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It's a small world, as they say. But especially so, it always seems to me, in the world of family history.

I spent a relaxing week in the Borders earlier this year, and managed to pass a few peaceful evenings in pursuit not of distant ancestors, but of brown trout. The fish proved even more elusive than my forebears, may I say. But who should I meet by the river bank, in the depths of rural Roxburghshire, than another family history buff - Clayton Lewis, secretary of the Essex Society for Family History.

Our mutual inability actually to catch any fish seemed immaterial, when there were far more interesting things to discuss, such as the problems of trying to run a family history society, the pressures on voluntary office-bearers, Journal production costs, etc., etc. On this last point, Clayton was able to help, putting me in touch with a firm in Chelmsford whose quotation for printing our Journal was far less than anything I've been able to obtain locally.

So, as a direct result of that chance encounter, the Journal will henceforth come to you in a properly printed form, and we are relieved of the tedium and frustration of photocopying some 5000 pieces of paper, four times a year. I hope the results are to everyone's satisfaction.

It's a small world, too, when you consider that even a society of modest size, such as this one, can bring together people from around the globe - sharing a common interest, and sometimes a common ancestry. An up-dated edition of our Register of Research is to be published early in 1986, and I hope this will lead to many more useful contacts being made. Remember - nothing ventured, nothing gained; so if in doubt about whether to write, don't be. Such a letter arrived for me from Victoria, Australia, a few weeks ago. It turns out the writer is my 5th cousin. We have to go back to 1790, in the parish of Dornoch, to find the Ross ancestor we have in common.

I was at this year's National Mod in Fort William, and discovered it's a small world there, as well. Almost the first person I met, after a quick comparison of scribbled family trees, proved to be my 3rd cousin, once removed, with some useful hints on local sources in Ardnamurchan. Have a happy Christmas, and I hope it's a small world for you in 1986.

An Old Inverness Register

This interesting article was published, in two parts, in the Inverness Advertiser of February 19th and 23rd, 1875, under the heading "An Old Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths". It was the first topic in a series called "Historical and Antiquarian Notes and Gleanings".

There is (or was till lately) preserved among the Session Records of the Parish of Inverness, a small M.S. volume, much decayed, entitled "Ane Memorial of the honest men and vemen is yat decessit within our toun of Innerness sin the year of God Jaivoj and tria Zeiris (1603), as also the day and date of yaim quho mareit and were baptisit, be Alexr. Thomson," etc. We propose giving some extracts (with notes where of interest) from this Record of a period now nearly two and three quarter centuries ago. Who Alexander Thomson was we have not been able to trace. He was probably one of the "readers" or "exhorters", or other lay official of the Church, perhaps the Session-Clerk. At all events he continued his "Memorial" for at least a decade. The spelling and diction are quaint, but the specimen afforded by the title above quoted sufficiently shews the difference between old and modern grammar. It may be observed that the title "honest men" was then applied to persons of good repute and some standing.

"9th September 1604 - The said day, anno foresaid Alister Mack Fergr., guidman of dumnagles, deit, bureit in Daviot." It will be seen that even so late as 1604, a considerable landed proprietor like Dumnaglas is not designed by his proper surname. From this indication and many similar instances in the "Invernessiana Papers", it seems probable that the modern uniformity of clan surnames, from the chief to his humblest follower, is a custom of late origin in the Highlands. Indeed, till at least fifty years subsequent to this date, two proprietors of the name of Macgilliphadrick appear in the Roll of Landowners of Inverness-shire, which less euphonious surname their descendants appear to have subsequently altered to Mackintosh or Macbean. It will also be noticed that the deceased is called the "guidman of dumnagles". He is styled "guidman" because Dumnaglas was held by him, not immediately under the Crown, but under Campbell of Calder, a subject superior, the Crown vassal. The owner of a barony was styled Lord, such as "Lord Earnside"; a landowner of respectable standing was styled "guidman"; while the humbler order of landowners received no title although the wife was styled "Mistress". - Antiquarian Notes.

"Upon the fifth of November, 1604, ane daughter of umquhile la M'Intoschie, being ane damsel, died in Culloden; buried in the Kirk of Pettie." Lachlan, 16th laird of Mackintosh, was married in 1567, and by the Mackintosh genealogy died in 1605.

According to the reading of this entry the deceased "damsel" would be a daughter of William, 15th laird, and she could scarcely be so styled, unless born in his extreme old age. As she is not noticed in the Mackintosh table of descents, the point cannot be cleared up. Lachlan, the 16th laird, is mentioned as being the first chief of Mackintosh buried in Pettie; from the preceding entry it appears that members of the family had been previously interred there.

"Upon the secund of Januar 1605 ane honest man, James Fraser of Ruthven died." It is doubtful whether this is a landholder or tenant. There does not appear to be any family so designed among the branches of Lovat, but the expression "of Ruthven" implies actual ownership. From appearing in this register and other facts, he was probably connected with the parish of Inverness and of the Culduthel family. His son, Malcolm Fraser, also styled "of Ruvan" is witness to a charter dated at Inverness, the 12th day of May 1623, by the Lord Gordon and Badenoch, in favour of Alexander M'Clene (M'Lean), alias M'Conell M'Ferquhar, of the lands of Dochgarroch and Dochnalurg. Donald Fraser in Duntelchak sided with the laird of Mackintosh in his feuds about 1680-90. He is styled in the Mackintosh papers "Mackintosh his actual tenant."

"1605 - The obiit of maister Thomas houston, minister of Inverness, upon the ix of Februar." Mr Thomas Houston, Howeson, or Howieson was the first Protestant minister of Inverness. He obtained orders in the Church of Rome, and having joined the Reformers, was settled prior to 1567 as minister of Inverness with £100 of stipend and the kirk lands. He was appointed by the Privy Council 6th March 1589 as one of seven ministers for preservation "of the trew religion in the sheriffdoms of Inverness and Cromarty." In Shaw's Moray he is mentioned as minister in 1568 and 1590. From the preceding extract we are enabled to fix the date of his death. A son or grandson of the above, Mr Thomas Houston, was ordained minister of Abertarff and Boleskine in 1647-8. The following amusing anecdote is related of him. Being asked, 4th April 1677, why he did not exercise himself, nor aid in his rotation before the meetings of Presbytery, he answered "That he was so troubled in watching be night, and with fear of robbery be day, be the Lochaber robbers, that are so numerous and broken out, that scarce can he have as much time to provid a discourse on the Sabbath day." The brethren knowing it he was excused.

"21st April 1605 - The said day Kathrein Stewart, spous to John Macpherson of Brein; died and buried in Daviot." The Macphersons of Brin were a branch of the Cluny family and became extinct in 1666, when Andrew Macpherson of Cluny succeeded to the estate of Brin under the deed of entail, similar to many others in the Highlands, or that failing the particular branch the property reverted to the chief.

"1605 - The obiit of William Cuthbert, elder, provost many years of Inverness, who died upon the xxii day of May anno foresaid, be fyve hour at evin, and buried in ye chappell, whose death was greatly bewailed."

"1606 - Upon the first of June, Robert Campbell of Glenfalloch married Issabell M'Intosh, daughter to Lachlan M'Intosh." - Lachlan, sixteenth laird of Mackintosh.

"1608 - Upon the xxviij of October anno forsaid Hucheon Fraser of Struy died in Kilmylies, whose death was bewailed. Buried in Beauly." This was a son of Andrew Fraser, second son of Hugh, fifth Lord Lovat, afterwards called William of Struy, who founded that house about 1540 - a curious instance of change of a Christian name. The Frasers of Struy for about 300 years held an honourable position in the county of Inverness, and were one of the few families who at no period became Presbyterian. Hugh Fraser of Struy, Writer to the Signet, the last of the old race, died in Edinburgh in 1866. With him terminated the male line of one of the old Fraser families, and the next heir to Lovat after the Strichen branch.

"1608, 22d November - The said day ane dochter of ye young lard of Strechin bap. callit Ana witnes ... (words illegible) **... Ladie Lovat."**

"1610 - Upon the 4 of Apryle 1610 William Cumming the lard earnside died, being ane wise youth (zounth), whose death was bewailed greatly."

"1610 - Upon the vi of Apryle anno forsaid the Provost of Nairn died, who was a good man, and did mekill good to poor and rich." The first of the Roses of Braidly, the eldest branch of the family of Kilravock that was of any continuance was Alexander Rose of Dunern, fourth son of the sixth Laird of Kilravock, who died in 1454. Alexander's son and heir was John Rose of Braidly, Provost of Nairn, and as the Provost-ship was conferred on him and his descendants for some generations his family was commonly called the Provost of Nairn's family. Thus John of Braidley, Provost of Nairn, married a daughter of the Laird of Brodie, who brought him David, Provost of Nairn, who married a daughter of Kilravock and their son was John, Provost of Nairn, who, by a daughter of Cumming of Altyre, was father of Patrick, Provost of Nairn. He married a daughter of Bayne of Tulloch, but died without issue. Notwithstanding his municipal, the Provost of Nairn at times believed his valuables to be more secure in the protection of his chief's castle than in his own Royal burgh. John Rose, the Provost of Nairn, whose decease is here recorded, had deposited his charters of Braidley with the Laird of Kilravock, and grants a discharge therefor to "the richt honorable William Ross of Kilrauik" of "ane kist sufficientlie bandit and lokit, and nocht oppinit, lok, bandis and all being sufficient" &c.- 31st Oct. 1605.

"1610 - Upon the tenth of May anno forsaid, Janet Gray, spous to William Cuthbert, younger apparent of Castlehill, died; buried in the chapel which was the auld schouill." Can any of our local antiquarians explain what building is here meant? Does the expression "old school" refer to a building used for educational purposes, or as we believe it sometimes did in old Scottish writings to a lesser alter in the chapel?

"1611 - Upon the xxv. of Januar, ane honest woman, called Elspet Caton, died, being spouse to James Cuthbert, elder, burried in ye schouil."

"1611 - Upon the penult day of February 1611, my lord Mackenzie died in the Chanonrie of Ross, and buried the xxviij of Apryle anno forsaid, in the Chanonrie kirk with great triumph" (pomp). Sir Kenneth, twelfth baron of Kintail was created, Lord Kintail by patent dated 17th November 1609, to him and his heirs male. By Anne, daughter of George Ross of Balnagown, Lord Kintail left issue, Colin his heir, who was created Earl of Seaforth 3d December 1623, by patent to him and his heirs male. Four descents brought the honours to William, fifth Earl of Seaforth, who entered into the rising in 1715, for which he was attainted and his estates forfeited. Upon the 15th October 1829, George Falconer Mackenzie, Esq., of Allangrange, was served at Tain nearest and lawful heir male in general of the said Kenneth, first Lord Kintail, his great-great-great-great-grandfather, under the above letters of nobility, 17th Nov. 1609, and also nearest of lawful heir male in general of the said Colin, first Earl of Seaforth, his great-great-great-granduncle under the patent 3d Dec. 1623.

"1611 - Upon the xxvij of March 1611, ane son of the young laird Streachin, Thomas Fraser, bap., called Hew; witnesses, Master of Lovat and Colin Campbell of Calder, ... the guidwife of Burgie." This son afterwards became proprietor of Easter Tyrie in Aberdeenshire, and is thus documented - "Contract betwixt the Laird of Strichen and his son Hugh anent the discharge of his life-rent of the lands of Tyrie and Forrest, 1640. Obligation Hugh Fraser of Easter Tyrie, second son of Thomas Fraser of Strichen, to his father relative to Moss of Menzie, 7th of September 1643." He attended the imposing funeral of Hugh, Master of Lovat, who died at Edinburgh in May 1643, and was interred in the Chapel of Holyrood, all the Frasers of note having come to do honour to his obsequies.

"1611 - Upon the xxi of Apryle anno forsaid be foure of the none, on Sunday the right honorable William Ross of Kilravock died and buried on the last of April in the Chapel of Geddes." The Kilravock MSS thus records his death, "This William Ross of Kilravock was a good and inoffensive man, a lover of peace, one that desired to trouble none, though he was troubled by others.

"That one trouble with the name of Dunbar, included manie troubles, thought he was no ways accessorie to the illegalities of some of his kinsmen which procured it; yet as to that and anie other troubles, he was 'patiendo victor', God carrying him out, though in the way of suffering. He was low of stature; his hair and beard betwixt red and yellow, and himself of a fair complexion. Sitting in his chair within the hall of Kilravock, he was taken with ane apoplexie, and after ane year's languishing, dyed in peace, Aprile 8, 1611, having survived his father but fourteen years, and lived after his marriage 40 years, or thereby." It will be noticed that the date of death in the Session Register does not agree with that in the MSS. Probably Alex. Thomson, as the cotemporary annalist is more likely to be correct.

"1611 - Upon the xxi of May 1611, Donald M'Queen, minister at Pettie, married Isabell M'Intoshie." Isabell was a frequent Christian name in the Mackintosh family, but we cannot trace one in the genealogy about this period.

"1611 - Upon the first of June anno 1611, the Sheriff of Murray was slain in Forres by Robert Dunbar son to the goodman of Burgie with ane pistolat shot through the thigh." About this period there were serious feuds between the Roses of Bellivat and Dunbars of Burgie, and the above murder seems to have been the climax of the war. The parties were outlawed and successively driven from the lands of Kilravock and Laird of Mackintosh. On 28th July 1611, the latter was ordained by the Privy Council to be accountable, if he harboured them, and so chased them off. Finding no shelter they roved up and down the country, till they gradually wasted away.

"1611 - 3 October 1611 - That day Alexander Mackenzie married Jean Fraser, relict of umquhile Sir James Stewart of Culcoy." From this marriage sprung the Mackenzies of Kilcoy. Sir James Stewart had married Jean Fraser, eldest daughter of Thomas Fraser of Knockie and Strichen. On 1st August 1603, John Stewart of Muiren granted a charter to Sir James Stewart of Newtown (in the shire of Banff), knight, his son and apparent heir, and to Jean Fraser, his spouse, in conjunct fee, and their heirs male, of Culcowie, Drumnamarg, and Muiren, confirmed by King James VI, 27th June 1605. After the first husband's death, "Dame Jean Fraser" married Mr Alexander Mackenzie of Kinnoch, son of Colin of Kintail. Their contract of marriage is dated at Inverness the [blank] August 1611, and the marriage took place on 3d October. They got a disposition from John Stewart, the apparent heir of Sir James his father, and about 1612 expede a feu charter for Kilcoy. John apparently soon deceased, for an action was raised on which decreet followed 1st Feb 1614 at the instance of Dame Jean Fraser, and Mr Alexander Mackenzie of Kinnoch, then her husband, against Robert Stewart, heir to the said Sir

On 18th July 1616, Robert Stewart, heir of the deceased Sir James Stewart of Muiren, knight, granted a charter of resignation and confirmation to Mr Alexander Mackernzie of Kynnoch, and Mrs Jean Fraser, his spouse, and longest liver of them, and to their heirs male in the lands of Culcowie, Drumnamarg, and Muiren. It is under this charter that the Mackenzies of Kilcoy still possess that property. The family of Kilcoy have been fortunate in forming alliances with ladies of wealth and estate. To the preceding marriage with Jane Fraser they owe their origin and on 2d April 1747, Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy married Martha Fraser of Inverallochy, through whom his third son, Alexander, inherited the valuable properties in Aberdeenshire of Fraser of Inverallochy, and the Lords Fraser of Castle Fraser. In reply to an enquiry in a late number of the Advertiser, it may be stated that the Mackenzies of Kilcoy are descended from Alexander, fourth son of Colin, eleventh laird of Kintail, styled Colin Caume or Squint Eyed. Colin was engaged on the part of Queen Mary at the battle of Langside, for which he obtained a remission, the only one in the family repositories prior to 1715. He was father of Kenneth, Lord Kintail, above noticed.

"1611 - Upon the last of November 1611, ane honourable woman, Issobell Forbes, lady Strechin, died; buried in Beauly." This lady was likewise a widow of landed estates, and the manner in which the ancestor of the present noble family of Lovat became possessed of their late seat in Aberdeenshire is somewhat similar, though more romantic, than the legal process by which the Mackenzies of Kilcoy obtained their property. Isobel Forbes, daughter of Forbes of Corfurdie, had taken as her first husband William Chalmers of Strichen. This person's elder brother, George Chalmers, had been long abroad, and there was little chance of his returning. William died in the possession of the estate. His widow some time after married Thomas Fraser, son of Philorth, who assumed the title of "Strichen". But the old proprietors, unwilling to part with their inheritance, threatened to dispossess him, and their disputes led to several fruitless conferences. The Chalmers in their necessity had recourse to Gordon of Gight. He and Fraser met at Old Deer in the hopes of effecting a compromise, but the overtures of either party meeting with contempt, Gordon in a rage followed after Fraser, and coming behind him at the Bridge of Dee, laid him dead with one blow of his two handed sword. This happened on the 24th December 1576. To avenge her cause, Isobel Forbes, now for the second time a widow, detailed her woes to Thomas Fraser of Knocky, second son of Alexander, sixth Lord Lovat. He listened to her complaints. Being at the time tutor of Lovat, and wielding the whole power of the clan Fraser, he used all his interest in her behalf, and in spite of the opposition of the Earl of Huntly, had Gight, his kinsman, condemned

Gight was released on paying 5000 merks in assythment for the murder; and was afterwards killed at the battle of Glenlivat. It was Knocky's turn to play the suitor, and the lady, in gratitude for his services, became again a wife. Her husband, to prevent further disputes, bought up the claims of the family of Chalmers (at we may believe no extravagant rate), and the estate thus acquired remained in possession of his descendants for nearly 300 years, till in April 1855 Lord Lovat sold it for £140,000.

There is also preserved among the Session Records several registers of baptisms. From the volume entitled "Register of Baptisms of Inverness from 1675 to 1683" we shall make only one extract, curious on account of the quintette of Christian names:- **"19 June 1683 - That day Mr William Robertson of Inches had a child baptised, named (Hugh), Hugh Fraser Lord Lovat, Hugh Ross of Kilravock, Hugh Robertson, baillie of Inverness, and Hugh Falckoner, commissary clerk, witnessis."**

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NEW! NEW! NEW!

CENSUS INDEX - KILTEARN (1851)

An index to the 1851 Census Returns for the parish of Kiltearn, Ross & Cromarty, has just been published by the Highland FHS. The 13-page, A4 booklet lists 1538 individuals, indexed by surname, then forename and age. Heads of household are identified, and in most cases an indication of occupation is given. Reference numbers signify the Census Enumeration book, and page, on which each person's entry can be found. Price: £1 (inc. UK postage & surface mail); £1.50 (airmail). Copies from the Treasurer, Mrs Dorothy H. Booth, 46 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness. [The Kiltearn index is my own effort and, we hope, will be the first of many. To my knowledge, two other members are engaged in similar projects for **Knockbain** (Black Isle) and **Kincardine** (Ross & Cromarty), and we hope these will be published in due course. If there are any other members currently working on a census index, or who would like to give it a try, please get in touch with me. - Editor]

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JUST A CITY GIRL

Just a city girl, that's me - born and bred. A Scot through and through, proud of my Scots ancestry, even though now living in England. Born in 1945 into perhaps one of Glasgow's better areas, but still loving the noise, the bustle, the dirt and grime, of the city with the heart of gold. Seasick on Rouken Glen park boating lake, and believing for 20 years that cows ate grass to make milk! A city girl - that's me.

When the family history bug bit, and it bit hard, I fully expected to find my ancestors in and around the City of Glasgow. My grandparents had died, either before I was born or shortly afterwards (I was the 'baby' of our family) and origins, and family, weren't mentioned much.

And so to my quest:- Gran Bruce (nee Miller) was English. That was the start - one quarter of my Scots ancestry gone before I had drawn breath. Worse was to come - Gran Yuille (nee Airlie) was Irish! (with apologies to any English or Irish readers). That's ¼ English, ¼ Irish - at least I had two quarters left.

Grandpa Lawrence was a Bruce - Lawrence Bruce - a good Scots name to conjour with, surely? I traced his path with glee. Not born in Glasgow, though - not anywhere near, even - but Elgin, the son of John Bruce from Wick, and Helen Brydon from Montrose. How these two met and married in 1860 will no doubt remain forever a mystery! Eight other Bruce children were born in Wick.

John Bruce's father was Alexander Bruce, a cloth merchant and at one time Junior Baillie in the Royal Burgh. His wife was Isabella Mowat, married in 1821. Alexander hadn't been born in Wick, but in Watten, a little settlement on the shores of a lovely loch (so I believe, for I never have visited further than Inverness during all my years in Scotland, and then only once.)

Alexander and his seven brothers and one sister were born to John Bruce, a merchant in Tails of Watten, and his wife Isobel Gunn (married 1797). I believe their grave is still to be seen in Watten graveyard. The trail goes further back to a marriage of Alexander Bruce and Isobel Manson in 1754, but Isobel Gunn gave me a little more to work on.

It seems she was one of 16 children, certainly some of whom died but quite a large number survived. Her mother, Isobel Miller, having married William Gunn, at 15, in 1761, she spent the next 25 or so years of her life either being pregnant, or producing more children. She was probably the daughter of John Miller (miller, Mill Farm, Watten) and Barbara Manson. And William Gunn (bap. 1738) was certainly the son of John Gunn (Cogle) and Helen Sutherland (Catchery) who married in 1732, Watten. Helen was bap. 28/5/1714. Barbara Manson may have been born around 1705, but as yet I haven't broken the barrier of 1700!

With all the marriages and inter-marriages, it seems likely to me that most of the present-day inhabitants of Caithness (from Caithness ancestors) are related to me in some way or another - all the local names are there: Gunn, Sutherland, Miller, Manson, Bruce, Mowat. And in secondary lines, MacAdam, Gow, Anderson, Matheson, Davidson, Alexander, plus many more.

With such lineage behind me, I should be able to distinguish one end of a cow from another! My Brydons turn out to be ship-masters and ship owners, so I shouldn't get seasick. I've got three artists in my ancestry - and I can't paint a stroke!

So from whom do I inherit my dubious talents? Perhaps my last quarter will solve that one. John Yuill from Inveraray was a writer. I'm trying to find out if he's "mine"!

I'm very willing to correspond with anyone who thinks they may have connections to any of the families mentioned.

Mrs Christine Grady,
5 Bramcote Drive,
Wakes Meadow,
Northampton.

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NEWS

SNAPPED UP: Highland Regional Council's museums service have stepped in to prevent a major collection of photographic negatives from being sold abroad. The collection belonged to an Inverness firm of professional photographers and consists of more than 30,000 negatives on glass plate and film, dating from the mid-19th century. A large proportion are studio portraits, each catalogued with the name of the subject and the date of the picture. Others include town views, Highland landscapes, and social and civic events. The owner gave the council first option at a fixed price of £5000, despite indications that breaking up the collection for sale in Germany would fetch twice that sum. The negatives will now be kept by the Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie. Copies will be made from each, and the prints lodged at the Reference Library, Inverness, "for genealogical study". The collection is also expected to attract the interest of a publisher.

BORDERS F.H.S: Scotland's fifth family history society was formed last month, with its main sphere of interest in the former counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirk. A preliminary meeting was held in June, when Mr Donald Whyte, Vice-President of the Scottish Genealogy Society, brought together a number of interested persons, and a steering committee was formed under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Elliot, a member of the SGS and of the Hawick Archaeological Society. There was a good attendance at the inaugural meeting in Galashiels on Sept. 19th, when Mr Whyte was the speaker. It is planned to hold future meetings in various Border towns. Interim Secretary is Mr Norman S. McLeish, 78 Weensland Road, Hawick. Annual subscription rates are: Ordinary £5; Family £6; Student/Senior Citizen £4.

LIBRARY: Our Chairman, Peter Reynolds, opened the new session of meetings (syllabus on back cover) on Sept. 24th. As this was our first meeting in the bigger, better Reference Room, he introduced us to the new facilities now available, and reminded us of some of the genealogical source material in the reference collections and the Regional Archive. The large Fraser-Mackintosh collection, rich in local and family history material, is now more accessible, by the way. Although most of it is still not on the public shelves, tell Peter you are a member and he might let you browse in the gallery.

After the meeting, we had a chance to do just that, and also to make use of fiche and film readers. Prices for use of special facilities are: Study Room - £1 per half-day, plus 50p if materials left overnight; Typewriter - 50p per hour (exc. paper); Tape Recorder - 50p per hour (exc. cassettes). Library hours are unchanged: - Open 9am, closing 7.30 pm Mondays & Fridays; 6.30 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays; 5pm Wednesdays & Saturdays.

FIRE has destroyed valuable reference material in the library of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, at regimental HQ in Glasgow. Regimental scrapbooks and the museum were saved.

FORMER Secretary, David Evans, has resigned from the Committee, due to pressure of work and personal commitments. The Committee have thanked him for all his hard work over the past few years.

CONFERENCE: Leicestershire FHS is hosting the Spring 1986 Conference and AGM of the Federation of Family History Societies, which will be held at Loughborough University from April 4th - 6th. The theme will be "The Family and the Local Community". Anyone can attend the Conference. Details from the Organiser, 25 Homecroft Drive, Packington, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics. LE6 5WG.

PERCY: A new "One-Name Group" has been formed - the Percy-Piercy FHS. Details from E.C. Percey, High Trees, Broom Way, Oatlands Park, Weybridge, Surrey.

B&B: We are sometimes asked, by overseas members especially, if we know of any UK members who do Bed and Breakfast. On their trips to this country, they would perhaps prefer to book in with someone who shares their obsession! Any members who offer B&B and would like a mention in the Journal, please contact the Editor.

LOCHABER Historical Society has been re-formed, and held their first meeting on October 22nd. Dr. Chris Robinson spoke on the topic "Fort William in 1753", using a copy of a map of that date. Meetings are planned for the first Wednesday of each winter month. Further details from the Rev. John P. Wright, Manse of Duncansburgh, Fort William (Tel. 2297).

REGISTER: A revised and up-dated edition of our Register of Research is being prepared by computer (thanks to John Durham), and we hope to publish it early in the New Year.

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429 DIXON Mr G A, 26 Hazelbank Gardens, Stirling FK8 1PY.
436 DOWNEY Mrs G, R.R. No 1, Tiverton, Ontario, Canada N0G 2T0.
426 DWYER Mrs Beverley, PO Box 370, Broadbeach 4218, Q., Australia.
427 FINLAY Mrs Julie, PO Box 1, Shaws Rd., Alberton 3971, Vict, Australia.
439 GALE Mrs Valerie A S, Suilven, Golspie Tower, Golspie, Sutherland.
417 HALE Mr Francis, Apt 1000, 1223 Spring St., Seattle, Wa. 98104, USA.
431 LINNEY Mrs H J, 26 Albert Park Rd, Lower Broughton, Salford, Lancs.
418 McCONNELL Mrs Audrey, 21 Cranmore Gardens, Lisburn Road, Belfast.
416 MacKAY Dr Elizabeth N, 2308-44 Jackes Ave, Toronto, Ont., Canada.
419 MacKENZIE Mr Donald, 25 Eyres Drive, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
430 MacLENNAN Dr A, The Schoolhouse, Clunas, Nairn IV12 5UT.
422 MacLEOD Mrs H, c/o 131 14th Avenue, Tauranga, New Zealand.
421 MORUTTO Mrs J L, PO Box 182, Millicent, S.A. 5280, Australia.
423 MOWBRAY Mrs D, 23a Sir Wm Turner's Ct, Kirkleatham, Redcar, Cleveland.
432 MURRAY Mr R, 26 Rosewell Gardens, Aberdeen AB2 6HZ.
437 NICOLSON Mr I F, Corlea, High Street, Port St Mary, Isle of Man.
438 POVEY Mrs C S, 6 Wrenswood, Covingham, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 5AR.
434 RIMAS Mrs Lynda, 39 Waxham Road, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 3L5.
424 ROSE Mr Hector, 61 Tinshill Road, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7DN.
442 ROSS Mrs Merreit E, 21 Rosskeen Drive, Invergordon, Ross-shire.
443 RUST Mrs Velma I, 811 Adams Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 2Y1.
425 SMALL Mr J & Mrs P, 40 Ballater Drive, Thornly Park, Paisley PA2 7SH.
440 SMITH Mr John A, 108 Queen Victoria Drive, Glasgow G14 9BL.
435 TULLOCH Mrs B, Glenairn, 12 Damfield Road, Inverness.
420 WALLACE Ms Elspeth, 186 Salisbury Ave, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.
441 WATSON Mrs E A, 3 Fig Street, Maleny, Queensland 4552, Australia.
428 WELLARD Mr G, Green Cross Cottage, Chillaton, Lifton, Devon PL16 0HU.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

377 BARNES Mrs C J, 50 St Helen's Park Rd., Hastings, East Sussex TN34 2DN
403 BUDGE Miss J, Forest of Reay Estate Off., Achfary, Lairg, Sutherland.
360 DUFFUS Mr William C, 11 Irving Street, Easthampton, Mass. 01027, USA.
224 GREEN Mr E K, 23 St John's Close, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon.
112 LAVINE Ms Marcia, 1812 Bivins Street, Durham, N. Carolina 27707, USA.
252 MacLELLAN Mr A J, 76 Avon Avenue, Carluke, Strathclyde ML8 5DD.
280 READ Mrs B, 23 Riverside Drive, R.R.1, Kingston, Ont., Canada K7L 4V1.

BOOKSHELF

The Dictionary of Genealogy. By Terrick V.H. FitzHugh.
Alphabooks, Freepost, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3DN.
Price £13.50 post free until 31/12/85: then £14.95 + £1 p&p.

This is a fine book, but I suppose I had better make the inevitable criticism straight away. It is probably too much to expect a single, mass-market book such as this to deal comprehensively with the very different aspects of research in Scotland, England and Wales. It may not even be desirable. But it is misleading to write a book about English genealogy, and then sub-title it "A Guide to British Ancestry Research". This lament is probably as old as the Union itself, but the fact that we have now come to expect such misnomers does not make them any less irritating. We are made to feel pedantic and parochial when we complain about it, but can you even imagine it happening the other way round?

Three of the 300 pages are devoted to a contributed entry on 'Scottish Genealogy', which itself confesses: "In so short an article, one cannot possibly do justice to the many record repositories and sources covering many hundreds of years". The article makes no mention of any of the genealogical societies active in Scotland, nor of some obvious Scottish 'differences', such as the availability of the 1891 Census, and the fact that notes can be taken from Registration Certificates without having to order and pay for a full extract. In the alphabetical section of the book, one looks in vain under 'K' for Kirk Session; 'Mac' surnames are not referred to under 'Patronymics'; and definitions of such terms as 'Sheriff' and 'Writer' could at least have mentioned that they have very different meanings to the people of North Britain.

There is an even shorter contribution on 'Welsh Genealogy', but this does include a full address list for family history and local history societies.

However, these are predictable disappointments, I suppose; and if we accept the book as an A-Z of English genealogy, it is first rate. Over 1000 subjects are dealt with, and the format is ideal for "dipping into". There are entries for all the English counties, listing their FHSs, record repositories, and the whereabouts of the most important genealogical records. Obsolete terms are explained, Latin phrases are translated, and there is a very full entry (with illustrated examples) on how to decipher Secretary Hand. Researchers at all levels of experience, from beginners to professionals, will find something of interest and value here. The book is attractively produced, with many photographs and illustrations of genealogical documents.

It would make an ideal Christmas present for anyone whose research interests lie south of the border, and of course those parts of the book dealing with basic research techniques, interviewing elderly relatives, record keeping, charting results, etc., are of wider general interest.

The author is a professional genealogist, and a founder of the Association of Genealogists and Record Agents, of which he has been chairman. He has been a member of the Society of Genealogists since 1943, and in 1952 he founded the research journal The Amateur Historian (now The Local Historian). He has also been an extra-mural lecturer in genealogy for the Universities of London and Surrey, and for institutes of adult education.

D.R.R.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

How to Locate & Use Manorial Records, by Patrick Palgrave-Moore. Elvery Dowers Publications, 13 West Parade, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3DN. £1.75. An attempt to "sweep away the misconceptions" surrounding an often neglected genealogical source, with its "aura of scholarly limitation".

Latin Word-List for Family Historians, compiled by Elizabeth Simpson. £2.80 UK; £2.90 o/seas; £4.10 airmail. Latin-English & English-Latin sections containing terms most likely to arise in local archives.

A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdictions: Where to Look for Wills, by Jeremy Gibson. £2.25 UK; £3.10 airmail. 3rd edition, fully up-dated. Covers England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man & Channel Islands.

The Censuses 1841-1881: Their Use and Interpretation; Wills before 1858; Illegitimacy; Three useful guides by Eve McLaughlin, in new editions. Each £1 UK; £1.50 airmail. Simpson, Gibson & McLaughlin titles published by the Federation of Family History Societies. UK orders:- Mrs N. Porter, 17 Foxlea Road, Hayley Green, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1DX. Overseas orders:- Mrs P. Berner, 8 Rooks Meadow, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 0PT, England.

Monumental Inscriptions in the Ramshorn Burying Grounds, edited by J.S. Fairie. Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS, c/o 11 Huntly Gardens, Glasgow G12 9AT. £4.50.

Problems Connected to Record Search, Surnames of Gaelic Origin, by D. Caraher-Manning. Paper read to Anglo-Scottish FHS. Copies (50p) from Mrs D. Ramsbotham, 10 Blantyre Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 1ER.

Up, The Maiden Aunts!, by Dorothea Abbott. Greenhill Books, 42 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6LE. Author's family history, includes refs. to MacFarquhar, Black Isle; Munro, Stornoway; & Duncan, Orkney.

McIntosh-Mackintosh Families: Significant American & Canadian Lineages, by Walter H. McIntosh, PO Box 214 Topsfield, Mass. 01983, USA. $21. Vol.5 of series by the Clan Mackintosh Genealogist in North America. Includes family lineages from many areas of the South and Mid-West not previously covered, and Canadian families from the Maritimes, Ontario & the Western Provinces. Also data on McIntosh soldiers in the Revolutionary, Indian & Civil wars. Previous 4 volumes still available.

Computers for Family History: An Introduction, by David Hawgood. Hawgood Computing Ltd., 26 Cloister Road, Acton, London W3 0DE. £2.30. The editor of the journal "Computers in Genealogy" describes how to use home micros to organise, index and print family history records. No programming skill required, no prior knowledge of computers assumed.

1851 Census Index for East Surrey, Vol 1 (Godstone Reg. Dist.). East Surrey FHS, per Mrs Jean Tooke, 1 Woodside Close, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6AU. £2.95 UK; £4.70 airmail.

Index to Bromley Settlement Examinations, 1747-87 & 1816-31. North West Kent FHS, per Mr A.L. Field, 33 Orchard Way, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CRO 7NP. Booklet £2; microfiche £1.

Vital Statistics and Items from Newspapers of Newfoundland 1831-72. Available from the compiler, Mildred Howard, R.R. #2, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada B1P 6G4. $17.

Records of a Scottish Village: Lasswade 1650-1750. 1000 pages of parish records from the Lothian village (Poll Tax, Parish Registers and Testimonials), transcribed & published on microfiche, with a printed guide. Chadwyck-Healey Ltd, 20 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8DT (or 623 Martense Ave., Teaneck NJ 07666, USA). £60; $95. From the same firm, Records of an English Village: Earls Colne 1400-1750, 7000 pages of original records on microfiche, with indexes and printed guides. £200; $400; and The Publications of the English Record Societies 1835-1972 and the Index Library (5000 micrifiche - £8,800). Librarians may also know this company are producing a major reference work, British and Irish Biographies 1840-1940, in six parts. The full set will reproduce 272 biographical dictionaries containing 6.5 million entries on 4 million people, with computerised index. Price for all 14,000 fiche is £24,500 - including 'free' fiche reader and storage cabinet!

A Dictionary of Edwardian Biography, is being reprinted (in book form) by Peter Bell, 4 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5DX. This reprint of "Pike's New Century Series" in 36 volumes includes one for Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Family History Annual 1986, edited by Michael J. Burchall, 3/33 Sussex Square, Brighton BN2 5AB, (£6) includes a contribution by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards on "Scottish Records", and is due out about now - just in time for Christmas.

CLAN HISTORY and the GENEALOGIST

by R.W. Munro

In a paper on 'Highland Genealogy', read to a conference of the Scottish Records Association at Stirling in 1983, I naturally emphasised the importance of primary sources in genealogical research; but I also said it would be a mistake to ignore the innumerable published histories and genealogies of the Highland Clans. Here, my subject is mainly concerned with this secondary material, but nothing that I say should, of course, be taken to belittle the importance of going whenever you can to the source.

I will start with two quotations. Writing of 'Clans and Families' in a useful little guide to published source material on The Historical Highlands, E.J. Cowan wrote in 1977:

> 'There has probably been more rubbish written about this subject (Highland clans and families) than on any other aspect of Highland, or for that matter Scottish, history. The clan is an important topic, but there is no need for the apparently endless volumes full of tartan trivia and chauvinistic family history.'

And with that I would like to bracket what Lytton Strachey wrote much earlier on Victorian biographies:

> 'Who does not know them, with their ill-digested masses of material, their tone of tedious panegyric, their lamentable lack of selection, of detachment, of design?'

I start deliberately with these uncomplimentary remarks: but I hope to show you that, with all their faults, clan histories of various kinds do have something to offer, at least to the genealogist, if his or her field of interest lies in the Highlands.

It is not unreasonable, by the way, to ask why this type of book still takes such a disproportionate place, even in a severely practical age, in any library of Highland history. Was it perhaps, as has been suggested, the echo of an earlier Highland pre-occupation with history in a family context? It was the duty of the old bards or seannachies to know all about their chief's ancestors, and the great events in which they distinguished themselves; and it was a characteristic of Highland story-telling to weave it into a pattern of family relationships - which come out, too, in the patronymic name-forms used in everyday Highland life. The Rev. William Matheson, whose knowledge of Highland genealogy is profound (see Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness) has pointed out two of the defects of such a framework - a natural reluctance to speak ill of the ancestral dead, and a firm belief that a critical approach to long-established tradition savours of sacrilege, 'because what is venerable ought to command respect.'