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According to recent press reports, an estimated 1,050,000 overseas visitors came to Scotland last year, bringing in currency earnings of about £206 million. That is big business in anyone's terms and this year, thanks to our marvellous summer, the figures should be even higher.

Tourism, indeed, is recognised as a major Scottish industry, particularly in the Highlands and Islands where so many livelihoods depend upon it. But among the plethora of boards, associations, authorities and agencies charged with supporting and expanding this industry, a very significant aspect - an important marketing ploy, to put it crudely - seems to have been overlooked. It is, of course, family history.

Has any research been done to identify what proportion of that 1,050,000 arrived in Scotland intending to spend at least some of their time on even a superficial exploration of their Scottish roots? The percentage, I am quite sure, would be startlingly high. How many more visitors could we attract by promoting family history - honestly and straightforwardly - as a specific reason for coming to Scotland, in the same way as bird-watching, mountaineering, or salmon fishing are marketed as "special interest holidays"? The answer, surely, is "Lots".

So far as I know, this fairly obvious potential has never been tapped. There is, however, a good reason for not doing so yet. In the main, facilities for basic genealogical research are concentrated within New Register House, in Edinburgh, which by all accounts is severely strained to handle the existing demands placed upon it each summer.

The premises, obviously, were not designed with the do-it-yourself ancestor-hunter in mind, let alone vast numbers of them arriving from all over the world. The staff (unfailingly helpful as they are) have other duties to attend to besides initiating novices in the techniques of genealogical research. In short New Register House is not geared to cope with a worldwide "Come to Scotland and Trace Your Roots" promotion.

One answer is to spread the load. Our primary source material has been centralised in Edinburgh for excellent reasons, and the original documents must unquestionably remain where they are. But so much is now available on microfilm that we have the technology to create research centres in all the regions of Scotland. (Glasgow, I gather, has already taken a step in this direction). Tackled soberly and sensibly, such a set-up would benefit researchers, the tourist trade, and the overworked staff at N.R.H.

## Churchyard Discoveries

By Irene Sutherland

On Saturday 30th July a second visit was paid by the H.F.H.S. to Geddes Churchyard, Nairnshire, to complete unfinished inscriptions and to decipher the more difficult ones.

A fortnight previously, my husband and I had paid our first visit to the Churchyard to plan the work which still had to be carried out after last summer's reording. Here I must thank Miss Janie MacIntyre for meeting us at Nairn, taking us to Geddes and helping with the organisation.

Saturday 30th July dawned - not one of the bent days in our lovely hot summer - but off we went accompanied by Mr & Mrs Copland, to whom grateful thanks for transport there and back. When we reached Geddes, the rain had reached it too, but our small eager company were not at all put off. Present were Miss Janie MacIntyre, Mrs Loraine Maclean, Mrs Margaret Fraser, Dr & Mrs Booth, Mr & Mrs Copland, Mr & Mrs Glen and Mr & Mrs Sutherland.

There were 59 gravestones still to do out of 130 (and possibly more discovered because of the dry weather). I had made cards, each with a number corresponding to a number on the plan, and each with a description of the stone, e.g. flat stone, upright, etc. These cards also corresponded to a plant label with number on, stuck in previously by us at the head of the stone. Each member took some cards, found their labels, and began work. It was good fun calling on each other to help, and showing each other exciting finds. Little did I guess at that stage the exciting find I was to make later.

The weather cleared up before lunch and by 12.30 we were all sitting down to our various picnics under the shade of the trees. After a pleasant chat and rest, we set to work again. I am sure the makers of talcum powder would never guess how useful it can be in a cemetery. The faded lettering was covered in talc, gently dusted, and in most cases up came the words beautifully. Secateurs were in great demand to clip away ivy, and turf-cutters were used to uncover flat stones which had lain hidden for many years.

By 4.30 we had almost completed our stock of cards. We now hope to return on Saturday 10th September to finish off and do some re-checking. Anyone interested, please meet at 10.30 am (or later) at Geddes on that date. If you would like directions, transport or more information, contact Irene Sutherland, Tel. Inverness 238104. Bring a picnic lunch, a stiff brush, gardening gloves, talc, or anything else you may think useful. Clear polythene bags are good for covering your papers from rain and earth.

Now, about my exciting find. My husband's great-great-grandfather, Donald Sinclair, died at Auldearn in 1858 (luckily, for me, after registration). I had his death certificate from New Register House, and at the foot was "buried in the Churchyard of Geddes, Nairn". I had a look at last year's recordings but no sign of Donald Sinclair, so I thought "no stone"! I was disappointed because I had no other way of finding out when his wife had died (pre-1855), or her birth year.

Later, when I was to start transcribing the work done at Geddes that Saturday, I found that stone number 63, a table stone covered in ivy, was the one I sought.

It gave the date of death of his wife Elspat Ross, her age and that of a daughter Mary I didn't know existed. The rest of the family I found in the microfiche.

Isn't recording M.I.s a rewarding experience? I hope other members will be as lucky as I was.

(Last year's recording has also helped Kirkcudbright member, Miss I.M. Davidson, locate the graves of some of her ancestors—Ed.)

#### LETTER FROM THE DIGGINGS.

A letter has been received by a gentleman in Arling from his son in Australia, in which is described a novel process at the gold mines. We give an extract:—

"SAMBURST, BENNETT DUGGINGS, Oct. 25, 1855.  
 "I must give you a short account of myself. I have been very fortunate since my arrival in the colony, at least so far as the means I had on entering it could be expected to procure success. I have been replenishing my store yearly since I entered on the diggings, for I was amongst the lucky ones until May 1851. Since then I have suffered through placing too much confidence in several parties whom I had transactions with; but colonial experience is not to be got gratis. However, my gains in 1851 met my losses. We have now turned to quartz, or white flint rock mining, in which, when blown by powder out of the solid lode, we get gold in pieces of various sizes. These run right through the stones, which we burn as they do limestone, and then we get them crushed into dust by machinery which has been put upon the diggings lately. The generality of them are got up by companies, and they charge the miners at the rate of £5 the ton of quartz to be crushed, and the gold amalgamated; it reminds me of sending corn to the mill at home, but instead of meal we get gold; and I am happy to say I and my three partners hold a lease of one of the first claims on the Bennett. We have been working it for the last four months, and the returns are very satisfactory. The season being wet is greatly against us at present, but we shall soon have the hot weather setting in, when we can work it to advantage. I have not the least doubt but it will meet our most sanguine expectation. The chief commissioner gave us an order for the first two good specimens we obtained, which he is to send to the Emperor of the French. Our quartz is the whitest got up as yet in Bennett; and, being also transparent, looks remarkably well speckled with gold. We expect two years' work in this claim, as it is a very extensive one."

Inverness Courier, February 14th,  
1856.

## Registration in Victoria

Australian member Mrs Jennifer M. Carter has sent us this account of her experience with the local system of registration in Victoria:—

As all my families from Scotland emigrated prior to registration, I have had no experience with Scottish certificates. The Victorian system, begun in June 1853, is very informative, and through it I have made some startling discoveries.

Having found the grave of my paternal great-grandmother, I was able, from the tombstone, to calculate her birth date and apply for the appropriate certificate. From this I learned that Harriet Morey, daughter of Samuel Morey (builder) and Catherine Travers, was born 13 October 1860. The certificate also gave the place of birth, names and ages of all the other 11 children in the family, parents' birth places, and the date and place of the marriage, which was 2 May 1836, Hobart Town, Tasmania.

From Harriet's marriage certificate (23 June 1886) I learned that Samuel was still living, so I applied for his death certificate after that date. He had died on 23 August 1896. This intriguing document told me, along with the usual information, that Samuel had been born in Hampshire, England, and had spent some years in Tasmania before moving to Victoria.

In blithe ignorance, I wrote to the Tasmanian Archives, asking if their shipping list showed when Samuel had arrived in Tasmania. To my surprise, and the envy of my genealogical friends, I received a document the first sentence of which read as follows.

"Samuel Morey, the younger, was tried at Southampton on 18 December 1830, and was sentenced to seven year' transportation for machine breaking". Also included was his conduct in the Colony, date of his free pardon - 3 February 1835 - and a full description (in case of the need for a "Wanted" poster ?)

Samuel was involved in the "Swing Riots", and I was able to write to the C.R.O. for a copy of the trial. Having a convict ancestor does have some benefits in the amount of material that is available.

Samuel led an exemplary life as a pioneer builder in St. Kilda, an outer suburb of the young Melbourne Town at the time when houses were at a premium with the influx of gold seekers. He was highly thought of by his children and grandchildren, none of whom, I am sure, were aware of his "history". It was certainly a surprise to all the family members I have managed to trace in my efforts to compile Samuel's tree of descendants.

N.B. - The following directories are available in Melbourne Library:  
 Postal/Trade Directories for Melbourne 1860 +  
 Electoral Rolls for Victoria 1912 and 1931 +  
 Municipal (Council) Directories for Victoria 1880 +  
 Some directories for major country towns (e.g. Geelong and Ballarat), but these are for isolated periods.

Jennifer M. Carter,  
 29 Charteris Drive,  
 East Ivanhoe 3079,  
 Victoria, Australia.

MANY THANKS to Mr & Mrs John Durham, 11 Braeside Park, Balloch, Inverness, for generously presenting to the Society the microfiche index to the Old Parochial Registers for Caithness and Sutherland. The fiche lists baptisms and marriages for both counties (pre-1855), indexed by given name and by surname. The index was compiled by the Genealogical Society of Utah, and is intended as a comprehensive index to baptisms and marriages in the OPRs. (The I.G.I. is neither comprehensive, nor restricted to material from the OPRs, although useful in its own way - we have the I.G.I. fiche for the whole of Scotland, for example). As with the I.G.I., the OPR index is available for use in the reference room of Inverness Library and members researching Caithness & Sutherland families will find it of immense value. We are greatly indebted to Mr & Mrs Durham for their kind donation. As similar indexes are available for the other Highland counties, it would be nice to think they had set a trend !

CONFERENCE: Two of our members, Mr Donald Whyte (Vice President of the Scottish Genealogy Society) and Mr R.W. Munro (author of "Kinsmen and Clansmen", etc.) will be among the speakers at a one-day conference on genealogy being organised by the Scottish Records Association at Stirling University on November 12 1983. Mr Munro will lecture on "Highland Genealogy" and Mr Whyte's subject will be "Scottish Emigration to Canada before Confederation." The other speakers are Alwyn James, on "Do It Yourself Family History", and Betty Willsher on "Ups and Downs in My Own Family Search". It sounds an interesting programme - particularly so to members of this society - and the conference is open to all.

The conference fee is £7.50 (including coffee, lunch and tea). A programme and application form (to be returned by October 28) can be obtained from the secretary of the SPA:- Mrs Joan Auld, Archivist, University Library, Dundee.

TOUR: A tour of America and Canada has been organised for British family historians in Autumn 1984. Five societies over there are acting as hosts and the cost, for one week plus the two weekends at either end, is about £750 per person. The trip is open to any family historian. Further details from: Gwen Mansfield, St Mary's Lodge, Prinknash Park, Cranham, Glos GL4

8EM.

ACCESSIONS by the National Library of Scotland, 1981-82, include two rental books, 1770-90, and 1826-33, of the estates of the family of Mackintosh of Mackintosh (Acc. 7909); and a passenger and immigration lists index - a guide to published arrival records of about 500,000 passengers who came to the United States and Canada in the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries - edited by P. William Filby, with Mary K Meyer. 3 Vol. Detroit, Michigan, 1981. Accessions by the Scottish Record Office include a number of synod, presbytery and kirk session records - among them Inverness 1688-1933.

GENIVRE: Work is progressing on a new Clan Donald Centre at Armadale Castle, Sleat, Isle of Skye, which it is hoped to open officially next year. It will include a museum and a study centre for students and researchers.

THE FAMILY TREE DETECTIVE is the title of a new book by Colin D. Rogers (Manchester University Press, £7.50), described as "a manual for analysing and solving genealogical problems in England and Wales, 1538 to the present day." The book suggests alternative steps to take when those infuriating dead ends appear.

## Bits & Pieces

A "Deaths Overseas" index is being compiled. It is called the Wakelin Index, after Mr G. Wakelin who began it. If you find any reference to a death overseas, please send it to Mr Dennis Pearce, Wayside, Roman Road, Twyford, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1QW, or to our Secretary who will pass it on.

Miss Ngaire Moffitt, Invercargill, New Zealand, has sent us a copy of the passenger list for the "Sevilla", the vessel on which her ancestor emigrated in 1859. This list does not give places of origin, but some others do, and she wonders if we would like other overseas members to follow her example.  
Answer - Yes Please.

The Journal of the Rosendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry, Lancashire, (Vol 3 No 12) highlights a potentially useful source for those trying to trace emigrant forebears:- Returns of Emigrating Indented Servants. In 1717 provision was made for those aged over 15 and under 21 (who could not legally make contracts) to enter into an Indenture for a term not exceeding 8 years, in return for a passage to the American Plantations. In the 1770s, fears were aroused about excessive emigration, and Customs Officers were ordered to make returns of persons leaving the country. For 1774 and part of 1775, the result was something approaching "emigration statistics" for English ports. These records give names, ages, occupations and former places of residence. Many were Londoners, but substantial numbers were from elsewhere in England, Scotland and Ireland. These records are at the Public Record Office, London, under "Treasury Papers 47-49, 10, and 11".

Mrs Rena King, from Herts, found the following details in the 1881 Census Return for Barking.

RG. 11-1749 at the end of the reel.

Folio 126. Vessel "Belvidere of Wick".

John Smith	Widr	38	Master	b. Caithness, Scotland
Simon Thompson	M	33	Mate	" "
Robt. Ross	Unm	20	O. Seaman	" "

The first meeting of the 1983/84 season takes place on September 27th, at 7.30pm in the Reference Room of Inverness Public Library. It will take the form of an "Open Night" - hope to see YOU there.

Mr John Rowlands, 19 Windsor Terrace, Totterdown, Bristol BS3 4UF, wants to get rid of some old photographs. He writes "They concern a holiday taken in 1911 by one C.E. Allen, based mostly at Strathpeffer and Braemar. The photographs are mostly of a scenic nature, but one or two show villages and people, notably 'Coach in which we drove at Strathpeffer' showing a four horse open bus affair with all its attendants, and 'Strathpeffer children' showing just that. The pictures are of little interest to me and the first interested person to contact me can have them with pleasure".

Col. Murray Rose, of Virginia, tells us that many Scots from the Inverness area settled in Ohio between 1800 and 1810, particularly of the names McIntosh, McPherson, Rose, McBane, Cameron, McCreedy, McBean, Campbell, Fraser & McGillivray.

The Rose Family Association, 1474 Montelegre Drive, San Jose, California 95120, USA, have reprinted a limited edition of "A Genealogical Deduction of the Family of Rose of Kilravock, with Illustrative Documents from the Family Papers, and Notes, 1290 - 1847". The book was compiled by Hugh Rose, extended by the Rev. Lechlan Shaw, edited by C.Innes and originally published by the Spalding Club in 1848. Price 25 dollars (ex. postage).

"A History of Clan Grant" by the Rt. Hon. Lord Strathspay, 32nd Hereditary Chief of Clan Grant, is due to be published this Summer by Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Shopwyke Hall, Chichester, Sussex PO20 6BQ.

Aberdeen University Press, Farmers Hall, Aberdeen AB9 2XT, are publishing a 4th volume of the University of Aberdeen Roll of Graduates, covering the years 1956-1970. The first section records the careers (including details of birth & parentage) of those who graduated between 1956 & 1970; the second contains the names (and additional information) of all graduates mentioned in the three earlier volumes (1860 - 1955), and not recorded therein as having died. Biographical details include academic and other qualifications gained, occupations, marriage, civil and military honours, and reference to obituaries appearing in "Aberdeen University Review". Price £45 (ex. postage). Also available, "at second-hand prices", are the first three volumes: 1860-1900; 1901-1925; and 1926-1955.

Dulnain Bridge member, Mrs Margaret Mackenzie, corresponds with an Australian family historian who gave her a graphic account of the terrible bush fires which swept parts of the country earlier this year. With flames racing up the street to within 50 yards of her home, her friend packed a few belongings and fled. Two miles down the road she remembered her family history! Making her way back through crowds of sightseers she found her house in darkness, but in the "golden eerie glow" she located her family history files and escaped with them in a laundry basket. Next day her house was still standing, but it prompted the thought: "I nearly left all that hard work in the house to burn - I always said it would be the first thing I would take!"

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

- 10. BUTLER, Mrs Margaret, 15 Kinellan Drive, Strathpeffer, Ross & Cromarty IV14 9BE.
- 226. CORNWALL, Miss Sharon M., Green Park, No. 4 R.D., Morrinsville, New Zealand.
- 222. BUREN, Ms Sarah, Brumant, Liansawel, Llandella, Dyfed SA19 7JZ.
- 223. FORBES, Mr Herbert E., Jnr., 6219 Yellowstone Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22312, USA.
- 219. FORSYTH, Miss J.M., 33 Emenhurst Road, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6BF.
- 229. FRASER, Mr W.S., 18 Walbulla Drive, North Bayswater, Victoria 3153, Australia.
- 224. GREEN, Mr Edward K., Selworthy, 8 Shipway Avenue, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7BA.
- 231. HOLDSWORTH, Ms Rosalynn, 803, 72 Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0P5, Canada.
- 225. McCABON, Mrs M., 56 Thompson Street, Zillmere 4034, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- 217. MacDUFF Clan Society, Mrs C. Abernethy, Fogrigarth, Bridge of Walls, Shetland ZE2 9NT.
- 220. McGREGOR, Dr Richard E., 43 Alder Crescent, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1TU.
- 146. MacLEOD, Mrs Isabel, 17A Walker Street, Newtonville 02160, Mass., USA.
- 227. MUNRO, Mr Iain, 1 Ethel Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 5NB.
- 230. PESCOOTT, Sr. Mary, Dept of History, Research School of Social Studies, Australian National University, PO Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600, Australia.
- 218. ROSS & CROMARTY Heritage Society, c/o D.C. Murray, Tighendallan House, Ewanton, Ross-shire.
- 71. ROSS, Mr Kenneth, 38 Galloway Drive, Culloiden, Inverness IV1 2NE.
- 221. ROSS, Mr Peter J., 6 Victoria Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA 9 6BJ.
- 228. SHAND, Miss Margaret H., 52 Rio Vista Blvd., Florida Gardens, Broadbeach Waters, Queensland 4217, Australia.
- 126. WISEHART, Mrs Joan, 5 Pine Grove, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 86. BANGOR-JONES, Mr Malcolm, Department of Geography, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN.
- 53. DOWSEY, Mrs Lilah S., 30 Clewborough Drive, Camberley, Surrey.
- 214. GLEN, Mr & Mrs F.J., York Cottage, 1B Drummond Road, Inverness IV2 4NA.
- 159. MCKELLAR, Mrs C., 60 Dorchester Avenue, Glasgow G12.
- 120. TAIT, Miss Maureen, 7 Hilton Court, Inverness.