



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

DECEMBER 2008

Leith Soldiers

Scottish War Memorials

Scots Around The Baltic: Simpson

Burial Grounds in Scotland

The Last Day

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Vol. LV No. 4

The Scottish Genealogy Society

Hon. President:

Robin Orr Blair, CVO, WS, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland 2001-2008

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Miss Joan P. S. Ferguson, MBE, MA, ALA, FRCP (Edin)

Ivor R. Guild, CBE, FRSE, MA, LL.B, WS

Angus Mitchell, CB, CVO, MC

Dr Jean Munro, FSA Scot.

D. Richard Torrance, BSc.

Donald Whyte, FHG, FSG (Hon.)

Chairman of Council: Dr James Cranstoun, PhD

Hon. Secretary: Ken A. Nisbet, BA (Hons), Dip. MSHR

Hon. Editor: Caroline J. Gerard, MA

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Tweedie

Hon. Librarian: Dr James Cranstoun, PhD

Hon. Examiner: Stuart A. F. Faed, BSc (Hons), CA

Council:

Mrs Kirstine S. M. Baxter, BA, BSc, MSc; Mrs Joy Dodd; Caroline J. Gerard, MA;

Les Hume; Gregory Lauder-Frost, BA (Hons), FSA Scot.;

Mrs Alison Moffat LL.B; Andrew R. Nicoll;

Miss Barbara Revolta, Dip. Arch.; Mrs Moira Stevenson, MA Dip Lib;

Mrs Rhona C. D. Stevenson; Mrs Dorothy Tweedie.

Membership Secretary: Ken A. Nisbet

Sales Secretary: Mrs Rhona C. D. Stevenson

Syllabus Secretary: Miss Barbara Revolta, Dip. Arch.

Council Minutes Secretary: Mrs Joy Dodd

Chairman of Publications Committee: Craig Ellery, BA (Hons)

Webmaster: Graham N. G. Senior-Milne of Mordington, ACA

The Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

E-mail: enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com

Website: www.scotsgenealogy.com

Scottish charity No. SC016718

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: Prestonpans War Memorial by Birnie Rhind, 1921.

Reproduced with the kind permission of Caroline Gerard.

CONTENTS

The Scottish family of Simpson in East Prussia - <i>Irene Tren</i>	159
Schoolmasters - <i>Russell Cockburn</i>	169, 201
Leith Soldiers in the First World War - Andrew Grant	170
Scottish War Memorials - <i>Adam Brown</i>	177
The Last Day	181
Waking the Dead - <i>Elizabeth Carmichael</i>	184
Who was Cormac Mac Airbertach? (Part 3) - <i>Graeme M. Mackenzie</i>	188
Annual Report - <i>Kenneth A. M. Nisbet</i>	196
Book Reviews	199
Memorials of his time - <i>Henry Cockburn</i>	202
Query	202
St Andrews' Kirkyard - Calcutta!	203
Letter to the Editor	204
Recent Additions to the Library - <i>Carol Stubbs</i>	205
Dates for your Diary	207

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.

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

Scottish Genealogy Society Website

Our website can be accessed on www.scotsgenealogy.com

Copyright - All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written consent of the publisher.

Views expressed in articles or correspondence are those of the contributor and may not be those of the publisher.

The Scottish family of Simpson in East Prussia

by Irene Tren, edited by Gregory Lauder-Frost, FSA Scot.

The interaction of Scotland and continental European countries over the centuries, particularly during the Reformation and thereafter, is one of the fascinating pages of history. Tens of thousands of Scots emigrated to Pomerania and East & West Prussia. I propose to deal with only a tiny part of this, researching the history of the family descended from William Simpson from Coupar Angus, who emigrated to East Prussia.

From Scotland to Europe

The German historian Walter Grunert, in his article *The Simpsons in Georgenburg*, (in a German newspaper) notes that the Simpsons, like the Douglasses, Mitchells, McLeans and a lot of other Scottish families, widened the group of foreign-sounding names of Scottish origin in East Prussia. Sometimes with their families, they left their motherland (Scotland), often for religious reasons, and settled in the trading cities on the Baltic Sea. In the 17-18th centuries one could meet Scots among rich merchants in Reval, Riga, Memel, Königsberg and Danzig. Often ship-owners themselves, they went on long journeys under sail to Europe, and to the towns of the Hanseatic League.

In Fischer (1903, p.150-1) we find the following record of the family of Simpson with whom we are concerned. 'It seems that they first settled at a small place about twenty miles north of Memel called Heiligen Aa, ("Aa" means water; "Heilig" is "sacred") from a river Aa which emptied into the Baltic at the boundary between Kurland (or Courland) and Szamaiten (Samland). Besides the Simpsons, there are mentions the names of Muttray (a corruption of Murray), Douglas, and Melville as settlers. They traded with the produce of Szamaiten, corn and flax, which they chiefly sold to Danzig. The inhabitants of Memel, feeling themselves aggrieved at this, lodged a complaint with the Polish Crown, at that time exercising a feudal superiority over the Duchy of Prussia; and effected an interdict of King Vladislaus, dated February 6th, 1639, by which all trading across the Heilige Aa was strictly prohibited. His captains received orders to burn the place. To this day (1903), there is a fishing village called Heiligenaa on the borders of Kurland, but the harbour has long ago been choked with sand. Simpson and the other Scots fled to Memel, where they soon held positions of influence and trust.'

However, if this date is correct, the Simpson family at Heiligenaa cannot be the family I am dealing with here, as it appears that they did not emigrate from Scotland until 1678 (*Scot Gen.* 1980, p.129). Further, Fischer states that, "The Simpsons, another Scottish family in Memel, which spread from there all over Prussia, came originally from Cupar Angus in Forfar."

On the 22nd March 1656, Barbara née Young, the wife of **James Simpson**, a merchant

Burgess of Cupar Angus, Perthshire, gave birth there to a baby son, William. His details were confirmed in the Birth Brief for him and his brother Andrew, dated at Forfar on 14th October 1681, such birth briefs being standard requirements, evidence of birth and family being requested by the authorities in Memel, the northernmost city of East Prussia.

The Chronicle of the Scottish Family of Simpson (by Gunter Schuhmilski) relates that in 1679 William Simpson together with his brother Andreas (Andrew) left his home town by their own ship to settle in the town of Memel in East Prussia. The names of Andreas and William Simpson were to be found amongst the representatives of the Scottish community in Memel in 1682 and 1684. Soon after arriving at Memel, **William Simpson** (d. 29th July 1727, Memel) became a well-known merchant and a Municipal councillor. On 9th May 1690 he married Mary Mitchell (18th April 1661 – 13th October 1733 Memel), who gave birth to seven children, all at Memel, their names recorded in the parish register of the Reformed Church there. (*Scot Gen.* 1980, p.129).

The fifth son of William & Mary Simpson, **William jnr.** was born 15th December 1697 in Memel, where he also died on 12th July 1772. On 21st September 1719 he married at Memel Adelgunda Hoppius (born in Königsberg 1st June 1700, died at Memel 23rd March 1781), the daughter of the headmaster of the regional school. William Simpson jnr. was appointed to the important post of Mayor of Memel. He also developed his trading business and gave substantial assistance to the Scottish congregation in the town.

His eldest son (of twelve children), another **William** (24th December 1720 – 12th April 1758, buried at Memel), continued the trading business of his father. He married twice: firstly, on 12th March 1748 at Königsberg, Henriette Wilhemine Bohne (bapt. 24th December 1724, Königsberg – 21st February 1752, Memel, 4 days after giving birth) by whom he had four children; secondly, on 15th May 1753 at Memel, Mary Simpson (said to be his first cousin, born at Memel, 20th May 1735, died at Danzig 16th August 1806), by whom he had one daughter, Maria (1757 – 1773).

The second son by William Simpson's first wife was **John Ludwig Simpson**, born in Memel on the 5th January 1751. He inherited the enterprising features of his ancestors and became the owner of his family's business, trading with London, Antwerp, Danzig, Königsberg and Kauen. Even during the Napoleonic wars he managed to conclude bargains. Being a rich merchant, John Ludwig Simpson helped the town's Protestant Scottish congregation. In 1802 he granted a large amount of money (8000 guildens) to the church for the increase of the teacher's salary in the church school. John Ludwig appeared to be carrying on the family traditions in this respect, as his cousin John Simpson made a big financial contribution in 1760 for the urgent repair of the church, which had been badly damaged by Russian troops during the Seven Years War (1756-1763).

John Ludwig's first marriage was at Memel on 24th October 1782 to Henriette Caroline Conrad, daughter of the Prussian Royal Counsellor, a member of the King's retinue who accompanied the monarch on his many trips. This Counsellor was a respected person and was later a trusted advisor to Frederick The Great. On the Conrad estate there was a stud farm where thoroughbred horses were bred. John Ludwig Simpson married secondly, at Memel on 15th July 1790, Sophie Marie Charlotte Kraus (1768 – 1835). He died in his home town of Memel on the 16th September 1819.

Horse-breeding became a professional activity for subsequent generations of the Simpson family in East Prussia. Two elder sons of John Ludwig Simpson were landowners. Both specialised in agriculture, especially in horse-breeding. The first son, **August Ludwig Simpson** (8th February 1785 - 3rd February 1848 both at Memel) owned the Friedrichsgabe estate. He became the first representative of the Rosenshtine-Friedrichsgabe line of the Simpson family. He married at Deutsch-Crottingen, near Memel, on 17th November 1814, Augusta Wilhelmina Kuwert (born at Carwaiten near Schwarzort on the Kurisch Nehrung, 30th June 1794 – died at Memel 24th November 1850), and they had eight children.



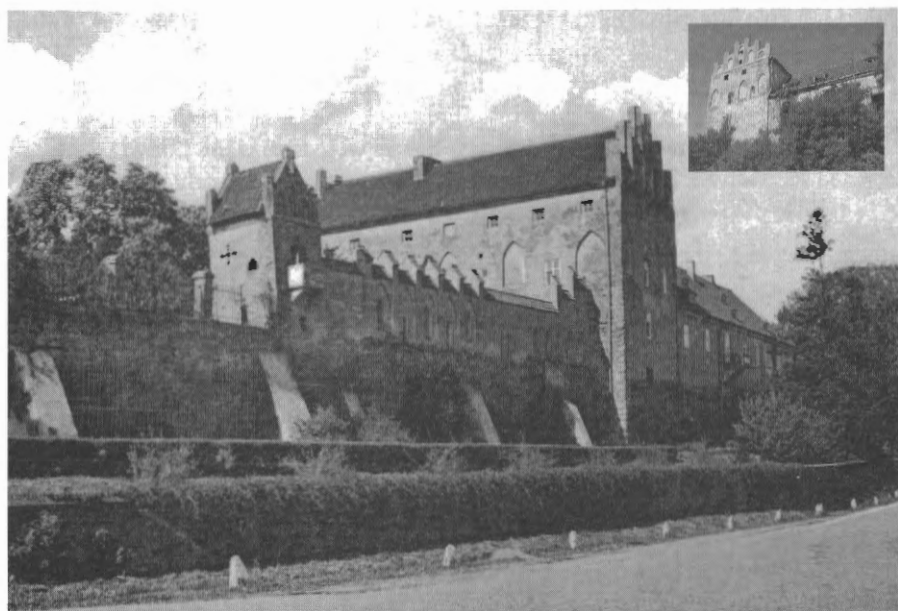
Johann Wilhelm von Simpson
1788-1858

The second son, **Johann Wilhelm von Simpson** was born in Memel on the 13th October 1788. Following tuition at home, Johann Wilhelm attended the *Ecole Française* in Königsberg from 1800 to 1803. He then studied agriculture at several estates in the district of Gumbinnen in East Prussia. About 1815 his father provided the money for his purchase of the 600 hectare (1483 acres) estate of Plicken, where he quickly had success as a horse-breeder. As early as 1821 he took part in the first livestock show at Belle Alliance near Gumbinnen. In 1820 Johann Wilhelm also acquired Wensoewen, and Sidden, in the district of Oletzko. He subsequently also acquired Georgenburg.

Georgenburg

Georgenburg castle was founded as a fortress by the great Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, Winrich von Kniprode (d.1382) following crusades, which had included crusaders from Britain and France. About 1353 it was in the possession of the Bishop of Samland, "a nominee of the Teutonic Knights". (Christiansen, p.104) Yet, as an important outpost, the castle was often attacked by the hostile Lithuanians, and between 1379-85 Bishop Dietrich Tilo rebuilt the castle in brick and stone. However, the castle fell to murderous Lithuanian assaults in 1389, 1394 and 1404.

By 1525 the castle was in the possession of Albrecht von Hohenzollern (d.1568), Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach, who in 1511 had been elected Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. However the Reformation had well and truly arrived in Prussia (one of Danzig's churches was the largest Protestant church in the world) and he took



Georgenburg Castle

Martin Luther's personal advice, renounced his vows, married, and persuaded King Sigismund I (1467-1548) of Poland to permit him to rule the rump of old Prussia as hereditary Duke of Prussia (Koch, p.33).

In 1547 a church was built near the castle, and rebuilt in red brick between 1626-29, with a tower being added in 1679. The end of the first Northern War saw Poland's titular feudal sovereignty of Ducal Prussia, held since the defeat of the Teutonic Order, ended by the Treaty of Wehlau in 1657 and confirmed by the Peace of Oliva (a suburb of Danzig) in 1660 (Koch, p.55). However, on New Year's Day 1679 the Swedes again invaded and under General Horn took Georgenburg Castle, which became Horn's H.Q., for the Swedish army "in which there was always a strong infusion of stalwart Scots" (Fisher, p.620). During that army's advance to Rzecz Rospolita, Tartars and Poles under *Hetman* Gonsiewski twice devastated the castle.



Georgenburg Church by S. Gromov

In 1709 the castle was struck by an outbreak of the Black Plague. Then, Frederick 1st, King in Prussia (1657 – 1713), gave the castle and its lands to the Prussian State. This period saw some 15,000 Protestants, expelled from the Salzburg region of Austria because of their faith, settle in East Prussia (Koch p.94), many on the lands and in the villages north of Georgenburg.

The Stud farm

From 1740 an annual cross-country race was conducted at Georgenburg, the oldest such event in Germany, and in 1752 the von Keudell family commenced horse-breeding at Georgenburg, selling many fine stallions to the world-famous Royal Prussian Stud Farm at Trakehnen, established in 1732 (Baedeker, p.178). New stud farm buildings began to be erected behind the northern walls of Georgenburg castle. Following the ruinous Napoleonic Wars, Herr John Albert Heine, a merchant from Insterburg, purchased Georgenburg from the State, in 1814.

Having sold the Plicken estate to his younger brother George, Johann Wilhelm Simpson bought Georgenburg and Zwion from the heirs of the Insterburg merchant Johann Albert Heine in 1828. Here he founded the Simpson stud farm, which was to become famous far beyond the borders of East Prussia, for over three generations.

Johann Wilhelm was a District Deputy (equivalent to a British county Deputy Lieutenant). From 1830 to 1834 he was superintendent of the Insterburg Agricultural Association and later general District Councillor. Amongst other things he promoted the building of roads. On the occasion of the oath of fealty to the throne of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, in Königsberg on the 10th September 1840, Johann Wilhelm Simpson was granted nobility status with the right to add **von** to his surname. In 1844 he was involved with the first organized equestrian tournament to be held in Insterburg.

Johann Wilhelm was married twice. His first marriage to Wilhelmine Leopoldine Sperber (d. about 1st June 1816 in childbirth at Plicken) produced a daughter, Wilhelmine Caroline Charlotte, (b.1st June 1816), who married at Georgenburg, 25th December 1851, (Johann) Louis Tellkamp, from Hanover, professor of politics, a member of the Prussian assembly of nobles and a national liberal opponent of Bismarck. She died at Baden 28th April 1894, he at Berlin, 15th February 1876.

Johann Wilhelm Simpson's second marriage, at Gerskullen, near Tislt, on 20th June 1818, was to Mathilde Caroline Alexandrine Johanna von Neumann (1802 – 1881), who bore him a son, **George Wilhelm** in 1820. Simpson belonged to the group of liberal agriculturalists typical in East Prussia in the period up to 1848. His life came to a close at Georgenburg on the 21st March 1858.

The most outstanding Simpson of Georgenburg

When Johann Wilhelm von Simpson died, his only son **George William von Simpson**, was 38 years old. This representative of the second generation of the family of Simpson in Georgenburg was born at Plicken on the 14th of June 1820. At Michaelmas 1841



George Wilhelm von Simpson
1820-1886

George graduated from the Tilsit Grammar School and subsequently undertook training in agriculture with his father and on various estates in the Gumbinnen district.

In 1846 his father gave him Wensoewen with Sidden, in the Oletzko district. In 1858 he inherited Georgenburg from his father and in 1875 also acquired Nettiennen, near Zwion, raising his land-holdings to 2000 hectares. At the latter estate he established a stud farm which bred Arab stallions with English thoroughbreds, establishing a Europe-wide reputation. Horses from his studs were considered an innovation in horse-breeding, producing noble, strong breeds, notably those named Homes, Veritable, Captain,

Bayard, Waldmeister and Troubadour. In 1872 his Georgenburg stud farm sold the famous stallion Bacchus for 32,000 Marks.

George William von Simpson played a decisive part in the development of the Insterburg horse races on broken ground, a town (28,700 inhabitants in 1904; Baedeker, p.178) internationally famous for its horse shows. The jockeys' racing colours were dark blue with white sleeves. In 1919 owners of the local studs initiated the building of the town's first hippodrome, with solid surfaces, on a ground bordered by the Angrapp river on three sides. The hippodrome initially had 22 obstacles for horses. It attracted sportsmen from all over Europe. Lt.-Col. Erich Welki, head of the East Prussia Horse Races Society, later expanded the events to include 80 obstacles and also ponds. In 1933 it covered 33 hectares. German teams trained here for the 1928, 1932, and 1936 Olympic Games. A notable Patron of the Insterburg riding events was Prince Frederick Sigismund of Prussia (1891 - 1928). Teams from Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and Italy took part in the contests at Insterburg between 1934-39.

George William continued to build on the solid basis established by his father and gained recognition in all areas of agriculture. He promoted the advancement of agricultural science and was a founder-chairman of the board of Trustees of the Insterburg Agricultural Association, from 1856 to 1866, notably instrumental in establishing their laboratory. But his restoration of the Georgenburg buildings in the contemporary classical fashion is not now regarded as wholly successful.

Shortly after the death of his father George William broke with the family's liberal tradition and joined the Conservative Party, of which he was one of the most influential members in his native province. As a member of the Prussian assembly of nobles he had contacts with Bismarck, about which he kept diaries.

On the 12th July 1846 in Berlin, George William married Emilie Friederike Mathilde Lemmke (b. 14th December 1824 in Berlin - d. 12th September 1904 at Zoppot, near

Danzig), a solo ballerina at the Prussian Royal Court. The young family was very happy. They remained deeply in love until death.

This marriage gave life to two children: Mathilde (b.15th April 1847 at Wensowen, nr. Treuburg, East Prussia – d. 13th February 1901 in Danzig), and George William von Simpson (1853 - 1899). On 14th June 1867 Mathilde married (Conrad Heinrich) Gustav von Gossler (1838 – 1902), later Minister-President of West Prussia.

This **George William** was considered an ultra- conservative person, but one who did not altogether cut himself off from the bourgeois roots of his family. In business matters he combined far-sightedness with a cool head, possessed a winning warmth of character in his dealings with others and took a concern for the well-being of his employees

The life of George William von Simpson, the brightest one among three generations of the Simpsons who lived in Georgenburg, came to an early end on the 13th September 1886 from a viral infection. His wife Emily outlived her husband by almost two decades.

Between 1875 and 1899 the Simpsons sold to the State 2,450 remount horses and 225 stallions, many intended for the cavalry. Their breeds were included in East Prussia's Studbook and were afforded the brand of the double elk horn, common to all Trakehnen horses.

The last Simpson of Georgenburg

George von Simpson was the third generation at Georgenburg. His enterprising ancestors left him all the necessary conditions for life and continuing the family business.

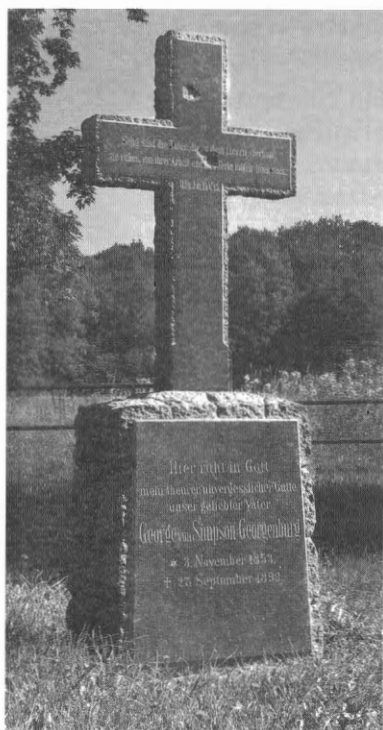
(Wilhelm Alexander) George von Simpson was born on his father's estate of Wensowen on the 3rd November 1853. Less is known about his professional education. After finishing school he received a military education, and also became a good racing jockey in No.3 Cuirassier Regiment under the command of Baron Wrangel.

In June 1878 George Alexander married (Eugenie Elise Susanne) Ellen von der Groeben (22nd April 1854 – 20th June 1934). Soon Alexander and Ellen became the happy parents of six children. The young couple first settled in Nettien. Here, and later in Georgenburg, George Alexander devoted himself to horse-breeding, like his father and grandfather before him. As the estate's proprietor it brought him much praise.

At the age of 33 years old, following his father's death, George Alexander inherited the large estate Georgenburg. But he had a lesser knowledge of trade and agriculture than his forebears. In addition, George Alexander was self-assured and rather rashly



(Wilhelm Alexander)
George von Simpson
1853-1899



Gravestone of
George Alexander von Simpson
1853-1899
at Mayovka

Translation:

Here rests in God
my true and unforgettable husband
our beloved father
George von Simpson Georgenburg
Born 3 November 1853
Died 27 September 1899

did not follow the valuable advice of his father's old friends. The Georgenburg period of his life was not financially stable. In spite of this, during the same period, the old Teutonic Order's castle, which stood on his property, was 'restored'. On the side of the river Pregel, a tower and some other buildings in Romanesque style were built. They created a romantic image of the locality.

The 19th century had seen fluctuating fortunes in agriculture across Europe, and towards the end of the 19th century there came a crisis.

Misfortune finally came to the Simpsons. George Alexander suffered more and more from kidney disease, which he had had from an early age, and he gradually lost his eyesight. Continuing his work on the estate weakened his vitality and appearance and inevitably this affected the running of the estate. In such circumstances he had to think about the future of his family.

In order to make further provision for his wife and six children (the eldest was not yet 18), he decided to sell the Georgenburg estates. This decision was made not long before his death at Georgenburg at the early age of 46 on the 27th September 1899. On the 1st October 1899, for a price of 2.5 million marks, the estates passed to the Prussian State, which worked them as a stud farm, moving the breeding of pure-bred riding horses there from Insterburg, with stables for 200. His widow, Ellen, later lived in Königsberg, where she had been born, respected by her friends and neighbours. She died at the age of 80 in her brother's house in Juckstein, in the Tilsit-Ragnit district.

The reaction of members of the Simpson family to this parting with Georgenburg varied. It is said that the eldest son, William von Simpson, could not forgive his father. He later made a name for himself as an author, notably of the famous trilogy about The Barrings.

The author William von Simpson

We learn much about William from volumes such as *The Old-Prussian Biographies*, the original "biographical encyclopedia" of the outstanding people of Prussia, published in Germany in several volumes since the mid 1950s. The information about the biography and creative activity of **William von Simpson** is contained in one of these volumes, as with the information about two of the above representatives of the Scottish dynasty of Simpson.



W. Simpson

William Hubertus Simpson
1881-1945

So what does the historian Walter Grunert tell us about William von Simpson in his article? William Hubertus von Simpson was born at Nettienen, East Prussia, on the 19th April 1881. After agricultural training, military service and travels, he bought the estate of Gross Lauth in the Prussian Eylau district. In 1913 William left East Prussia to be provincial Master of The Horse at the Lopshorn stud farm, and was called up in 1914 for The Great War. From Peest in the Koslin district of Pomerania he rode all the way to Constantinople, writing about his journey in *From the Baltic Shore to the Bosphorus*.

On 22nd May 1916 von Simpson married (div. 1936) in Berlin, Margot von Gustadt (1888 - 1953), also an author of *Rider by Day and in Dreams* and others. There were two children: Hubertus von Simpson (born 18th November 1919) and Christa who was born in Bremen 31st May 1922. In 1918 William published *Topical Issues in German Horse-Breeding*. He later spent time in Brazil and lived also in Berlin and Graz before settling in Scharbeutz on the bay of Lubeck. Upon the arrival of the British Army on the 11th May 1945, he suffered an apoplectic stroke and died.

Von Simpson devoted twenty years to his main work, the trilogy: *Der Enkel*, *Die Barrings* and *Das Erbe der Barrings*. These novels about an East Prussian rural aristocracy were translated into six languages.

Today

Instertburg is today renamed Chernyakhovsk, and is situated 57 miles from Kongisberg (Kaliningrad), today a region of Russia. East Prussia was annexed from Germany and partitioned after the Second World War. On the former Simpson estate of Georgenburg a modern stud farm with the same name has been restored and is being developed with success. It is essentially continuing the old tradition of East Prussian horse-breeding. In one of the stud farm buildings there is a small museum. Here visitors can hear the story from a guide about the history of the Scottish family of Simpson and look through the book *The Barrings* by William von Simpson. In 2002 the VI International Jumping Event was held at Georgenburg for the first time.

Some 500 metres from the main buildings of the stud-farm between fields and meadows with walking horses, in the former park of the estate is the grave of its last owner,

George von Simpson. The tomb was erected by his loving wife Ellen. Observing this lovely place, very calm and tranquil, can make one feel one has stopped in time in the old East Prussia of a century ago.

In 2004, the stud-farm was visited by a descendant of the Scottish clan Simpson of the Friedrichsgabe line, Heinrich Simpson. He was born in Königsberg in 1933 and he now lives in the German city of Bielefeld. One more representative of the ninth generation of this Scottish dynasty of Simpson of the Friedrichsgabe line is Petra, (née Simpson). She lives in Berlin, and her husband, Gunter Schuchmilski, who has been interested in the genealogy of the East Prussian Simpsons for many years, visited Georgenburg some years ago.

The direct descendants of William von Simpson of the Georgenburg line also live in Germany. Thus, we have followed the history of some bright representatives of the Scottish family of Simpson in East Prussia. Of the thousands of Scottish families who settled in Prussia and other European countries, searching for military glory, religious freedom or wealth, the Simpsons stand out as making a great and valuable contribution to the development of different sides of life on the European continent.

Notes:

Reval – now Tallin, Estonia.

Memel – now Klaipėda, Lithuania.

Danzig – now Gdansk, Poland.

Kauen – Kaunas, Lithuania.

Gumbinnen – now Gusev in Kaliningrad enclave, Russia.

Plicken – the former estate in Gumbinnen region, no longer exists.

Friedrichsgabe – now Furmanovo, Ozyorsk district, Kaliningrad enclave.

Gersculen – now Gannovka, Neman district.

Wensoewen – now Wezewo, Poland.

Zidden – now Zydy, Poland.

Zwion – now Dovatorovka, Chernyakhovsk region in Kaliningrad enclave.

Tilsit – now Sovetsk, Kaliningrad enclave.

Nettinen – now Krasnaya Gorka, nr. Chernaykhovsk.

Ludwigsort – now Ladushkin, Bagrationovsk district, Kaliningrad enclave.

Heiligenbeil – now Mamonovo, Bagrationovsk district, Kaliningrad enclave.

Pomerania- former German province – now in Poland.

Prussian Eylau – now Bagrationovsk, Kaliningrad enclave.

The author of this article, Irene Mikhailovna Tren, is an English teacher in the Kaliningrad enclave, Russia. E-mail: tren@baltnet.ru

Bibliography:

1. Fischer, Th.A. *The Scots in Germany*, Edinburgh, 1902.
2. Fischer, Th.A. *The Scots in Eastern and Western Prussia*, Edinburgh, 1903.
3. Baedeker, Karl, *Northern Germany*, London, 1904.
4. Fisher, H. A. L., *A History of Europe*, London, 1949 reprint.
5. Forstreuter, Kurt, & Gause, Fritz, *Altpreussische Biographie Landforschung* Band II Marburg/Lahn, 1963 and 1975 editions.

6. Schuchmilski, Gunter J. Aus *Die Chronik der schottischen Familie Simpson in Ostpreuben* (from a private archive).
7. Koch, H.W., Prof., *A History of Prussia*, Longman, London, 1978.
8. Ditmar, Albrecht, *Ten Days in Prussia, - Places - Texts - Traces*, Olshtin, 2003. (In Polish).
9. Christiansen, Eric, *The Northern Crusades*, MacMillan Press, London, 1980.
10. Simpson, G.A.F., *Outline of the Genealogical Roll of William Simpson in The Scottish Genealogist* December 1980, vol. XXVII, no.4, pps:129 – 145.

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 Chirside

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

Mr Inglis was born at Canonmills Parish of St. Cuthberts 5th February 1778

Mr Inglis was born at Carnwath the 5th 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 23rd 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 Sepr. 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

John Dick and his brothers: Leith Soldiers in the First World War

by Andrew Grant

Shortly after our marriage in 1959, my father-in-law, Alex Dick, made me a present of three carpenter's saws, saying that they'd belonged to one of his brothers. At the time I made no enquiries as to who this brother had been - but the saws were put to good use in a variety of domestic chores.

Several decades later, I started to do some basic family research, and from time to time I looked back to find family who had served in the First World War. I was intrigued to find that one of my wife's relatives had died in the conflict, though originally we were unsure of his first name. In time we discovered he was **John Dick**. I became interested in the circumstances of his death but was unsure where to begin.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

I discovered this website and logged on. We had no idea when John had died, and after entering his name on the search page I was confronted by several hundred John Dicks. I trawled through the entries, first selecting those names which were soldiers in Scottish Regiments, assuming (wrongly) that he would have enrolled in one of them. After another 114 entries, I struck lucky. The critical factor was within the entry: it gave the names of his parents who resided in Henderson Street, Leith. Additionally it provided the information of his regiment (Royal Engineers), rank, date of death and place of interment, namely Ville Sur Ancre on the Somme Battlefield. I printed off the relevant pages and suggested to my wife that we visit the cemetery whenever we next drove through France. That wasn't until 2007.



Ville sur Ancre Communal Cemetery

Ville sur Ancre is a small agricultural hamlet to the south of Albert where much of the fighting took place during the Somme offensive. We managed to find the place via numerous minor roads. It was a gloomy and dreich day when we arrived there. The hamlet was deserted and quiet, but eventually someone directed us to the cemetery on the outskirts.

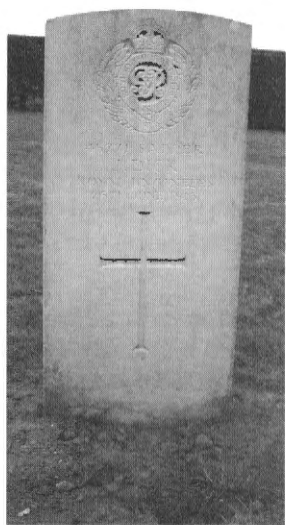
The graves of 21 British soldiers are located at the end of the

communal cemetery and we walked through the ground feeling somewhat subdued. After examining a few graves, we eventually found that of John Dick. We paused and reflected on him and the others around. His gravestone, like all those which identified the casualties, gave his name, rank, serial number etc. Beside John Dick's grave we noticed 10 others of the same regiment, all killed on the same day. However there were also gravestones with no names, just the simple inscription,

Known only unto God.

Adjacent to the communal cemetery another war grave cemetery contains over 100 casualties, and the majority of the gravestones have no names inscribed. A Roll of Honour for those interred here is located at the cemetery, although it contains no reference to those buried in the communal cemetery. Why this is, we are unsure.

We spent some time here as we're sure my wife is the first relative ever to have visited John Dick's grave. When we left we were more subdued than ever and saddened by this loss of life during the conflict.



John Dick's Gravestone

We drove on into Albert and visited the underground war museum in the town which gives a good account of the Battle of the Somme. Later our journey took us along the road to Cambrai. Along the road are numerous cemeteries containing thousands of graves. By the roadside, notices indicate stages of the front line of the Somme Offensive – at times barely a few hundred metres for several months of endeavour and slaughter. It was a very saddening experience.



Sapper John Dick, Royal Engineers (whose portrait we give above) was killed in action in France on the 26th ult. He was twenty-seven years of age, and was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs James Dick, 88, Henderson Street. He joined the Army in October 1914, and was a journey to trade, having served on apprenticeship with Mr C. Lee, Pitt Street, Leith. Four of Sapper Dick's brothers are in the Army—two in the Canadian forces (one of whom has been wounded), and one is in the Royal Scots (wounded), and one is a driver in the Army Service Corps.

John Dick

Rolls of Honour and newspapers

By chance, a friend whose relative had gone to the Front from Peebles, went into Peebles Library and discovered there was a comprehensive Roll of Remembrance for all the Fallen from the town. This got me wondering if I could find out more about John Dick.

My first port of call was to Leith Library, where the staff was unaware of any similar Rolls of Remembrance for Leith, or of any other records, however the Head Librarian

said that they had the *Leith Observer* on microfilm for the period, which I could look through for any references. We selected a roll which extended some six months after John's death and I started to scan the pages. After an eye-straining hour I was about to give up but decided to persevere 'just in case'. To say I was delighted would be an understatement when not only did I find a news report, but also a photograph of him in his uniform. In the report, it was noted that he had been a joiner – the source of my saws – but also that four (actually this should be five) other brothers were also involved in the war, two of whom had been wounded. Two had joined up in Canada. We now had much more information than we had known previously.

So whenever I use those saws in the future, I'll recall John Dick.

The Librarian arranged for Central Library to photograph this entry as the copies of *Leith Observer* are now lodged there. But while I was looking for other things in the library, the librarian came back all excited and told me that there was still a copy of the newspaper in the library. I went home for my digital camera and was able to photograph the relevant entry.

No-one seemed to know of Rolls of Honour, but a friend informed me that they did exist and that a fellow member of the Leith Local History Society knew their whereabouts: five volumes lodged in the Special Collections Department, Edinburgh University Library. An Archivist informed me that the Rolls are there, but held by the Lothian Health Services Archive, lodged within the University following the closure of Leith Hospital and the former buildings of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Within a few minutes I was reading the relevant volume containing the entry for John Dick. I was delighted. Photography is not permitted, but the Department sent me a reproduction by email.

Later my son recalled that when his grandfather died, he'd been given a number of medals which had belonged to the family. If I checked earlier, I might have saved myself some time by using the information on them. The medals belonged to John Dick and to one of his brothers mentioned in the *Leith Observer*. This brother unfortunately was hospitalised following his discharge.

Subsequently I found John's testament in the Soldiers' Wills at the National Archives of Scotland.

The Leith motto: *Persevere*

On Friday 30th May 2008, a ceremony was held in Leith Library to rededicate the War Memorial at the former Leith Hospital Children's Wing and to rededicate the Roll of Honour of the Fallen of Leith in the First World War. This was attended by some 50 dignitaries, officials and other persons from Leith. The Rolls of Honour were on public view during the following week as part of the Leith Festival.

This spurred me to continue trying to find more information about John Dick. The 97th Coy. Royal Engineers had been attached to the 21st Highland Division throughout

the conflict. I contacted both the Royal Engineers and 21st Highland Division Museums for information, but their replies were unfruitful. On the internet I found a website relating to the 21st H.D. during the war (www.21stdivision1914-18.org/index.htm), which gives a very detailed Divisional History of all their activities during the period. I noticed there was a forum and posted a request for any information relating to John Dick and the 97th. On another website I noted that this company is described as '20th. Light Railway Train Crew Company, Royal Engineers'.

Meanwhile I started tracing the locations of all memorials and grave sites of the casualties in The Leith Roll of Honour, compiling a record of this and other information, to be lodged in Leith Library for reference purposes.

However I did not neglect enquiries into John Dick's five brothers who were also involved in the war. Here again I must thank the Lothian Health Service Archivists for supplying me with medical records of William Dick and what happened to him in the post-war period. I also traced information on two other brothers, George Dick and James Dick, from local newspapers of the period.

Several months passed and I was surprised to get the following email, from a Forum subscriber:-

Kept you in mind. I managed last week to get down to Kew and got copies of the 97th FE Comp. I have attached the relevant page. It does mention 11 men being killed, but not much else. It is not the easiest to read I am afraid, but with a little time you should be able to get it deciphered.

Hope it is of some use.

Andy

Attached was a page of the War Diary of the 97th. Coy. Royal Engineers for June 1916. I was over the moon and hoped to find some answers to the circumstances of John Dick's death. The image was faded and difficult to read initially, but computer technology improved the legibility of the document.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 97th Field Coy. R.E.

Ville, June 1916

26 Shell (13 cm.) burst in billet. Killed 11. Died of wounds 3. Others wounded 6 O.R.

This one line is all that is recorded of the incident I was sought, the circumstances of John Dick's death. John was killed on the 26th June 1916 by a shell bursting in the billet, killing 11 men outright. 3 others died later of wounds. This was 5 days before the start of the Somme Offensive. It also explains the number of graves located in the Ville sur Ancre Communal Cemetery. However it poses the question: was this a shell fired by the enemy or one which was stored or being handled in the billet? I am hoping that further request to the Royal Engineers Museum will provide the answer.

John Dick's brothers

As noted above I managed to find out more about **William Dick**. Records, which only recently became available, show that during the war William was a Driver with the Army Service Corps (Service No. T-32383) and saw service in France, Salonika, The Dardanelles, Malta and Egypt. It's recorded that he suffered malaria from time to time. He was demobilised in 1919. The record also states he was struck on the head in 1914 and this appears to have affected him badly. For the greater part of the post-war period he moved from job to job and was unemployed for a period of 10 – 11 years, then was admitted to Bangour Hospital in 1944. My father-in-law visited him regularly. William died in 1953 at the age of 61, following some 10 years in hospital. He was interred in the Eastern Cemetery with his parents, James Lees Dick and Flora McNicol.

An Invalided Soldier.



The above is a portrait of Private George Dick, Canadians, invalided back to Canada through wounds received in action. He is one of six brothers who answered the call of King and country. The eldest, John, was killed in France on 26th June 1916. The other four are on active service, and all have been wounded. They are the sons of Mr and Mrs Dick, 88 Henderson Street.

George Dick



Private James Dick, Canadians, has been wounded for the second time, and is in hospital in Bristol. He is the second son of Mr and Mrs James Dick, 88 Henderson Street. Their eldest son, John, was killed in 1916, and the third son, George, was invalided back to Canada in 1917. Other three sons are on active service.

James Dick

Meanwhile I was continuing my researches of First World War casualties and at Leith Library read through the *Leith Observer* 1916 – 1919. To my surprise I came across entries for two of John's other brothers, **George** and **James**, who had been injured during the war. Both had emigrated to Canada, but had joined the forces to fight for

Britain as had many Empire expatriates. Afterwards they returned to Canada for the remainder of their lives.

I now have copies of their attestation papers.

George Dick, a baker, born 22nd June 1891, joined the 60th Battalion C.E.F., D Company, Service no. 457262. **James Lees Dick**, a painter, born 17th April 1890, joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on 4th November 1914 at Montreal, Service No. 65261. His papers give more detail: that he was aged 24 years and 6 months; that he was 5' 4½" tall, had brown hair, hazel eyes and a fair complexion and he was of a Presbyterian denomination. It was also noted that he had a tattoo of a girl's head on his right forearm!

Albert (Abbie) Dick survived the war and married after the end of the conflict. One of his surviving daughters was able to give us information about her father's war service. She had several artefacts from Albert's service and a small diary of 1916, with some personal details. Like William Dick, he had served in Egypt, Palestine and elsewhere in the Middle East, as a Private in C Company of the 4th. Btn. Royal Scots (Service No. 201247). The diary gives little detail of what he encountered, though there are several dates when he mentions battles: one is 20 April 1916, namely the Battle for Gaza. It is known he was wounded during action in Gaza, and we wonder if this was the day. He was shot, and a bullet lodged in his neck. Following an operation to remove it, the surgeons presented it to him. When he returned home he had the bullet gold-plated and made into a brooch for his wife, inscribing her initials 'M D' on it.



Albert Dick

There remains now only to find out about the other brother, **Archie**, who fought in the conflict, returned to Leith where he worked and raised his family.

Perhaps what started off as *The Search for John Dick* could be renamed *The Dick Family at War*.

Whilst I started this research into one family member with little information, I am pleased to show that just through perseverance a considerable amount of information can be obtained from sources which are readily available, and I hope that this may encourage others to carry out research into their own family history and their contribution during the Great War.

Acknowledgements:

Andy – armourer sergeant – 21st. Division web site.

City of Edinburgh Libraries: Leith Library and Central Library's Edinburgh Room

Commonwealth War Graves commission

Leith Local History Society
Lothian Health Services Archive

A fuller version of this story, with several additional colour photographs, may be obtained directly from the author, for £3 to cover printing and postage costs. E-mail Andrew Grant at aandmat72ew@nlueyonder.co.uk

Appendix

Ville sur Ancre Communal Cemetery

BLACKMAN F

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy.

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 56172 B.3.

COPSEY G W T

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy.

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 62068 A.8.

DARLINGTON WILLIAM

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 22

Date of Death 26/06/1916 Service No: 63478 B.8.

DAVOILE FREDERICK WILLIAM

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 28

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 46228 B.5.

DICK, J

Rank: Sapper Royal Engineers; 97th Field Coy. Age: 28

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 45771

FEATHERS W H

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy.

Date of Death 26/06/1916 Service No: 56168 B.4.

HALL J W

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 29

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 45800 B.6.

HUGHES WALTER GEORGE DAVID

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 23

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 47266 B.2.

PICKER H W

United Kingdom Driver Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy.

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 52413 A.6.

WITCOMB JAMES ALBERT GEORGE

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 24

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 33476 B.1.

WOOD JAMES

United Kingdom Sapper Royal Engineers 97th Field Coy. Age: 24

Date of Death: 26/06/1916 Service No: 58240 B.7

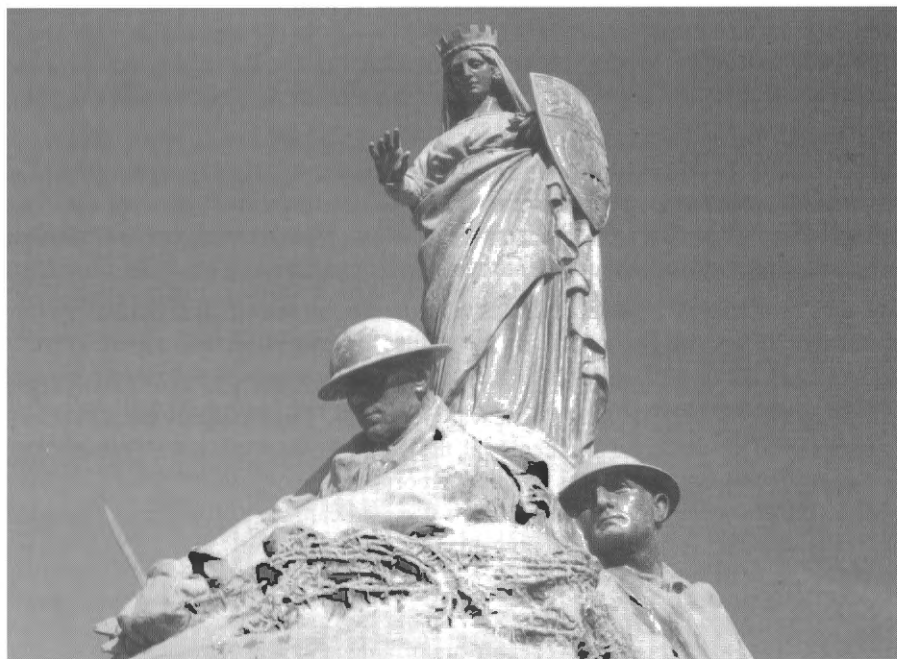
The Scottish War Memorials Project and The Scottish War Graves Project

by Adam Brown

Since December 2006 a group of people with an interest in Scottish war memorials has been freely sharing their photographs, transcriptions and knowledge to anyone with access to the internet. Over the last few months many of those people have also been sharing their Scottish gravestone photographs via the same format - a free-to-join and free-to-browse internet forum.

The members of these two projects have one aim: to share their research willingly with people in Scotland and all over the world.

About three years ago the founder members of what was originally called the Scottish War Memorial Discussion Forum realised through other internet forums that we shared a common hobby of photographing and researching the names on local war memorials. We were all acting independently and quite often travelling to memorials already recorded by someone else with a similar interest. For several months we tried to work out how to set up a website to share our research but for various reasons this didn't happen.



Alloa War Memorial. (Photograph by Adam Brown)

Finally we realised that an internet-based forum rather than a website format would suit our purposes best. Anyone could sign up to the forum and, using any of the photograph hosting websites out there such as 'Photobucket' or 'MyPhotoAlbum', could easily share their digital photographs and transcriptions of Scottish war memorials. (These online photo albums have improved enormously over the last few months and it is easy to download many photographs in one batch). At first we had only a few members, but we grew in number steadily and our common purpose meant that we not only shared our existing photographs but also that we started going out looking for other memorials to record for the forum. It wasn't just the community or civic memorials being photographed and researched, it was church memorials, school memorials, regimental memorials, air crash memorials, rolls of honour etc... In fact, all war memorials, big or small, to one individual or the whole country, were being recorded.

The sudden collapse in 2007 of the main project to photograph British war graves around the world (the confusingly-named British War Memorial Project) was a shock to some of our members. They not only enjoyed recording war memorials, they photographed war graves as well. These members of the War Memorial Forum felt it was time for a Scottish war grave forum to be started which would mean their photos would not be left in a backlog, sitting waiting to be uploaded onto a website or be at the mercy of just two people falling out and causing their hard work to be wasted. It would follow the same format as the War Memorial forum where everyone could contribute at a time and pace that suited them and, unlike other war grave projects, would cover all gravestones with a military inscription, not just those of the 20th Century wars.

At this time it was decided to rename the War Memorial Forum as the Scottish War Memorial Project, since the response we had had in such a short space of time had been fantastic - so much so that what started out as a place to share information with like-minded hobbyists had turned into something greater.

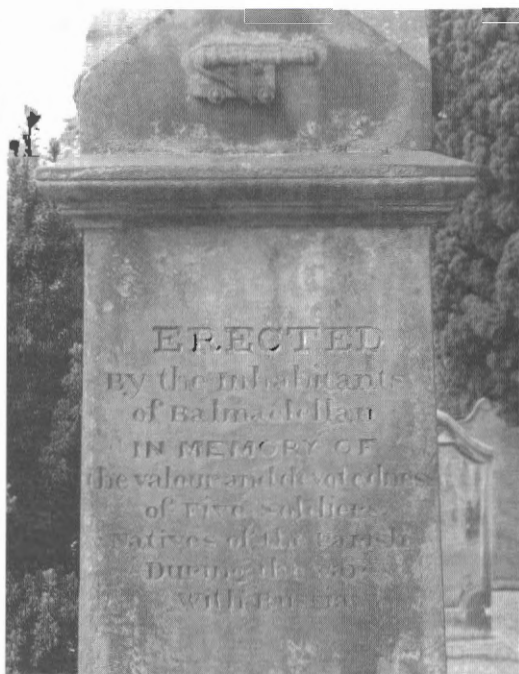
We have now reached a position where we know we can record all of Scotland's war memorials and all the gravestones with a military transcription.

We already have photographs and information on approximately 2500 war memorials, including over 90% of Scotland's civic war memorials. This includes what we believe to be Scotland's oldest civic war memorial, the Crimean War memorial at Balmaclellan in Dumfries and Galloway. This simple memorial lists the five men from that small parish who fought and died in that far-off war and can put to rest the archaic idea that civic war memorials started being erected in Scotland only after the First World War.

There are all sorts of war memorials available to browse over and add to on the forum, ranging from memorials of the Wars of Independence up to those memorials commemorating the men and women lost in Iraq and Afghanistan in this century. We

also have many memorials erected in other parts of the UK and abroad which commemorate Scottish units, including the recent one in Flanders.

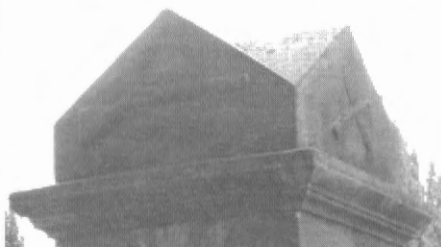
In only a few short months we have had thousands of gravestones and church memorials from the 15th Century up to the present day posted on the war graves project, and many more are added daily. We record the Commonwealth War Graves headstones and memorials but we also record headstones which commemorate a family member lost overseas. In many cases we can match names on headstones to war memorials recorded on our other forum. Sometimes these can be in completely different parts of the country and highlight a connection otherwise unknown.



Crimean War Memorial at Balmaclellan
(Photographs by Paul Goodwin)

It's worth pointing out that these projects have both been done informally and voluntarily and for no financial gain. We are not affiliated to any organisation and everything that has been done to date has been done by people joining our forums and contributing their own photographs, transcriptions and data in their own time. Not one penny has been sought in funding from public bodies, and not one penny is charged to anyone to use the forums. It's all free, and it's all done by volunteers.

Many of the memorials we record are not listed on the UK National Inventory of War Memorials based at the Imperial War Museum, and our members frequently pass on their data. The UKNIWM has only limited staff and funds, however, so it will be



many years before the information we currently have available will also be available there.

To complete our undertaking so that everyone with an interest in Scottish genealogy can benefit, we now need more people to join us. The members who have contributed so far can only cover so much ground. What we hope for is that others out there with similar interests will help, adding their local knowledge to these two national projects. We want to add as much information as we can about the memorials and those named on them. We want photographs of the men and women named on the memorials and graves; we want to know their backgrounds and why they are recorded on memorials. The more information we can add to each memorial, the more useful the forum becomes. Both forums have search engines so that looking for a specific name can be narrowed down without having to look at every entry (although browsing the forums without searching for a specific name shows how diverse a selection of memorials we have in this small country).

People from all over Scotland and the rest of the world can currently access data on war memorials and graves for many parts of our country, but with a combined effort we can cover them all from the Borders to Shetland and from Aberdeenshire to the Western Isles. As far as we know, no other country in the world would have such a comprehensive and free resource available at the touch of a keyboard.

Apart from the genealogical benefit of having all the names of all of Scotland's war memorials and war graves recorded, there is one other reason for recording our nation's war memorials and the names upon them. This is probably summed up best in these few sentences written sixty years ago in the Kilmarnock Academy's Roll of Honour edition of the school magazine *'The Gold Berry'* by the rector Robert MacIntyre.

The little book, a special edition of The Gold Berry, to which these words form an introduction, is in itself a war memorial, intended primarily as a souvenir for the relatives and friends of those whom it commemorates. It is a stark and tragic statement which there has been no attempt to gloss or to adorn. We have made it so because without breach of faith to the dead no other course was possible. The inescapable fact about a war memorial is that it must be a memorial of war, with all that that implies of heartbreak, suffering, and the premature and seemingly fortuitous extinction of hope and promise.

It is well that, if sacrifice is not again to prove vain, succeeding generations should not forget these bitter realities.

Please take the time to visit the two Project forums [Scottish War Memorials Project](http://www.scottishwarmemorials.co.uk) (www.scottishwarmemorials.co.uk) and [Scottish War Graves Project](http://www.scottishwargraves.co.uk) (www.scottishwargraves.co.uk) and if you think you can help us complete these Scottish genealogical resources, please join us.

The Last Day

On Saturday 1st November 2008, BBC2 screened *Timewatch – The Last Day of World War One*, in which Michael Palin recounted the last hours of the Great War. During that morning, even when it had been known for almost six hours that the ceasefire was imminent, up to 10,000 servicemen of various nationalities were sent out to be killed in action, or to die of wounds in the following days.

He told the tales of Pte George Edwin Ellison of the Royal Irish Lancers, killed at 9.30am; of Canadian George Lawrence Price, killed at 10.58am; of a French messenger killed while carrying the message of peace; of Henry Gunter of the USA, killed at 10.59am, and of the last German, shot after the ceasefire by a US serviceman who had not been notified of the Armistice.

The more specific question was then: who was the last Scot killed in action on the Western Front? The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was consulted, and while the standard wait for a reply can be up to six weeks during especially busy periods, the answer was received the following day. United Kingdom forces are listed as such and are not categorised as Scottish, Welsh, Irish or English. However, the CWGC did attempt to provide an answer by using “Scotland” as a search criterion for 11th November 1918. This provided seven names, which could not, of course, comprise a comprehensive list, as not all Scottish servicemen would have stated that they were from Scotland.

The seven named are listed below, together with other details from CWGC and further information from New Register House, Edinburgh. While all died of them on that day, some would have received the causes of their deaths some time earlier.

Able Seaman David McIntosh BATTES

Clyde Z/ 2638, Anson Bn, R.N. Div., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Died of wounds on 11th November 1918, aged 32.

Buried on the East Side of Nouvelles Communal Cemetery, Mons, Hainant, Belgium

The son of Mr & Mrs James M. Battes of 28 Dura Street, Erskine Place, Dundee

David McIntosh Battes had been born at Dundee at 6pm on 5th February 1887 to James Marshall Battes, a jute worker, and his wife Annie Prain.

Corporal Robert BRUNTON

2692741, 2nd Bn, Canadian Garrison Regiment

Died of pneumonia on 11th November 1918, aged 29

Buried in Louth Township (Maple Lawn) Cemetery, Ontario, Canada

The son of Christina Brunton of Gillespie Cottage, Biggar, Lanarkshire

Robert Brunton had been born at 2 Blackwood Crescent, Edinburgh at 3am on 7th December 1888, to Robert Brunton, a grocer, and his wife Christina Moir. Around the turn of the century, the family had moved to Biggar, where Robert senior had died on 12th March 1901.

Rifleman Kenneth DOUGLAS

47127 rd Bn, 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade

Died of wounds on 11th November 1918, aged 37.

Buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave Ref: S. III. T. 12

The son of Kenneth and Annie Douglas of Swordale, Evanton, Ross-shire.

Kenneth Douglas had been born at Urray at 9am on 10th February 1881, the son of Kenneth Douglas, ploughman, and his wife Annie Calder.

Sapper William Sandilands HOWDEN

9549, 1st Coy, Australian Tunnelling Corps

Died of wounds on 11th November 1918, aged 32.

Buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave Ref: S. III. DD. 20

The son of John Hopkirk and Annie Howden of Pathhead, Loanhead, Midlothian

William Sandilands Howden had been born at Whitekirk, East Lothian, at 9am on 30th May 1887 to John Howden, ploughman, and his wife Annie Anderson.

Private Allan McPHIE

418232, 42nd Bn, Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment)

Died of wounds on 11th November 1918, aged 23

Buried in Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cem., Nord, France Grave Ref: I. C.32

The son of David and Mary J. McPhie of 15 Elgin Street, Dunfermline, Fife

Allan McPhie had been born at 13 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, at 8.55am on 7th October 1895, to David McPhie, a butcher, and his wife Mary Jane McGowan. In the 1901 Census return, the family was living at 11 Wilkie Close, North Leith.

Private William McKINLAY

44861, Auckland Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

Died 11th November 1918, age 25.

Buried in Auckland (Waikumete) Cemetery, Waitakere City, New Zealand. Grave Ref: Prot. Soldiers Area A, Row 1, Grave 9

The son of Mr & Mrs J A McKinlay of Tauranga, who had served on the Western Front in 1917.

William Leslie McKinlay had been born at Spott, East Lothian, at 7am on 4th August 1893, to John McKinlay, a ploughman, and his wife Annie Leslie.

Private John GILMOUR

4810, 5th Bn, Australian Machine Gun Corps

Died of pneumonia on 11th November 1918, aged 24.

The son of John & Mary Gilmour of 174 Main Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow.

Buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey Grave Ref: IV. J. 16

John Gilmour had been born at 174 Main Street, Bridgeton, at 4.40pm on 24th February 1896, to John Gilmour, a River Trust Stoker, and his wife Mary Tait.

In the *Radio Times* article, "Lest He Forget", accompanying the *Timewatch* programme, it was pointed out that there was continued fighting against Bolshevik forces in northern Russia, and 20 men from the 2/10th Battalion The Royal Scots were also killed that day. Of about 200 men buried or commemorated at Archangel, the following have been identified as some of those noted.

Pte William COLLINS

L/Cpl George Albert DAY

Pte Thomas McLean DUNLOP

Pte Thomas FRENCH

Pte Henry Albert GWATKIN

Pte James LAVIN

Cpl John LIVINGSTONE

Pte Hugh MILLER

Pte Robert NIMMO

Pte Robert Stewart OLIVER

Cpl Arthur RALPHS

Pte George Edward ROBINS

Sgt Christopher Albert SALMONS

Sgt Arthur Patrick SPACKMAN

Pte Albert STRASMAN

With thanks to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for its assistance in this particular matter and for its continuing care of records, cemeteries and memorials around the world.

Postal Offer for a limited time

***Clock & Watch Makers of
Edinburgh and the Lothians 1539 – 1900***

by Donald Whyte F.H.G., F.S.G.(Hon)

£6 plus p&p (UK 75p – Overseas £3)

Please send cheque payable to:

The Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Waking the Dead – burial grounds and burial records in Scotland

by Elizabeth Carmichael

The huge growth in interest in family history has focussed attention on all of the resources that can be mined to add information to our researches. Those of us with Scottish ancestors are very fortunate in having access to records of births, marriages and deaths, as well as wills and census records on-line at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. However, given that we can find a date and place of death (from 1855) with relative ease, the place of interment is only given on death certificates dated between 1855 and 1860, and researchers are often keen to complete the picture by locating a headstone or burial record. There are several resources that one can search for this information and this paper aims to outline these and suggest where they might be found.

Before the middle of the 19th century burials were mostly in churchyards. Most of these were Church of Scotland, but a few other denominations – Episcopalian, Roman Catholic and Quaker churches also maintained burial grounds. The records of the Church of Scotland are the *Old Parish Registers*. These registers were collected by the Registrar General for Scotland around 1855 when that office was established and the originals are held in Register House in Edinburgh. Microfilm copies were produced and most major public libraries and some Family History Societies hold copies of these for their local areas. The OPRs date from the 16th century but the death registers are very incomplete. There is very good information about the OPRs on The General Register Office web site at www.gro-scotland.gov.uk. The OPR death records are not yet on-line.

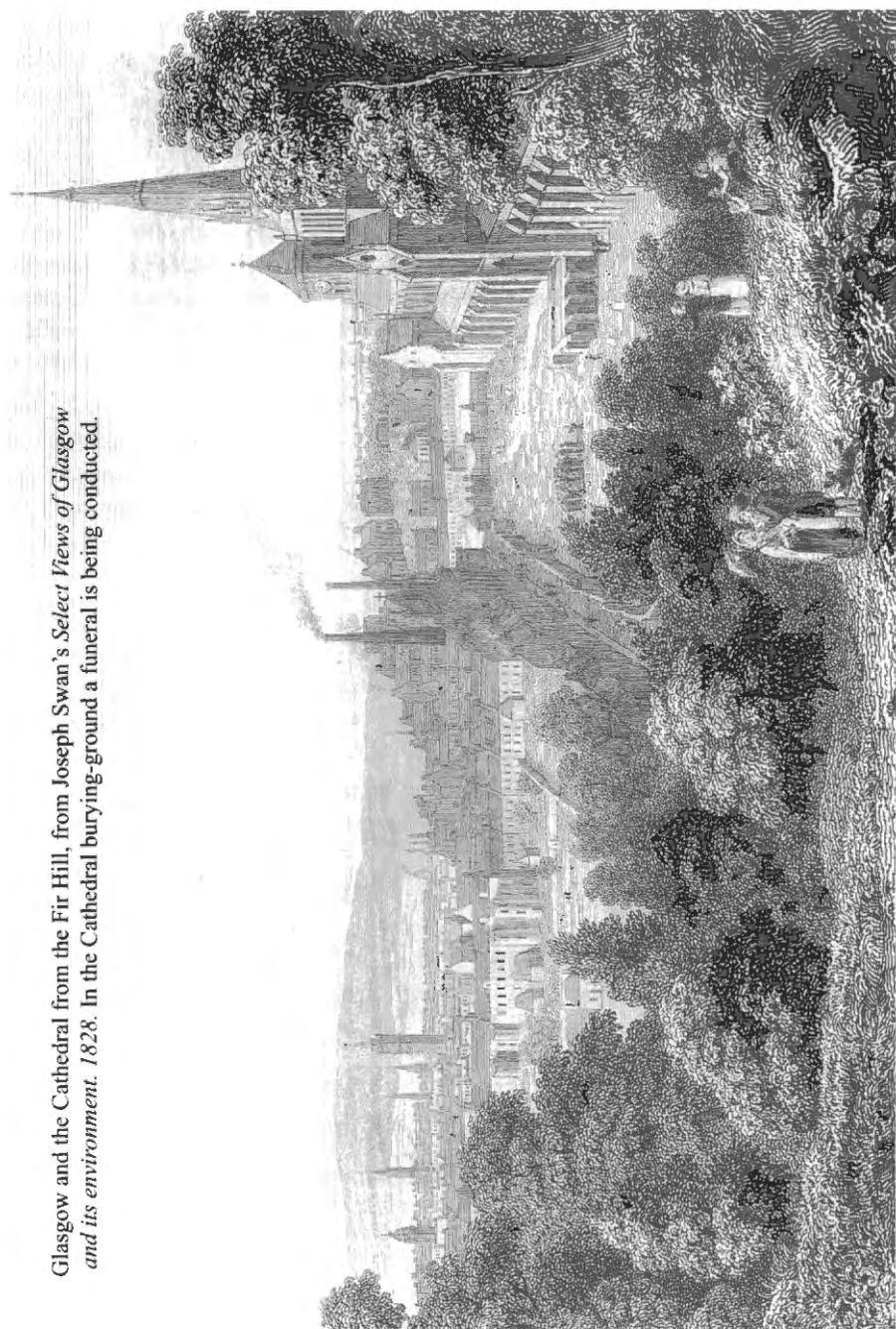
Records of churches of other denominations are still held by the churches themselves, though the Quaker records are published. The Church of Scotland suffered several schisms, particularly in the 19th century, and seceded churches also maintained burying grounds.

A few other organisations or groups established burying grounds; in Glasgow the Merchants House opened the Glasgow Necropolis, on the Fir Hill, to the East of St Mungo's Cathedral, in 1833. The Calton Incorporation of Weavers burying ground in Abercrombie Street was opened in 1786, and that of the Town's Hospital opened in 1733 in Dunlop Street.

With the increasing urbanisation of Scotland, and the demographic changing to include people who were not members of the C of S, the demand for affordable and respectable burial accommodation grew, and was answered by private cemetery companies.

In Glasgow the Southern Necropolis, was opened in 1840 with lairs modestly priced at '7ft x 3ft..... £1.1s', and ranging up to the most prestigious 'Lair within the central hedge 10ft x 3ft£2.12s. 6d'

Glasgow and the Cathedral from the Fir Hill, from Joseph Swan's *Select Views of Glasgow and its environment*. 1828. In the Cathedral burying-ground a funeral is being conducted.



Almost all burying grounds in Scotland are now in the care of local authorities – Bereavement Services Departments. These offices will carry out searches, but it should be noted that arrangements differ throughout the country and that the offices will charge and a wide ranging search will be expensive, if not impossible. So it is always best to narrow the search where possible. A reasonable first assumption is to search the records of burying grounds in the area where people lived, taking into account the religious denomination of the deceased person.

Lair registers survive for many cemeteries, and can give very useful information on different generations of a family buried in the same plot. Occasionally, lair certificates, usually very ornate documents issued when the lair was first sold, turn up in families and are perfect evidence in family history as they define exactly where in the cemetery the plot is/was located.



Headstones in Glasgow's Southern Necropolis.

In Glasgow, the Mitchell Library holds microfilm copies of some cemetery registers and a few original registers. Local libraries and archives should always be consulted to find out resources they hold, as well as the National Archives.

Headstones, or monuments, can be extremely useful sources of information, especially where several generations of a family are in the same lair. The stones in many burying grounds have suffered over the years, principally from the ravages of weather, neglect and vandalism. The inscriptions may have worn off, or the stones may be broken, toppled over or removed for

safety. It is worth pointing out that the monuments are not the property, or the

responsibility, of the local authority, but of the lair owners or their descendants.

Much work has been done over the years in recording the inscriptions on these stones in Scotland. Members of the Scottish Genealogy Society from the late 1950s worked to record and publish lists of inscriptions in their local areas. This is doubly useful today as many of the inscriptions recorded in the 1950s and 60s can now not be seen. The work has been taken up in recent years by family history societies, who, in conjunction with the Scottish Genealogy Society have republished the older MIs and recorded and published lists of cemeteries which had not previously been surveyed. Local libraries hold copies for cemeteries in their own areas. The lists are always indexed, so are easy as well as worthwhile to search. The Society library hold copies for all of Scotland and these are listed on their web site www.scotsgenealogy.com.

Sadly for family history researchers, the Monumental Inscription lists do not cover the largest cemeteries in our cities, but do include many of the smaller burying grounds.

Sadly too, headstones were expensive, generally affordable only by middle and upper class families. Nowadays the balance is being slightly redressed by descendants of Scots who emigrated and flourished abroad and are commissioning monuments for their ancestors.

And, finally, a word about crematoria records. We tend to assume that cremation is a fairly modern form of disposal, dating from the middle of the last century, but the Glasgow Cremation Society opened its crematorium in Maryhill in 1895. Crematoria records are in the care of local authorities.

Notes

Burial grounds in Glasgow : a brief guide for genealogists June A Willing and J Scott Fairie. 1996. available from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society www.gwsfhs.org.uk

Mitchell library family history resources www.glasgow.gov.uk then type "family history" in the search box

National Archives of Scotland www.nas.gov.uk has a searchable catalogue, as well as very good explanation and help

Scottish Archives Network www.scan.org.uk has a searchable index of the holdings of some 52 archives in Scotland, including local authorities

Incoming Passenger Lists

Our membership of the website ancestry.co.uk at the SGS Library permits us to search through the newly-added facility, *UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960*. Sometimes our ancestors seemed to criss-cross the oceans more than we would have imagined, so that this should prove to be a useful research tool. Apparently there are some 18 million names included.

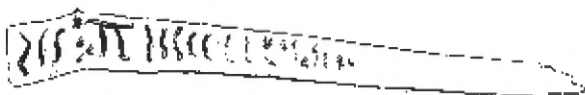
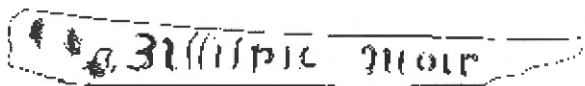
WHO WAS CORMAC MAC AIRBERTACH?

(Part 3)

by Graeme M. Mackenzie

For Cormac of Dunkeld the title “Great Bishop” may have been justified purely on the grounds that he was the incumbent of the largest diocese in Scotland, which we can assume must also have been amongst the richest since its abbey lands had previously been held by incumbents belonging to the family of Malcolm Ceanmor. Gilleasbuig may also however have been considered “great” as a warrior since the Lenys had as the charter for their lands “...a large Sword, with which, it seems, he, who first of that Name acquired there Lands, had performed some signal Atchievement, being a Means of his first Advancement”.⁵⁶ Amongst MacMillans the claimh-mor features as the chief’s crest, and a late 18th century account of Knapdale’s “ancient proprietors” reports that “The sword of Macmillan is said to be still in preservation” – though nothing more is known of it after that.⁵⁷ The lairds of Leny retained a small silver sword as their symbolic charter which survived to be sketched for “Archaeologia” in 1789 (it’s present whereabouts is also unknown); and in case any doubt should be harboured as to which ancestor was meant to have wielded the original weapon, the “claibeg” had inscribed on it the name “Gillispic Moir”.⁵⁸ While Cormac may have gained his reputation as a warrior fighting with his father against the Norse, there’s

no reason to suppose that he might not have had to use his sword again when he was bishop. Fighting clerics were by no means uncommon in the Middle Ages, especially those charged by the king with the secular governance as well as the spiritual welfare of the people in



their diocese. It would make sense, given his ancestry, if Cormac was in effect a bishop palatine – like his contemporary in the north of England, the bishop of Durham – since it’s unlikely that Alexander mac Malcolm’s own writ ran far in Argyll. One might even speculate on a formal agreement, perhaps made at the time of, or in the wake of the rebellion of 1115/16, by which Cormac surrendered any remaining claims to the throne harboured by his segment of the Cenel Loairn in return for the office of bishop – the sort of arrangement already referred to in relation to the Mormaership of Fife, and which is known also to have occurred between competing segments of dynasties in Ireland.⁵⁹

Though there's no evidence of any such agreement – and it may never have been necessary since Cormac himself was four generations away from a reigning king – it would make sense for Alexander to ensure that he had as much support as possible from the Gaidhealtachd in the face not only of rebellion in the north but also of the challenge from the south of a younger brother supported by the riches of a large English fief and a following of ambitious Anglo-Norman knights.⁶⁰ Richard Oram has suggested a general preference amongst the sons of Malcolm Ceanmor for peaceful long-term integration in Moray rather than conquest and forced colonisation, and in relation to the events of 1115/16 Geoffrey Barrow long ago pointed out that while Alexander may have earned his nickname “The Fierce” at this time by his ruthless treatment of the rebels, Moray nevertheless had a ruler of its native dynasty in place once again by 1130.⁶¹ Furthermore, the one certain piece of information that we have about the identity of the northern rebels in 1115 was that they were “*Ylis men*”, and whatever the position of Gillebrigte and Somerled in these events (and they're not usually thought to have been implicated in this particular rebellion) the growing power of *Clann Gofraidh* – as Somerled's kindred were apparently known in the early middle ages – would have threatened the position of Airbertach's successor as much as, indeed probably more than that of Alexander mac Malcolm. Indeed, the scope for conflict between the two kindreds who may originally have been allies against the Norse was immense. Firstly, if Macbeth had in fact taken Morvern from Somerled's grandfather and also had control of Kintyre, then these are two obvious areas of contention. Secondly, all the islands that Airbertach is said to have settled his kindred on were eventually held by Clann Somerhairle – how did that come about? Thirdly, though Somerled may have ended his life as “Regulus” of Argyll, no one really knows what is meant by “Regulus” – or, more importantly, what “Argyll” constituted in that context. Did it include Kintyre, which as David Sellar has pointed out, was sometimes considered a separate jurisdiction by the crown – though not of course by the church – and what about Lorn, which in 1293, like Kintyre, was made a separate sheriffdom? The most likely answer is surely that Somerled was “A” king or kinglet “in” Argyll, not “The” king or kinglet “of” Argyll – just as he was one of two Hebridean kings, which precluded either him or the ruler of Man from being “The King of The Isles”.⁶² If so, his descendants probably remained as such until their presumed triumph on the mainland in the mid 13th century, around the time that Ardochattan Priory was created at one of the old Cenel Loairn centres of power. Seen in the light of Catan's significance for some members of Clann Cormaic, such a foundation might appear designed to sow God's peace amongst these hitherto warring kindreds – especially as saints' cults are known to have had a role in medieval peace-making in Scotland.⁶³ It also however has an uncanny echo of the events in the second



decade of the twelfth century when Bishop Cormac makes his first appearance on the record as a witness to the foundation charter of Scone Abbey. Though we're told this earlier creation was a thanks-offering by Alexander for his deliverance from the rebels in the north, its situation at the place where the kings of Scots were inaugurated makes it look uncommonly like the sort of symbol of unity which might have been appropriate if the successors of Macbeth had indeed finally been reconciled to those of Malcolm Ceanmor.⁶⁴

Such an approach to peace-making would probably have seemed normal in an era when religion permeated, indeed defined every aspect of life, and especially for a king whose piety appears to have matched his ferocity. Alexander's successor David was to follow his brother's example as a frequent founder of monasteries – both men having been brought up with an enhanced religious sensibility by their mother Saint Margaret.⁶⁵ An hereditary attachment to the service of God and his saints is even more pronounced however amongst the descendants of Cormac mac Airbertaich, which would make sense if he was indeed the Bishop of Dunkeld. The MacKinnon abbots and MacPhee priors have already been alluded to, and the tonsure which gave the MacMillan eponymous his nickname also indicates some sort of religious role – which was carried on in the east by descendants called Leny, and indeed probably by others called Bell, since the earliest recorded bearers of the first MacMillan “septname” (in this case simply another form of the root of MacGhillemhaoil) are all churchmen, most of whom are attached to the see of Dunkeld.⁶⁶ Many of Maolan's kin and descendants in the west and north also bore names attesting to the kindred's devotion, and in many cases to their active roles in the church: i.e. *Gille-Chattain*, *Gille-Naoimh*, *Mac a Phearsoin*, (*Mac*)*Chlerich* – and the cleric referred to in this name may well be the great bishop himself, since Clan Chattan genealogies start with “*Gillichattan Macgillespic chlerich*”.⁶⁷ Though the MacNabs' descent from Cormac may be questionable they're another clan with an abbot for an ancestor and an alleged hereditary connection with one particular religious house – the priory of St. Fillan's in Glendochart. The cult of this Perthshire saint provides a further link between the MacNabs, the MacGregors (whose pedigree in the Book of the Dean of Lismore includes an ancestor called *Giolla Fhaolain*) and more certain descendants of Cormac since, according to the 16th century historian of the Lenys, alongside the “...*litill auld sould gauin to Gillesicmvir be the King...*” they had as a symbolic charter for their lands “...*ane auld relict callit sant Fillanis twithe...*”.⁶⁸ There are three kindreds in Scotland actually called after St. Fillan, and all appear to have had connections of some sort with Clann Cormaic: The MacKillicans from Moray and Perthshire are considered to be a branch of Clan Chattan, as the MacMillans and MacPhees once were; the McLellans in Galloway shared lands, a coat of arms, and a common descent with the MacMillans; and the MacGilellans in Lorn were the same kindred as Clann Dhughail of Craignish and of Ardeonaig in Perthshire.⁶⁹

John Bannerman's suggestions as to why MS1467 included Perthshire clans such as

the MacGregors, MacNabs, and MacLarens, has been questioned by Martin MacGregor on the basis that the MacGregors didn't move east until after 1400, and that the identification by Skene of both the "MacNab" and "MacLaren" pedigrees may have been wrong.⁷⁰ Neither Bannerman nor MacGregor referred to the MacMillan connection with Perthshire; and even if they were aware of it they may well have considered it justifiable to dismiss the link with Lawers as a single tradition (reported by a none too reliable source – William Buchanan of Auchmar, the serial sept-napper of early clan historiography) which by itself made little sense.⁷¹ When however it's set beside the entirely separate traditions linking Ardeonaig with the west coast, and the courtiers and churchmen of the Lenys (who held extensive estates in Perthshire and Stirlingshire) with the champions and councillors of the Lords of the Isles (as MacMillans appear in Clan Donald accounts) then it becomes more credible evidence of the sort of east-west link spotted in MS1467 by Bannerman – and supported by the sculptural styles from Argyll that Kenneth Steer and he report on some Perthshire tombs. This evidence however actually points to a different and much older connection than the expansion east in the 14th century of Clan Donald influence that John Bannerman postulated.

An important clue to this earlier east-west connection is provided by the mention in the Leny history of another clan descended from *Gilleasbuig Mor* – the MacMaoldonichs, otherwise known as M'ildonichs (since Maol-Domhnuich and Gille-Domhnuich were synonymous), who appear to take their name from *Maoldonich mac Colmin mhic Maolan*. Unfortunately the four earliest individuals in the Leny tree appear more than once, primarily it would seem to allow for Maolan's appearance also as "*Gilibile*" – the phonetic form of *Gillemaol*, which illustrates why in the highlands the name Bell became an English alternative to McGilveil/McIlvoyle.⁷² This makes it difficult to be sure about Maoldonich's exact place in the pedigree, but the above reading is supported by the contemporary record of a "*Gilledonich mac Coleman*" in the 1180s.⁷³ The MacMaoldonichs were located, according to the Leny tree, in Strathearn, which is not only one of the seats of the cult of St. Fillan, but also the home of the Drummonds, some of whose monumental sculpture is that which Kenneth Steer found exhibiting such a pronounced west coast style.⁷⁴ More significantly however, Aberuthven in Strathearn is the site of the only church in Scotland dedicated to St. Catan to be found away from the west coast. It was endowed sometime before 1171 by Ferquhar earl of Strathearn and his wife Ethne (i.e. probably in the lifetime of Maolan/Gillemaol or his son Colmin/Gillecoluim); and it was gifted in about 1198 by Ferquhar's son Gilbert to the bretheren of Inchaffray – a local abbey that maintained a cell on the isle of Lewis at "Searinch" (on the Eye Peninsula) where, according to beliefs of the Hebrideans, Catan himself was buried.⁷⁵ The origins of the earls of Strathearn are unknown, but they seem to have had connections with the orbit of the Gall-gaidel throughout the 12th and 13th centuries. Ferquhar's father Malise – the first earl we have a record of – championed the men of Galloway at the Battle of

the Standard in 1128; Gilbert's younger son Malise is thought perhaps to have been the knight "*Missel*" sent by Alexander III to negotiate with the king of Norway about the fate of the isles in c.1258; and Malise the earl (Gilbert's grandson), who was sent on a similar mission in 1264, was married both to Matilda of Caithness (a connection that eventually brought the earldom of Caithness into the family) and to Mary the daughter of Ewen MacDougall of Argyll.⁷⁶

Though most of Strathearn falls within the diocese of Dunblane, the churches of Crieff, Madderty, Forgandenny, and Aberdalgie all pertained to Dunkeld, along with Tibermore where the bishops of Dunkeld maintained another palace. A croft at Tibermore belonging to the Abbey of Inchcolm is reported in 1362 to have marched on one side with the Bishop's lands and on the other with the lands of one "Gylcris Macmal", whose name points to a connection with a township in Fife called "*Balmakmole*" (now Balmule, to the north of Aberdour), whose church also belonged to Inchcolm.⁷⁷ The name Macmal/Makmole is most likely a phonetic form of MacMhaoil, which is another equivalent of MacMillan.⁷⁸ Given the foundation date of St. Catans at Aberuthven the clan's connection with Strathearn probably goes right back to the time of Malcolm mac Mhaolain, and all the evidence and traditions relating to the MacMillans and Clan Chattan, which I've set out in detail elsewhere, point to him being the "*Gillicattan MacGillespick*" at the head of the Ardrross MS genealogy of Clan Chattan (MacGilleasbuig being in this case a "style" or proto-surname identifying his grandfather rather than a patronymic).⁷⁹ If so he may well have acquired the nickname "Gille-Chattain" because of the sort of personal connection with the church at Aberuthven that John MacQueen has discussed in relation to other names that include the element "Gille".⁸⁰

The cult of St. Catan takes us finally back to Ireland, where another clan named for the saint were a junior branch of the northern Ui Neill. The senior branch of the same kindred were kings of the Ailech – the family of Anrothan and perhaps kin by marriage to Macbeth – and as such were the patrons and protectors of the abbey of Derry, the burial place, according to Irish sources, of Catan. Derry was also the successor to Iona and Dunkeld as the seat of the *Comarba Coluim Chille*.⁸¹ If therefore Airbertach's ancestors had taken refuge in northern Ireland after the death of Macbeth, it may well have been at Derry that his son Cormac, the future bishop, received his education – and in so doing perhaps also acquired a devotion to the cult of the locally revered saint which he subsequently took to Scotland and passed on to his descendants. Though such a suggestion must remain speculative, it makes sense in the light of what we know about the subsequent history of Clann Cormaic, so many branches of which had a specifically Catan connection alongside their kindred's general religious calling. It's clear from place names and pre-Campbell (and indeed probably pre-MacDougall) clan associations in the area that Lorn was at one time closely connected with Clan Chattan which, given its heraldry (the galley handed on to the MacDougalls and later the Campbells in Lorn), and the extent of the cult of the saint for whom it was named,

was obviously at one time also a Hebridean kindred – like Airbertach's "twelve treba".⁸²



A number of other conclusions reached in this paper may lack the backing of contemporary evidence, but, as such, they are the equivalent of much of the received early history of the Gaidhealtachd which must perforce depend unduly on traditions and accounts from the shennachies of the dominant clans at the time that history began to be written down in the highlands. No one, for instance, reading Gregory's classic history of the highlands, which was for so long the main "authority" on the subject, could fail to notice how much it depends on Clan Donald sources. So, if Cormac mac Airbertaich was indeed not merely a contemporary of, but a rival to Somerled mac Gillebrigte – whose reputation, even some Clan Donald historians would agree, has been over-inflated by their previous shennachies – his omission from the received history of the highlands may not in fact be so surprising. It's unfortunate too

that the baleful shadow of the English bard should still exert such a strong influence over the question of Macbeth's possible descendants, who we have no right to assume would have appeared in 11th century contemporary annals, or indeed later medieval chronicles, just because their ancestor acquired notoriety half a millennium later.⁸³ Looked at from Lorn, in the light of the proven MacKinnon pedigree, Macbeth's inclusion in the MacQuarry genealogy appears acceptable, and Airbertach and Cormac's importance begins to be explicable. The entries in the Book of Deer provide more proof of Cormac's historicity and, most significantly, point clearly to his equation with a documented figure bearing the same given name. The added illumination afforded by the genealogy of the MacMillans-called-Leny not only gives further evidence in support of this suggestion, but also provides an object lesson about the fluidity at this time of names, and a reminder of what Professor Barrow has taught us about not pre-dating the creation of the Gaidhealtachd as a separate entity in Scottish history. The location and traditions of the kindreds comprising "Clann Cormaic" all

then contribute to a coherent case for saying that we've at last found not only the identity of Cormac mac Airbertaich, but also the contemporary evidence that we would expect to have existed by the 12th century of the ancestor of so many clans – in the shape of references to Cormac the great bishop of Dunkeld.

One of the monuments surveyed by John Bannerman and Kenneth Steer in the work that really opened up the question of who Cormac mac Airbertaich might have been was the shaft of a second MacMillan Cross at Kilmory Knap. As they noted, this was unusual because instead of portraying the normal west highland warrior on foot with a sword, it showed instead a man on horseback who, though he has a sword in its sheath, carries as his main weapon a spear – or as it might be in Anglo-Norman iconography, a lance. As such this early 16th century carving in the heart of what was by then an increasingly beleaguered part of the Gaidhealtachd echoes uncannily the words written in central Scotland only three or four decades later in the Scots tongue (in a note at the bottom of the Leny family tree) about the fighting bishop who sired so many clans:



"It is well known by the shennachies that the first aleuin of the old Lenys were riders, which is to say knights; and some of them were famous men, notably the Great Rider who got the small sword from the king for his good deeds..."

NOTES

⁵⁶ Buchanan, *op. cit.*, 95.

⁵⁷ *Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791-1799* (Wakefield, 1983), Vol. VIII, 310.

⁵⁸ J. G. Smith, *op. cit.*, 290; *Archaeologia*, Vol. XI (1794), 45.

⁵⁹ Donnchadh O'Corrain, "Nationality and Kingship in pre-Norman Ireland" in *Nationality and the Pursuit of National Independence*, ed. T.W.Moody, HISTORICAL STUDIES, No. 11 (1978), 33

⁶⁰ Apparently Alexander may have been forced to concede more to David than he had wanted to when the kingdom was divided on their brother Edgar's death - see G. W. S. Barrow, *Kingship and Unity: Scotland 1000-1306* (London 1981), 32.

⁶¹ Richard D. Oram, *David I and the Colonisation of Moray in NORTHERN SCOTLAND*, No. 19 (1999), 1-19; Barrow, "Macbeth...", *op. cit.*, 118.

⁶² For *Clann Gofraidh*, Sellar, *Origins...of Somerled*, *op. cit.*, 133; and for Kintyre's status, Sellar, *Hebridean Sea-Kings...*, *op. cit.*, 201.

⁶³ The influence of saints being brought to bear on the process of peace-making by the use of relic-circuits is referred to in Thomas Owen Clancy, "Columba, Adomnán and the Cult of Saints in Scotland" in *Spes Scotorum - Hope of Scots: Saint Columba, Iona and Scotland*, eds. Dauvit Broun & Thomas Owen Clancy (Edinburgh, 1999), 12.

⁶⁴ "Scotichronicon", *op. cit.* Bk. V, Ch. 36, Lines 11-15; Archibald C. Lawrie, *Early Scottish Charters* (Glasgow, 1905), 28-30.

- ⁶⁵ Saint Margaret's spiritual influence on her sons' upbringing is considered in Audrey-Beth Finch, *Maternal Mediators: Sainly Ideals and Secular Realities in Late Medieval Scotland* in INNES REVIEW, Vol. 57, No.1 (Spring 2006), 11.
- ⁶⁶ For the name Bell, Mackenzie, *Names M?Gill & Bell*, op. cit.; and for the earliest examples of it, Black, op. cit., 67.
- ⁶⁷ Graeme M. Mackenzie, *For Ever Unfortunate – The Original Clan Chattan* in TGSJ, LXI (1998-2000), 332-370.
- ⁶⁸ "Account of the Families of Leny of Leny, and Buchanan of Leny, sent by Robert Buchanan of Leny to the Laird of Keir, circa 1560" printed in William Fraser, *The Stirlings of Keir* (Edinburgh, 1858), 413-16.
- ⁶⁹ R. G. W. Mackilligan, *Followers of Saint Fillan* (Privately Published, N.D.); Mackenzie, *Origins of MacLellans*, op. cit.; "MS History of Craignish", op. cit., 203-4. St. Fillans in Strathearn lies almost midway, close to the most direct route, between the Perthshire estate of Leny and Ardeonaig on Loch Tay. It's recently been suggested that there may also have been an ecclesiastical foundation connected with the cult of St. Fillan in Glen Etive – i.e. adjacent to the traditional lands of Clann Chaluim – perhaps where the *Allt Fhaolain* joins the River Etive (which is in the shadow of *Beinn Maol Chaluim*); see Simon Taylor, "The Cult of St. Fillan in Scotland" in *The North Sea World in the Middle Ages*, eds. Thomas R. Liszka & Lorna E. M. Walker (Dublin, 2001), 202.
- ⁷⁰ J. W. M. Bannerman, *The Lordship of the Isles: Historical Background*, (Appendix II of Steer & Bannerman, op. cit.), 206; Martin MacGregor, *Genealogies of the clans: contributions to study of MS 1467* in INNES REVIEW, Vol. 51, No. 2 (Autumn 2000), 131-146.
- ⁷¹ Buchanan, op. cit., 127.
- ⁷² Mackenzie, *Names M?Gill & Bell*, op. cit.
- ⁷³ Gilledonich appears as "Gilledoueng" brother of "Gillenem Accouttan" in *Liber de Melros* (Bannatyne Club, 1837), 31. It's apparent from three other entries in the Melrose Charters for his brother Gillenem (i.e. Gillenaoimh) that their patronymic has been mistranscribed here and was actually *mac Coleman* – see Mackenzie, *Clann Chaluim...*, op. cit., 88-89.
- ⁷⁴ Steer & Bannerman, op. cit., 160-1.
- ⁷⁵ *Inchaffray Charters* (SHS, 1908), lviii, & No. 3, pp. 2 & 176; Alexander Murdoch's "Introduction" to MacPherson's *Loyal Dissuasive* (SHS, 1902), lxxii; OPS, II, Pt.1, 381.
- ⁷⁶ Edward J. Cowan, "Norwegian Sunset – Scottish Dawn: Hakon IV and Alexander III" in *Scotland in the Reign of Alexander III*, ed. Norman H. Reid (Edinburgh, 1990), 117 and note 69; R. Andrew MacDonald, *Kingdom of the Isles* (East Linton, 1997), 118; *Scots Peerage*, ed. J. Balfour Paul (Edinburgh, 1911), Vol. VIII, 239-46.
- ⁷⁷ *Inchcolm Charters* (SHS, 1938), xxxi, and No. 37, pp. 36 & 155. The church at Aberdour itself is another dedicated to St. Fillan – Simon Taylor, op. cit., 188-9.
- ⁷⁸ Mackenzie, *Names M?Gill and Bell*, op. cit.
- ⁷⁹ [Mac]Gillespie was later recognised as a Clan Chattan surname. Mackenzie, *For Ever Unfortunate...*, op. cit.
- ⁸⁰ John MacQueen, *Gaelic Speakers of Galloway and Carrick* in SCOTTISH STUDIES, XVII (1973), No. 1.
- ⁸¹ The O' Cathan pedigree is given in *The O'Clery Book of Genealogies* in ANELECTA HIBERNICA, XVIII (1951), 38-9; and the kindred's history and connections are discussed in T. H. Mullin & J. E. Mullin, *The Ulster Clans O'Mullan, O'Kane and O'Mellan* (Belfast, 1966). For Derry's role as the sometime seat of the Successors of St. Columba, see Bannerman, *Comarba Colum Chille*, op. cit.
- ⁸² The kindred and place names in Lorn relating to Clan Chattan are illustrated in Mackenzie, *For Ever Unfortunate*, op. cit., 345.
- ⁸³ For a suggestion of just how influential Shakespeare may have been see Mackenzie, *For Ever Unfortunate...*, op. cit., 360-2.

Annual Report Of Council

1st October 2007 – 30th September 2008

by Kenneth A. M. Nisbet, Hon. Secretary

Council

The Annual General Meeting held in February was presided over by our current Chairman, Dr James Cranstoun. The current Office-Bearers were re-elected and Mrs Kirstine Baxter, one of the Library volunteers, filled a vacancy as an ordinary member. The Council continues to have regular meetings where the running of the Society is discussed and future plans and projects examined.

Library

The Library volunteers have had a busy year dealing with two main challenges. At the beginning of 2008 we invested in a new computer system which provided us with the usual cop of teething troubles, although these are gradually being rectified. We have taken the opportunity to provide for members access to two internet subscription services – **Ancestry.com** and **Find My Past**. Both are proving popular. These innovations have been masterminded mainly by Moira Stevenson, who deserves the thanks of the Society. The second major expenditure was on the replacement of the building's emergency lighting and intruder alarm systems. This project was supervised by Barbara Revolta, who had to spend much time on it. Changes in Health & Safety legislation also led the Library Committee to update our procedures in the event of fire and inform our volunteers of them. The Library Committee has also been working on the training of our volunteers, particularly in relation to the new computer system. The Society's Council has now agreed that Minutes of its Proceedings and those of the two subordinate committees should be available to members in the Library, and this decision has been implemented.

My Ain Folk evenings continue to be popular and bring in new members.

The Library's bookstock totals rose by 200 items in the current year. Though this is a small enough figure, it is becoming apparent to nearly all that the shelf space is becoming increasingly congested. The Library Committee is currently considering options to alleviate the problem. During the year, the cataloguing of our CD-Rom collection has been completed, and the results of this work, together with the book catalogue, can be viewed on the public computers.

The Society's Library would like to record its thanks to Alison Mitchell for her recent donation of a number of useful books to the Library. The Committee members also wish to thank Douglas Duncan for his gift of over 300 census microfilms which will fill many gaps in our holdings.

Meetings

The October and November 2007 meetings ended our first year in our new venue, Augustine United Church centre. The October meeting was an account of the 1915

Gretna Railway Disaster by Ken A. Nisbet. His well-researched and closely-argued thesis showed evidence of records in England. The meeting in November was an insight into the vast resources of the education records in the National Archives of Scotland, provided by Margaret McBryde with her selection of well-illustrated examples.

The first talk in the new year was of presidential elections in the U.S.A., given by David MacAdam, who had researched "The Oligarch Kings – America's Political Establishment". Following the A.G.M. in February, members gave short presentations on "prized family history objects", mostly with an artistic theme. The items included: delicate embroidery by Valerie Dean's aunt; Gregory Lauder-Frost's tinted engraving of the Kronstadt naval station which led to the tracing of a distant relative; Richard Torrance's painted wooden box, dating from 1779, made for a little girl and Kirstine Baxter's lemonade bottle, commemorating a successful family business. In March we were entertained by Jessie Denholm illustrating the type of information to be found in old directories.

The May visit was to the Carson Clark Gallery, and, after a small introduction, the small group was able to examine the collection of maps, and some members were able to obtain copies to aid their family research. For the final talk of the series Graham MacDonell outlined his research in Canada and Scotland on the ancestry of Donald and Kiefer Sutherland.

New Register House Visits

Although 23 visits were arranged for 2008, due to a fall in numbers of attendees, some were cancelled. In order to maintain this facility, all visits in 2009 will be combined with those of another group. Bookings should still be made by contacting the Library. Mr Nisbet, Secretary of the Society, is also a member of the NRH Users' Group and was present when H.M. The Queen opened the new Family History Centre in July.

Publications

Mr Craig Ellery continued to chair of the Publications Committee. New publications were D.R. Torrance's *An Alphabet of Sources for the Scottish Family Historian* and the MIs of *East Preston Street Cemetery*. Volumes 1 and 2 of the MIs of *Berwickshire* were reprinted. A group of volunteers is at work recording the inscriptions of Grange, Rosebank, Dean, Dalry and Portobello Cemeteries. Also, work is continuing on indexing the burials within St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars. Jessie Denholm is transcribing the 1790 St Cuthbert's Parish List of Household, as well the pre-1855 burials in Grange, Rosebank and Dean. Ken Nisbet has researched a First World War Roll of Honour for the County of Nairnshire.

Mr Graham Senior-Milne, as Webmaster, continues to maintain the Society's website. This is of great benefit to the Society, as it enable many new members join and also facilitates a large volume of sales of publications.

The Council thanks Mrs Rhona Stevenson as Sales Secretary, also Mrs Nancy Douglas and Mrs Alison Moffat who are of great assistance to her with this enormous task.

Advertising

During 2007/08, the Society advertised in various publications, such as *Family History Monthly*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Your Family Tree*, *History Scotland*, *Family and Local History Handbook*, *Who's Who In Scotland*, *Discover National Library of Scotland Magazine*, *Frae The Fit O' The Walk* (Journal of Leith Local History Society) and the *Visit Scotland Visitor's Pack*.

Family History Fairs

The Society attended a number of Fairs, which both advertises the SGS and boosts the Society's sales of publications. These included the S.A.F.H.S. 19th Annual Conference at Motherwell, the Who Do You Think You Are? Fair at Olympia, London (for the second year running), the Borders Family History Fair at Innerleithen, The West Lothian Family History Fair at Linlithgow, The Leith Local History Fair, The Angus & Dundee Roots Festival and the Great North Fair at Gateshead. Those attending included the Chairman, Secretary, Sales Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Mrs Kirstine Baxter, Mrs Joy Dodds, Mr Craig Ellery, Mr Stuart Laing, Mr Gregory Lauder-Frost, Mrs Alison Moffat, Miss Barbara Revolta, Mrs Carol Stubbs and Mrs Eleanor Waddie.

The Society has also sent out speakers to various events on request, most notably in 2008 to the City of Edinburgh Libraries' Family History Week.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all volunteers, whose contributions make the work of the Society so successful.

An Italian source for Scots

In Rome is the Protestant (or Non-Catholic) Cemetery, most famous for housing the last resting-place of John Keats. However, amongst the splendid sculptures are the 70 gravestones of Scots who died in Rome and who are interred there. The full transcriptions are available on the Cemetery's website.

Log onto www.protestantcemetery.it/english then navigate via the menu options "Our Graves" and "Databases", then choose either the Index by Name or the Index by Country. One Scottish notable is the artist Jacob More. We are assured that, in his case, what appears to be a transcription error is in fact a faithful copy of the spelling error on the gravestone!

Book Reviews

A Scottish Graveyard Miscellany: Exploring the Folk Art of Scotland's Gravestones

by Hamish Brown. Birlinn, Edinburgh, 2008, ISBN: 978 1 84158 676 2 £10.99

This is a book that will be enjoyed by all those who have wandered about in Scottish Graveyards and should enthuse those who have not. Brown himself would admit that this is an enlarged version of Betty Willsher's *Understanding Scottish Graveyards*, but whereas the latter has 39 photographs, Brown's book has 230, useful National Grid references to pinpoint the best isolated locations and a wider remit through to the 20th century. However he has left to others the giving of advice about recording graveyards.

Brown has divided the text into two parts, concentrating the first part on the history and law of grave markers, their style and calligraphy, and local responses to resurrectionists. It would have been interesting if he had outlined the history of the Aberdonian masons' mastery of polishing granite after 1832, though in fact he illustrates a prime example of "the felled tree trunk" (1879) in Cupar, Fife (plate 131). I was sorry he did not notice, as an example of calligraphy and of eulogy, one favourite of mine in Coupar Angus – the paean to a Regency comedian (1815). Brown notes the similarity of certain designs which might identify a mason, but does not follow this idea up: so far only James Annandale (he of the potted lilies) in lower Strathmore has been identified, so there is room for research.

In his second part he enthusiastically explores the 18th century "treasures" scattered across the Old Red Sandstone belt from Galloway to Stonehaven. Inevitably the rest of Scotland is not much mentioned: Logierait in south Perthshire is an outlying "treasure", where, oddly enough, though the congregation was Gaelic-speaking at that time, all of the inscriptions are in English, as indeed were almost all beyond the Highland line. It would have been interesting to have heard Brown's thought on the hefty coped stones so common ca. 1700 around Dundee, but also found as far apart as Old Scone (with Quarries' emblems), Pittenweem and Prestonpans – obviously waterborne.

Brown is particularly good in describing the 18th century trade symbols, but he does miss out the Forteviot sieve (1758), in an area where the sievwrights were famous, and a pane, pontil and blowpipe for a glazier (1705) at Tranent. I suspect that a Girvan man sheltering under a tented pavilion (1716) may have been a mercer, as a pavilion was their symbol. Brown illustrates a miller's symbol (a mill-rhynd) at Kirkmichael, Ayrshire, without realising that the three heavenly figures around it are a direct copy of one of Quarries' emblems. On another miller's stone at Abernetye (plate 94) I wonder if it is not the Tree of Life issuing from the millstone, but a rush of millstream water? (The social divide between the miller and his man is shown by their headgear!) I would also suggest that several photographs of mill-rhynds (or molines) in their various forms would have been useful. As a variation of a waulker's

symbol there is a large pestle on a waulker's through-stone (1700) at Kirkpatrick Irongray. However, as Brown remarks, the carvings are innumerable nationwide and it is impossible to be comprehensive.

This leads him to champion their preservation, which his 40 years' experience of "guddling among the graves" has shown him how much at risk they are. He deplores well-meaning attempts to preserve them (as, in my experience at Monifeith and Kinnoull, Bridgend, Perth) and he picks out Tulliallan (Kincardine-on-Forth) as a great example of good preservation by the local history group. So much so that I intend to revisit Tulliallan, not only to revisit my own ancestors' stone there (WP & HS 1729), but to see the good work.

As Brown himself writes, this is not a book for direct genealogical research as he seldom notes surnames, but genealogists should enjoy it.

Alison M. Mitchell

Mariners of Dundee, their City, their River, their Fraternity, Hamish Robertson,
PDQ Print Services, Dundee, 2006, ISBN 978-0-9552928-0-4 £12.50

For anyone whose family history interests include mariners from Dundee this book is a mine of information. Written by Captain Hamish Robertson, the Archivist of the Fraternity of Masters and Seamen of Dundee, its 360 pages contain a wealth of detail. There are some early facts about Dundee harbour in the 14th and 15th centuries, but the bulk of the work is drawn from the Fraternity records and covers the period from the mid 16th to the 20th century. These records give a vivid picture of the men, ships, cargoes, successes, disasters and interests of those involved in the port of Dundee which makes intriguing reading, not least because Captain Robertson, as a native of Dundee with a seafaring background himself, brings personal knowledge to the task of choosing his material. Unusually, however, there is no table of contents and no page headings, but the necessary skimming through to find one's bearings which this lack enforces is made enjoyable rather than tedious by the hidden gems discovered on the way.

We learn, for example, of piracy, such as how, in March 1810, the Tay Shipping Company's smack *Kinloch* was taken off Huntleyfoot by the French privateer *Fury*, and her captain, James Mill, then wrote from Dunkirk stating he was now a prisoner there. We learn of accidents, such as how, in March 1840, the Fraternity unanimously authorised the boxman (i.e. the treasurer) to pay John H. Kirkcaldy, a Free Master of the House (i.e. Trinity House Dundee), the sum of five pounds temporary relief, as he had sustained serious injury when shipwrecked in the *Eagle* in Dundrum Bay. We learn of trade, sometimes from far afield, such as the arrival, in August 1775, of both the *Elisabeth* from North Carolina with tobacco and the *Dundee* from Greenland with whales, and sometimes very local, such as the sale, in April 1806, of whole fresh salmon at the house of J. Grubb at Broughty Ferry at one shilling per pound, ready money only! Thus for the researcher who recognizes any of these names, or any of

the many others mentioned, a fuller picture of their ancestor will emerge. The index would perhaps benefit from being fuller, no place names or buildings being included, but fortunately every mariner mentioned in the main text is there, so checking for any name of interest is easily done, and that, of course, is what most family historians will want to do in this fascinating volume.

Kirstine Baxter

The Sojers are comin' by Brian J. Orr

CD-Rom, Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society, 2008

This CD contains an update of Brian Orr's book, *God is my witness*, which provides an account of the struggles of the Scottish Covenanters and their 'persecutors' during the period 1661-88. Mr Orr claims to have identified 4,600 names of Covenanters, which are included in the CD. The story is told dramatically and includes many relevant illustrations. However Mr Orr's account is a somewhat partisan one with a pro-Covenanter view which may not please everyone. This reviewer, with ancestors on both sides of the argument, has certainly been entertained.

Jim Cranstoun

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 Chirside 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 Chirside the 29th 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 4th October 1820 is attested at Chirside.

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

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

From
Memorials of his time
by
Henry Cockburn

21st December 1845.

Dining yesterday at Macvey Napier's, I heard three things curious...

3d, That the Right Reverend Father in God, Dr. John Lee, Principal of the College of Edinburgh, after succeeding in getting University Tests continued last session, is now objecting to let a marble statue, by Flaxman, of Burns be placed in our College Library, because Burns *had not a college education*.

Poor Shakespeare!

Lord Cockburn may have been referring to the 1822 statue which was originally in the Burns Monument at Calton, Edinburgh, now removed and on display in The Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

The statue shown here is by D.W. Stevenson and is in Bernard Street, Leith.



QUERY

2973 CHRISTIANSON, Carl & KARSPORSEN, Marie

Looking for any information or research recommendations regarding Carl Christianson, Wood Yard Labourer, and his wife Marie Karsporsen. Both are supposed to have been born in Stavanger, Norway, but may have been living in Edinburgh or environs in 1885 when their son Henry Carlson, a seaman in the Merchant Service, married Mary Montgomery at 10 Newton Street, Edinburgh. Henry and Mary Carlson settled in Leith, first in Commercial Street and later in Admiralty Street, and had 9 children born between 1886 and 1905. Contact: Lauri Ashwell, 8 Scotstoun Grove, Blenheim 7201, New Zealand rex.ashwell@ztra.co.nz

St Andrews' Kirkyard – Calcutta!

In far-off Kolkata (Calcutta) is a cemetery and a little-known church dedicated to St Andrew, in the busy Dalhousie Square (named for General James Dalhousie, the mid-19th Century Governor).

Within the cemetery are 1800 headstones, of which an estimated 80% commemorate Scots and their families: for example, Andersons, Campbells, MacGregors and Rosses, from airts such as Paisley, Glasgow and Aberdeenshire, representing tea-planters, sea captains, jute traders, missionaries, civil servants and other occupations. It's believed that amongst these people lies also Hawick-born James Wilson, founder of *The Economist* magazine and the man who introduced paper money to India.

The cemetery is overgrown now, not with nettles, ferns, ivy and the other weeds we might encounter here as we try to identify an ancestor's grave or record all inscriptions, but with 20'-high jungle. The resident wildlife isn't our usual squirrels, rabbits and foxes, but snakes.

However a restoration project is underway, the cost of clearing the vegetation being funded by the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust and St Andrew's Church. This was the first Church of Scotland building in Calcutta/ Kolkata and within its session room still hangs a large photograph of St Giles, Edinburgh.

The project also involves the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Highland Council, RCAHMS (the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) and conservation architects, Simpson & Brown.

The team aims initially to record and assess the graveyard site and to develop a restoration plan, but as well as halting its deterioration, the Scottish Cemetery Trust hopes to reinstate the principles of Sir Patrick Geddes by transforming it back to a "green lung" and an open public space for the city. Geddes, the renowned pioneer of town planning, advocated that social reform was inextricable care of the urban environment. He worked extensively in India and, furthermore, his ideas were applied by others throughout the world – including, of course, Scotland.

The work on restoring the cemetery's gravestones, some of crumbling limestone and plaster, may help to establish a centre for the restoration of other buildings in Kolkata, hopefully involving the Scottish Lime Centre at Charlestown, Fife.

Of particular genealogical interest is the ongoing work to transfer the handwritten interment register into a computer database. Enquiries about burials may be addressed to ajuler@simpsonandbrown.co.uk

For further information about this Scottish Cemetery, visit www.rcahms.gov.uk. For updates from the Kolkata Team, visit www.scottishcemeterykolkata.wordpress.com

In the 2009 Kolkata Book Fair (this is an annual event which attracts 2 million visitors), the theme country in the central pavilion will be Scotland, and six gates around the Fair will symbolise our six major cities. However, at the moment the SGS Sales Team has no plans to take a table there!

LETTER to the EDITOR

Many of readers will be familiar with the book *The Christian Watt papers* and the tragic story recounted by Christian Watt of her life. I too was moved to read her extraordinary memoirs, as whilst reading them I was able to make a direct family connection to her Grandmother, Helen "Granny" Lascelles.

Recorded in the same book, "Granny" Lascelles gives an account of her own ancestry stretching back an amazing further nineteen generations. The level of detail is staggering and in many instances historically accurate.

With this in mind I had hoped to trace the current owner of the original papers to see if their unedited contents could reveal more information and clarify just how "Granny" Lascelles was able to recall events in such detail. I also wonder just how common was this ability to memorise a large family tree, if indeed it was all recounted from her memory alone?

Despite contacting Sir David Fraser, the editor of *The Christian Watt papers*, and all the obvious libraries and archives, no-one seems to know where the papers are or even if they still exist.

I am very surprised that such a national treasure can apparently be so easily lost and hope that a reader may shed light on the whereabouts of the Christian Watt manuscript collection. Naturally, as a keen genealogist and distant relative, I would relish the chance to examine them in more detail, but I would also like to confirm that their future is safe.

If any readers can help me locate the papers I would very much like to hear from them.

Gary Dowie

3 Haden Park Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 7HE

Tel: 01384 413497

E-mail: gdowie@blueyonder.co.uk

Library Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a couple of hours to spare once a week, particularly of a morning? Would you like to come and help run the Library, assist members and visitors use our resources, become involved in producing our various publications? Training is provided, of course.

If so, please come in and talk to Jim Cranstoun or Moira Stevenson, or call 0131-220 3677 or e-mail in to librarian@scotsgenealogy.com

RECENT ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

Compiled by Carol Stubbs

- 1851 Census: Kirkcudbright, Scotland:
indexed transcription: Crossmichael, Dalry Graham & Emma Maxwell
- 1861 Census: Berwickshire, Scotland: indexed transcription:
Chirnside, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Foulden Graham & Emma Maxwell
- Angus Memorial Inscriptions:
Dunnichen Kirkyard Tay Valley F.H.S. & Dunnichen Heritage Society
- Angus Memorial Inscriptions: Glen Isla, Lundie, Strathmartine Tay Valley F.H.S.
- Annals of the U.P. Churches in Dundee (24 page booklet) Tay Valley F.H.S.
- Ayrshire Burials Index (O.P.R.s): Parish of Muirkirk 1773-1800 Troon@Ayrshire F.H.S.
- Baptisms and Burials of St. Michaels's Church, Stanwix:
Baptisms 1660-1837, Burials 1662-1837 Cumbria F.H.S.
- Cairn Line of Steamships and Nautical Tales beyond Leith Gilbert T. Wallace
- Cairn Line of Steamships Company Limited 1876-2005 Gilbert T. Wallace
- Calendar of Annandale Emigration¹ Dumfries & Galloway F.H.S.
- Cassini Historical Map: City Map, Edinburgh, 1855 (1:10,000) Cassini Publishing
- Cassini Historical Maps: Edinburgh: 1857-1869, 1905-1907,
1926-1928, 1956-1957 (matching O.S. Landranger 66)² Cassini Publishing
- Duffus New Cemetery, Extension & War Memorial,
Moray: Monumental Inscriptions Moray Burial Ground Research Group
- Dumfriesshire MIs: Dalton Parish,
Middlebie Parish Graveyards, Tinwald & Trailflat Dumfries & Galloway F.H.S.
- Dumfriesshire O.P.R.s: Deaths & Burials Index: Dumfries
Parish Part 1, 1617 to 1690, Langholm Parish 1668-1854 Dumfries & Galloway F.H.S.
- Families of Scotland (Scottish Record Society Vol. 31) Mackenzie, Sir George
- Gray's Annual Directory and Edinburgh Almanac 1835-36
- History of the Roses of Kilravock Elizabeth Rose
- Jean Baines Batchin: 2 family history files
- Kilmany Parish Church, Fife: Memorial Inscriptions Tay Valley F.H.S.
- Kirks of Dundee Presbytery 1558-1999 Friends of Dundee City Archives
- Lands & People of Moray 33:
Parish of Rothes prior to the annexation of Dundurcas in 1782 Bruce B. Bishop
- Lands & People of Moray 34: Parish of Rothes 1782-1850,
following the annexation of part of Dundurcas Parish Bruce B. Bishop
- Making of Scotland: a comprehensive guide to the
growth of its cities, towns and villages Robin Smith
- Minnigaff Churchyard Memorial Inscriptions Dumfries & Galloway F.H.S.
- Monumental Notes Part 2 (St Andrews & E. Fife MIs) Fife F.H.S.
- People of Kirriemuir 1700-1799: a genealogical source book David Dobson
- Perthshire Memorial Inscriptions: Errol, Rhynd Tay Valley F.H.S.
- Pre-1855 Deaths as Reported in the Nairn Newspapers (1845-1854) Stuart Farrell, comp.
- Reputation for Excellence: a history of the
Edinburgh Printing Industry The Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Rooted in Scotland: getting to the heart of your Scottish heritage	Cameron Taylor
Roxburghshire MIs XXI: Melrose Abbey	Borders F.H.S.
Scottish Saga: the Miller Family in Scotland 1600-1999 ³	William Miller
Shipping of Anstruther and the East Neuk of Fife 1742-1771: ships, Shipmasters, and voyages	David Dobson
St Laurence's, Morland, All Saints, Bolton, St. Barnabas, Gt. Strickland & St. Mary's, Thrimby: Memorial Inscriptions	Cumbria F.H.S.
St Mark's Church Natland, St. John the Baptist Church Old Hutton, St. Stephen's Church New Hutton: M.I.s	Cumbria F.H.S.
Transatlantic Voyages 1600-1699. 2 nd Edition	David Dobson
Transcript of the Registers of St. Michael and All Angels Church Muncaster	Cumbria F.H.S.
Who Was Who: Vol.7: 1971-1980	Adam & Charles Black, publs.
Williamson's Directory for the City of Edinburgh 1773-1774	

¹ Reviewed in *The Scottish Genealogist* September 2008, p.129

² Reviewed in *The Scottish Genealogist* September 2008, p.130

³ Reviewed in *The Scottish Genealogist* September 2008, p.130

Looking for a new home...

...one **Canon Microprinter 90**, a microfiche and microfilm reader/ printer in working order, which is now surplus to the Library's requirements.

The recipient must arrange its uplift, and a donation to the Scottish Genealogy Society for the machine would be most welcome.

If you're interested in it, please contact the Librarian.

The Scottish Genealogy Society hold

Scottish Family History Evening Workshops....

“MY AIN FOLK”

.... at their Library and Family History Centre at
15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

We welcome enquiries from Local History Societies,
Family History Groups, Church Groups, Clubs, etc.... in fact any groups interested
in researching family history.

All facilities in our Library, including 'our complete collection of Scottish Old
Parish Records microfilms' will be available to you.

The maximum number per group is 14,
and volunteers will be there to offer advice.

For further details contact Dr James Cranstoun or John D. Stevenson
at enquiries @scotsgenealogy.com or 0131-220 3677.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2009

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

- 19 January "Scottish Handwriting", by Kirsty Stewart, NAS.
- 16 February Annual General Meeting, followed by "Prized Family History Objects".
- 16 March "Textile Treasures: Jute Industries in Dundee University Archives", by Patricia Whatley and Caroline Brown, University of Dundee Archive Services.
- 13 April "The Witch Hunt in Scotland", by Roy Pugh, author of *The De'il's Ain*.
- 11 May, 6pm Visit to Thomas Thomson House: Behind the scenes at the National Archives of Scotland. (Numbers limited – please book at the Library.)
- 14 September "Ancestral Tourism and the Homecoming", by Peter Wadley, NAS.
- 12 October "Impact of Empire on Scots Heraldry: Quest and Conquest", by Mark D. Dennis, BA, Chairman of the Heraldry Society of Scotland.
- 16 November To be confirmed

New Register House Research Evenings:

Please contact the Library for 2009 dates.

Family History Fairs and other events:

- 27 Feb - 1 Mar Who Do You Think You Are? at Olympia, London.
www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk
- 25 April SAFHS 20th Annual Fair, hosted by Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS King's College Conference Centre, Aberdeen. www.anefhs.org.uk
- 30 May - 7 June Leith Festival. www.leithlocalhistorysociety.org
- 6 June Leith Festival Fair.
- 19 - 21 June Routes to your Roots Conference, Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling. Lectures/ evening events, themed daily by local authority material, occupations or graveyards. www.stirling.gov.uk
- 21 - 24 July International Genealogy Festival, hosted by the University of Strathclyde. Lectures, exhibitions, events, with each day themed by a geographical area of the world. www.strathclydegenealogy.co.uk
- 24 July Local History Fair, hosted by the Edinburgh & District Local History Forum, at the Augustine United Church.
- 25 - 26 July "The Gathering 2009", Homecoming Fair in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.
www.homecomingscotland2009.com/whats-on/events/the-gathering-2009
- 12 Sep National Family History Fair, Gateshead International Stadium.
www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com
- 26 Sep - 5 Oct Roots Festival, Dundee. www.tayroots.com

Homecoming 2009

As part of the celebrations to mark the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, there will be a programme of events all around Scotland. See www.homecomingscotland2009.com

The website includes listings of many events, including some by:

The National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk/events

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association www.dgaa.net

Mauchline Burns Club www.mauchlineburnsclub.com

The Islands Book Trust www.theislandsbooktrust.com

May-Tag Limited www.may-tag.com

A website which logs many events and items of news is Scottish Genealogy News and Events (SGNE)

www.ScotlandsGreatestStory.co.uk

Library Closure

Please note that for the Festive Season the Library will close at 5pm on Saturday 20th December 2009 and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2009. Happy Christmas to all researchers and volunteers!

**Please consider the
Scottish Genealogy Society in your Will.
We are a registered charity and need your help.**

Advertising in *'The Scottish Genealogist'*

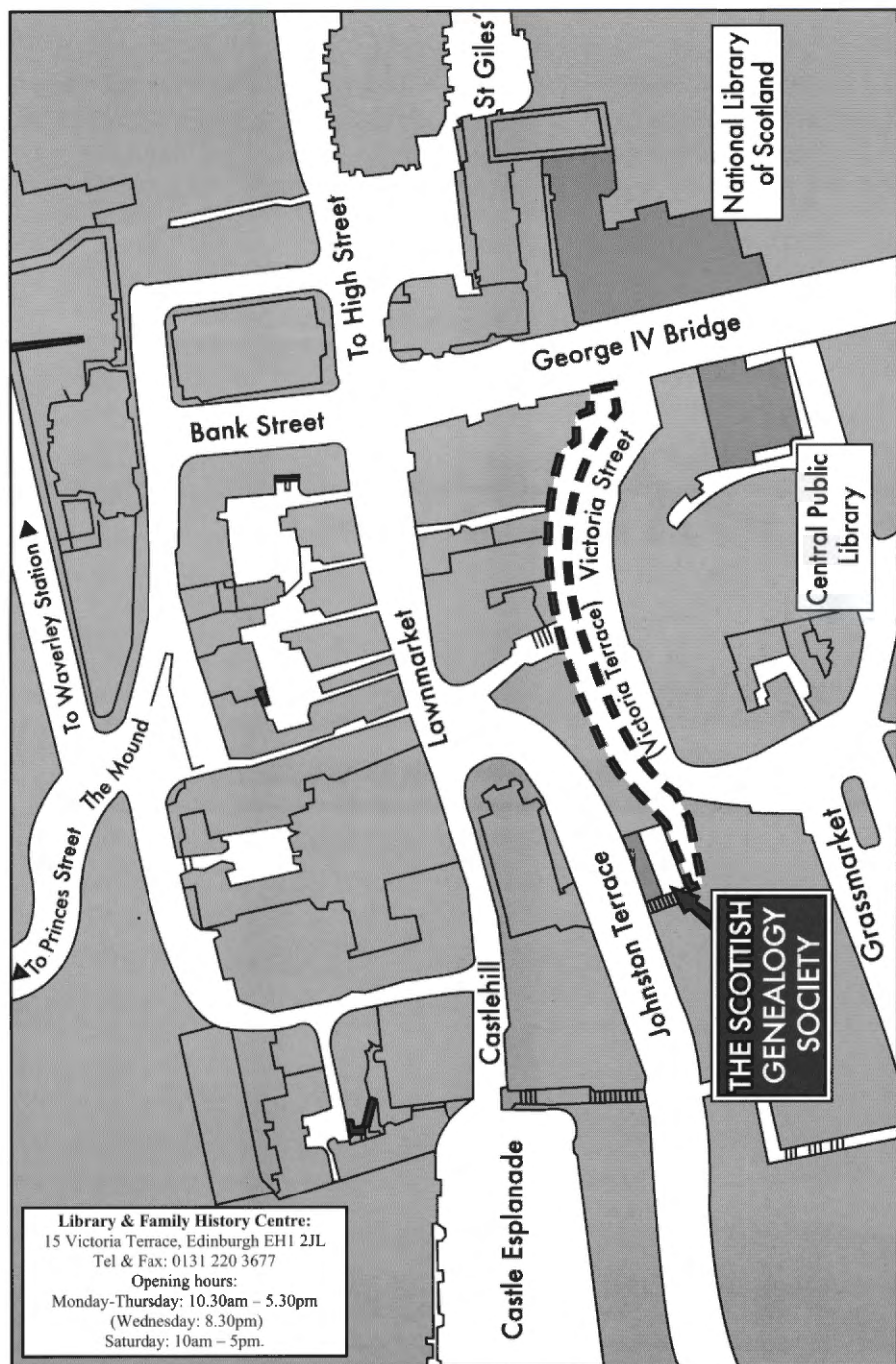
Our journal now accepts advertising
for things relevant to genealogy.

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

These are the only sizes accepted.

If you, or someone you know, would like to consider
advertising here please email the editor at:

editor@scotsgenealogy.com



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



Published by The Scottish Genealogy Society.

ISSN 0300-337X

Printed by Sprint Repro (Scotland) Ltd., Dunfermline, Fife.