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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The following publications are on sale at meetings, and are available by post from the Treasurer at the address above:-

H.F.E.S. Journal, back numbers	-	£1.00 per issue (inc. postage)
H.F.E.S. Register of Research	-	£1.50 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £2.00 (airmail)
1983 Supplement to the above	-	£0.75 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £1.00 (airmail)
"Introducing Scottish Genealogical Research", by Donald Whyte, F.H.G.	-	£2.00 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £2.50 (airmail)
"Family History News & Digest": Official Journal of the Federation of FHSs	-	£1.20 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £2.00 (airmail)

Nowadays, most people are quite particular about the way in which their name is spelled. There may be several alternative spellings, but only one of them is "correct", so far as the bearer is concerned. "Mac" surnames are a good example. MacKintosh or McIntosh; McKenzie or Mackenzie - the holder of the name will usually stick to one spelling. This consistent approach is probably a good idea (especially when it comes to signing cheques), but it can lead to some comical misconceptions. Twice recently, for instance, I've heard it confidently stated that surnames beginning with Mac (pronounced "Mack") are Scottish, and surnames beginning with Mc (pronounced "Mick") are Irish ! Where does that leave Canada's Micmac Indians, I wonder ?

No, the mundane truth is that Mc, and the now seldom used contraction M', are both simple abbreviations for Mac; and my guess is that our ancestors weren't too fussy about which form was used. I don't think they bothered too much about the spelling of other names either and, in the days before universal literacy, perhaps they were in no position to. Certainly, there are many examples of the same family name being spelled several different ways in parish registers, censuses, and registration certificates.

In some cases, it would depend simply on the whim of the official concerned. A clerk prone to writer's cramp, for instance, could have shortened many a "Mack" to a "Mick" ! Sometimes there could have been a conscious decision to alter a spelling, and the reason can be interesting. My grandfather, who was not from the tinker side of the clan, thought MacPhie had an Irish look to it and unilaterally changed the spelling phonetically. Occasionally, a name would change to something phonetically similar: I once spent months searching for the birth of a man called Kerr, only to find him registered as a Carr.

The problem for researchers is to be aware of all possible spelling variations, and to remember that most indexes are strictly alphabetical. Thus, in New Register House, you will find Mac, Mc and M' indexed quite separately and all three may have to be checked. The same is true of the Mormon IGI, and their new indexes to the OPRs. Watch out also for contracted forenames - Jas will be separate from James, and Wm from William. To trace one individual, therefore, could mean checking up to 12 different spelling permutations, or even more. It can be a lengthy business, but will save time and tears in the long run.

A Merry Old Ancestor !

Since we all of us had over a million ancestors 400 years ago, we must all be descended from King Robert Bruce by many lines. We may not be able to trace any of these descents step by step, but mathematically they must be there. We therefore also descend from Princess Helen, whose daughter, Isabel of Mar, was the first wife of King Robert and from whom came the Stewart kings.

Helen was a daughter of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, the last ruler of Gwynedd in North Wales, and the first to be styled Prince of Wales. The name of Helen's mother is not known, as the only recorded marriage of Llywelyn is that with Eleanor de Montfort in 1278, when he must have been about 55 - four years before he was murdered in 1282.

Helen probably came to Scotland when she was quite a young girl in or after 1258 when Llywelyn made a Treaty of Alliance with the Scottish lords in the minority of King Alexander III against King Henry III of England. Perhaps she was a pledge of Welsh good faith. She was married first to Malcolm, Earl of Fife, who died in 1266. She was doubtless his second wife, for she cannot have been the mother of his sons who were already in their 'teens when Malcolm died. Helen married secondly Donald, Earl of Mar, who was knighted in 1270 and died in 1297. She was still in receipt of her Fife dower in 1295 and she may not have survived Donald. They had a son, Gratney, Earl of Mar, and two or three daughters: Isabel, who married c. 1295 Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, afterwards King Robert I; Marjory, who married John of Strathbogie, Earl of Atholl; and perhaps Mary, who is said to have married Kenneth, Earl of Sutherland.

Llywelyn, Prince of Wales, had a long ancestry in the male line, which is certain for 12 generations back to Rhodri Mawr, King of Wales 844 - 878, and traditional for another 14 generations back to Coel Hen, King in Ayrshire c. 450 - the real Old King Cole.

Donald Maclean of Dochgarroch
Hazelbrae House,
Glen Urquhart,
Inverness-shire.

The Gaick Disaster

by Robert MacFarlane

Much has been written and poems composed since the disaster commonly referred to as "The Loss of Gaick" during the first week of 1800.

The forest of Gaick is situated approximately 16 miles south of Kingussie, and both formed a part of the Duke of Gordon's "Lordship of Badenoch". The principal character in the incident was Captain John Macpherson of Ballachroan (located 1½ miles west of Kingussie) who, along with four companions, died while sheltering in a bothie at Gaick during a particularly violent storm on the 2nd January 1800. They were on a hunting expedition and the probable cause of death was an avalanche which swept down on the bothie, killing all four before they had time to react. Local tradition blames the incident on the "Evil One" ! Only one seems to have attempted to escape. He was Duncan MacFarlane, who was probably a brother of John MacFarlane, my great-great-grandfather, hence my interest in this story.

Captain John Macpherson was born in 1724, his father being of the Macphersons of Ballachroan, and his mother from the Aberarder branch of the MacDonells of Keppoch. He served in the 82nd Regiment and was commonly referred to as the "Black Officer" from his reputation as a ruthless recruiting agent in the area. In 1773 he is recorded as farming Ballachroan, but in a "List of Able Bodied Men" in the Duke of Gordon's "Lordship of Lochaber" in 1778 he is described as tacksman of Fersett, although he had just vacated it.

Tenants at Fersett, on the same list just quoted, included a family of MacFarlanes, i.e. Alexander and his sons John, Donald and a son whose first name is not given. All of them were aged between 16 and 60 years. This family of MacFarlanes do not appear again in any Lochaber records I have checked, and it is possible that they may have followed Captain Macpherson to Badenoch.

In 1783, a Duncan MacFarlane was living at Phones and in the Rev. Thomas Sinton's "The Poetry of Badenoch" the Duncan who died at Gaick is referred to thus: "He lived at Tigh an Ailein, near Phones". John MacFarlane, my ancestor, married Grace MacDonell, who was a daughter of John Dubh Aberarder, who in turn was a first cousin of the Black Officer. John MacFarlane first appeared on record in Badenoch as having been in Kingussie before 1791. He further appears in rentals until 1800 as a prominent tacksman. In 1800 John was removed from the farm of Kingussie to make way for the new village of that name. Thereafter, John lived at Phones where he was evicted, with many other families, by James Macpherson of Belleville (of Ossian fame) in 1806.

The Rev. Thomas Sinton gives three poems on the disaster, and in the introduction to another unrelated poem about John MacFarlane, he refers to John as a brother of Duncan MacFarlane killed at Gaick ! This reference, and circumstantial occurrences previously mentioned, is the only evidence I possess that Duncan MacFarlane was a brother of John my great-great-grandfather.

The Rev. Sinton gives the other companions who died as: young John Macpherson from Phones, Donald MacGilvary (fox-hunter) and James Grant a native of Strathspey as his gillie.

Along with most other writers on the subject, he states that "It was not until several months after the incident that the fifth body was discovered a distance from the bothie". This I would dispute, based on the following description of the event which appeared in the "Aberdeen Journal" of Monday January 27th 1800 - 25 days after the incident.

"We are sorry to learn, that Major Macpherson of Lorick, and other four gentlemen, who were out along with him, shooting wild-fowl, on the Duke of Gordon's grounds between Strathspey and Badenoch, have unfortunately perished in the violent storm of snow, which did so much damage by sea and land on Thursday the 2d current. They had retired for shelter to an old cot house about 16 miles distant from any town, and which was blown down upon them by the fury of the wind. The bodies of Major Macpherson and other three of them were found under the ruins; that of the fifth gentleman was found on the outside of the cottage."

Captain John Macpherson and "young" John Macpherson were buried in "nan Colum Chille" Kingussie, their tombstone inscriptions being recorded by Alexander MacPherson at the end of the last century, and further recorded in Allison Mitchell's "Pre-1855 Inscriptions for Speyside". Whether the other members of that unfortunate trip are also buried there remains to be confirmed. My great-great-grandfather, John MacFarlane, probably died at Kingussie in 1817, as "Mrs John MacFarlane" is recorded in the list of tenants in arrears for Kingussie in that year. It is also likely that John is buried in Kingussie, although no monument to him is evident.

If any of this Journal's readers can throw any light on Duncan MacFarlane who died at Gaick, and any descendants, I would be more than grateful for any information.

Robert MacFarlane, 8 Exner St., Brits O250, South Africa.

Secretary's Notebook

EXCHANGING JOURNALS

The Society is an Associate Member of the Federation of Family History Societies and regularly we are approached by other member societies asking us to exchange our Journal with theirs on a regular basis. At the present count, there are 140 Family History Societies and One-Name Groups etc., in the Federation. Our own membership stands at 240, so in view of the costs which would be involved in increasing by 50% each printing of the Journal, the Committee decided for the time being to limit our exchanges to Scottish societies alone.

Thus you will find that our library collection holds regular issues of Journals and Newsletters from the Aberdeen & N-E Scotland, Glasgow & W. of Scotland, and Tay Valley Family History Societies, and from the Scottish Genealogy Society. However, alongside mostly consecutive editions of these Scottish newsletters and journals are a growing number of random issues of periodicals donated by societies in Wiltshire, Shropshire, Oxfordshire, etc., and from overseas. These were offered to us on an exchange basis, which we had to decline. Journal exchanges will shortly be commencing on a regular basis, however, with the new Anglo-Scottish FHS, the Caraher Society, and possibly with various Clan Associations.

If you have any comments on particularly worthwhile publications, please let me know.

At the recent conference on genealogy at Stirling University, we noticed an epidemic of new University nomenclature. No longer the Biology Dept - it's now retitled "Biology Services". There's "Psychology Services", "Geophysical Services", (Duncan thought the restaurant should have been re-named "Nutritional Services"!). So ...

SECRETARIAL SERVICES

- 1) If you wish to contact any of the other UK or overseas FHSs to further your research in other areas, I can supply (s.a.e. please) a current list of the member societies in the Federation, and the addresses of their Secretaries.
- 2) How often have you been stuck on a research problem, and no chance of getting to Edinburgh for months (or years in the case of overseas members) ?

7
Quite often, a few hours work by a professional genealogist can open the way again, and the cost need not be too prohibitive. I can send you a list of the members of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Record Agents. (Once again, s.a.e. please).

3) Please always remember to enclose postage stamps, or reply coupons, as most of you do already. It does help to keep our administration costs down, and we are planning to purchase more microfiche material this year.

David Evans

GET INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

AT THE

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY'S

Social Night

An informal, pre-Christmas get-together.

Bring a partner or friend.

Finger buffet.

AT THE MUIRTOWN MOTEL, INVERNESS,

ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 6th, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets - £2.50 each

From Committee members.

Or phone the Secretary,

and pay on the night.

M A R I T I M E
I D E N T I T I E S .

by
Peter Ross.

Fiction supports the facts that over the years the Scots have been prevalent in the crews of the majority of shipping and it thus follows that many members of the H.F.H.S. can claim at least one nautical ancestor. To such as you, take care of those old ship photographs, they may well be the keys to a storehouse of travels.

The purpose of this relatively brief note is to illustrate how, in my particular case, I was able to draw up the history of the ship to which my grandfather, John Ross, was appointed Master.

Some years ago I came across an old sepia photo in an aunt's album with the caption: "The King of Siam's Yacht, 'Vesatri', Auxiliary Steam Schooner, 275 tons BM., and 45 H.P. Built & Powered by Day Summers & Co. Southampton, March 1878." I was immediately taken up with the idea of compiling the ship's history and building a scale model and made the following contacts:

- a. The Royal Thai Embassy. The Naval Attache obtained from Bangkok details of voyages undertaken including that of the ex-U.S. President, General Grant, when he toured Malaya and local territories.
- b. Lloyds' Register of Shipping, who, for a small fee, provided a copy of the hull contours.
- c. Vickers Armstrongs gave details of armament.

d. The Illustrated London News provided a copy of their April 1878 write-up on the vessel giving details of her equipment, engines and furnishings.

e. The British Museum (Oriental Books & Mss. Dept.) who gave the interpretation of "Vesatri" as meaning 'without an enemy' (from the Sanskrit).

f. Southampton Local Press. The Editor of the Southampton Echo kindly printed my letter seeking further data. This brought information from a surviving director of the constructors and who, subsequently, sent me the wooden pattern from which the ship's crest (cabin decor) was cast. A fine companion to the model ship on my desk!

g. Records of Ships, Masters, Mates & Crewlists. H.F.H.S. members having such interests at heart should first obtain a copy of Leaflet No. 8. on this subject from the Public Records Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9.4DU. Tel. 01.876.3444. Naturally, ship owners' records may also be of value.

In conclusion it should be stated that although other contacts were fruitless, on no occasion did I meet with a rebuff, in fact everyone was willing to help directly or indirectly. So, if you are contemplating making a similar search for information, take heart. Always remember that your local libraries and museums can offer very useful advice as also the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

My current project is to plot the travels of my Rosses from Kindeace (cc 1670) to Southampton (1800's) with the kind help of the H.F.H.S.

NEWS

A REMINDER that subscriptions for 1983/84 are now overdue. If you wish to retain your membership (as we hope you all do!), but have not yet paid your subs, please send your remittance to the Treasurer as soon as possible. Unpaid memberships lapse at the end of December, after which no further Journals would be sent.

PUBLICATIONS: As a service to members, a number of publications etc., are now on sale at our monthly meetings. Committee member John Cousar is in charge of the sales table, which is "open" for business for the half-hour preceding each meeting, i.e. from 7pm, and for a short time afterwards. Items for sale include back issues of the Journal, the Register of Research, Donald Whyte's excellent primer "Introducing Scottish Genealogical Research", pedigree charts, genealogical record cards, etc. Also available shortly will be "Family History News & Digest", the twice-yearly official journal of the Federation of FHSs. If you have any "special requests", let John Cousar know. If you can't attend meetings, don't despair - most items can be purchased by post from the Treasurer, Mrs Booth (see inside front cover).

LIBERIAN, Peter Reynolds, became a TV star (for about a minute-and-a-half), when he was interviewed by Grampian TV's "Summer at Six" programme. The subject was the Society's endeavour to record all the inscriptions in Geddes churchyard, and there were some impressive-looking shots of members reverently dusting the ancient runes with Yardley talc! Peter says he felt rather a fraud, since it was his first (and so far only) visit to Geddes, but it gained the Society some useful local publicity. We also got a brief "menh" on the steam-radio, when Radio Highland interviewed our October speaker, Mrs Rosemary Bigwood, Chairman of the Association of Scottish Genealogists & Record Agents, and several local papers used a press hand-out about the start of our new session.

SYLLABUS CARDS: Everyone should have got one by now (as they renew their subs), but if not contact Dorothy Booth. Our apologies to those prompt payers who were kept waiting - the delay was due to multiple problems at the printers.

DON'T FORGET the Society's 1983 (pre-)Christmas Buffet - an informal get-together for members and partners in the Muirtown Motel, Inverness, (tickets £2.50 each, from any committee member). It's earlier than last year - on December 6th - and in view of the short notice you can phone a committee member to let us know you are coming, and pay on the night.

GOOD NEWS for those members (Nos 161+) who have waited patiently for their interests to be recorded in a Supplement to our Register of Research. Douglas Stewart, the compiler, has completed the painstaking work, down to No. 254. It now awaits photocopying and will be available shortly, price 75p (including UK postage and overseas surface mail), or £1 (airmail). The Register and Supplement are the quickest way to find out whether other members are researching the same names as you.

ARCHIVIST: Highland Regional Council have stepped back from the appointment of a full-time archivist. Their leisure and libraries committee had approved the post by two votes, after hearing that the existing, part-time archivist was employed for only one day per week. One councillor said he was "astounded" that an area of such historical interest as the Highlands should not have at least one full-time archivist. However, the committee's decision was subsequently overturned by the full Council, who voted instead for a part-timer, three days per week. Meanwhile, the Manpower Services Commission are funding a scheme to assist the present incumbent, Mr Alan Lawson, to catalogue a mass of historical documents from the basement of Inverness Town House - mostly official records of the former Town Council, including some maps and plans.

NEWSPAPER INDEX: Another project, also financed by the MSC, is under way at Inverness Public Library - the preparation of an index to part of their local newspaper collection. Local people, places and events (including births, deaths and marriages) will be indexed, and the potential from our point of view is obvious. The scheme will last 12 months and the index will cover (c.1850 - c.1900) the "Inverness Advertiser", "The Scottish Highlander", & possibly "The Inverness Courier". Talk about bated breath!

RECORD: 1982 was a record year for the Scottish Record Office, according to the annual report of the Keeper of the Records. It states that 2170 people consulted documents in the search rooms, compared with 2118 the previous year. Genealogical searches accounted for 37% of the total, & local history studies for 20%. Acquisitions during the year ranged from original letters of James VI, personal papers relating to St. Kilda and the Register of Business Names for Scotland 1914-1980, to 19th century letters from Scottish emigrants about sheep-farming in Australia. Records held in local repositories, although under the Keeper's charge, are also listed. Copies of the report (price £2 plus 33p postage) can be obtained from The Keeper of the Records of Scotland, HM General Register House, PO Box 36, Edinburgh EH1 3YJ.

THE ANGLO-SCOTTISH FHS has been formed as a sub-section of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, as a result of the large number of genealogists with Scottish interests living south of the border. Initially, the society will function through the parent body, using their library as an HQ and meeting place and communicating via contributions to "The Manchester Genealogist", which may be enlarged accordingly. The new society aim to work on the location & preservation of Scottish records in England and elsewhere, and projects include the collection of family trees, census indexing, and the expansion of the J.D. Beckett Dictionary of Emigrant Scots into England and Wales. Further details from the Secretary, Mrs D.F. Ramsbotham, 10 Blantyre Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 1ER. (Enclose s.a.e.)

ANOTHER BRANCH of the Ontario Genealogical Society has been formed. Secretary of the Brant County Branch is Mr Ted Wallace, PO Box 2181, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 5Y6. The parent society has more than 3000 members.

TWIN: Highland Regional Council have approved a municipal "twinning" link with Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia - the only other part of the world in which the Gaelic language and culture still survive. Apart from the strong historical and cultural links, there are geographic and economic similarities between the two areas, and Cape Breton was seen as an ideal choice for Highland Region's first venture into local authority twinning.

PRICES & INCOMES: Prof. Christopher Smout of St. Andrews University (author of "A History of the Scottish People 1560-1830") is to carry out a study of prices, wages and living standards in Scotland 200-300 years ago. Using a variety of sources such as estate records, JPs' records and merchants' papers, he intends to study the factors, such as the rise of industry, which affected the lives of Scots between 1680 and 1790.

"BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE - The Work of the Highland Folk Museum", is the title of the talk to be given to the Society on February 28th by Mr Ross Noble, Curator of the Kingussie-based museum. Mr Noble will illustrate his talk with slides.

THE FEDERATION of Family History Societies are to mark their 10th anniversary on June 9th, 1984, with a garden party at Stratfield Saye, near Reading, home of their Patron, the Duke of Wellington. The £5 ticket includes buffet lunch and admission to the "big house". A pleasant day out, if you're down that way. Further enquiries to: Mrs Pauline Litton, 34 Bramley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2DP.

DIARIES: Three members of staff at Keele University are compiling for publication, a bibliographical guide to working-class autobiographies and diaries of the 20th century. They recently completed a similar guide to works written by persons born before 1896, to be published by Harvester Press in 1984. The second volume will take the same form, with each work referenced by means of a 400 word abstract, covering biographical details and comments on content. Members who know of printed or manuscript works suitable for inclusion are asked to inform Dr David Mayall, Department of History, University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG.

A NEW GUIDE to Land Tax Assessments c. 1690-c.1950 has been published by the Federation of FHSs. They have also published a new edition of "Census Indexes and Indexing", containing new articles on transcription and indexing methods, and an up-dated list of indexes and index projects. Copies of both publications are in our Society's library.

MACKINTOSH: Our member, Mr Walter H. McIntosh, 28 Woodside Drive, Topsfield, Mass., 01983, USA, has been researching McIntosh/MacIntosh/Mackintosh families for about 20 years and has now published a third volume of data - "Genealogical Records of McIntosh Families in the United States and Canada". It lists emigrant Scots who came to America in the 18th & 19th centuries, and settled in Georgia, North & South Carolina, and all along the Atlantic seaboard as far north as Nova Scotia. Details have been compiled from family records, submitted pedigrees, county histories, bible records, allied genealogies, manuscripts, censuses, state vital records, obituaries, magazine articles, etc

Vol. 1 - "John McIntosh of Bedford, New Hampshire, and His Descendants"- and Vol 2 - "A Genealogical Record of Families in New England bearing the Name McIntosh" - are still available. Mr McIntosh has kindly donated copies of all three volumes to our library.

EUREKA! Inverness member Mr John Durham has worked the oracle for a lady enquiring about her gt-gt-grandparents, William Auld & Isabella Durran. He is researching both these names in Caithness and has "computerised" the data. This enabled him to send off a chart showing Isabella's parents, both sets of grandparents, and in one case her gt-grandparents. Mr Durham said: "I also looked for a possible connection between her family tree and mine. I was able to identify five sisters for William Auld, one of whom married my gt-grandfather's first cousin Donald Durran. I also discovered the interesting fact that Isabella's paternal grandmother, Helen Younger, lived to be 100 & as she was born in 1777 she was probably at Isabella's marriage to William Auld in 1874."

