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The Scottish Genealogy Society

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Society is established to promote research into Scottish Family History and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish genealogy. We assist members with modest enquiries but cannot carry out professional research.

MEETINGS

These are held from mid-month September to April in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm. The programme is advertised in the Syllabus and the regular emailed Newsletters.

MEMBERSHIP

Single UK membership: £20; Family, Overseas and Institutional: £25. The Society has charitable status and members who pay UK income tax are encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme. Details of the scheme are available from the Membership Secretary.

Information about publications and back numbers of The Journal can be obtained from the Sales Secretary, email sales@scotsgenealogy.com. Other correspondence should be addressed to 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Telephone 0131 220 3677. Email enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

Articles (maximum 1750 words including references) are welcomed by the Editor, using MS word via email. Illustrations should be in JPEG format.

Members' queries are welcome for inclusion in the magazine, space permitting.

Email: editor@scotsgenealogy.com.

SOCIETY WEBSITE

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EDITORIAL

It is very encouraging to have received several interesting contributions recently. The journal is the Society's outreach to its members, wherever they are and we want to make it interesting and readable for everyone.

Do think about your own family history research and consider sharing your experiences. You do not need to produce an academic paper with countless references – in fact, we are trying to make the journal accessible to everyone. Even if you are having difficulty progressing your research, it could be helpful to share the experience. Another member may have just the answer to your problem. We have all, at some time, hit the proverbial dead end. The only requirement is that your material must be produced as a Word document and any pictures as JPEG: sorry, the editor doesn't do copy typing!

***Do note that the deadline for the June issue is 10th May 2024**
Ellen and John Ellis

DR JAMES G. M. CRANSTOUN PhD

Jim, as he was known to his friends and colleagues at the Scottish Genealogy Society, was always the one to ask if there was any problem with family history researches, whether your own or something you had come across while helping members and visitors to the Society.

He could be found in the Society most days of the week and never seemed to be stumped whether it was reading old handwriting, explaining unusual terms or the customs of former days, sharing his deep knowledge freely and in a kindly way. He had a great interest in local history and did his PhD thesis for the Open University on the impact of the Great War on the local community in East Lothian.

Following a visit to the Library with one of his librarianship students who was volunteering at the Society, he took over as Librarian of the Society in September 2001, combining it with the position of Vice-chairman from June 2003 and then with the role of Chairman from March 2004, until he demitted both offices in February 2009.

Amongst his achievements he built up the book collection to include many of the wider aspects of family history and undertook the development of a new classification scheme and its implementation, which took a deal of time since it involved re-cataloguing the whole book collection. He was responsible for the Society purchasing all the Old Parish Registers on microfilm that have been such a key research aid for many years.

As Librarian he chaired the Library Committee which dealt with the day to day aspects of looking after the building including security, and instigated the move to the Society going broadband and setting up a computer network.

We remember him with affection.

Jim died on 11 November 2023.

Moirra Stevenson.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Terry Jenkins

The number of family trees now to be found on genealogical websites such as *Ancestry* shows that many people have researched the family of the Scottish author George Macdonald (1824-1905), and posted their findings on its website. They all write that his eldest son Greville married Phoebe Winn, born in 1848.

And they are all wrong!

Greville certainly married someone called Phoebe Winn, but she wasn't born in 1848. Nonetheless, at the time of writing, more than fifty people have posted their versions of Greville's family tree on *Ancestry*, giving this as his wife's birthdate. (There are a further six entries that reckon Greville never married at all!) Of course, they have not all arrived at this information

independently, but unquestioningly copied one another. It only takes one wrong entry to open the floodgates ...

It is very easy to establish that they are wrong. The Phoebe born in 1848 had the full names: Elizabeth Phoebe Winn - and her birth certificate shows she was the daughter of William Kimberley Winn and his wife Jane, née Welch, born at Saturday Bridge in Birmingham on 26 March 1848. In the 1851 census she is listed as a 3 year old, with her parents, living in the Welch household on the canal bank by the bridge. Crucially, on 22 January 1868, while still a minor, Elizabeth Phoebe married Benjamin New in Edgbaston, and can be found in the 1871 census with her husband and two daughters: Clara Jane Maude (b. 1868) and Mary Elizabeth (b. 1870). She appears thereafter in the record books as Mrs Elizabeth P New, and died in 1928 aged 80. There are plenty of people who have posted her family tree on *Ancestry*. She was not Greville Macdonald's wife.

Twenty years after this marriage, on 3 March 1888 in Birmingham, Greville was married. Clearly his wife was a different Phoebe Winn, but establishing the true facts about her origins and early life is not so easy. Her age from later sources indicates that she was born around 1845, but there is nobody in the GRO indexes born at this time with this name. And so, to quote the words of W S Gilbert - "Phoebe? Who the deuce may she be?"

Greville and Phoebe's marriage certificate states that her father was 'Charles Winn, manufacturer'. He died in June 1857, over thirty years earlier and newspaper reports of the marriage make no mention of her father. Instead they describe her as the sister of Charles Winn, brass founder. A reason for this soon becomes apparent: her father was declared bankrupt in September 1834 - not something you might wish to draw attention to fifty-something years later. Before his bankruptcy he was living in an affluent part of the city in the Jewellery Quarter. He was a tray-maker, but also the lessee of the Swan Inn and Coaching House in Snow Hill. In 1835, though, everything he possessed was auctioned to pay off his debts. These must have been considerable, as dividends were still being paid to his creditors in 1837 - as can be seen by announcements in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette* and the *London Gazette*: The family moved down-market, and across the city, into what is today the Chinese Quarter. In 1851, they can be found living there in one of Birmingham's characteristic back-to-back courtyards, on the corner of Inge St. and Hurst St. (Interestingly, the National Trust has recently restored Court 15 on the corner of these two streets. The Winn family lived in Court 7, opposite).

Charles had married Phebe Willetts Kimberley in 1823, and their eldest child was the above-mentioned William Kimberley Winn. William's daughter, Elizabeth Phoebe, thus proves to have been the older Phoebe's niece, although they were only born three years apart.

Charles and Phebe's first four sons were all christened - but not necessarily promptly. William Kimberley (b. 12 April 1824) was only christened in 1829, just after his fifth birthday, on the same day as his brother Charles (b. 26 March 1829). But there is no baptism for Phoebe, nor was her birth ever registered. The 1851 census shows that Phoebe had a younger brother, Henry, born around 1847. He too was not christened and has no birth certificate. They can both be found in the census with their parents, and an older brother, Frederick, aged ten.

This older brother was born on 2 May 1840, and his birth was promptly registered by his mother as Boaz Frederick Winn. The name 'Boaz' was short-lived, and he was given the name

Frederick Kimberley Winn when he was christened, on 13 January 1851, at the age of ten. By this date Phoebe was six and Henry four, as shown by the census on 30 March. Why were they not christened at the same time? And why were their births never registered? Surely it was not simply forgetfulness? Registration had been in existence since 1837, and the formalities had been followed for Boaz/Frederick. The only reason, I suggest, can be that there was no need to do this - both registration and christening had already been carried out, albeit with another surname.

This is only a supposition, and it is very unlikely that any conclusive proof will be found. But the likeliest scenario, I submit, is that these two children were adopted. I can believe that, in the close-knit communities of these slum properties, families helped each other out, and especially when the parents of young children had died. The prospect of the alternative, the poor house, was always viewed with horror. No wonder that other researchers have been unable to find the correct records of Phoebe's birth. She was not born Phoebe Winn.

I cannot be certain where Phoebe was for the 1861 census, but she is probably the eighteen year old shop assistant in Bull Street, although the age is incorrect. However, in 1871, she can be found living with her brother Charles at his home in Selly Oak, correctly given the age of twenty-six. Charles had become a successful brass founder, and was rising back up the social scale (by 1881 he was employing fifty men and twenty boys, and he died in 1917 leaving a fortune of £35,000). Some time after 1871, Phoebe must have gone to London, and in September 1883 she was appointed Matron at the Throat Hospital in Golden Square, behind Regent Street.

The Minute Book of the hospital's management committee (at the London Metropolitan Archives) records on 28 Sept. 1883 that Miss Winn -

"be appointed 'Matron and Sup^r Nurse' to the Hospital, it being understood that she shall take an active part in the nursing, and that her salary be £50 per annum, the salary to commence as soon as the wards are open". (In 1883, the hospital was using temporary accommodation while the premises in Golden Square were rebuilt).

Phoebe must have had some prior experience of nursing before this appointment, but I don't know where, and I have been unable to find her in the 1881 census. Two years later, in November 1885, Greville was appointed Resident Medical Officer at the hospital, and in February 1888 Phoebe resigned as matron, prior to their marriage a month later.

The marriage of Greville and Phoebe took place on 3 March 1888 at St Stephen's church, Selly Hill in Birmingham, and was witnessed by her brother Charles Winn and his wife Emma. According to William Raeper in his 1987 biography of George Macdonald the marriage was not welcomed by his parents (who were now living in Italy) -

"... He had fallen for the matron of the hospital he had been working at. The woman's name was Phoebe Winn, and the family were solidly opposed to her — perhaps because they felt she was 'only' a nurse — or that she had somehow trapped Greville in her clutches. More than that, she was fourteen years older than he was. Whatever the case, Greville was adamant that he wanted to marry her, but realized soon enough that broaching this subject with his parents was impossible. In March 1888 he announced to his mother from the safety of London that he was about to marry her, and despite a breathless dash from Italy on the part of Louisa and Lilia [*Macdonald's wife and daughter*] to prevent him, they arrived in England to find that the ceremony had already taken place . . .

MacDonald wrote resignedly to Louisa: 'I had your letter from Birmingham. Poor dear Greville and poor dear wife! What an experience for you to have to go through. It will be a wonder if you are not very ill after it. What a woman for any gentleman to marry! I wonder when and how it was settled for Saturday. I suppose they are really married! Well, this world and all its beginnings will pass on into something better'." (*George Macdonald*, pp. 357-58)

What amazing snobbery - from a former Christian minister. Naturally none of this is mentioned in Greville's own 1924 biography of his father: *George Macdonald and his wife*. Although he comments on the marriages of his brothers and sisters, he makes no mention of his own. Furthermore, there is little information about his wife in his 1932 memoirs, *Reminiscences of a Specialist*. He does recount, however, how ill he was with a recurrence of earache when he was appointed to the Golden Square Throat Hospital -

"... my first three weeks were the hardest ever mastered. But for the careful feeding and encouragement of the Matron, Miss Phoebe Winn — who, she confessed, looked upon me from the first as a wreck, even while marvelling at my quickly acquired skill and my doggedness — I doubt if I could have held on. I married that admirable lady two years later, although she fully believed I should not live very long even with her care. We had no children and she died thirty-nine years later in her eighty-second year." (p. 221)

Phoebe died on 17 February 1927, and the age given by Greville is further confirmation that she was born in 1845. She was therefore eleven years older than him, and not fourteen as Raeper thought.

It is surprising that so many people have identified the wrong person as Greville's wife. The error is not of earth-shattering importance, but it is still something that should be corrected. Unfortunately, many people believe that everything on the Family Trees in *Ancestry* is true. Not so.

ADVENTURES IN THE PENINSULAR WAR

Sandy Naughton tells of his great grandfather's experiences in the Peninsular war.

John McNaughton was my Great Great Great Grandfather. He was born in or near Cupar around 1782 although I have not been able to verify this date.

During my research I found a family of McNaughton's living on the Kinloch Estate near the village of Collessie. The head of the family was Alexander McNaughton. As John named his son Alexander there may be a connection.

John, a farm labourer, joined the local militia at the age of 18. In the late 1700's the landowner was required to raise an army recruited from among able bodied men in the district and they were known as the local militia. The militia was a semi conscripted force in theory filled by a ballot, however many paid for substitutes to take their place. Service in a county did not mean that the men were from the county. The volunteers were men under arms protecting their local area. The hierarchy: local landowners were officers, tradesmen were NCO's and labourers were

privates. Volunteers were gradually reorganised in the 1790's into larger Battalions and in 1803 eventually remodelled as Local Militia and by 1808 with organised training periods.

In order to research this further and find out what I could about John's army career, I went to the National Archives in Kew, London, to consult the Muster Rolls, used to record payments to the men for service..

I found John listed in the Muster Rolls for the 5th Scots Militia on the 25 December 1801 in Captain William Rutherford's Company, based in Dundee. In March 1802 the company moved to Kirkcaldy.

In 1803 John had joined the 34th Fife Militia, but as well as serving in the local militia he was working as a Labourer. The 34th Fife were based in Cupar under their commanding officer, the Earl of Crawford, the local landowner.

By the 24th October 1807 he had joined the regular army and was assigned to the 74th Regiment of Foot, assuming the rank of Private. He joined the regiment in Glasgow, was immediately transferred to Edinburgh and then back to Cupar. Initially he seems to have been assigned to recruit men from the local militia. The militias were used to source recruits for the regular army fighting in the Napoleonic Wars and were a good source of trained men who were often encouraged with financial incentives such as bounties and pensions. Militiamen's wives were given separation allowances with extra amounts to cover any children. These allowances did not extend to wives of the regular army.

The Muster Rolls indicate a number of men from Fife were recruited. However, recruitment did not meet the required 400 men to be designated a Scottish regiment and so numbers had to be made up with men from England and Ireland.

According to Old Parish Records, John married Elizabeth Crichton at Cupar on October 30 1808. Elizabeth was born in the Parish of St Andrews & St Leonards on the 17 of September 1782. Her parents were Thomas Crichton, Drummer, and Margaret Woodcock, who were married in the Parish of St Andrews & St Leonards on the 24 of December 1778.

It is likely that Thomas, being listed as a Drummer, was also involved in the local militia, but I could not find any records to verify this.

John continued to recruit in the Cupar area until the regiment was posted to Ireland in November 1809, sailing from Port Patrick in Scotland and landing at Drogheda in Northern Ireland. The regiment then marched to Newry. On the 19th of December they received an order to embark for the Peninsular War in Portugal. The regiment commenced its march in 5 Divisions on the 21st of December 1809 arriving in Fermoy on the 11th of January. According to the Muster rolls John was still involved in recruitment for the regiment whilst stationed in Ireland. He was based in Malloy which is a town in County Cork.

On the 18 January the 74th embarked on 4 transports at Monkstown and sailed on the 19th January from a place called Cove which today is Cork in the Republic of Ireland.

The Muster Rolls recorded money paid by the regiment to women and children left behind. However Elizabeth was not among those left behind. She sailed with John to Lisbon entering the Tagus on the 5th of February 1810 and disembarking on the 10th of February. Records show that the regiment were billeted at the convent at San Benito. Lisbon was the gateway for British Soldiers entering the Peninsular War. The Iberian Peninsula was for many their first combat experience and also their first time abroad. Most soldiers wrote largely critical and hostile accounts of their time in Lisbon.

In the summer of 1811 William Bragge, a young dragoon lieutenant, sailed from Plymouth with his regiment. He wrote from Belem just outside Lisbon, how he was struck by the magnificent vista that Lisbon offered from the Tagus. "The entrance to Lisbon is truly grand and beautiful in being built on 7 hills rising from the water's edge. Every building retaining its original colour of white. Here ends the beauty of Lisbon" he wrote. "On setting foot on land you are almost overcome with the stench, every filth being thrown in to the street".

The artist Robert Ker Porter wrote on September 1808: "On a nearer approach to Lisbon it loses its part hue and on closer investigation the cleanliness which the external whiteness of the house shining in the sun at a distance leads one to expect vanishes and miserably plastered dwellings present themselves in their true colours, bespattered with dirt of every description and rendered almost intolerable by the accumulated filth and the raging heat which draws their honours wreaking up to the heaven's".

Private William Wheeler writes in his overview of the city and its inhabitants "What an ignorant superstitious priest ridden dirty lousy set of poor devils are the Portuguese".

Coming from Cupar in Fife, a poor rural agricultural area, John and Elizabeth could not have had much experience of the environment they were about to find themselves living in. This was what my Great Great Grandfather Alexander McNaughton was born into.

Irene Christie, my father's cousin and daughter of Robert McNaughton, told me her father had told her that his grandfather had been born on a boat. I could not find any record of this, however I think he was possibly born on the voyage to Lisbon from Ireland and his birth registered when the ship docked in Lisbon. Although I could not find a birth certificate he must have been born between 1810 and 1812.

In July 1811 General Arthur Wellesley, commander of the British and Portuguese Army, the future Duke of Wellington, issued a general order that soldiers were to sweep the streets, and clean and guard water fountains least they be polluted by the locals.

Many still succumbed to sickness, dysentery or malaria.

As John had taken his wife with him to war I wanted to find out what the role of women was within the regiment since marriage was generally discouraged among the ranks and private soldiers had to obtain their commanding officer's permission to marry. A select number of permitted wives were carried on the strength of the army, receiving half rations in return for performing services such as laundry and nursing for the regiment.

In 1800 the Duke of York set a limit of 6 women per company (roughly one per hundred men). Howard Clerke's analysis of embarkation returns from Cork suggested that factors as simple as room on ships might have decided how many married soldiers could have their families with them.

Charles Esdaile gave a conservative estimate of some 1600 women accompanying British troops to the Peninsular War.

The regiment did not stay long in Lisbon. On the 27th February 1810, after inspection by Major General Picton, they marched to Viseu to join Wellington. The 74th was part of the 1st Brigade commanded by Colonel Henry McKinnon consisting of the 45th, 74th and 88th Regiments of Foot. The 74th remained in the same division until the end of the war and earned its appellation of "the fighting division". They took part in the Battle of Busaco where one officer and seven rank and file were killed and eighteen men were wounded. On the 29th of September 1810 the regiment marched to Coimbra and crossed the Mondego River to Condeixa and continued their march to Torres Vedras, arriving there on the 8th of October. They were cantoned within the line entrenchments and fortifications constructed for the defence of Lisbon. They were based at Torres Vedras until mid-December.

We conclude the action in the next issue.

A SCHOOL IN SKYE – and the Family Who Taught There **|John Lord**

On May 11th 1853, the Edinburgh Ladies' Committee of the Association for the Religious Improvement of the Remote Highlands and Islands, a Free Church of Scotland organisation, agreed to establish a school at Arnisort, Skye, as soon as a suitable female teacher could be found. On October 19th the minutes record that on the recommendation of Rev. Roderick MacLeod, the Free Church minister of Snizort, the local parish, a teacher had been appointed, Mrs Margaret Ferguson. As the school grew, her husband Norman joined her as a teacher. He was paid, however, again on Roderick MacLeod's recommendation, by the local Presbytery, as the Association felt unable to do so.

What was the background of this couple? Margaret, whom Norman married on 10/3/1840, was the daughter of John Cameron, a joiner, and Flora MacLean, daughter of Hector MacLean, tacksman of Vatten, Duirinish. Flora's mother was Margaret MacLeod, daughter of Donald MacLeod of Suardal, smith and armourer to MacLeod of Dunvegan. What about Norman? In all censuses, his birthplace is the Isle of Harris, and an age implying that he was born in 1815. The Harris OPR only go back as far as 1823, so we have no date of birth or baptism. His parents were Donald Ferguson and Christian/Christina MacDiarmid. Two of Norman's sisters, Mary and Catharine, also generally give their birthplace as Harris, but each gives it specifically as Rodel; presumably Norman was born there too. So what had brought the Fergusons to Skye?

When Mary was married, 30/11/1819, to John MacDiarmid of Strond, Harris, she was living in Roag, parish of Duirinish, so the family had already moved to Skye before then. Let John MacDiarmid give the probable explanation for this move. At the 1841 and 1851 censuses, he and Mary were living at Strond; later, they had moved to the Island of Scalpay, Harris. When the

Napier Commission into the condition of crofters took evidence in Tarbert, Harris, on 13/6/1873, one witness was John M'Diarmid, Slpay (aged 88). During his testimony he said: "I meant to give three instances of the causes of the poverty of this place (i.e. Harris) but to save time I shall give you the third only. I will tell you how Rodel was cleared. There were 150 hearths in Rodel ... When young MacLeod came home with his newly-married wife [married 1817] ... twenty of the women of Rodel came and met them and danced a reel before them." John MacDiarmid went on to describe how within a year of that day, all 150 households had been cleared from Rodel by the MacLeod estate, and forced on to unproductive land. So Rodel was cleared in 1818; by 1819 the Fergusons were in Roag, Skye. In view of his wife's experience, it is not surprising that John McDiarmid chose Rodel for his one example.

At the 1841 census Norman, living in Kensal Roag, is described as Merchant. At the 1851 census, they were living at Kinloch, Duirinish. Norman's occupation is "Farmer of 4 Acres". So, how did they become teachers? No formal qualification was required at that time. The mother of Rev. Roderick MacLeod was Mary MacLeod, the other daughter of Donald MacLeod of Suardal; the Fergusons were members of his congregation. He therefore knew them well, and was presumably confident that they themselves were well enough educated to teach the local children.

However, just at the time when Margaret became a teacher, we find that their lives could have taken a very different turn. On 2/6/1853 the Inverness Courier printed some letters sent by emigrants to friends still in Scotland. One, dated from Geelong, 5th Dec. 1852, is from Angus Mackenzie to Norman Ferguson. He tells Norman that all his fellow-emigrants had found employment immediately, and speaks of the lavish wages available to all. As for food, more mutton than they could eat, "tea three times a day, milk or butter in abundance" What must this have meant to those who had known the famines of 1836/37 and 1846/47! The letter is clearly to our Norman: Angus is from Duirinish, a member of the Free Church, and Norman's wife and daughter are named in the letter: (Wages for) "common servant girls from £30 to £18, and £12 for twelve-year-old girls. Your little Flora would fetch £12 and two or three dresses of the finest. ... Dear Norman, if you would come here, you might walk about with your cane. Margaret would make hers and your fortune quickly as a dressmaker." (Needlework was one of the subjects Margaret taught)

By 1st Feb. 1855, when twin sons were born, the family was living in Flashader, of which Arnisort is part. On the birth registration, Norman's occupation is Merchant. The twins did not survive; one died on Feb. 9th, the other on Feb. 11th. At that time, the birth registrations were very detailed, giving the number and sex of the children, whether living or dead, born of the marriage. From this we learn that another son had previously died. Like so many families at the time, Norman and Margaret knew the grief of having children die young. Five daughters and a son, however, did survive.

At the 1861 census, Norman is recorded as a Free Church teacher, living in School House, Flashader; Margaret is a teacher's wife! At about that time, Rev. Roderick MacLeod wrote a letter to the Edinburgh Committee, giving an account of religious revival in Skye in 1860/61, and also an insight into the poverty of many: "In briefly adverting to the state of some of your schools which I have visited since your last report, I shall restrict myself entirely to their religious condition.

To begin with Arnisort. You are already aware that a religious movement ... has more or less pervaded Skye in the course of this year. That movement assumed a decided form in connexion with my congregation, if not actually in the school, certainly in the schoolhouse of time to read to the scholars' accounts of the Lord's work in other parts, and two weekly meetings were steadily kept for that purpose, to which any of the neighbours that chose might come. At the ordinary prayer-meeting held at night on Feb. 1, an unusual number of people, as if moved by a sudden impulse, attended, by which the teacher, Mr Fergusson, was taken somewhat aback, and feeling rather at a loss what to say, took James's *Anxious Inquirer*, read the first part of it, and afterwards the 16th chapter of John. During the meeting an uncommon solemnity was felt; one young girl broke out in cries for mercy, and two young men could hardly stand at prayer; and thus commenced a movement which for many weeks kept the school-house more like a hospital than anything else, many sleepless nights being passed there, and so many going to and fro that it was a matter of wonder and thankfulness that Mr and Mrs Fergusson stood it so well ... I might tell you much of the children's love of the Bible, which many of them must now learn to read in Gaelic, because in that language they can best understand it; ... This may suffice regarding Arnisort; but as it may meet the eye of some who take pleasure in clothing the naked, I beg to add that many of the children were often in deep distress, because their parents would not allow them to come to church in the rags they usually wore."

In the 1871 census, Norman was recorded as "teacher and postmaster". In the OS Name Books, (available on the website Scotlands Places) although the Post Office and school are listed separately, there is a note "This School and P.Office is one and the same building". From this Name Book we learn that the Schoolhouse and the church alongside it were both (re)built in 1869. It also records that the average attendance at the school was 56. The Annual Reports of the Association record roll-numbers varying between about 50 and 100. Regarding Name Books, in each district the OS surveyors recorded names of local features, giving lists of the local people who were their authorities for each of these names. "Norman Ferguson, schoolmaster" appears as one of these for many place-names in the Duirinish and Snizort parishes. These names were almost all Gaelic, and though Norman taught in English, the family were certainly Gaelic speakers. The 1891 census records this information.

The Association's annual reports include a report on each of their schools, made by one of the local ministers. As an example of Arnisort's reports, here are extracts from the one for 1878, made by Rev. John Macphail, minister of Kilmuir: "I spent a very pleasant day at Arnisort along with Mr Lamont (minister of Snizort, succeeding Roderick MacLeod). We first examined the school, and were highly pleased with it. There was a good attendance – from 60 to 70 - ... With the exception of 12, who were beginners, all in the school read intelligently, and the writing, as well as their knowledge of grammar, arithmetic, geography and dictation, would have done credit to any school ... No one can visit that school without remarking the healthy tone of it – the teachers manifest such a deep interest in the temporal and spiritual welfare of the children, and the children have such confidence in their teachers and show such respect for them."

Another example of the respect in which Norman Ferguson was held is that when Alexander Macdonald of Lynedale, the local proprietor, feued Arnisort church to the Free Church, the charter, dated 21/1/1876, named Norman as one of the Trustees.

Arnisort church and school, Flashader, Skye

For a while, in 1871/1872, their eldest daughter Flora, a certificated teacher, also taught at the school, before moving to a school in Portree. In 1875 the Government Inspector awarded Teaching Certificates to both Norman and Margaret. In the 1881 census this is recorded against Norman's name (Pub.C.T. Teacher); Margaret has only "Female Teacher"! In 1884 Margaret was seriously ill for a while, and her youngest daughter Mary, also a teacher before her marriage, came from Portree to substitute. In 1888 the Fergusons retired, owing to age and infirmities. The school was closed, and education in the area left to the Government established School Board. Norman continued to act as a sub-postmaster at least until the 1891 census. He died in 1896, and Margaret in 1897.

The following is extracted from an article in the 60th Anniversary issue of the Scottish Genealogist, written by Richard Torrance

15 VICTORIA TERRACE – A BRIEF HISTORY

The Scottish Genealogy Society acquired No. 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, in 1991. Set up in 1953 to promote the study of genealogy and family history the Society continues to provide facilities at its Family History Centre for the benefit of members and visitors.

The building stands on a historic site within the Old Town of Edinburgh. In 1427 King

James II gave burgesses to town against probably ran Victoria entrance to the The Terrace Grants Close where it ends. For many zig-zagged Lawnmarket to the main route and west. In



permission to the build a wall to defend the the English. This wall along the south side of Terrace, having an town at the Upper Bow. runs through the site of and that of Stewarts Land,

centuries, the West Bow steeply down from the the Grassmarket and was into town from the south 1766 work started on building the Georgian New Town. The spoil from the building works there was gradually piled up over the Nor Loch, forming The Mound and providing access from the north via Bank Street to the Old Town.

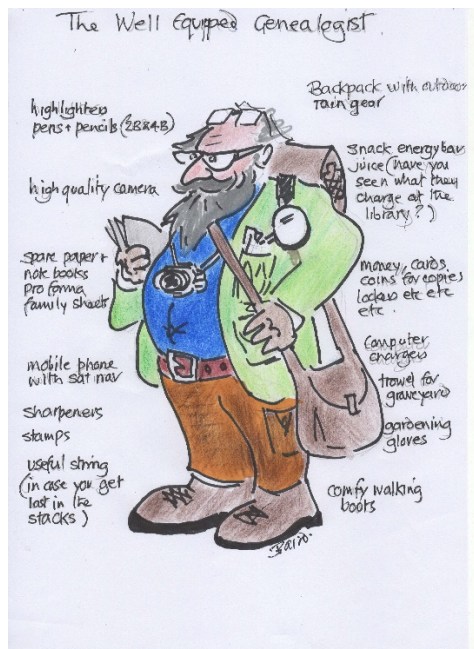
The North Bridge was opened in 1772, making a link from the Old Town to the New Town and, more importantly, to Leith. However, access to the Lawnmarket was still via the West Bow. In the 1827 Act of Improvement plans were made to build two bridges - the King George IV Bridge, constructed between 1829 and 1832, to link the Old Town to the south and the Kings Bridge (1833) to provide access from the west along the Castle rock. Both these bridges were designed by Thomas Hamilton, architect to the Improvement Scheme. Once these were built work started on building the route west, Johnston Terrace, and a link from the Grassmarket to King George IV Bridge, Victoria Street.

Old properties were demolished and arched buildings were erected to the north to support an extension of the West Bow eastwards up to George IV Bridge. The roofs of these properties formed Victoria Terrace (1830-40). At the same time arches were built to support the new road (Johnston Terrace). Tenements in the upper western side of the West Bow were demolished and the General Assembly of the Free Church, now St Columba's Free Church, was built on the site (architect Thomas Hamilton, 1846). Steps were built to connect Victoria Street to the remains of the West Bow and linking to the Lawnmarket in 1850 (architect George Smith, who had succeeded Thomas Hamilton as architect to the Improvement Scheme in 1832).

When first opened there were no properties on the south side of Johnston Terrace and the plan of 1852 shows a timber yard. Work on the present buildings from the Bow to the steps commenced in 1864, with the first three bays by George Smith and the rest by George Roberts. The arches below became the cellars of these buildings.

In the early 20th century Nos 8-13 Johnston Terrace were occupied by Reid & Laidlaw Ltd, who sold them in 1903. Alexander Ferguson Ltd, confectioners, owned the buildings for many years. They sold them in 1947 to Griffin & Tatlock, scientific equipment suppliers. The cellars are thought to have been used as an ARP centre during WW2. It is not known when 15 & 16 Victoria Terrace became separate properties. They were used, at various times, as a pottery and as a bookbinders and printers. In 1986 No. 15 became Linklaters Steak House and No. 16 the manager's flat.

The Scottish Genealogy Society has occupied No. 15 from 1991 to the present.



We haven't seen this chap in the Library !

Thanks, David Macadam

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are pleased to report that our membership continues to grow and with our members only area on the website now open we are looking to continue this trend. Action to reduce our outgoings includes lowering our Journal printing costs, installing a new telephone system and using a new postal system. New double glazed windows and heating in the library have been installed to help reduce our energy bills and we are moving to a new IT support provider to lower this outgoing also. We look forward to continuing improvement with our new online shop now launched and more improvements to the library over the coming year.

Mirren McLeod, Hon. Treasurer.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

| | £ | 2023 £ | £ | 2022 £ |
|--|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Donations and legacies | | | | |
| Donations and gift aid | 8,625 | | 4,637 | |
| Legacies | - | | 2,000 | |
| Members' subscriptions | 15,270 | | 13,760 | |
| | | 23,895 | | 20,397 |
| Investment income | | | | |
| Investment income | 1,442 | | 80 | |
| Investment income - Designated fund | 3,456 | | 3,181 | |
| | | 4,898 | | 3,261 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | | | | |
| Sales - publications | 5,350 | | 4,940 | |
| Sales - royalties | 15,060 | | 21,283 | |
| | | 20,410 | | 26,223 |
| Total incoming resources | | 49,203 | | 49,881 |
| <u>Resources expended</u> | | | | |
| Costs of generating funds | | | | |
| Costs of generating donations and legacies | | | | |
| Conference and lecture expenses | 971 | | 923 | |
| Cost of publications | 1,663 | | 1,463 | |
| | | (2,634) | | (2,386) |
| Balance Carried Forward | | 46,569 | | 47,495 |

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| £ | £ | £ |
| Balance Brought Forward | 46,569 | 47,495 |
| Charitable activities | | |
| Direct charitable expenditure | | |
| Journal (printing and distribution) | 5,478 | 7,961 |
| Library running costs | 7,880 | 11,184 |
| Advertising | 690 | - |
| Insurance | 3,204 | 2,808 |
| Computer expenses | 10,005 | 6,671 |
| Postage | 2,947 | 3,395 |
| Telephone, stationery and photocopier | 1,761 | 3,836 |
| Bank/credit card charges | 1,880 | 1,236 |
| Sundry expenditure | 550 | 159 |
| Accountancy | 3,354 | 1,890 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 3,505 | - |
| Donations to charities | 560 | - |
| Professional fees | 1,241 | - |
| Computer equipment depreciation - Designated fund | 4,712 | 3,547 |
| Equipment depreciation - Designated fund | 1,301 | 141 |
| Website depreciation - Designated fund | 300 | - |
| Telephone, stationery and photocopier - Designated fund | 4,397 | - |
| Books - Restricted fund | - | 69 |
| | (53,765) | (42,897) |
| Other resources expended | | |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets - Designated fund | (2,669) | - |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year | (9,865) | 4,598 |

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

John Ellis

Since its inception, 70 years ago, the Society has been an unincorporated organisation but a registered charity. Charitable status has advantages, particularly in relation to taxation, but being unincorporated has serious disadvantage in that the trustees, ie members of Council, are personally responsible for the actions of the Society. This places a potentially onerous burden on them. In Scotland we have a solution, the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a legal form unique to Scottish charities enabling them to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. It also provides a high degree of protection against liability. In the past charities could only acquire this legal status by being incorporated as a limited company, and many charities did so.

A sub-committee appointed by the Council has been investigating the establishment of the Society as a SCIO since last year and we are now ready to go ahead. This involves adopting a new and rather abstruse constitution, effectively dissolving the Society and creating a new one. Implementing this will require us to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and we will have to circulate the new constitution to all members. The Society as it exists will have to be dissolved and replaced by the new organisation. This may seem a tedious process but it is essential to gain SCIO status. I well remember, how in my days as Hon. Treasurer, I spent 8 months persuading the Royal Bank to change the name on the Society's credit card, being assured that we could not have a card because we were just a charity, even though the card existed and was used quite frequently. A trivial instance, perhaps, but we have to recognise that the Society has been run for over 70 years by willing trustees who probably did not appreciate the extent of their potential liability.

PUZZLE PICTURE

Congratulations to anyone who identified the photograph in the December issue – it showed the pear tree in the garden at Queen Mary's House in Jedburgh, planted to mark the coronation of the late Queen. – The editor was there to see it planted !

Our puzzle picture location this time is rather older and a long way from Jedburgh! We have travelled some distance north – just to give you a clue!



RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY March 2024

Moira Stevenson

| | |
|---|---|
| Kirkyard of Auchterless [Aberdeenshire] [plan in pocket] | ANESFHS |
| Calendar of Scottish Supplications to Rome 1534 - 1549 | Alan McQuarrie, editor |
| Burial & Monument Inscriptions: Cadder Churchyard | J. Scott Fairie |
| sBurying Ground Monumental Inscriptions: Rutherglen Old Parish Churchyard | J. Scott Fairie |
| Burial & Monument Inscriptions: Carmunnock Parish Church | Andrew Wyper, Don Little and Ian Marshall |
| Memorial Inscriptions: Maryhill Old Parish Church Burying Ground | J. Scott Fairie |
| Kirkyard of Strichen [map in pocket] | ANESFHS |
| Strathclyde Sources | Susan Miller |
| Double-edged Sword: In memory of the eleven Lossiemouth men who fell at Arras on 9th April 1917 | George G.Meldrum |
| Personal Correspondence of Sir John Bellenden of Auchnoull and His Circle, 1560-1582 | Peter D.Anderson and John H.Ballantyne |
| Trustie to the End: the Story of the Leith Hall Family | Henrietta Leith-Hay and Marion Lochhead |
| From Roucan to Riches: the Rise of the Glassell Family | David McKenzie Robertson |
| Tanks on the Street? The Battle of George Square, Glasgow, 1919 | Louise Heren & Gordon J.Barclay |
| Colonial Clippers | Basil Lubbock |

FAMILY HISTORY JOURNALS

The Society exchanges journals with a number of other family history societies. Here are some of the articles in recent issues.

The Bulletin (East Ayrshire) Dec 2023

“John Inglis the miner” by Sheena Carmichael

[John Inglis died on 1 March 1878. born c.1813 in Sanquhar]

The Oak Tree (West Lothian) November 2023 Issue no 61

"Grit Guns and Gunsmoke" by Tom Smith

[The story of Janet Paterson Snedden born on 25 December 1817. She converted to the LDS and emigrated to USA with her husband James Barnard and children in 1848]

Retour - Scottish Records Association Autumn 2023 Issue no 40

Dingwall-Fordyce Papers (MS 4038) catalogue in Special Collections in University of Aberdeen
[Owners of extensive estates in Buchan and at Woodston, Kincardineshire. The collection contains letter books, business books and detailed estate management papers]

Information on the new Archives catalogue launched at Shetland Archives

NRS have released four volumes (1837-1921) from "Lightkeeper Registers of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses" on ScotlandsPeople

You can also practise reading old handwriting in the regular Palaeography Puzzle. Full transcript provided!

ANESFHS November 2023

"James Bruce Pirie MM, the Aberdeen "Swimmin' Mannie" by David Paterson

"A Tale of Three Brothers" by William Law

The story of the family of Robert Law d. 1848 tenant of Old Harthill farm in Oyne, Aberdeenshire.

"The Second Christian Watt: a Hereditary Taint?" by Greg Ritchie

The story of Christian Watt born 11 December 1814 at Broadsea, Fraserburgh

"Theophilus Ogilvie: Illegitimate Gentleman and Premier Citizen" by Ian Stewart

"William MacGregor and Harry Kellas: the High Road and the Low Road from Tillyduke School to Queensland" by Jeanette Dall

"The Family of George Mackay: a Seafaring Tradition" by Alan Grant

Lanarkshire FHS October 2023 issue no 83

"Peter Scullion from Larkhall" by Campbell Thomson

Highland FHS November 2023 Vol 42 issue 1

"The Executioner"

[The story of the various executioners in Inverness starting with William Davidson in 1736. In 1791 the new executioner William Taylor had a salary of £2 10/- per year and various perquisites some of which were

A piece of coal as large as he can carry ashore from shipboard from every cargo of Scots coal

A peck of salt out of every cargo

A peck of meal out of every 100 bolls

36 peats each week from the tacksman of the Petty Customs]

"Clann Ualraig: The Highland Kennedies" by Graeme Mackenzie

Ancestor (Victoria, Australia) Vol.36, no 8 December 2023

"Researching family in Malta" by Margaret Vines

Website news

Ulster Settlers database <https://ulster-settlers.clericus.ie/>

Gibraltar - Family Search have added Gibraltar Civil Records

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ordinary meetings take place at 7.30 pm in the Augustine United Church,
41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Donations of £4 each from non-members are much appreciated

Meetings, apart from the AGM, are also available via Zoom, free to members, price £5 to non members contact the library for log-in information.

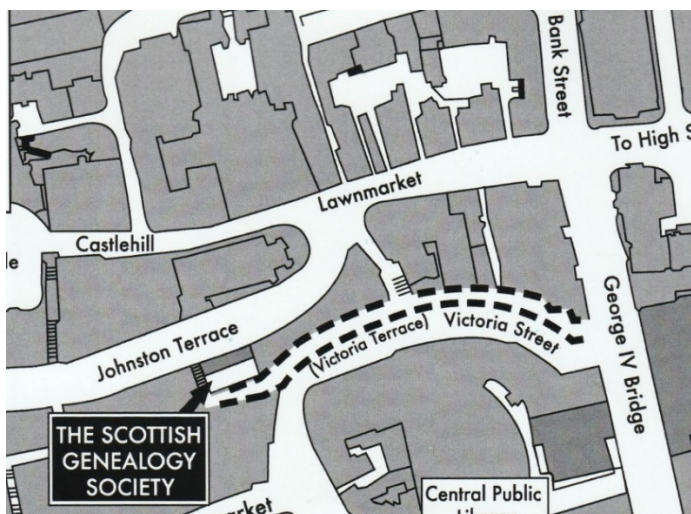
18 March 2024 "Researching The History of a Street" by author Barclay Price

15 April 2024 "Captain John Orr and the history of the Scottish Naval and
Military Academy" – Rosslyn MacPhail

14 May 2024 11am Visit to Archers' Hall with a talk by Col. Charles P
Wallace DL
Booking will be required

Some talks may be presented in hybrid format. Please contact
Enquiries @scotsgenealogy.com.

Please check our website before setting out. There may have been last minute changes



Library opening Hours

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Monday | 10.30am to 4pm |
| Tuesday | 10.30am to 4pm |
| Wednesday | 2.30pm to 7pm |
| Thursday | 10.30am to 4pm |
| Friday | closed |
| Saturday | 10am to 2pm |

Library & Family History Centre

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