

# hìghland family history society



# comunn sloimtearachd na Gaidhealtachd

# JOURNAL

Number 10

April 1984

ISSN 0262-6659

Published by  
The Highland Family History Society

Comunn Sloimtearachd na Gaidhealtachd

Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Secretary:** David Evans, 53 Ballifeary Road, Inverness. Tel. (0463) 230184.

**Treasurer:** Mrs Dorothy H. Booth, 46 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.

**Editor:** Duncan Ross, 45 Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. Tel. (0463) 240080.

**Members:** Douglas R. Stewart.  
Mrs Irene Sutherland.  
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John Durham.

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.H.S. Journal, back numbers	-	£1.00 per issue (inc. postage)
H.F.H.S. Register of Research	-	£1.50 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £2.00 (airmail)
1983 Addendum to the Register	-	£0.75 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £1.00 (airmail)
"Family History News & Digest", Official Journal of the Federation of FHSs	-	£1.20 (inc. UK postage or surface mail) £2.00 (airmail)

Although the Editorial always appears on Page 1 of the Journal, it is always the last page to be written - left to the end in the fervent hope that, in the meantime, I will dream up something punchy, or pertinent, or piercingly perceptive to say. Just think "aloud", I tell myself:

What on earth can I drone on about this time? Will I tell them about that Dutchman who came to see me - David Ross from Roosendaal - who wanted to know more about his Scottish ancestors Everyone knows the Scots went to North America, Australia, etc., but you don't hear much about our links with Europe. Is that because Europeans of Scots descent, by now, speak one of those dreadful foreign languages - a communications barrier we don't have with the "Colonials"? I could tie this in with the story of the wall painting they found recently in a castle near Utrecht - dancing, tartan-clad figures, they said, dating from the late 1740s. Exiled Jacobites, perhaps. The experts seem quite excited about it.

But we've had the AGM since then. Perhaps I should underline the fact that we now have a new Chairman in Peter Reynolds; explain that, strictly speaking, I could have stayed on as chairman for another year, but after 3 years in the "hot seat" (if you count the "Steering Committee" stage), I felt it was time for me to move over. Enjoyed my stint; proud to have been the first chairman; Peter's capable hands; etc. Not forgetting thanks to Loreine Maclean for sterling service on committee; diligent attendee; wise counsel; sage advice; and all that. Welcome John Durham, new man on committee, enthusiastic founder-member, and computer wizard.

I could have said something like that, but I've just had an excited phone call from the Treasurer, which offers further inspiration. Dorothy says the Inland Revenue have just sent us a cheque for £101 - the tax claimed back from the 45 members who covenanted their subs. I'll point out it's not every day the taxman gives money away; easy for UK taxpayers to pay subs this way (Dorothy has forms); helps to boost FFHS funds at no extra cost to themselves; almost too good to be true, but it works.

I'll use a persuasive example, such as £100 buying eight reels of microfilm, or five of those new hand-held film readers. The more covenants we get, the more source material we can provide to help you with your research. That should bring the message home, and I'll round off with a pun. Something like "Join the Covenanters!" Yes, I think that's what I'll say.

## James Innes's Will - Sequel

By Alison Halley

After James Innes's Will was published in the July 1983 Journal (No. 7), I sat back and hoped that maybe some further information would trickle in on the subject.

However, when no-one seemed to know anything about this, I realised that if my curiosity was to be satisfied, I would have to do a little research on him myself.

I decided that the first step ought to be the present Minister of Canisbay Church, but he had only recently come to the area and did not know the history of the church. The previous minister had had a large collection of church records, which would have been extremely useful, but on his death they were all sent down to the Record Office in Elinburgh, and were therefore quite out of reach from Caithness.

The church Treasurer gave me the first piece of information by telling me that there was a gravestone of a James Innes who had been minister at Canisbay from 1667 till his death in 1704, aged 67. There was also an entry in the records of a sum of £80 left to the poor by a Col. James Innes of Cape Fear, but this was dated 1804. It therefore seemed that my James (whose will was dated 1754, and on which probate was granted in 1759) was the son of a Canisbay minister and probably had spent his childhood in the area.

"Fasti Ecclesiae Sooticanæ" was the next stop, and this confirmed that there had been a Rev. James Innes. He was "descended of the family of Blackhills in Moray" and entered (? the ministry) on 22nd December 1667, and had been educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen University (M.A. 11th June 1666). He did not conform to Presbyterianism in 1690, but was allowed to remain in his charge of Canisbay until his death. He married Jean Munro, who died before 1725, and had issue Theodore, James and Barbara. Theodore became a merchant in Elinburgh and Barbara married John Sutherland, a merchant in Thurso (contr. 19th August 1732). James was said to have settled in South Carolina and left £80 to the poor of the parish. This is obviously "my" James, despite the reference being to South Carolina, whereas the Will said North Carolina, the sum of money being only £80 not £100, and there being no reference to a bell.

Another reference book I found was the "Ecclesiastical History of Caithness", by D. Beaton (pub. 1909). This confirmed that the Rev. James Innes descended from the family of Blackhills in Moray, but said that he had been laureated "at the University and King's College, Aberdeen", although the same dates were given for his degree and entering the ministry. It stated that he had died on 24th December 1704 in the 67th year of his age and 28th of his ministry. It gives the same information on the two sons, but doesn't mention poor Barbara!

This is where matters would have been left, but for Mr & Mrs John Durham of Balloch, Inverness, who kindly gave the H.F.H.S. a microfiche index to the Old Parochial Registers for Caithness and Sutherland. Our Editor, Duncan Ross, diligently searched through this for me to try to find James's birth or baptism, but without success. Since this index is comprehensive, unlike the Mormon I.G.I., and a minister would be unlikely not to have his children baptised and registered, it seems probable that the Rev. James married and had his children before he was ordained and moved to Caithness - he was, after all, aged 39 by that stage in his life. There was, however, a marriage entry on 25th January 1690 in Thurso between a James Innes and a Jean Miller. This would fit in very nicely, since in the Will, James's wife is named as Jean.

James Innes of Cape Fear, Colonel of the Provincial Regiment of North Carolina, fighting the French and Indians in Ohio, and with a plantation and negro slaves, is a long way from the James Innes, younger son of a minister of a quiet, rural Scottish parish. But I like to think that he took with him to America the Scottish belief in education for everyone, and that he is remembered there as an early provider of free education. It is only a pity that the bell he intended should be purchased for the Parish Church of Canisbay, never seemed to materialise. It would surely have lasted longer than the £80 for the poor.

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### OFFER OF HELP

Mrs M. Luff, McKees Road, Palmwoods 4555, Queensland, Australia, has written to say that her local Society has on microfilm the births, marriages and deaths for New South Wales to 1900, and Queensland deaths and marriages to 1895. She is willing to help anyone who is interested in them.

# The Men Who Gave Us The "News"

By Alan Campbell

It all began on a modest scale. Three brothers, undaunted by the failure of similar ventures by others in earlier years, launched the "Evening News" on Tuesday, May 27, 1873, with finances which, by today's standards, were slender as a shoe-string.

What the brothers lacked in cash resources was more than made up by their courage and determination to succeed. And today, the "News" celebrates the completion of a century of service to the people of Edinburgh and surrounding counties.

The founders - Hugh, James and John Wilson - were hard-headed Highlanders, the sons of a farm manager. What enabled them to make newspaper history was that they foresaw the future of the popular Press. They had ideas and methods of their own, also experience, patience, industry and courage, but - not much capital.

They took their lives in their hands, and the elder brother, Hugh, the ablest and most energetic, was broken in health by the strain. He died at Southport on June 18, 1877, after a long illness, at the age of 44. He was the first editor of the "News". A native of Ross-shire, Hugh started work as an apprentice engineer in a Clyde shipyard. After an accident he went into the newspaper business, and ran the "Wairnshire Telegraph" for several years. He moved to the "Fife Herald" as editor, and later broadened his experience with the "Elgin Courant", "Elgin Courier" and "The Orcadian".

In Kirkcaldy, illness put him off work for nearly two years, and he had barely recovered when in 1867, aged 34, he started the "Hexham Herald". Two years later he became editor of the "Manchester Evening News", the first halfpenny paper published in that city.

The Wilson family had moved to Morayshire before James and John were born in 1842 and 1844 respectively. James began his career as a school teacher but, after a few years, he deserted the classroom for the newsroom of the "Elgin Courier", where he trained as a reporter. Subsequently, he moved around quite a lot, following to some extent in the footsteps of his elder brother. He worked with the "Edinburgh Courant", the "Airdrie Advertiser", "The Orcadian", and the "Shields Gazette" before arriving also at Manchester.

He was a reporter on the "Guardian" until 1873, when he joined his brothers in the Edinburgh venture.

As the paper prospered, James found time to study agriculture and bought the farm of Pow, near Rumbling Bridge, where he built a handsome house which he and his family occupied as a summer residence. It was there he died in 1894.

The "News" of that date stated: "He had a special fondness for agriculture, which he studied theoretically and practically. Strongly persuaded that much of the depressed state of farming was due to the antiquated methods employed, Mr Wilson had his farm equipped with all modern mechanical appliances, and everything seemed favourable to making an important experiment in agriculture."

From the beginning, he was in charge of the reporting staff and later he also looked after the commercial department.

The third of the founders, John, was a natural choice as head of the "News" mechanical department. He also got his first newspaper job in Elgin, where he served his apprenticeship as a compositor on the "Courant". Before long, he was in charge of an Orkney newspaper. After learning shorthand, he became a reporter, first on the staff of the "Glasgow Daily Mail" and afterwards on the "Manchester Guardian".

When the brothers decided that the time was ripe for the Scottish capital to have its own evening paper, they formed themselves into the firm of H.J. & J. Wilson and, fusing their individual skills in editorial, production and management, invaded territory then dominated by three morning papers, and where many in authority regarded an evening journal as an intrusion.

The beginnings of the "News" were humble, but ten years later the firm's income was three times as great as the original capital.

John was the only one of the pioneering brothers to survive into the twentieth century, and to see the paper firmly established in the affections of its readers.

When he died on October 29, 1909, the "News" paid this tribute: "His journalistic experience, natural mechanical ability, sound judgment, and good sense were a tower of strength and valuable assets in aiding the steady growth of the paper, of which he was, for many years, the editor."

John took a more active part in public life than his brothers had been able to do. In politics he was a Liberal, and he had been repeatedly asked to stand as candidate for different constituencies.

A Vice-President and Fellow of the Institute of Journalists, he was also a Justice of the Peace of Edinburgh. For many years he took an active part in the work of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

He was captain of the Royal Burgess Golfing Society from 1896 to 1897 in the troublesome times when the question of Sunday golf was agitating the members, and by his tactfulness prevented serious internal dissensions.

He also lent great assistance in carrying out the erection of the new clubhouse at Barnnton. As a bowler he played in the Arothers' Hall and Whitehouse and Grange Club, and his other recreations included curling, angling and shooting.

**Note:** Mr Campbell, 5 Wickens Street, Beckenham 6107, Western Australia, sent us the above article after his Query regarding the Wilson family was published in the January 1983 Journal (Query 5/6). However, the information he gives resulted not from that Query, but from a similar request published in "The Scottish Genealogist" Vol XXX No 1 (March 1983). Mr Campbell writes: "I would, of course, like to hear from descendants of this family."

#### LETTER

Sir, I am preparing a programme on the subject of genealogy, in particular, one person's search for their family history. Instead of the familiar "how to research" programme, we are more interested in the specific family tree involved, with any associated visual material (e.g. photographs). Our problem at this stage is finding a suitable person with a suitable tree and I am hoping that you may be able to help. There are a few criteria, though by no means immovable:

- i) that the person involved have a young family
  - ii) that they have traced back their tree (not exhaustively) to at least 1770.
  - iii) that their antecedents come from different areas of the country.
  - iv) that there are at least a few old photographs.
- I would appreciate it if you could bring this inquiry to the attention of your society, and ask anyone interested to get in touch with me.

Mike Barnes, Assistant Producer, Music & Arts Features, Television, Scotland, Broadcasting House, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow G12 8DG.

## A Ross-shire 'Census', 1792

Below appears a list of people involved in various facets of the Ross-shire Sheep Riots of 1792 - remembered in the Highlands as "Bliadhna nan Caorach", or "The Year of the Sheep".

The list is drawn from a list of witnesses to be used at the trial of John Ross alias Davidson, tenant in Strathrusdale, parish of Rosskeen, and also from the statements made by his son John Ross, along with those of Finlay Munro alias Bain, and Donald Munro alias McAadie.

The list could possibly be helpful to one involved in genealogy as it virtually provides a male census of Strathrusdale, Kildermorie and Ardross at a time relatively poor in genealogical records. (Rosskeen parish registers commence in 1783.)

Further details can be obtained from the compiler: Peter Grant, 100 Doon Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.

AIRD, James, tenant in Strathrusdale.

AIRD, John, tenant in Strathrusdale.

BULE, James, in Ardross.

CAMERON, Alexander, brother to Capt. Allan Cameron.

CAMERON, Capt. Allan, Esq., residing at Fyrish, Alness.

CAMERON, Allan junior, shepherd at Kildermorie to Capt. Cameron.

CAMERON, Angus, jeweller in London, presently residing at

Kildermorie.

CAMERON, Donald, alias MacMillan, servant at Kildermorie to

Capt. Cameron.

CAMERON, Ewen, servant at Kildermorie to Capt. Cameron.

CAMERON, John, grieve at Kildermorie to Capt. Cameron.

CAMERON, Mrs Katharine, Kildermorie.

CAMERON, Margaret, daughter to Donald Cameron alias MacMillan.

CAMPBELL, Anne, servant at Kildermorie to Capt. Cameron.

CUNNINGHAM, William, in Aulanguish, parish of Kincardine.

HOLM, John, in Strathrusdale.

KEITH, David, servant to Capt. Cameron.

McDONALD, Donald, servant to Capt. Cameron.

McGREGOR, --, two brothers, sheepfarmers in Glencasley.  
 McGREGOR, Alexander, in Glaiok of Ardross.  
 MacKAY, Donald, in Langwell, parish of Kincardine.  
 MacKENZIE, Donald, son to John MacKenzie in Strathrusdale.  
 MacKENZIE, John, son to John MacKenzie in Strathrusdale.  
 MacKENZIE, Hugh, alias Breck, late in Strone, now in Acharn on the estate of Teaninich, parish of Alness.  
 McLACHLAN, Anne, wife to Donald Cameron alias MacMillan.  
 MacPHILLIP, --, from Assynt on the estate of Inchooultter.  
 MORE, John, alias Fraser, in Strathrusdale.  
 MUNRO, Alexander, alias Bain, tenant in Midoullich.  
 MUNRO, Donald, alias Roy, servant in the parish of Kincardine.  
 MUNRO, Donald, son to John Munro weaver in Ardross.  
 MUNRO, Donald, alias McAddie, tenant in Balnabachacan of Strathrusdale, married, aged over 40 years.  
 MUNRO, Finlay, alias Bain, tenant in Knockshogle of Ardross, unmarried, aged 24 years.  
 MUNRO, George, son to Donald Munro alias McAddie.  
 MUNRO, Helen, daughter of Donald Munro alias McAddie, wife of John Ross alias Davidson junior, tenant in Dalmore, Strathrusdale.  
 MUNRO, James, in Tollie of Ardross.  
 MUNRO, John, son to Hugh Munro alias McIntyre in Strathrusdale.  
 MUNRO, John, weaver in Ardross.  
 MUNRO, William, son to Donald Munro alias McAddie.  
 MUNRO, William, alias Taylor, son to John Munro in Strathrusdale.  
 ROSS, Alexander, tenant in Strathrusdale, son to John Ross alias Davidson senior.  
 ROSS, David, servant to Donald Munro in Guillichmore.  
 ROSS, Donald, alias McOhie.  
 ROSS, George, son to John Ross alias Davidson senior.  
 ROSS, Gilbert, tenant in Inchoconmar of Strathrusdale, and grasskeeper to Capt. Cameron.  
 ROSS, Hugh, alias Cooper, tenant in Tollie of Ardross.  
 ROSS, John, alias Davidson senior, married, aged 60 years, tenant in Strathrusdale.  
 ROSS, John, alias Davidson junior, married, aged 24 years, tenant in Dalmore of Strathrusdale, husband of Helen Munro (who was the daughter of Donald Munro alias McAddie).  
 ROSS, Malcolm, alias MacRob, in Alladale in the parish of Kincardine.  
 ROSS, Mary, tenant in Balliloch of Strathrusdale, widow of Hugh Macdonald late tenant in Kildermorie.

ROSS, Mourach (Mary), daughter to Hugh Ross, alias Cooper.  
 ROSS, Robert, alias MacAndrew, tenant of Duncan Munro of Culcairn in Strathrusdale.  
 ROSS, William, a piper, son to Donald Ross in Achlach.  
 URQUHART, Thomas, in Easter Greenyards in the parish of Kincardine.  
 WALLACE, Alexander, tenant in Ballavraide of Ardross.

#### NEW MEMBERS

299. BRUCE, Dr. James, 13 Southside Place, Inverness IV2 3JE.  
 303. CAMERON, Mrs Lois A., Free Church House, Killarman, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire.  
 287. CAMERON, Mr W.D., Claremont, Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Western Isles.  
 293. CHURCH of Jesus Christ of Letter-day Saints, Genealogical Society, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, U.S.A.  
 295. DURHAM, Mrs F.E., Scotsburn, Kildary, Ross-shire IV18 0FE.  
 292. DUVAL, Mrs A.L., Box 265, Colman, Victoria 3644, Australia.  
 291. FIELDS, Mrs Barbara G., 2221 Arbutus Road, Victoria, B.C., V8N 1V2, Canada.  
 300. GAUDIS, Mr Luman L., 900 Elizabeth Street, Gilmer, Texas 75644, U.S.A.  
 288. HALL, Mrs Jay, The Mill, R.R.1, Hillsburg, Ontario N0B 1Z0, Canada.  
 296. HENDRY, Dr. D.W.M., 5 Eden Park, Cupar, Fife KY15 4HS.  
 294. HOSSACK, Mrs R.J., Greenways, Claremont Rise, Uckfield, Sussex TN22 2AH.  
 302. KIRK, Mr R.N., Brig House, Weisdale, Shetland.  
 289. LAWRY, Mr A.G.W., 19 Hill Street, Box 2489, Ploton, Ontario K0K 2T0, Canada.  
 297. McRAY, Mr K.F., 3 Credon Close, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6JT.  
 290. ROGERS, Mrs F., 55 Gertonja Avenue, Boronia, Victoria 3155, Australia.  
 301. SMITH, Mr John H.G., 6 Whitehorse Street, Carseldine, Brisbane 4034, Queensland, Australia.  
 304. SHEDDEN, Mr Richard, 9 Old Ferry Road, Murwillumbah, N.S.W. 2484, Australia.  
 298. TAYLOR, Mr Alvin M., 25 Ellesboro Drive, Streetsville, Ontario L5N 1G3, Canada.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

260. DUNN, Mrs D.H., 217 Sandpitt Lane, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0BT.

We report with regret the recent death of Mr J. Theo WHITLEY, c/o Heavitree, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, who was an early member of the Society.

**MICROFILM:** As indicated in the last Journal, the Committee have decided to purchase microfilm copies of the 1851 Census Returns for Caithness, Sutherland, Ross & Cromarty, Inverness-shire and Nairnshire. However, we were thoughtfully advised by New Register House that the quality of some of the most recent filming was not particularly good for some counties. We have therefore decided to go for copies of the "original" filming, carried out in 1952, which we are assured are easier to read. The question of a full-sized film reader is still under consideration, but meanwhile we ordered a new type of hand-held reader "on approval" from the Federation of FHSs. This has only one magnification strength and requires an independent light source, such as an anglepoise lamp (it helps to position the reader on a large sheet of white paper or a white cloth, and reflect the light from this.) John Cousar and Dorothy Booth have given this new reader a "road test" and both found it very good, within its limitations. Prolonged use could lead to eye strain, for example, but it does the job and is, of course, very much cheaper than a full-sized reader. We have therefore decided to buy two more which, of course, will allow more than one person to read film at any one time and opens up the possibility of another project - census indexing. It may also be possible for local members to borrow a reel of film and a reader for home use, on the same basis as books etc may be borrowed from the Society's library.

**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE:** The PRO at Kew closed on March 21 "to avoid risk to the health of public and staff", after advisers from the Health and Safety Executive suspected contamination of the air conditioning system in the building. A spokesman for the PRO said tests were being made on water from the system, and air from the building, and remedial action would depend on the results. He said: "The staff employed at Kew have been moved to the PRO's other two locations, and while the building remains closed we regret that the records stored there will not be available. As soon as the results of the medical and microbiological tests are known, it should be possible to issue further information about the likely length of closure. At present it seems improbable that Kew could reopen before the end of April." The PRO have also warned of disruption to public services at their Chancery Lane building, due to major restoration and reconstruction work, which commenced in January 1984 and will take 2-3 years to complete. Searchers are advised to check on the level of service available before making plans to visit Chancery Lane. Telephone the Enquiries Desk at 01-405-0741 extension 277 or 298.

**OLD INVERNESS WEEK:** This event is being presented by the Inverness Field Club, from August 20th - 25th, in the Town Hall, Inverness. Along the lines of a similar presentation in 1964, there will be tableaux, exhibits, demonstrations and displays, of interest to visitors and local people alike. Attractions will include period rooms showing Georgian and Regency furniture; a children's room of about a century ago; displays of early maps; exhibitions of old pictures and photographs; a section on urban archaeology; local transport, industry and commerce; early costumes and dress; military and other uniforms, armour and weaponry; and sections on equipment, tools, utensils and byegones. Demonstrations will also be given of weaving, spinning, kilt-making, woodworking, silversmithing, lacemaking and other crafts, and there will be evening recitals of Highland music - piping, clarsach, fiddle and Gaelic songs. It is planned to have a book-stall, and an enquiry desk will supply information and answer queries about Inverness & District.

The Field Club have kindly invited one or two kindred societies - including ourselves - to be represented at this event. This will be a valuable chance to publicise the Society, and perhaps enlist a few recruits. However, we do require VOLUNTEERS to staff the Highland FHS table, in twos on a rota basis. If you can spare an hour or two, morning, afternoon or evening, on one or more of the days in question, please contact our Secretary, or any committee member.

**APOLOGIES** to Miss H. Wright, Hon. Treasurer of the Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS, who in our last issue (No 9, p 10) was incorrectly said to be their new Secretary. Miss Wright is listed in "Family History News & Digest" as the contact person for the Glasgow society, but their Hon. Sec. remains Mr J.A. Fisher, 5 Laburnum Grove, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow.

**THANKS** to Alison Halley of Halkirk, for typing up our Library Catalogue, a copy of which is enclosed with this issue. Up-dates will be issued from time to time.

**CONFERENCE:** The Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society are hosting this year's Autumn Conference of the Federation of FHSs, at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, from August 31st to September 2nd. An interesting programme of lectures and excursions has been prepared, on the theme "Communications and Mobility", showing how our ancestors made contact with one another and why they moved, and the social factors which led to the changes in their pattern of life throughout the centuries. The Conference is open to everyone. Details from the Organising Secretary, Mrs Linda Donald, The Hyde, Main Road, Fleggburgh, Norfolk NR29 3AG.

Highland Family History SocietyStatement of Accounts for year ending 31st August 1983Income.

Subscriptions	£712 . 26
Donations	21 . 13
6 Books sold	10 . 80
Registers of Research	85 . 50
Back numbers of Journals	71 . 00
Postage donations	24 . 40
Christmas Buffet	75 . 00
Advert in Journal	2 . 50
Bank Interest	15 . 18
	<hr/>
Loss, carried to General Fund	15 . 40
	<hr/>
	1033 . 17

General Fund	
Balance as at 1/9/82	51 . 02
Advance Subscriptions	6 . 00
	<hr/>
	57 . 02
	<hr/>
	15 . 40
	<hr/>
	41 . 62
	<hr/>

Less loss

41 . 62

Highland Family History SocietyStatement of Accounts for year ending 31st August 1983Expenditure.

Press Adverts	£ 40 . 65
Federation Fees & Insurance	17 . 50
Lecturers' expenses	25 . 00
Journals:--	
Production	£387 . 04
Postage	£142 . 72
1 dozen books bought	52 . 76
Registers of Research	14 . 40
Post Office Fee	47 . 57
Inverness Computer Association	5 . 00
Christmas Buffet	1 . 00
Printing	85 . 55
Stationery	82 . 90
Postage	70 . 25
Unpaid Account (Mitchell Library)	105 . 59
	3 . 00
	<hr/>
	1033 . 17
	<hr/>

Cash in Bank at 31/8/83	284 . 75
Less 1983/84 Subscriptions and	
Donations in advance	243 . 13
	<hr/>
	41 . 62
	<hr/>

Balance

41 . 62

(Signed) Dorothy H. Booth, Hon. Treasurer.

(Signed) A. Imlah, Auditor.



## Annual General Meeting

The Society's third Annual General Meeting took place on March 27th, 1984, in Inverness Public Library.

After the minutes of the previous AGM had been approved, the Secretary presented a report on the year's activities in which he noted that membership had increased by 35% - rising from 174 members at the same time last year, to a current total of 235. He said: "The achievements of the year, in terms of increasing membership, the good local response to meetings, and a real move forward in building up the microfilm library, are healthy indicators that the Society can look forward to making further progress in the year ahead."

Presenting the Statement of Accounts for 1982/83 (p 12-13), the Treasurer said the Society's financial position had been somewhat precarious, but the £15.40 loss at the end of the year was set against the balance carried forward from the previous year, resulting in a balance of £41.62. She thanked our member, Mr Alan Inliah, for auditing the Accounts, and for his help and advice. She said he was willing to continue as auditor.

In May 1983, the Society had been finally accepted as a charity for tax purposes by the Inland Revenue. As a result, 45 members had volunteered their subscriptions, enabling the Society to claim back the tax already paid by these members. A claim for £101.86 had been lodged in February 1984.

During 1983/84, there were 172 membership renewals from the previous year, and 63 new members - a total of 235, of whom 83 live overseas. There were 35 non-renewals (4 local, 11 U.K., 17 overseas, and three resigned through ill-health).

Excluding our grant of £250 from the Hedley Foundation, income so far this year totalled £1596.81 (subs, £1229.98; donations etc., £187.78; sale of Journals etc., £179.05). Expenditure so far was £848.79, leaving a balance of £748.02. Allowance had to be made for the cost of two further Journals and sundry other expenses, but the Treasurer said we ought to end the year with a reasonable credit balance.

The Chairman intimated that the Executive Committee were recommending subscription rates for 1984/85 should remain at the current level, and this was agreed.

Mrs Maclean of Dochgarroch had announced that she would not be standing for re-election to the Committee, and the Chairman thanked her cordially for all her work on the Society's behalf, since the earliest days of the Steering Committee.

The Chairman said that he, also, would not be standing for re-election to that office, although he had accepted nomination as a Committee member, and was willing to continue as Editor. In thanking the membership, and the Committee, for their support, he said he was particularly proud to have been the Society's first Chairman; but it was no bad thing for the Chairmanship to change around, and he felt this was as good a time as any.

cont. on p. 17

## Genealogy & Computers

At our meeting in January, one of our members, Mr John Durran, gave a talk about the use of computers in genealogy. As an enthusiastic family historian who works with computers for a living (as Highland Regional Council's computer manager), he was ideally qualified to do so, and he has based this article on his talk.

The purpose of this article is to describe why I decided to use a computer to keep a record of all the information I was acquiring in the search for my family roots in Gaithness.

Like most newcomers to the world of family history, I started by having one card for each individual, plus two cards for each family group (the first listing the marriage of the parents, followed by all the children and their own marriages where relevant; the second for recording data from each of the 6 censuses available at Register House). The next step was to draw a family tree as far back as I had then researched, which was to the marriage of my gt-gt-grandparents Donald Durran and Janet Sutherland in 1801.

As I was stuck at this point, I decided to record all information relating to any Durran male who married between 1790 and 1810, in the hope that one or more of them would be brothers and/or cousins of Donald. I started this exercise using the same three card types as for my main family, but very soon the following problems arose:-

- 1) The sheer volume of information I was acquiring threatened to overwhelm me.
- 2) Cross-referencing was extremely difficult.
- 3) The information became very quickly out of date, leading to constant re-writing of cards and re-drawing of the family tree.

It was at this point that I decided to use a computer to help me to arrange the large volumes of information already acquired into the order I needed to continue my researches. With any computer application, it is essential that you clearly define what you want to get out of the system before you start putting any information in.

Basically, I wanted to record all events that related to a person, and be able to print out these events in date order. In addition, I wanted all the members of a family to be grouped together, with the children listed in order of birth. This would be the equivalent of the family sheets, but would have the advantage that any new child discovered would automatically slot into order in a subsequent print-out. The system should also allow me to select and print events in chronological order for any of the following:-

- 1) Any individual.
- 2) All persons in the same family.
- 3) All families in the same tree.
- 4) All families with the same surname.
- 5) All families from the same generation.
- 6) All males and/or females in alphabetical order.
- 7) All persons of the same age.

