievances by leading an uprising in 1786. The constitution of Massachusetts, drafted by John Adams, the future President, allowed only property-owners, tax-payers and richer towns have any real weight in the State's Senate. Creditors were taking action to sue debtors, which meant that farmers were losing properties their families had relied on for generations. Shays organised a large body of fighting men in the west of the state to shut the courts by armed force. Only with great difficulty and bloodshed was order restored. The popular feeling remained so strong that the state dared not execute Shays or his followers. All this increased the fears of the conservatives and property owners.

Poor old St Clair was superseded and packed off to Ohio where he could be Governor in what is now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, as well as parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. When all of this was split up to more manageable parts, he became Governor of Ohio territory. His task here was to persuade the Indians to end their claims for their land and to clear the way for white settlement. In 1789 he managed to swing some Indians behind a treaty at Fort Harmer, but unfortunately for him, not all. He managed to provoke resistance into what was to become a fully-fledged war, now remembered as the Northwest Indian War or Little Turtle's War. The military arrangements for this were not managed well and a campaign led by General Josiah Harmer culminated in a defeat of 1500 militiamen by the Indians in October 1790.

Undeterred, St Clair decided that he would lead personally a punitive expedition of militiamen and two regiments of the regular army. The force advanced to the Indian settlements on the Wabush river, but they were poorly led, inadequately trained or disciplined and their supplies of equipment and food poorly organised. Hungry, disorganised, with inadequate ammunition and their shoes worn through, they pitched camp carelessly on the southern side of the Maumee river. They posted only a few men as guards. That night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Indian Confederation warriors led by Chief Little Turtle and Chief Blue Blanket silently slipped into the camp, and as

morning came they fell on the sleeping troops in a surprise attack that was total. The US army was utterly routed. Six hundred soldiers and scores of women and children were killed in this battle which has been variously known as "St Clair's defeat" or "The battle of Wabush". It was the single greatest defeat of the American army by native Americans in history, eclipsing even Custer's last stand. Proportionately the loss of life and damage to the army was even greater. After this even Washington could not save St Clair and he was forced to resign.

He continued as Governor of the Northwest Territory, until in 1802 a further clash and opposition to statehood for Ohio with the new President Jefferson cost him that job too. He died in poverty in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1818. He had no notable kin, though his very pretty daughter Louisa led a life of Calamity Jane excitement.

So why does such a colourful character vanish from the memory in both Scotland and the United States? Partly I believe it was the level of his fall from grace that has led to his being forgotten or ignored. The military defeat was difficult to recover from. His attempts at political machination were clumsy and failed. However he was far from the worst general in the American army of the time, Washington included, and he was not the most duplicitous politician either. Maybe if he had been slyer he might have been more successful. Perhaps his demise has been due to later historians who, for whatever reason, chose to concentrate on a tidier history for the run of Presidents after the Constitution and from Washington forwards. He remains, however, a major figure in the struggle for American Independence and in the important make-or-break immediate post-independence years. He must still have relatives in this country who, if they but knew it, could call a President kin.

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# The Town Drummers and Bellmen of Elgin

by Bruce Bishop

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the ownership of a clock or a watch was a luxury of the better-off members of society, and the poorer people had to rely on the town sundial (if the weather was favourable), the rising and setting of the sun, and probably also the rumbling of their stomachs to keep track of time. It was not until the coming of the railways that a national time standard was established and prior to this each town or district had its own time. Due to its longitude, Elgin, for example, was some 12–15 minutes behind London Time. In common with many other towns in Scotland at this time, Elgin made use of the services of two men whose duties were to keep some sort of schedule for the inhabitants, and also to keep the population, many of whom might have been illiterate, informed of the latest news, parish meetings, and other events of interest to the population in general.

The Town Drummer was an officer of the Town Council, and it was his duty to walk around the town beating his drum as a morning alarm call, as an evening curfew and also to give notice of forthcoming secular events. The Bellman was an officer of the Kirk Session, who walked the town with his bell giving notice of funerals and other items of importance to the religious life of the town. Both of these men, of course, undertook these duties in addition to their normal occupations. There are several mentions of them in the Minutes of both the Town Council and the Kirk Session, but in general the precise passage of time seems to have been of little importance in these pre-railway times. One of the oft-used excuses for Breach of Sabbath was that the accused did not even know what day of the week it was!

## *The Town Drummer*

The drummer was an invaluable but probably not always very popular member of the community, especially on the cold, dark winter mornings. Every day at 4 a.m. he would make his rounds of the town of Elgin, a route which in early times comprised the High Street, Lossie Wynd, School Wynd and the closes running from them. This was usually followed by a second round of the town at 5 a.m., with the Kirk Bell being a final reminder rung at 6 a.m.

The evening, or curfew, bell was rung at 8 p.m., and then the drummer made his final bedtime rounds of the town at 9 p.m. at the close of what must have been a long day's work. This 'curfew' was not an instruction to the inhabitants that they should be off the streets, but was derived from the Old French *couvrefeu* (to cover the fire), an essential precaution in those early times when so many of the buildings were made of wood and thatched with heather or straw. The threat of fire amongst the closely-packed houses, especially in the closes of the town, was one which the Town Council took very seriously. The Town Drummers seem to have been a particularly hardy breed, the records showing that they rarely, if ever, missed a day's work.





Elgin in the 18thC.

Reproduced by kind permission of Moray Council Archives, Elgin

The earliest known Town Drummer was one Magnus Edmonstone, his position identified at the time of his marriage to Isobel King on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1625. There are mentions of his service to the town from the time of his marriage until 1633. Then John Peddison is identified as the drummer in 1676. In 1709 an un-named drummer seems to have been neglecting his duties, and there were complaints from some parts of the town that he *was not beating the tap-tow and reveiller through the whole town*, a complaint which the Council took seriously enough to threaten him with a fine for each time that he did not walk the whole route.

In the 1760s various people held the position. William Edward was drummer in 1762 and 1763 at a salary of £21 Scots per annum,

followed by James Leitch between 1763 and 1765 at £32 Scots a year. William Edward was back on duty from 1765 until 1767. William McLean did the drummer's duties from 1767 until 1769, and then George Edward, who was probably the son of the earlier William, took on the position at a salary of £24 Scots a year.

George Edward was a tailor by trade. Walking the streets of Elgin in the dark mornings and evenings may not have been the most pleasant experience for any of the drummers, as the streets were being used generally as a rubbish dump and a common sewer, with the dung-heaps from the burgess lands and the closes lining the edges of the streets. Despite the introduction of 22 oil-burning street lights in 1772 (a short-lived benefit due to the operating costs), it must have definitely been a case of "watch your step". By March 1779 the early morning call by the drummer was set at 5a.m., *this being more convenient to the inhabitants*, with the church bell continuing to be rung at 6a.m.

George Edward petitioned the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1783, complaining that despite having carried out his duties with *extraordinary trouble and attention*, he was still only being paid £8 Scots quarterly.



He also complained about the Bellman getting most of the work calling advertisements and he did eventually receive a small increase in his salary. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1808 George, after nearly forty years' service, was awarded another pay rise which increased his earnings by £1 per quarter. According to the records at that time he had had virtually no absences due to ill health or to any other circumstances. In 1819, the Poet Laureate, Robert Southey, who was visiting Elgin, does not seem to have approved of George Edward's daily activities, being disconcerted by the *appearance of decay... and an abominable drum... beaten at nine.*



Photograph by Bruce Bishop.  
By kind permission of The Moray Society, Elgin Library

George Edward, following over half a century of service to the town, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1822 at the age of 77, and is buried alongside his wife Janet Cadie and some of his children in Elgin Cathedral Churchyard. He had enjoyed uninterrupted good health throughout the whole of his life, and he was succeeded as drummer by his son George, also a tailor, who never married and was by this time in his early forties. George Jnr. continued to act as Town Drummer until 25<sup>th</sup> May 1857, when he resigned after 35 years of service. The need for an early morning call and the evening curfew had now been made redundant by the more general availability of clocks and watches, and a more accurate Town Clock. *Although not a strong man, he, like his father, had enjoyed uninterrupted good health, no doubt due to his very regular life and breathing of the fresh air of the early morning. His father having been appointed in 1769, father and son together had held office for 88 years. The Council, in respect of his faithful services, resolved to pay him a salary for life.* He was to survive for only another three years after his retirement, dying on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1860 at the age of 81, and he too was buried in the family grave in the Cathedral Churchyard. The cause of death was recorded as spinal problems, and it is interesting to speculate whether this was due to his occupation as a tailor, or the weight of the town drum carried twice daily around the town.

The coming of the railways in the 1850s, and the subsequent introduction of a national system of timekeeping, brought to an end the ways of Elgin time which had survived for the previous two centuries and probably longer.

### ***The Bellman***

The earliest mentions of a bellman were those of Gilbert Gadderer, initially at the time of his marriage to Marioun Andersoun in 1583 and then again referred to in 1587. By 1639 Alexander Murray was recorded as being the Kirk Officer and Bellman, a position which he held for at least the following decade. James Warden held the post in 1656 and 1657. James Russell was appointed bellman in 1703, and although there are mentions throughout the later Kirk Session minutes of the bellman being required to publish notices, etc., few of the men's names are specified. They were still kept busy, however, a fact which had been bemoaned by the drummer George Edwards in his petition of 1783.

The names of the bellmen were sometimes found at the time of their death, when the Kirk Session was required to appoint someone new to the post. Alexander Smith, *bellman in Elgin*, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1814 at the age of 88, and William McKenzie, similarly described, died on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1815 aged 71. James Anderson died on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1832, and James Dick, *Bellman for the Elgin Parish Church*, died on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1845 at the age of 78. He was probably described in this way as the Disruption of some two years earlier may have meant that the new Free Church had its own bellman.

It would have been thought that with all the progress made during the Victorian era, the idea of having a man with a bell walking the town proclaiming notices and such like would have died out during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it seems that there was still a requirement for the services of a bellman as late as 1902. The *Northern Scot* of Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> 1902 comments that, *Yesterday the bellman of Elgin patrolled the streets with the welcome intelligence that a free distribution of meal would take place at night. The protracted storm has thrown many labourers out of employment, and it is not surprising that among their dependents there are some necessitous cases. About seven o'clock quite a small crowd presented themselves at the Old Court House, and the Provost, Town Clerk, Councillors Sellar, Gordon and Lipp had a busy time in judging the applicant's claims for consideration. But they were sympathetic and tactful, and no deserving party was turned away.*

### **Notes:**

Cramond, W. The Records of Elgin, Vol 1. Moray Libraries

Moray Regional Archives, Moray Heritage Centre, Ref ZBE1 A3/783/2

Elgin Cathedral, Monumental Inscription Ref Ec756

Young, R. The Annals of Elgin. Moray Libraries

## **A Schoolmaster Coldstream, Berwickshire**

That Mr. George McLean was elected Schoolmaster of the Parish of Coldstream on the seventh day of September one thousand and seven hundred and eighty five, That he was married to Alison Johnston on the twenty fourth day of October one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven. That he has three children in life Viz Christian born on the Ninth of July 1788, Margaret born on the thirty first of July 1789 and Esther born on the twenty seventh day of September 1791 is attested and signed at Chirnside

The twenty eighth day of July Eighteen Hundred and Ten Years by

Geo McLean. (signature)

John White Ps. (signature)

That Mr George McLean resigned his charge of Schoolmaster of Coldstream upon his obtaining the Church of Fogo in the Presbytery of Dunse is attested by

John White (signature)

22 September

That the aforesaid vacancy was supplied in September 1814 by the translation of Mr Thomas Inglis from Whitsome to be Schoolmaster of Coldstream is attested by

Mrs Inglis was born at Canonmills Parish of St. Cuthberts 5<sup>th</sup> February 1778

Mr Inglis was born at Carnwath the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1770.

Mr Inglis resigned his charge at Whit Sunday 1831 and was succeeded by Mr Richard Henderson, who was appointed assistant and Successor July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1832.

Mr Henderson was born at Jedburgh, 29 September 1799; and Mrs Henderson was born at Mount horly, in the Parish of Jedburgh 12 Novr. 1794. They were married 13 February 1826 and there were born to them, the said R. Henderson & Elisabeth Young his wife.

Elisabeth Robertson Henderson, 16 Decr. 1826

Thomas George Gilbert Henderson, 22 Febr. 1829

Jess Telfer Henderson, 30 Sept. 1830

Adam Young Henderson, 22 March 1835

Richard Henderson (signature)

Jno. Hamilton Ps.

Source: National Archives of Scotland Ref. CH2/386/18

*Contributed by Russell Cockburn*

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## **New Website**

For further background on Highland ancestors, try <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology> which helps to explore landscape, buildings, shipwrecks, archaeology and other aspects of Highlands heritage.

*Contributed by John Stevenson*



## Book Reviews

*An Alphabet of Sources for the Scottish Family Historian*, by D Richard Torrance  
The Scottish Genealogy Society, 2008. ISBN 1-904060-48-X

Members of the SGS will, no doubt, recall the eleven instalments of this 'Alphabet' which appeared in the *Scottish Genealogist* between June 2004 and January 2007. This book brings together that material within one publication.

This is not another 'how to trace your ancestors' book and indeed Page 1 refers readers who may be looking for such material to several excellent books on that subject. If Family History is to be more than a collection of names in a family tree, we need to try to find records that may cast a light upon the lives that our ancestors lived. We also need to be able to interpret whatever possessions or ephemera our ancestors may have left behind. This book helps us to do both and, moreover, does it in a Scottish context. This is particularly important as authors of articles published in commercially produced genealogy magazines often seem unaware that "things are different in Scotland". A specifically Scottish reference book is, therefore, particularly welcome.

While this book is structured as a reference book, it also makes a 'good read' when read from start to finish. Indeed this is probably the best initial approach to it as it will draw the reader's attention to sources that most of us would never have thought about. Most of us, for example, would probably never have thought of vaccination certificates as a potential source for Family History. It is also copiously illustrated, a feature which greatly adds to its attraction.

This book also contains useful reminders of some of the practicalities of family history research. While it may seem obvious that we should keep and store our family history material in some logical fashion that will permit its easy retrieval, sometimes we may not fully appreciate this need until something goes wrong. Things can also go wrong with the method of storage and the author warns against over reliance on digital media. Will we be able to read those floppy discs and CDs in 20 years time? Advice is also given on the care and conservation of old photographs and the labelling of our own photographs so that they are meaningful to the family historians of the future.

The title of the book indicates that it is a resource for Scottish family historians, as indeed it is. Much of it would, however, be of equal interest to Scottish local historians who are often concerned with same range of material. The section on Valuation Rolls is one such area. While the family historian may quail at the prospect of poring through un-indexed pages looking for one particular household, the local historian will relish the range of material provided by those pages. Without this book both might overlook the potentiality of such material.

A highly recommended addition to the bookshelves of any Scottish Family Historian.

Jessie Denholm  
(See advertisement)

***Rooted in Scotland: Getting to the heart of your Scottish heritage***, Cameron Taylor  
Luath Press, Edinburgh, 2007 ISBN 9781906307844 £7.99

A quick flick through the pages suggests this is yet another book on how to become a genealogist. However a second look forces you to read this book from cover to cover. Along the way you pick up many references that you may not have thought of following through. Reading through the book, you may, like me, find yourself engaged in some history lessons you had not come across before. Various stories emerge that are very cunningly given by way of introducing some research you should have done, but didn't find the time. "How to find more" appears frequently through the book, with the effect of keeping it to a manageable size. It is thoroughly recommended as an up-to-date survey of the genealogy scene today. His section on the "Ulster Connection" gives a refreshing look at what for many of us has been a no-go area, though, as Mr Taylor points out, is now an area worth investigating.

The book includes a perspective diagram of what will shortly know as Scotland's People Centre. It is of course what we have all known as Register House. This little picture in itself is almost worth the price of the book!

Having reviewed the book I will now have a copy in my library and will be following up some of the clues he has set me.

*Maurice McIlwrick*

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***Annan Old Parish Church: Extracts from Kirk Session Minute Book 1804-1854***

Rene Anderson, 2007, £4

A splendid collection of transcriptions, covering some school fees paid for by the Kirk Session; miscellaneous entries including non-appearances and the age-old "sin" of antenuptial fornication; a list of about 68 Irregular Marriages of couples not necessarily from Annan; and then a meaty section of investigations into over 450 illegitimate births, naming the mothers and other familial details, the alleged fathers and their occupations, and the outcomes. This last section is arranged in alphabetical order by mothers' surnames and is followed by a sensible index of accused fathers in alphabetical order, paired with the mothers' names.

A very useful research aid for anyone looking into south-west families. All profits will go to Annan Old Parish Church.

Available from Dumfries & Galloway FHS or from [sales@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:sales@scotsgenealogy.com)

*Caroline Gerard*

***Mergers in Messengery*** by R. A. Macpherson, FSA Scot,

Edinburgh revised edition March 2008. ISBN 978 0 9558651 0 7

This is an interesting book about family firms of Messengers-at-Arms (Officers of the Scottish Courts who execute Summonses and handle all aspects of civil enforcements) founded in Glasgow in 1887. However it is also a genealogical history of several interrelated families including Grants of Wester Blairfindy, Gordons in Tomnavoulin and of Glenbucket, as well as Stewarts in Downan, Glenlivet, with a mention of one of their number, the actor Stewart Granger (1913-1993) whose real name was James Lablache Stewart. (Genealogical tables appear on pages 113-114).

These family members, who include a few Jacobites, have a fascinating combination of occupations and professions down through the last three centuries, ranging from Tobacco Warehouse Keepers for the Excise at Greenock, merchants in Keith, Aberdeen and Glasgow, to a hotel-keeper in Peebles. The author gives a grand sweeping summary of these families and their involvement in his profession, and has achieved much in this compact tome, which was written for the occasion of his firm's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Officers of Law, debt collectors, secret agents, private detectives, and Messengers-at-Arms. In the 1890s they advertised themselves as undertaking "intricate business questions and delicate private enquiries.....investigations and confidential matters of every description requiring tact, secrecy, and discretion."

The Bankruptcy and Diligence etc (Scotland) Act of 2007 enacted that the historic office of Messenger-at-Arms be abolished. The author feels this is wrong and should be repealed otherwise it will, at least in his specific instance, be the end of a 300-year tradition practised on and off in his families. There are an impressive 19 pages of source materials.

*Gregory Lauder-Frost*



***Calendar of Annandale Emigration* by Rene Anderson, 2007**

Dumfries & Galloway FHS, £7

This collection of news items from the "Annandale Observer" is a presentation of the work of the late Robert A (Archie) Shannon, who pored over the newspaper's 1857-1907 issues to search for information on Annandale Emigrants. Thus the book offers information which might hard – or even impossible – to track down easily elsewhere. The Emigrants fetched up in Canada, the USA, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India. Oh, and in Scotland, too.

Many of the 1300 entries concern Births, Marriages and Deaths, but there are also reports of conditions in other parts of the world, emigration figures and emigration costs. Some of the news items are little gems. My favourites include, "13<sup>th</sup> August 1875: Wamphray Parish Church. Harmonica gifted by David Kennedy, Esq of Union Station, Australia – a native of Wamphray" and "8<sup>th</sup> July 1904: Bound for Manitoba. Mr W Grieve, Lady Street, Annan was last week presented with a portmanteau on the occasion of leaving the district for Manitoba." Were they *encouraging* him to leave the area?

This book is not only useful for research and fascinating in its outlook on the world, but it is occasionally entertaining to dip into, even for those with no south-west ancestry.

Available from Dumfries & Galloway FHS or from [sales@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:sales@scotsgenealogy.com)

*Caroline Gerard*

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## **Lauder Burgh - Transcribers Needed!**

The society is engaged in its *Lauder Burgh Minute Books* project. These Town Council records go back to c1600 and are packed with genealogical information, thus are invaluable records. But more volunteers are needed to transcribe the old handwriting, type it up in MSWord and save it to CDrom. If you think you can help by accepting this challenge, please contact Gregory Lauder-Frost by email on [lauderfrost@btinternet.com](mailto:lauderfrost@btinternet.com)

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## **500 Years Of Printing**

A book about Scotland's printing heritage over this period has been published by the National Library of Scotland in association with Sandstone Press. The book is available for sale through the National Library of Scotland or through Books from Scotland. See [www.booksfromscotland.com](http://www.booksfromscotland.com)

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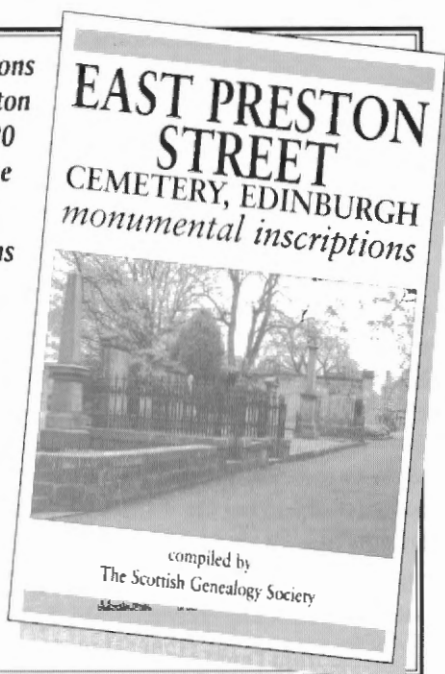
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***Cassini Historical Maps, Ordnance Survey, Edinburgh 1857-1869; 1905-1907; 1926-1928; 1956-1957. Cassini's web-site address is [www.cassinimaps.com](http://www.cassinimaps.com)***

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*Jim Cranstoun*

***Scottish Saga. The Miller Family in Scotland 1600 – 1999*** by William Miller, 2007

This well-researched book is a prequel to a book published by the author's father, Basil Miller, titled *Canary Saga – the Miller Family in Las Palmas*, and it tells the story of nine generations of this family and their origins, bringing the tale up to date.

The weekend before I was asked to review this book, my husband and I had driven to Old Cambus (AuldCambus) near Cockburnspath (today in Berwickshire) where this story starts, and we had walked out to the ruins of St Helen's Church, on its lonely site, with its fallen gravestones half hidden in the long grass.

The life of Thomas Miller, born in the early 1600s, and of his descendants is set against the local topography and history, with maps and photographs to illustrate the area. Historical events and their effects in the area are also described. Auldcambus is situated on the old A1, the route whereby many invading armies came into Scotland, including Oliver Cromwell's which camped there on 25 July 1650.

The social development of this family illustrates the changes from farming one or two acres to farming larger enclosed farms, and anyone interested in the effects of the agricultural revolution in East Lothian, the development of mining, lime manufacture and the panning of salt will find much useful information.

The links between the family members who appear in the *Canary Saga* and those who stayed in Scotland are described in detail, with family trees to explain relationships.

This book is not only of interest to members of the Miller family but to anyone interested in the villages of Cockburnspath, Oldhamstocks and Old Cambus and the surrounding area.

Joy Dodd

Cost: £20 plus P&P, available only from William Miller, 27 Parkside, Northampton NN3 5EW. E-mail: [w.miller70@ntlworld.com](mailto:w.miller70@ntlworld.com)

***The Letters of Captain John Orrok:*** edited by Alison McBrayne, Matadoc, Leicester, 2008. ISBN: 978 1906221 782.

The surname Orrok (or Orrock), is one of the rarer in Scottish family history. The 1881 Census locates most of the survivors of the name in Fife and Angus and the Family History File in the Scottish Genealogy Society Library refers only to a family in Fife. However, the surviving letters of Captain John Orrok refer to a family with its origins in Banffshire, but the editor of the letters is able to assure us that this family came from Fife at an earlier date. John's life (1779-1838) illustrates the importance of the system of patronage which grew up in the eighteenth century in providing preferment and employment for the Scottish gentry. He eventually obtained preferment as an officer in the British army in India in the early years of the nineteenth century. The Indian period of John's wife lasted until 1811 when Betsy Reid, his first wife, died in childbirth. John returned to Britain with his four surviving children where he remained in the army for a further two years before undergoing the rigours of civilian life by taking up a position in the bookselling business. The last period of his life, (1832-37) which is not covered by the surviving correspondence, was spent with his new wife, Eliza Baldock, with whom he had a further six children. John and Eliza died in Jamaica in February 1838 within a few days of each other.

Alison McBrayne provides an unobtrusive and sensitive narrative giving us useful linkage between the different stages in the lives of John Orrok and his family. But, as the editor makes clear, John was no hero after the school of Henty and Kipling. In



Alison McBrayne's words: 'His military career was marked by a lack of action and that seems to have been the way he wanted it. In his letters he commented favourably on those officers who were lucky enough to avoid being involved in a battle as well as on those who served bravely in it'. The book includes 2 useful genealogical tables.

Jim Cranstoun

***East Preston Street Cemetery, Edinburgh*, Betty Iggo and Angus Mitchell**

Scottish Genealogy Society, 2008. ISBN 1-904060-50-1 £5.50

This new edition of a booklet, first published in 1996, is a welcome addition to the Society's publications. It contains details of all the monumental inscriptions recorded in 1989 in the cemetery at East Preston Street, Edinburgh, together with an informative introduction, a clear sketch map, and an index.

The cemetery was opened in 1820 to meet the needs of the increasing population south of the city, and the book is particularly useful for family historians as it contains many pre-1855 inscriptions. The site is not large, covering just 2½ acres, but, as the fine photographs on the cover of the booklet show, it boasts many handsome monuments. A glance through the inscriptions therein gives a vivid snapshot of the inhabitants of south Edinburgh at the time, at least of those of sufficient standing to have afforded a stone. Here are buried, for example, the spirit merchant, Andrew Usher (1782-1855), father of Andrew Usher (1826-1898), one of the City's best known benefactors; the distinguished linguist, classicist and physician, Dr David Craigie (1793-1866), the first inspector of anatomy for Scotland; and Jean Lorimer (1775-1831) the inspiration for Robert Burns' 1794 poem, *Lassie wi' the lint- white locks*. There are many merchants, and a surprising number of artisans, as well as some more unusual trades such as bow maker and organ builder. The most prevalent group, however, are the academics, medical men, bankers, service personnel and divines, including one of particular interest to me, the Rev. Archibald Brown, after whom one of my great-grandfathers was named. But, as ever, it is the occasional individual who draws the eye, such as John Paterson, aged 20, a member of the 'fire engine establishment' who lost his life in 1835 'in dauntless performance of a hazardous duty at the great fire in the North Bridge Buildings', or John Robertson, who for 40 years promoted the temperance cause in Edinburgh 'with songs by his friend Alex MacLaggan'. An absorbing cross-section indeed.

Kirstine Baxter

(See advertisement)

*Lassie wi' the lint-white locks,  
Bonnie lassie, artless lassie,  
Wilt thou wi' me tent the flocks?  
Wilt thou be my dearie O?*

Robert Burns



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## **NEWHAVEN FISHERMAN'S SOCIETY, 16 DECEMBER 1826**

This day a full meeting being held in the schoolhouse when the meeting considered and agreed to have a watch in our churchyard and to be kept strictly and moreover for their accommodation has considered this night to build a new watchhouse right above the old one, with a door to the south and a small window to the north. Likewise the Society will put in two musquets, powder and ball. And all other weapons needful for that service. The Watch to continue while health and life endures.

Source: Newhaven Fisherman's Society Minutes.

*Contributed by Elizabeth Watson*

# A Tunnel under the Forth – 1806

by Richard Torrance

There is much talk at present of building another Forth crossing, the choice being between another bridge or a tunnel. It appears that opinion is swinging in favour of a second bridge as there would be construction and operating difficulties with a tunnel. However, over 200 years ago the first scheme for a tunnel was put forward.

In the summer of 1806 a group of forwarding thinking men proposed the construction of a *Tunnel, or subterraneous communication under the Frith of Forth*. They put their ideas forward in the *Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany* for August 1806.

The reasons they put forward were as follows:

*The want of land communication between the metropolis and the northern districts is one of the greatest inconveniences to which Scotland is at present exposed. Travellers are often subjected to great delay in crossing; few post chaises cross, and no stage coach except the mail. Great quantities of cattle, which are driven south, must either go round by Stirling, or cross with considerable risk and inconvenience, and always with delay. For all these purposes, the projected improvement would be found of the greatest advantage. It would open too an agricultural intercourse between Fife and the Lothians, and would facilitate the passage of the military.*

It was also felt that the scheme *could not fail to produce a rent amply sufficient, not only to reimburse the expence of the undertaking, but also to afford a handsome profit.*

There follows a discussion of the most appropriate site for a tunnel, based on Lawrie & Whittle's *Chart of the Firth*, 12 May 1794. (see illustration). The shortest route would have been too expensive, as for half the distance whinstone would have to be mined and for the rest – limestone: both would be difficult to excavate. *Miners choose to avoid limestone almost as much as whinstone.* In addition the tidal range at this point, the shortest route, was 36 fathoms and would therefore require much longer approach tunnels in order to make the tunnel inclines acceptable. After a discussion of other possible routes, that shown on the map was put forward as the best option as:

*The metals, in this distance, consist of free-stone, and what the miners call passable metals; these are the desirable metals for cutting the Tunnel in. The present quarry at Rosyth, which supplies free-stone to the wet docks at Leith, is in the middle of this distance. Rosyth castle, to which the northern roads come easier than to any other point, is about 400 yards to the westward of the quarry, and about 50 yards to the northward of the castle; there is an old free-stone quarry, where the tunnel may enter the ground, and be carried eastward parallel*





*of itself supports water.* [sleech – a mudflat; covering of slime and mud]. A proposed plan of procedure for soundings and borings for the proposed Tunnel was submitted for the approval of Mr Clerk of Eldin on 25 August 1806. [GD18/5871]

The next point of discussion centred on the incline of the tunnel. The entries to the tunnel would be about 1 in 25 giving a cover of about 7½ fathoms before going under the sea and the main tunnel gradient would be about 1 in 72.

It was suggested that the tunnel should be *15 feet wide and 15 feet high arched, with a footpath on each side of three foot broad, to keep carriages in the middle breadth of 9 feet.* It was estimated that the tunnel would take 4½ years to construct, working from both shores at a rate of 2 fathoms a week.

Next the likely costs were set out:

Soundings and borings	£1,000
Two fire engines for draining the tunnel (Only one required once the tunnel was complete.)	£2,400
Erecting engines and pumps	£2,400
Two moated engine pits at low water mark	£1,800
Two pits at high water mark	£400
2300 fathoms of tunnel @ £30 a fathom	£69,000
900 fathoms of engine level 7 feet high 4 feet wide @ £20	£18,000
To complete the passage there should be two tunnels, <i>one for comers the other for goers.</i>	£69,000
Total cost	£164,000

By today's prices the proposed tunnel seems very reasonable at £164,000, but when a conversion is applied to bring it up to today's prices, the sum is about £750 million.

Using the iron bridge recently built at Sunderland as an example, an increase in ferry trade was also predicted.

The final paragraph concludes ... *this undertaking is in a state of great forwardness, and that a number of noblemen and gentlemen, of the first respectability, and scientific character, have organised themselves into a regular body for the purpose of carrying it into effect.*

What became of the *regular body* and how far the project proceeded has not come to light. If the project had been completed, would it have been a boost to trade and opened an agricultural intercourse between Fife and the Lothians, or would people have been too scared to use the tunnel? Other problems might have been encountered even if the tunnel was watertight, namely ventilation, lighting and the keeping the tunnel free from waste – especially in the light of the anticipated number of animals that might have passed through, whether draught animals or animals for market.

# Cramond Island Revisited - Eventually

by David G C Burns

Deserted islands fascinate me since my personal family research takes me back to the little island of Hunda in the Orkney Islands and, the Peedie Barrier linking it to the island of Burray. Also to the island of Stroma, lying two miles offshore from John O'Groats, ever at the mercy of the Pentland Firth.

## Cramond Island

I remember, as a young lad, visiting the island and later taking my children and grandchildren there. They still have fond memories of the visits to Cramond Island - now deserted. One time we left it a little late, with the water almost up to our knees, before gaining the safety of the Cramond foreshore. We looked on the isle as our *Treasure Island*. Shades of RLS? Apparently, a young Robert Louis Stevenson [*alias* Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson] visited the island frequently in 1857 whilst staying with friends in the village.

People were able to eke out a living, over a period of time, on Cramond Island. The struggle proved too much and the alluring call of the mainland, offering an easier living, triumphed eventually. There is still sadness in the air when that time comes. My thoughts go back to 1930 and the *exodus* from St Kilda.

In 1794, there were two houses on the island, not always inhabited. I decided to revisit Cramond Island through the census records of Cramond Parish, to see what they would reveal about the inhabitants.

### 1851 Census, Cramond Island

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position in Family</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
Margaret McLachlan	Head/ Widow	38	Farmer of 18 acres	Temple, Midlothian
William	" Son	14	Ag Lab	Edinburgh
James	" Son	13	Ag Lab	Dalmeny, Linlithgow
Marion Rayston	Servant	14	Servant	Newlands, Peebles
Stephen Irvine	Brother	30	Ploughman	Pennycuick, Midlothian

[The above family was resident on the Island in the 1841 Census also. Cramond Island was uninhabited at the time of the 1861 Census.]

### 1871 Census, Cramond Island (the Property of the Earl of Rosebery)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position in Family</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
Alexander Tulloch	Head/Married	36	Landed Proprietor	London, England
Louise	" Daughter	6		Edinburgh



1891 Census, Cramond Island Farm House (One house is uninhabited)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position in Family</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
James Hogg	Head/Married	49	Farmer	Chirnside, Berwickshire
Jane     "	Wife/Married	49	Farmer's Wife	Eccles,             "
Peter     "	Son	19	Farmer's Son	Edrom,            "
William Purves	Visitor	25	Joiner	Coldingham,      "

[The above family was resident there in both the 1881 and 1901 Census records. Peter Hogg is listed as Nephew to the Head of the house in 1881 and 1901.]

In the publication *Cramond Island* the author, John S Dods, points out that *The Scotsman* on 21 June 1862 advertised the letting of 3 or 4 apartments on the island. There are older people alive today who remember holiday cottages on the island during summer months. The author provides also some interesting insights into the island and the photographs worth the price alone.

Cramond Island summons both young and old. It lies less than a mile offshore and, has tidal periods when it is possible to walk to the island and enjoy its peace and tranquillity. Take care and note the tidal times on the notice-board at the start of the causeway. A visit to the gallery at The Maltings in Cramond once provided us with an enjoyable afternoon. Plenty of photographs, plans, artefacts and printed material on Cramond's history made it worthwhile. During this visit, two Oriental gentlemen came into the gallery and asked if it was safe to venture to the island? Their countenances lit up when they were assured it was safe to go ahead. Ah! The magic of the ancient siren call from an uninhabited island, tinged with a touch of danger, entices eventually.

### **Cramond Parish**

In the First Statistical Account of Scotland, published in the 1790s, the Minister of the Parish states that in 1690 some twenty-five whales, of the smallest sort, were left stranded on the south shore of Cramond Island.

He also refers to the corruption and vices to be found in the lower classes in the Parish. In 2005 *Sinners of Cramond: The struggle to impose godly behaviour on a Scottish community 1651-1851* was printed. Over the years, I have trawled through umpteen Kirk Session records. They cover a range of issues: fornication, drunkenness, sabbath-breaking, blasphemy and anti-social behaviour. The kirk assumed the right as arbiter on moral issues in the parish. Unmarried mothers could face the dreaded *stool of repentance* [the cutty stool] for their misdemeanours.

Some sessions dealt firmly with these cases but others were rather harsh. In Errol, Perthshire in 1850 a couple found themselves before the session, where the man acknowledged that he was the father of the child and was literally left holding the baby after the mother absconded to Dundee. There was some genealogical input when



By pony and trap to Cramond Island ca 1895



Cramond Island, 1890s

the child was discovered in the 1851 census living with his father and paternal grandparents. Interestingly, the mother came back to the parish some time later, with a good conduct certificate from her employer in Dundee. In the early 1800s in a parish in Dunbartonshire, the mother of the child was asked by the session to name

the father: she replied that the rascal had *gone to America*. In Culross, Fife, in the late 1700s a woman was brought before the church elders for *violence of the tongue*. She was severely reprimanded and warned as to her future conduct. The authorities had some nasty ways of dealing with this particular problem. Some of the antics employed by kirk sessions in gathering in evidence are quite amusing. One elder hid behind a tree near to a woman's house and reported the comings and goings of the day to the session. We all know of the cartoon which depicts the maiden aunt is trying to keep the cupboard door shut, in a valiant attempt to stop the family skeletons from falling out. If we find *naughty ancestors* in our research, it really has nothing to do with us. We are responsible for our own behaviour and, to a certain extent, that of our children.



Farm cottage kitchen,  
Cramond Island, 1895

### The Cramond Lioness

The lioness was discovered by the local ferryman who plied his trade carrying people across the river Almond. It was raised by crane from the river in 1997. The sculpture portrays a lioness, paws on a man's shoulders, with his head in her mouth representing death. However, the two wriggling snakes, at the base of the lioness, allude to the survival of the soul after death. It is reckoned to be a Roman funerary carving and, created quite a stir in archaeological circles at the time. The ferryman received a substantial reward for his discovery. Presently the statue can be viewed at the Royal Museum of Scotland. It would be appropriate if it found its way eventually back to Cramond, perhaps at the site of the Roman Fort. However, security remains paramount. The ferry shut down within the past decade. It was the starting point for many people, over the years, of a pleasant and peaceful walk along the shoreline of the Dalmeny Estate to *Barnbogle Castle* [or *Fortalice* as Nigel Tranter may have described it] and beyond to South Queensferry.

### The Roman Fort at Cramond

At the gate into the kirk and graveyard there is a notice board informing us that a Roman Fort was based there in 142 AD and remained under some degree of Roman influence until the 4th century. From the 6th century, the people known to be Christian occupied the site continuously as a place of worship. The present church is built on the principia of the Roman remains. The tower dates from the 15th century, with the main part of the church completed in 1656. Excavation of the site began in the 1950s. The archaeological dig can be seen, with the aid of plaques, informing visitors of the



gatehouse, granary, principia, barracks and hathhouse. Apparently it was an outpost for the defence of the eastern part of the Antonine Wall. A few miles eastward along the coast was another Roman garrison at Inveresk.

### **Cramond Kirk Graveyard**

On a nice sunny day it is pleasant to walk around well-kept graveyards. Cramond is no exception and is replete with gravestones covering centuries and generations. I always take time to read the inscriptions on some of the stones. The usual symbols are there: crosses, urns, angels and skull & crossbones. A wall surrounds the hallowed ground completely. There is a feeling of security about the place. It would appear that they have run out of space in the burial ground, but on the inside of the southern wall the kirk officers seem to have come up with a novel solution, at least in part, to the problem. There are five large granite tablets made from [four already full]. Many names are inscribed, together with dates covering the years of the earthly experience of the deceased persons. A nice and thoughtful way to remember people.

### **The Poor Man's King**

From time to time, King James V [1512-1542] enjoyed dressing in disguise and living among the common people. This enabled him to hear at first hand their thoughts about the monarch. In 1532, near Cramond Brig, King James, travelling incognito and on horseback, was attacked by a band of brigands. A farmer working in a nearby field heard the commotion and came to the aid of the king. Together, they fought off the robbers. Afterwards, the farmer, Jock Howison, was feted in the palace and rewarded with a parcel of prime land in the area at Braepark in Cramond. A sculpture of the event by Robert Forrest [1789-1852], captures the essence of the incident and can be viewed in the courtyard at the R.S.P.C.A., Cammo, Cramond Bridge. The statue was carved from stone quarried at Craighleith.

#### **Notes:**

*Victorian and Edwardian Edinburgh from old photographs* by C S Minto, London 1973

*The Life and Death of St Kilda* by Tom Steel, Glasgow 1975

*Cramond Island* by John S Dods, Cramond 2006

*The Gudeman of Ballangeich* by David Stevenson 2004 [Computer based]

*The Statistical Account of Scotland* by Sir John Sinclair, Edinburgh 1791

*Parish of Cramond* by John P Wood, Edinburgh 1794

*Pax Romana? The Cramond Lioness* Edinburgh 1998

*Cramond: Undiscovered Scotland* [Computer printout]

*Wikipedia: the free encyclopaedia* [Computer printout]

*Corstorphine Hill "The Finest Views the Eye can Feast on"* by Alison MacKintosh, Tayport Printers 2008

*The Cramond Association and Cramond Heritage Trust open the exhibition and education centre at The Maltings for limited periods during the spring and summer months. See [www.cramondassociation.org](http://www.cramondassociation.org) for details and for further information about this unique corner of Edinburgh.*

## **A Schoolmaster Eyemouth, Berwickshire**

That Mr. Alexander Paterson Schoolmaster of the Parish of Eyemouth did not accede to the Schoolmaster Widow Scheme within the time limited by Act of Parliament and therefore is precluded from it in all time to come is attested at Chirnside the twenty Eighth day of July Eighteen hundred and ten years by

Geo McLean Prases

That Mr. James Trotter was elected Schoolmaster of Eyemouth Parish (in the room of Alexander Paterson deceased) on the 16 day of June 1817 and is unmarried Attested at Chirnside the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820.

Mr. Trotter was born 21 Sept. 1795 or 96

Mrs. Trotter, Barbara Mckay born 4 October 1801

That Mr. James I. Trotter was married to Miss Barbara Mckay on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1820 is attested at Chirnside.

That the aforesaid James I. Trotter and Barbara Mckay had a son born on the 29 July 1821 named William James, attested at Chirnside.

That the aforesaid James I. Trotter and Barbara Mckay had a daughter born 9 November 1822 named Anne Smith.

A son born 20 August 1824 named Robert Mackay.

A son born 3 January 1828 named John.

Source: National Archives of Scotland, Ref. CH2/386/18

*Contributed by Russell Cockburn*

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## **The Heritage Hub, Hawick**

In its first year of operation, the Heritage Hub has attracted a number of awards for excellence. It has also extended its opening hours, and added new collections, such as that of D. Ballantyne & Sons from the University of Edinburgh, 19thC local Council records and the papers of George Henry Douglas Scott of Springwood Park, Kelso.

E-mail: [archives@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:archives@scotborders.gov.uk) Tel: 01450 360699

*From press release*

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## **Internet Access at the SGS Library**

As of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008, members (and other paying non-members) will be able to access certain websites from Victoria Terrace. The SGS has subscriptions to Ancestry.co.uk and to Findmypast.com. Access to Ancestry will be free to members, but access to Findmypast may incur a small charge. Time-slots of one hour may be booked in advance.

Ancestry offers access to Census returns across the UK, as well as to Birth, Marriage and Death indices in England & Wales. One of the major advantages of Findmypast is the lists of emigration records.

*The Librarian*

# WHO WAS CORMAC MAC AIRBERTACH?

(Part 2)

by Graeme M. Mackenzie

Ireland "Cormac" is a favoured name because of the famous saints who bore it; and it's notable that in Scotland churches dedicated to a St. Cormac are to be found in precisely those areas later associated with descendants of Cormac mac Airbertach – most notably the MacMillans. There were no less than three churches in Knapdale with this dedication: Two in the parish of North Knapdale – at Keils, and on the nearby *Eilean Mor MacCormaig* – and the third in the north of Kilcalmonell, at Kilchamaig, a place traditionally associated with the MacMillans and directly across West Loch Tarbert from their later seat at Dunmore.<sup>33</sup> *Kirkcormack* in Galloway is near Gelston, one of the original seats of the MacLellans. Their lands marched with those in the Glenkens occupied by a branch of the MacMillans since at least the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, and their ancestor "*Cane Mcgillolane*" (i.e. Cathan mac Gille-Fhaolain) appears in the MacMillan pedigree in MS1467 as "*Cainn mhic Dubgaill...*".<sup>34</sup> On Loch Tayside *Cill-ma-Charmaig* was across the water from Lawers – the traditional seat of the local MacMillans – on the lands of Ardeonaig, a place associated in Argyll accounts with *Sliochd Thearlaich Dhuibh*, a branch of "*Clandowilcraginche*" (Clann Dhugaill of Craignish).<sup>35</sup> Though the history of the MacCouls – as the lairds of Craignish were more commonly known – has, like its unique coat of arms, been so badly Campbellised over the centuries that making sense of it is difficult, I've argued elsewhere that the name is more likely to have come from the "*Dubgaill mhic Gillacolum mhic Gillacrist...Gillamoal...mhic Cormaic*" of MS1467 than from any Dugald Campbell.<sup>36</sup> In this respect it's interesting to find old Perthshire accounts about the MacDougalls at Ardeonaig which, though claiming a descent from a Duncan MacDougall lord of Lorn (who's assumed, but never stated to have been, a *Clann Somerhairle* MacDougall), nevertheless contain traditional features widely associated with MacMillan and Leny traditions.<sup>37</sup> More solid evidence in support of the existence of "MacDougalls" descended from Maolan/Gillemaol comes from the isle of Jura where some bearing that name are explicitly acknowledged not to have belonged to *Clann Somerhairle* and to have originally borne the name "*MacNamell*" – i.e. *Mac-na-Maoile*, the form of the surname by which MacMillans are said to have been known on Loch Tayside.<sup>38</sup>

The surname MacCormac/McCormick was also to be found in Scotland primarily in areas inhabited by clans coming from Cormac mac Airbertach; in this case in Mull, Lorn, and the Glenkens.<sup>39</sup> Unlike "Airbertach" the name "Cormac" does appear in the written record from time to time in Scotland, though it's not common – which makes the four occurrences of it in the Gaelic notations in the Book of Deer rather striking. As already noted, one of these is Gilchrist mac Cormaic, and the assertion

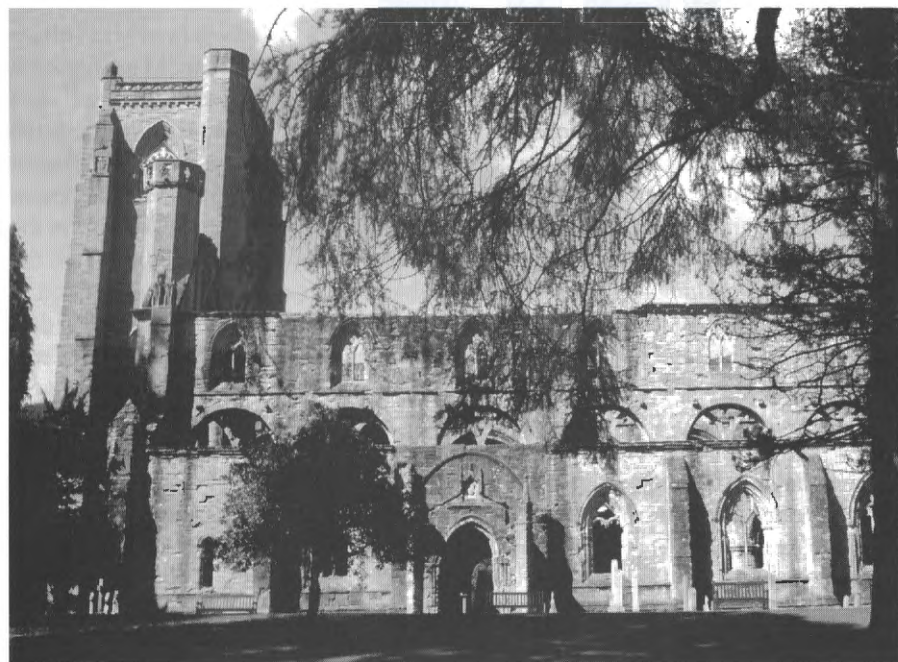


that he can be equated with the eponymous of the MacMillans in MS1467 is supported by the appearance in the next but one entry in the Deer notations of "*Mal-Coluim mac Molini*" (Molini for Maoiline, "the bald, shaven-headed, or tonsured one"), who would appear to be the "*Colmin mac Maolan*" of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Leny family tree and the "*Gillacoluim mhic Gillacrist...Gillamoal*" of MS1467. Malcolm mac Gilchrist mhic Cormaic is accompanied as co-witness in this second record by "*Gille-Crist mac Finguni*", who we can take to be the brother of "*Finlaeic mhic Fingainne...mhic Cormaic*" of MS1467, thus indicating a "Clann Cormaic" connection with Deer which reflects its membership of the Abbey's patron dynasty.<sup>40</sup> The Book of Deer notations, and particularly these later ones, have been interpreted as an attempt by the Abbey to protect its lands and privileges after the fall in 1130 of the last "Ri Mureb" of that patron dynasty; a process which was endorsed in the final entry by king David himself.<sup>41</sup> In the deed for which Gilchrist mac Cormaic is a witness, the name Cormac appears again – in the shape of Cormac bishop of Dunkeld. Since he's actually the recipient of the grant, it seems he's acting as a trustee for the abbey – which points to his also belonging to the kindred of its patrons. If that's so, then it strongly suggests that this Cormac may in fact have been Cormac mac Airbertaich himself.<sup>42</sup>

It's fortunate that this particular Book of Deer notation has a date; i.e. 1132. Bishop Cormac is on record elsewhere from about 1120 when he's among the witnesses to the foundation charter of Scone Abbey, and he's presumed to have died by 1147 when Bishop Gregory appears in the see of Dunkeld.<sup>43</sup> These dates would fit well enough with the calculation of Cormac mac Airbertaich's floruit previously made using the MS1467 *Clann Dubsiithe* genealogy, which has the advantage of starting only five generations from Cormac himself; but they would conflict with John Bannerman's calculations made using the seven generations from Niall MacKinnon. There are however some important caveats to consider for all these calculations. Firstly the date for Dubsiithe mac Murechadh is only approximate; secondly Bannerman used 1400 as the death date for Niall MacKinnon though he could in fact have died anytime between 1387 and 1409; and thirdly, it's not certain that 30 years to a generation should apply in a case like this, since as David Sellar has noted "...averages of 35 to 40 years per generation occur so frequently in Irish and Highland genealogies that one is almost tempted to regard them as the norm".<sup>44</sup> The safest way to proceed therefore is to take the dates at each end of the period in which Niall MacKinnon died, plus the two averages of 30 or 40 years per generation, and work out the span of time in which Cormac would probably have died – which turns out to be anywhere between 1107 and 1199. This puts Bishop Cormac well within the frame. But if Cormac mac Airbertaich died between 1132 and 1147 it would mean that, while there was a believable 34 to 40 year per generation average between him and Niall MacKinnon, the average between him and Macbeth would be reduced to between 19 and 22+ years, which at first sight appears questionable. However one can see by looking at the royal line from Duncan mac Crinan (died 1040) to David earl of Rothesay (died

1402) that it's perfectly possible within a long 30 year per generation average to have exactly such variations; since the average between Duncan and Robert I (died 1329) is 36 years, while that between Robert I and Rothesay is only 18+. It's entirely valid in genealogical terms therefore to say that, on the basis of the proven MacKinnon pedigree, Macbeth could have been the ancestor of Cormac mac Airbertaich, and that Cormac mac Airbertaich could have been Bishop Cormac of Dunkeld (though neither case is dependent on the other). We've seen that the Macheth connection can also be supported by some credible historical evidence; what about the equation of the two Cormacs?

In common with most of the early bishops of the Scottish church very little is known about Cormac of Dunkeld. Of his few appearances on the record that in the Book of Deer is perhaps the most revealing since he is not just a witness with other bishops for an act of the King, but is one of the principles in a matter outside his own diocese, with the local bishop as the first of a long and distinguished list of witnesses. His own diocese was by far the largest in Scotland, stretching from the borders of modern Perthshire and Angus in the east to the tip of Ardnamurchan in the west, and from the Mull of Kintyre in the south to Glenelg in the north – including the whole of what was later to become the diocese of Argyll.<sup>45</sup> As such his charge included Lorn and the neighbouring mainland territories settled by the descendants of Cormac mac

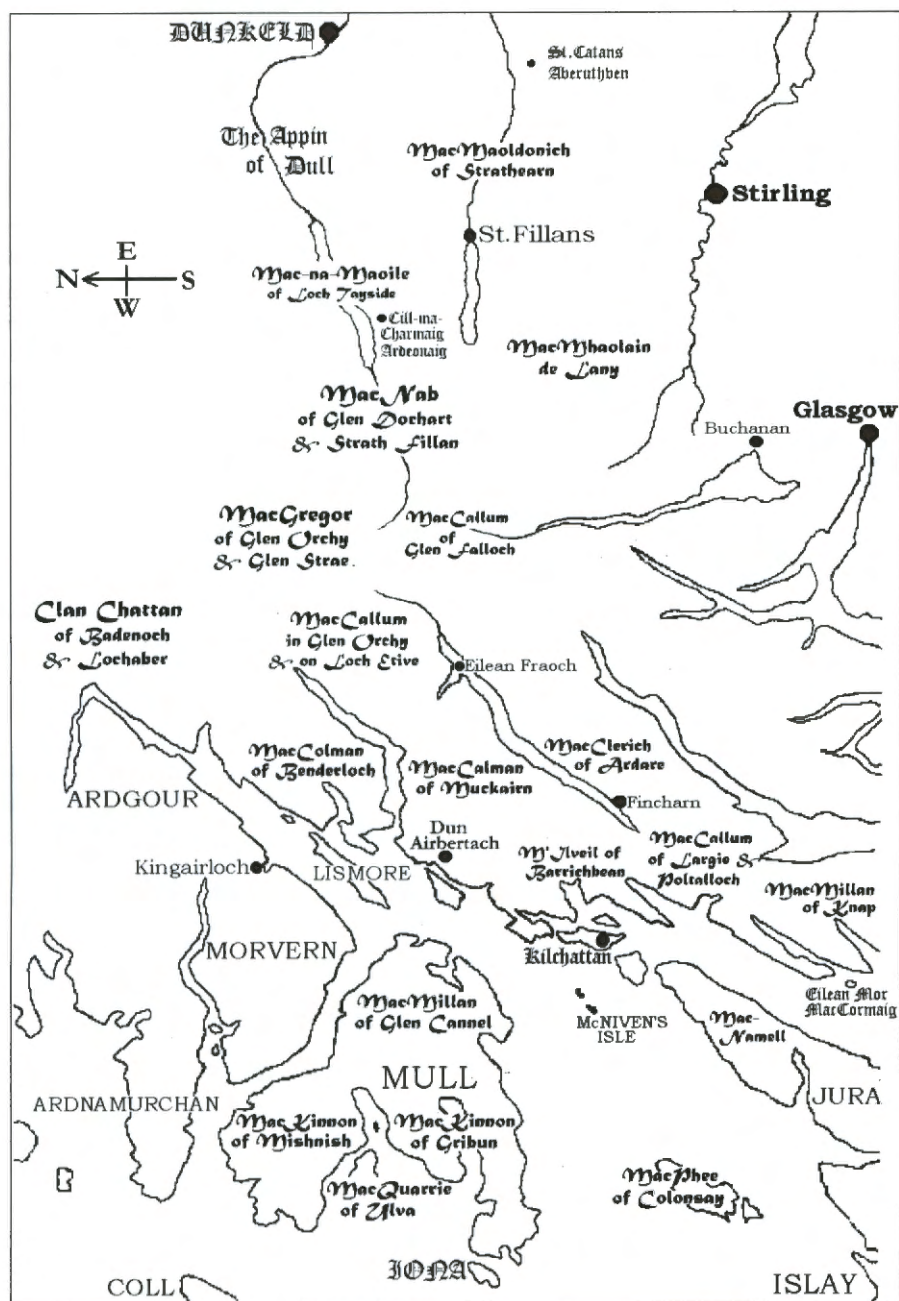


Dunkeld Cathedral

Airbertaich; and though Mull, Tiree and Colonsay fell within the diocese of The Isles, Dunkeld retained a special responsibility for Iona which reflected the historic relationship between the two churches as the seats of the *Comarba Colum Chille*.<sup>46</sup> It's notable too that even after the creation of the see of Argyll the bishops of Dunkeld retained an interest in two particularly significant churches in the new diocese: *Kilboddan*, the church for Balmoddan, which in the 13<sup>th</sup> century became the priory of Ardochattan; and Muckairn, another place particularly associated with Clann Challuim. The church there was originally known as *Killespicerel* – i.e. *Cill-easbuig Earaild* – after Harold, the first Bishop of Argyll, who probably inherited it as an episcopal seat from his predecessor Cormac (whose own name is perhaps commemorated by *Sron-Chormaig* in nearby Glen Lonan). The churches of Ardochattan and Muckairn remained tied to Dunkeld until as late as the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the parishes were merged.<sup>47</sup>

In Perthshire as in Argyll many of the kindreds showing a descent from Cormac mac Airbertaich in MS1467 were to be found on lands which were originally connected with the church of Dunkeld; and if one plots them on a map a very striking picture emerges: A continuous strip of territory, if not from Dunkeld itself then at least from the Appin/Abthane (i.e. the Dunkeld abbey lands) of Dull at the east of Loch Tay, all the way through to Iona is said to have been held at one time by such clans or by their ancestors (and one suspects that some at least of these traditional associations do relate to parent kindreds – such as “Clann Cormaic” or shared ancestors of the MacNabs and MacGregors – rather than to the later individual clans): MacNabs and MacMillans on the shores of Loch Tay; MacNabs in Glen Dochart & Strath Fillan; MacGregors in Glens Orchy and Strae; MacCallums on the shores of Loch Etive; MacKinnons and MacMillans on Mull; MacKinnons on Iona. Objections may be made to the inclusion here of the MacNabs and MacGregors since there are serious doubts about their descent from Cormac mac Airbertaich, but there has to be a reason for they're having been, as David Sellar puts it, “latched on” to Clann Cormaic in MS1467 – and indeed for the MacKinnons and MacQuarries later being dragged into, again as Sellar has it, the “fabricated” *Sìol Alpine*.<sup>48</sup> Clearly there was a very strong and continuing tradition of a shared origin between these Hebridean and inland clans – which makes a great deal more sense when seen on a map beside the original lands of the MacCallums and MacMillans. It's worth noting too that other clans shown in MS1467 as belonging to the Cenel Loairn have traditional connections at one time or another with lands along or adjacent to this Dunkeld-Iona axis: The MacLarens, whose territories to the south of Loch Tay would connect up with the Leny lands to the north of Callander; and the MacNaughtens, who are said to have been in Strath Tay before settling on the shores of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, where they were neighbours of the MacGregors in Glens Strae and Orchy, and the MacGillemhaoils/Bells – i.e. MacMillans – in Glens Shira and Aray.<sup>49</sup> Such connections may explain, or be explained by, the old Argyll saying: *Mac a Mhaolain, 's MacEnraig, 's MacNeachdain Gheibar iad air an aon tom...*; i.e. “MacMillan, MacHenry, and MacNaughten were sons of three





Lands of Clann Cormaic

brothers...”(the MacHenrys are said to have been the possessors of Glencoe – across the Moor of Rannoch from Glen Orchy – before it came into the hands of the MacIans of Clan Donald).<sup>50</sup>

A number of churches to the east, in the see of St. Andrews, were also tied to Dunkeld, including a particular concentration on the northern shore of the Firth of Forth opposite the island of Inchcolm.<sup>51</sup> The abbey on Inchcolm, named for the patron saint of Iona and Dunkeld, was founded by Alexander I, who entrusted its endowment to the care of the Bishops of Dunkeld. Amongst the lands gifted to it was a township in Fife, to the north of Largo, called Balcormok (now Balcormo), which may well have been named for the bishop who was in office at the foundation. Also included in the endowment were lands in the parish of Cramond, Mid-Lothian, where the bishops of Dunkeld had a palace, called *Layne Minorem* and *Lanine Comitis* – the remnants of which can still be found on the north eastern outskirts of Edinburgh as Nether Lennie, Lennie Mains, and Lennie Park. In the late 13<sup>th</sup> century these lands were held by “*Johan de Lany del counte de Edneburk*”, who appears a second time in the Ragman Roll as a laird in Perthshire, where the modern estate of Leny – on the outskirts of Callendar – today represents what was at one time a much larger holding, maybe extending north to the shores of Loch Tay, and certainly south into Mentieth and to the borders of the Lennox.<sup>52</sup> In 1419 “*Robertus de Lanyn, Magister in Artibus*” took proceedings against various people, including the Vicar of Cramond, for detaining rents due to Inchcolm. Robert de Lany’s extremely distinguished career – as the king’s chaplain and custodian of his chambers in Edinburgh Castle, the queen’s chamberlain, and an ambassador to England – was the culmination of a family record of royal service which stretched back to John de Lany constable of Tarbert, Loch Fyne, in 1326. Master Robert was also a canon of Dunkeld, and as such he maintained a kindred connection with the diocese that can be traced back at least as far as 1231 when “*Willelmo de Linne*” was *Senescallo Nostro* to the then bishop – and probably a great deal further, since the founder of the family’s fortunes, according to 16<sup>th</sup> century accounts, was one “*Gilespic Moir*”, who appears on the family tree as the father of *Maolan de Lany* the progenitor of the MacMillans in Argyll and Breadalbane. This would make *Gilleasbuig Mor* the same man as Cormac mac Airbertaich – and, if we’re right, Cormac the bishop of Dunkeld as well.<sup>53</sup>

The phenomenon of the same individual being recorded with different names is by no means uncommon when dealing with significant figures in early Scots and Irish history. In addition to *Finlay mac Ruaidri* of Moray appearing in the Norse sagas both as “*Jarl Finnleik*” and as “*Earl Hundi*”, and his son Macbeth as “*Karl Hundison*”, two examples contemporary with Bishop Cormac can be quoted from a dynasty in Ulster: A king called “*Ragnall*” (died 1131) who was otherwise known as “*Gilla Comgaill*” – which appears explicable as the same sort of religious byname we are dealing with in relation to Cormac and a number of his descendants – and “*Eochaid mac Aeda*” (died 1127) who also appears, for reasons that are not so obvious,

as “*Garrchu Ua Mathgamna*”.<sup>54</sup> It should also be remembered when it comes to Cormac “*Gilleasbuig Mor*”, Gilchrist “*Gillemaol/Maolan*”, and other members of this kindred, that the alternative names appearing for them in the genealogies are not appellations they are likely to have used themselves, but nicknames by which they were sometimes recalled – and which their descendants often chose to use as the roots of their surnames so as to highlight the particular aspects of their ancestors for which they were famous. In this case Cormac mac Airbertaich’s nickname can be readily explained if he was indeed the bishop of Dunkeld, since *Gille-easbuig Mor* could stand for “Great Bishop”. This might of course be questioned on the basis that *Gille-Easbuig* is usually thought to mean “Servant of the Bishop”, but George Black says the surname MacGillespie from *Mac Gill’easpuig* means just “Son of the Bishop”, and Edward MacLysaght states explicitly that in Ireland “Bishop” is a synonym by translation of Gillespie from *Mac Giolla Easbuig*).<sup>55</sup>

(Part 3 in December)

#### NOTES

<sup>33</sup> OPS, II, Part 1, 39, & 29-32. Kilchamaig is the place from which a son of MacMillan of Knap is supposed to have fled to Lochaber and become the first Macmillan of Murlagan – Buchanan, op. cit., 127.

<sup>34</sup> Daphne Brooke, *Wild Men and Holy Places* (Edinburgh, 1994), 75; Graeme M. Mackenzie, *Origins of the MacLellans* in SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST, Vol. XLIX, No. 1 (March 2002), 9-18. For the earliest MacMillans in Galloway, and particularly the Glenkens, see RMS, I, App. 2, 530; *Rotuli Scotiae*, Vol. II, No. 2; ER, X, p. 658; RSS, I, 240, 1635.

<sup>35</sup> “MS History of Craignish” in SHS Miscellany IV (1926), 208.

<sup>36</sup> The possible origins of the MacCouls of Craignish are considered in Graeme M. Mackenzie, *Origins and Early History of the MacMillans and Related Kindreds* (Clan MacMillan International Centre, 2001), Appendix 6, but a summary of the most compelling evidence connecting them with the MacMillans can be found in Graeme M. Mackenzie, *The Names M?Gill & Bell* in THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST, VOL. LII, No. 4 (Dec. 2005), 158-164.

<sup>37</sup> W. A. Gillies, *In Famed Breadalbane* (Perth, 1980), 287, traces the “MacDougalls” at Ardeonaig back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and relates the local traditions about their arrival which echo tales of the murder of a neighbour and his subsequent flight to found a new branch of the clan by the progenitor of the MacMillans of Murlagan (Buchanan, op. cit., 127) and the slaying of a wild beast in front of the king by the Lenys’ ancestor “the reidhar vray” (note at bottom of Leny tree – transcribed and translated in SHR, 1903/4, 101).

<sup>38</sup> Adam, op. cit., 320; Hugh Macmillan, op. cit., 8.

<sup>39</sup> For MacCormacs in Lorn and Mull see Adam, op. cit., 297, 330, & 467; the third of these entries being for the form *MacCharmaig*, which George Black tells us in Argyllshire equals “Shaw”, a surname otherwise almost uniquely associated in the Highlands with Clan Chattan – Black, op. cit., 467. The McCormacks in the Glenkens of Galloway – who sometimes appear as “McCornaks” – were lairds of Strangassell from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries; see RRS, VI, No. 349; ER, VIII, page 41; ER, XIV, page 587; RMS, III, Nos. 888, 985, 1094, 2070.

<sup>40</sup> Jackson, op. cit., No. 5, pp. 32 & 35. “Clann Cormaie” is here used as a convenient collective term for all the kindreds descended from Cormac, and though no such clan appears on the record in this way the survival of the surname M’Cormac in precisely those areas associated with Cormac mac Aibertaich’s descendants suggests that it’s a valid as well as handy usage.

<sup>41</sup> Hudson, op. cit., 153.

<sup>42</sup> The equation of Cormac mac Airbertaich and Bishop Cormac of Dunkeld was, so far as I’m aware, first



made in Somerled MacMillan, *The Vindication of Macbeth* (Paisley, 1959), 12; but unfortunately the late hard of Clan MacMillan never attempted to back up his suggestion with any evidence or coherent argument.

- <sup>43</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ Medii Aevi*, eds. D. E. R. Watt & A. L. Murray (Edinburgh, 2003), 121.
- <sup>44</sup> Sellar, *Family Origins in Cowal...*, op. cit., 26. For further discussion of the thirty year per generation average, see Graeme M. Mackenzie, *Some Examples of Generational Averages in the Middle Ages in THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST*, Vol. LIII, No. 2 (June 2006), 54-6.
- <sup>45</sup> The extent of Bishop Cormac's diocese can be appreciated by adding together the 13<sup>th</sup> century bishoprics of Dunkeld and Argyll as shown in *Atlas of Scottish History to 1707*, eds. Peter G. B. McNeill & Hector L. MacQueen (Edinburgh, 1996), 336-7.
- <sup>46</sup> Gordon Donaldson, *Scottish Bishops' Sees Before the Reign of David I* in PSAS, Vol. LXXXVII (1952-53), 113; John Bannerman, *Comarba Colum Chille and the Relics of Columba* in INNES REVIEW, Vol. XLIV, No. 1 (Spring 1993).
- <sup>47</sup> OPS II, Pt. 1, 132 & 148; *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ IV* (Edinburgh, 1923), 101; A. D. M. Barrell, *The Church in the West Highlands in the late Middle Ages* in INNES REVIEW, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Spring 2003), 26.
- <sup>48</sup> Sellar, "Highland Family Origins", op. cit. Though the later "Siol Alpine" may have been fabricated, the modern historian of the MacGregors does think his clan may have emerged from a parent kindred bearing that name – Martin D. W. MacGregor, *A Political History of The MacGregors Before 1571* (unpublished Edinburgh University PhD Thesis, 1989), 33-35.
- <sup>49</sup> For the MacLarens, Adam, op. cit., 257; for the MacNaughtens, who bear "one of the oldest, if not the very oldest Breadalbane surname", see Gillies, op. cit., 369-70, and *Highland Papers I* (SHS, 1914), 104. The traditional account of how the MacMillan-Bells came to be in Glens Aray and Shira is given in Somerled MacMillan, *The MacMillans and their Septs* (Glasgow, 1952), 111-2.
- <sup>50</sup> Duncan MacMillan, *The Traditional History of the Scots and of the Clan MacMillan* (MS Typescript, c. 1924, Campbeltown Public Library, C.P.L. – 22). For the MacHenrys of Glencoe see Adam, op. cit., 217.
- <sup>51</sup> *Atlas of Scottish History to 1707*, op. cit., 353.
- <sup>52</sup> CDS, II, 200 & 213. The Lenys had charters in the 13<sup>th</sup> century for Drumquhassle just south of Drymen, and in the 14<sup>th</sup> for the lands of "Wuchman" or "Buchanne" (i.e. Boquhan) to the east of Kippen – *Lennox Cartularium*, 48; RMS, I, App. 2, 523, No. 242 & Note 6.
- <sup>53</sup> Graeme M. Mackenzie, *The de Lanys or Lennies...* in SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST, Vol. L, No. 1 (Mar. 2003), 18-28.
- <sup>54</sup> Francis J. Byrne, *Clann Ollaman Uaisle Emna* in STUDIA HIBERNICA, No. 3 (1963), 54-94.
- <sup>55</sup> Black, op. cit., 500; Edward MacLysaght, *The Surnames of Ireland* (Dublin, 1985), 18 & 124.

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## A Schoolmaster

### Coldinghame, Berwickshire 2nd School

That Mr Ralph Guthrie was elected Schoolmaster of the second charge in Coldingham parish (in the room of Mr Dodds deceased) on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1816, Attested at Chirnside the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1818 and is as unmarried.

Ralph Guthrie (signature)

Mr Guthrie                      41 years at

That Mr Guthrie was married to Isabella Donaldson, on the 18 Octr. 1836 and she died 1 December 1839.

## Some Corner of a Foreign Field

by Angus Mitchell

Why do so many of us want to visit the graves of our ancestors, or at least to know where they lie? While the lists of monumental inscriptions published by the Society and other family history societies have made it much easier to search for a family gravestone in Scotland, some graveyards have not so far been recorded, and there is regrettably no central index of the burial records kept by local authorities.

As regards deaths in the armed services (whether at home or overseas), the Commonwealth (formerly "Imperial") War Graves Commission deserves much praise for the many well-kept cemeteries of the servicemen and women who died in or since the war of 1914-18, whose names and places of burial can readily be found on the Commission's website ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)). Until it was set up by Royal Charter in 1917, however, no central records seem to have been kept of the graves of British soldiers and sailors who died on active service.

In the South African War of 1899-1901 over 7,500 British soldiers were killed in action or died of wounds, while over 13,000 died of disease; many were laid to rest in military cemeteries, or were listed by name on regimental monuments like the impressive Black Watch memorial on the Mound in Edinburgh. Lists of men who died in the war can be found in *In Memoriam* by Steve Watt (University of Natal Press, 2000) and in several websites such as [www.roll-of-honour.com](http://www.roll-of-honour.com), but individuals will be hard to find without the names of their units.

In earlier campaigns, many soldiers who died in battle were buried in the field by their comrades, often in mass graves without any markers; only a few of the casualties, usually officers, were commemorated by name on monuments (either near the battlefield or in British churches) which had been paid for by their comrades or by their families. One early example of a war



grave is shown in this photograph of the gravestone in Turkey of a Scottish merchant navy officer who died in the Crimean War, with the following inscription:

*Sacred to the memory of John Pattison late Second Engineer of the Steam Ship Andes in the transport service; born at Cathcart, Scotland, 12th October 1822; died at Scutari 30th December 1855; this stone was erected by his shipmates and others of the Cunard Service as an appreciation of his worth and ability.*

This stone is in the British cemetery in Scutari, near Istanbul on the Asian side of the Bosphorus; it lies near a Turkish army headquarters which served in the Crimean War as a British military hospital run by Florence Nightingale, and which now contains a small museum to commemorate her work.

Some of those who died there had been wounded in the Crimea and brought across the Black Sea to Scutari, but many others died of diseases such as typhus or cholera; one soldier described the hospital as "hell incarnate" before Miss Nightingale arrived and improved matters. The total number of admissions to the hospital at Scutari was 12,599, of which 9,407 were for medical conditions; about 9000 men died there between November 1854 and February 1855 (*The Crimean Doctors*, by John Shepherd: University of Liverpool, 1991). As John Pattison was a civilian he probably died of disease and is very unlikely to have been wounded in the Crimea.

To the best of my knowledge no records have survived of those who were buried at Scutari, most of whom had no gravestone. The cemetery has only about 100 grave-stones, mostly for officers whose careers can be found in the *Army Lists*. On a short visit I was able to record the following inscriptions for people who either came from Scotland or had Scottish names; the list includes only one private soldier, John Bruce. Major Gordon and Lt. Col. Stewart were not casualties of the Crimean War and may have been on leave in Constantinople 10 years later. There was not enough time, alas, to record the other inscriptions, which may well have included some Scots with names like Smith or Brown!

1. David **ANDERSON**, Staff Assistant Surgeon, born Dumfries, died here of cholera 4 January 1854 aged 24.
2. Thomas Kyd **MORGAN**, Lieutenant H M 63rd Regiment, son of James Morgan of Edinburgh, died here 11 December 1854 of wounds received at Inkerman, aged 19; erected by his mother.
3. Edmond Sydney **WATSON** Esq, Assistant Surgeon 13th Regiment, son of Edmond Sydney Watson late of Merton Hall Wigtonshire, died 4 December 1855 actively and faithfully discharging his too arduous professional duties.
4. Captain William R N **CAMPBELL**, died 23 December 1854.
5. Private John **BRUCE**, 13th Heavy Dragoons, died 9 March 1855 aged 33.
6. James H **WISHART**, Staff Surgeon, died 25 May 1855 aged 33; erected by his sister.



7. Alexander **McGREGOR** MD, Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, died 16 November 1855 aged 45.
8. Alice Ellen, daughter of Major E C A **GORDON** Royal Engineers, died 8 August 1864 aged 3 months.
9. Patrick **STEWART** CB, Lieutenant Colonel Bengal Engineers, died at Constantinople 16 January 1865 aged 32.
10. James Inglis **COCHRAN**, Commissariat Staff, died 20 December 1855 aged 25.

Does any reader know whether there is a complete record of all the gravestones at Scutari, or of all the burials there? Any records of this kind would merit an honourable place in the UK National Archives, although they would account for only a fraction of the total casualties of the Crimean War; about 4,700 men in the British Army and Navy were killed in action or died of wounds, while over 16,000 died of disease. Our allies and the enemy suffered much more severely: the total number of French, Italian, Turkish and Russian deaths in the war was over half a million.

All the British men who were killed or wounded in action in the Crimea were listed with their units, ranks and service numbers in despatches from the Army Commander-in-Chief (Field Marshal Lord Raglan, until his death in June 1855) or his Royal Navy colleague (Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons); these despatches were published in successive issues of the *London Gazette* (which in the fashion of the time refer all too often to the "English" Army or Navy!). The *Gazette* for 4 July 1855, for example, had a long list of all those killed or wounded in the unsuccessful British assault on the Redan, a Russian fortress outside Sebastopol; the list includes Major-General Sir John Campbell of the 4th Division, whose fine monument can be seen in Edinburgh in Saint John's Church, Princes Street. He and many others were buried in a cemetery on Cathcart's Hill, which I have been told was destroyed during the German siege of Sebastopol in 1941-2.

The *London Gazette* (which can be seen in the National Library of Scotland) also included a series of reports from the Inspector General of Hospitals in the Crimea (J Hall) giving the weekly numbers of men admitted to, or discharged from, hospital for various reasons. So far as I can discover, however, the *Gazette* never listed the names of thousands of men who died in hospital of wounds or from disease, whether in the Crimea, at Scutari or elsewhere; they were not listed in *Casualty Roll for the Crimea* by Frank and Andrea Cook (Hayward, 1976), which includes only those who were killed or wounded in action and listed in the *London Gazette*. Several other casualty lists can be found in regimental histories such as *A History of the Services of the 19th Regiment (The Green Howards)*, by Major M L Farrar (1911). You will therefore be lucky to find any official record of the death of an ancestor who is said to have "died in the Crimea", without further information of his unit (or ship, in the case of a sailor), unless he was a commissioned officer.

## A Schoolmaster Coldinghame, Berwickshire

That Mr John Hamilton was elected Schoolmaster of the Parish of Coldinghame on the Twenty seventh day of March One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety three, that he was married to Helen Fife on the Twenty seventh day of June One thousand seven hundred and Eighty Eight, that he has now Eight children alive VIZ Margaret born on the Seventh of October Seventeen hundred and Ninety one, Robert born on the twenty fifth day of July Seventeen hundred and Ninety four. Mary born first September Seventeen hundred and Ninety six. John born the twenty fifth day of August Seventeen hundred and ninety eight.

James born the twenty second day of November Eighteen hundred. William born the twenty seventh day of July Eighteen hundred and three. Alexander born the fourteenth day of July Eighteen hundred and five and Ann born the thirtieth of July Eighteen hundred and seven years is attested at Chirnside the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July Eighteen hundred and ten years by

Mr Hamilton born 13 Apr 1764

Jno. Hamilton (signature)

Mrs Hamilton born 16 July 1765

Geo Mclean. Prases

Coldingham.

John Forbis A.M. resigned the office of Schoolmaster of the Parish of Coldingham May 15<sup>th</sup> 1854.

Adam R. Tait was appointed to the office of Schoolmaster of Coldingham August 10<sup>th</sup> 1854.

John Turnbull, Collector S.W. Fund  
(signature)

Source: National Archives of Scotland. Reference CH2/386/18/21

*Contributed by Russell Cockburn*

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- Century of Edinburgh: events, people & places over the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>2</sup> Hamish Coghill
- Complete Guide to Military Records (free with *Your Family Tree*, Oct. 2007) Paul Reed et al
- Directory of Scots in Asia, 1600-1900 (Part One)<sup>3</sup> David Dobson
- Directory of Seafarers  
of the East Neuk of Fife, 1580-1800: a genealogical source book David Dobson
- East Preston Street Cemetery, Edinburgh:  
Monumental Inscriptions<sup>1</sup> Scottish Genealogy Society, comp.  
Robert & Elizabeth Blatchford, eds.
- Family and Local History Handbook 11
- Forgotten Tombstones of Moray:  
Vol.6: Birnie Churchyard Moray Burial Ground Res. Group
- Hoddom Parish MIs:  
Hoddom, Ecclefechan, Luce, St Kentigern's Dumfries & Galloway F.H. Res. Centre
- How to Trace your Family Tree in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales:  
the complete practical handbook for.... family history Kathy Chater
- Index to 1851 Census of Northumberland Vols 19 & 20:  
Berwick-upon-Tweed, Parts 1 & 2 Northumberland & Durham F.H.S.
- Lands and People of Moray: Part 32: Parish of Dundurcas Bruce B. Bishop
- Monument Inscriptions: First Cemetery at Keiss Caithness Caithness F.H.S.
- Nesbitt & Nisbet Artists Raymond Nisbet Rolinson
- North East Roots: a guide to sources. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2008 H. Lesley Diack
- Our District:  
the historical background of Currie & Ratho Parishes John Tweedie & Cyril Jones
- People of Arbroath 1700-1799: a genealogical source book David Dobson
- People of Perth 1700-1799: a genealogical source book David Dobson
- Perth Entrepreneurs: the Sandemans of Springland<sup>4</sup> Charles D. Waterston
- Reference Guide to Huguenot Trails  
& Index of Family Names and Names of  
Publications appearing in "Huguenot Trails" ...1968-2003 Huguenot Society of Canada
- Regensburg and the Scots Alasdair Roberts
- Scotland and the Holy See:  
story of Scotland's links with the Papacy  
down the centuries (City Art  
Centre Exhibition 1982) Heritage Commission of the Scottish Catholic Hierarchy



Study of Meadowbank, Parson's Green, Willowbrae,  
Jock's Lodge and Piershill at the 1901 Census  
Tenantry Kirk, Bonskeid & Fincastle:

George F. Baird

Monumental Inscriptions

N. Perthshire Family History Group  
National Archives of Scotland

Tracing your Scottish Ancestors 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2007

Transactions of the East Lothian Antiquarian

& Field Naturalists' Society Vol. 27, 2008

Chris Tabraham, editor

Twenty Views of Old Edinburgh (incomplete)

Daniel Wilson

Your Surname Guide

(free with *Your Family Tree*, Spring 2008)

Anthony Adolph & Gary Tipp

1. Reviewed in this journal.
2. Full of old photographs of Edinburgh's history during the 20<sup>th</sup> century: people at work and leisure, during and after the wars, old streets and houses before demolition and re-development, and much more. Captions often give names of the people or the streets captured on the photograph. No index but a lovely mixture of photos.
3. Alphabetical list of Scots who worked, lived, fought or died in the countries of Asia, or on the seas around, taken from gravestone inscriptions, National Archive records, and newspapers. Although a few working for the H.E.I.C.S. are mentioned, many more can be found in the H.E.I.C.S. Records and the India Office Records, both in the British Library.
4. Reviewed in *The Scottish Genealogist* June 2008, p.99.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2008**

**All SGS meetings (unless otherwise advised) take place at 7.30pm in the  
Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.**

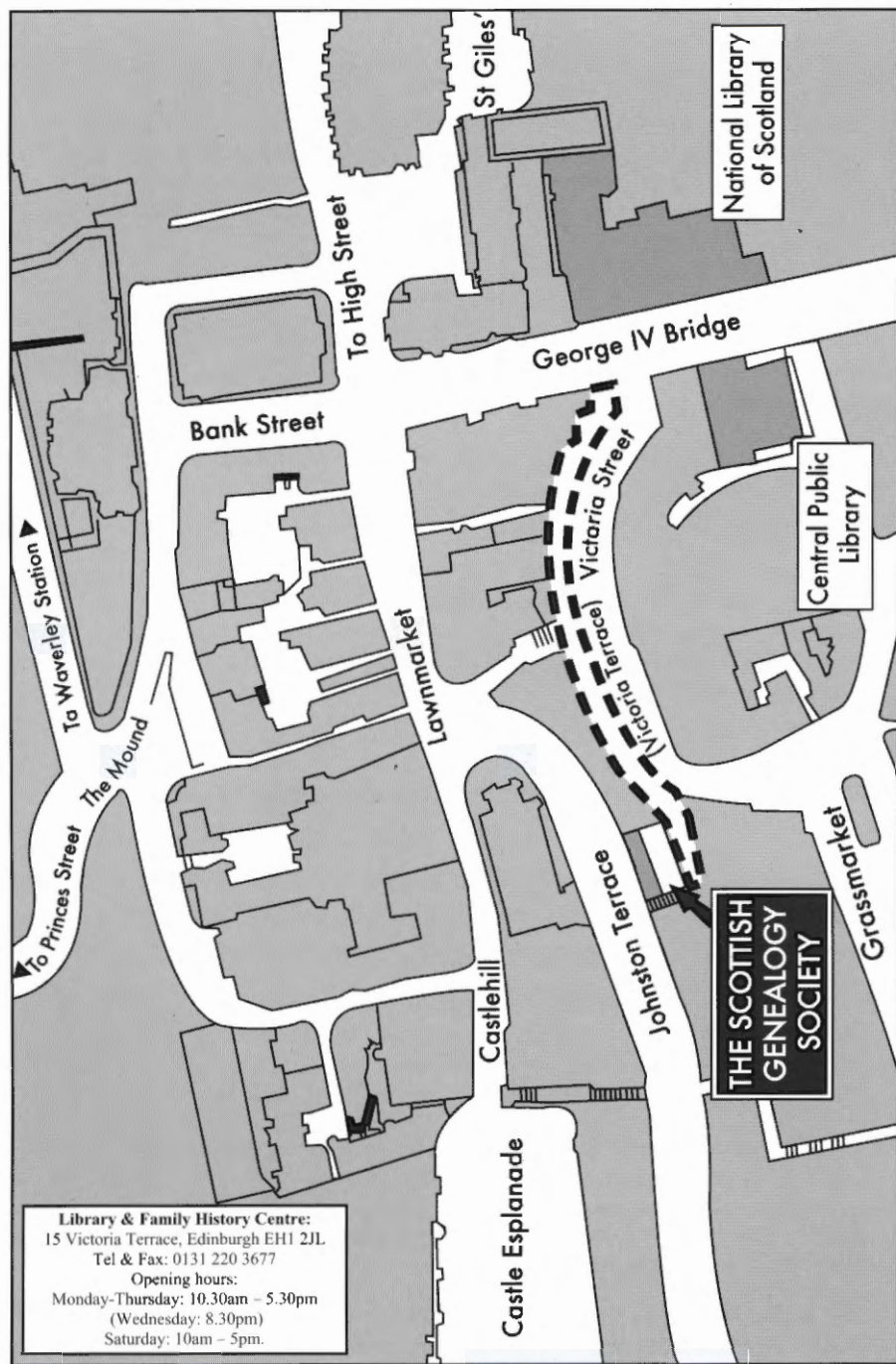
- 15 September    Monday – Ordinary Meeting  
                          "Donald and Kiefer Sutherland" by Graham E. Macdonell
- 20 October       Monday – Ordinary Meeting  
                          "John Murray Archive" by David McClay, NLS
- 17 November    Monday – Ordinary Meeting  
                          "War Memorials in East Lothian" by Dr James Cranstoun

### **New Register House Research Evenings:**

Please contact Library for 2008 dates.

### **Fairs and other events:**

- 6-13 September    Sat to Sat – Dundee & Angus roots Festival, Dundee
- 13 September       Saturday – Family History Fair, Dundee
- 13 September       Saturday – National Family History Fair, Gateshead



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





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