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**MICROFICHE INDEXES - THEIR USES & PROBLEMS**

Many people find difficulty with the genealogical indexes produced on microfiche by the Mormon Church. How reliable are they? What information do they contain? And how should they be used? These are common questions posed, not just by the uninitiated, about the Mormon indexes. But despite the apparent problems, they are such useful finding aids that they demand the attention of every ancestor hunter, at whatever level.

Our speaker in November, Bill Diack, helped greatly to unravel the mysteries of the microfiche, and to point out the pitfalls. Bill and his wife, Lesley, are joint editors of the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland FHS Journal, and Bill is also chairman of the Association of Scottish Family History Societies. Possessing an Aberdeen accent as broad as Union Street is long, he had fortunately been "practising his English" for the untuned ear of his Highland audience, allowing the following report to be compiled.

There are two types of index of interest to family historians. They are both published on microfiche - which is similar to microfilm, but flat and about the size of a postcard. Each fiche contains 270 pages, and each page contains 60 names - 16,200 names per fiche. They can only be read under magnification in a special reader.

The first index is the International Genealogical Index (IGI), published by the Mormons themselves.

The second is an index to the Old Parochial Registers (OPR Index), which is compiled by the Mormons, but published by New Register House in Edinburgh.

The two indexes are nearly parallel, but not quite. The basic difference is that the OPR Index claims to include every entry from the parish registers, down to 1854. The IGI makes no such claim. Almost all the names from the OPR Index are in the IGI, but there are some omissions. However, what the IGI possesses and the OPR Index lacks is information from other sources (such as civil registration and family Bibles) supplied by members of the Mormon church. The IGI goes up to 1875 and includes most of the birth, death and marriage certificates up to that date.

The OPR Index is alphabetical by surname - strictly as the name is spelt in the original parish register, and there are many different spellings of the same name. Within surnames, the index is alphabetical by Christian name. Common Christian names are in chronological order, from the earliest down to 1854. There are separate OPR indexes for births/Christenings, and for marriages (no deaths index).

The births index gives the name of the child, and the parents (where known). Often, only the father's name is known; the sex of the child (M,F or U = "unspecified"); whether a Christening or birth, (C or B); the date of the event; then the parish where it took place. If the child was un-named, "blanks" are indexed before the letter "A". Uncertain dates come before definite dates.

In the "Miscellaneous" column, a frame (FR) number is sometimes given. This indicates the entry in the register was out of chronological order, e.g. where a whole family were "registered" together, as sometimes happened in the years just prior to statutory registration in 1855. The frame number refers to the frame of microfilm on which the OPR entry can be found (in the extreme top right hand corner of each frame of film).

The Greek letter Sigma against any entry means the indexer has taken an educated guess, e.g. by indexing "William, son of the Marquis of Huntly" under the surname "Gordon".

The OPR index to marriages is also strictly alphabetical, e.g. "Donal" married in 1769 comes before "Donald" married in 1739. There are two entries for each marriage, one under the husband's name and one under the wife's. In each case, the name of the spouse is given, followed by H or W (husband or wife); M to denote a marriage; date of event; and parish where it took place.

Sometimes there is a double entry under one name, denoting two separate entries in the register. These are marriage proclamations, and sometimes different parishes are involved. Husband or wife therefore came from another parish, which is useful to know. So even when you have the marriage entry from one register, it is still worth checking the index.

The OPR Index (for births and marriages) is being compiled county-by-county, and some parts of Scotland have

not yet been covered. As at July 1987, the following counties were available:- Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross & Cromarty, Inverness, Nairn, Moray, Banff, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Angus, Dundee, Clackmannan, Kinross and Glasgow. There are no plans to compile a single, Scotland-wide OPR Index. It should also be remembered that the original OPRs are records of the Church of Scotland. So pre-1855 information about Free Kirkers, Baptists, Methodists, etc, may be found on the IGI, but not the OPR Index.

As the OPR Index is supposed to be a complete record of all OPR entries, each county index will normally be published only once. But the Mormon indexers are only human - and therefore fallible! The Aberdeen OPR Index had to be re-issued in 1986 when 4000 extra names were discovered, which had been previously "misplaced". Mistakes are always possible, so never assume any index is correct - always go and check the original entry.

As its name implies, the IGI covers the whole world. It is up-dated every few years. The last edition for Scotland was published in 1984. The previous issue was in 1981, and although it contains fewer names than earlier edition retains its usefulness in one important respect - it covers the whole of Scotland in a single alphabetical sequence. The 1981 IGI is therefore the first place to look for ancestors who came "from Scotland", but whose actual county of origin is unknown. The 1984 IGI, like the OPR Index, is arranged on a county basis, and to look through every county would take ages. But, of course, each new edition of the IGI contains more and more names. Worldwide, the 1984 IGI contains a staggering total of 88,000,000 names - more than double the previous edition.

Unlike the OPR Index, which is strictly alphabetical, the latest IGI claims to have grouped together the various spelling variations of each surname. But this is only partially true. For example, "Suyrland" is clearly a contraction of "Sutherland", yet is listed separately. Every conceivable variant should therefore be checked independently (of which, more later).

The IGI lists births and marriages together on the one fiche. The person concerned is listed down the left-hand side, followed by the names of the parents (if a birth),

INTERCHANGEABLE VOWELS

SIM - SYM, SIME, SYME.  
LEITH - LEETH, LEATH, LEYTH, LIETH.  
OGSTON - OGSTAN, OUGSTEN, UGSTON  
DIACK - DYACK, DYECK, DIECK.  
MORGAN - MORGEN, MORGIN, MURGAN  
SOUTER - SUTER, SOUTTAR, SUTAR.  
SINCLAIR - SYNCLAIR, SINCLARE.

INTERCHANGEABLE CONSONANTS

U, V, W - SVANKIE/SWANKIE; URQUHART/VRQUHART/WRQUHART.  
PH, F, V - PHEMISTER/FEMISTER; STEVENSON/STEPHENSON  
D, TH - MATHERS/MADERS  
QUH, CH - FARQUHARSON/FARCHARSON

MISREADINGS

SUTHERHAND = SUTHERLAND  
DIACH = DIACK  
BUCHANAN = BUCHANAN

PRONUNCIATION

BRUS/BROOS = BRUCE  
MACKEAN = MacIAIN  
FITE = WHYTE  
BROON = BROWN  
STUARD = STUART  
LASON = LAWSON

SUFFIXES

- ACH (Gaelic term meaning 'belonging to') -  
MORGANACH, STRACHANACH, SCORGIEACH  
- IE (diminutive) - GREGOR/GREGORIE; McROB/McROBBIE  
- IN/ON (English diminutive) - ROBBIN; GIBBON  
- E as with ANNE, ANDERSONE, GLASSE.

PREFIXES

Gaelic patronymics - MAC (son of); NIN/NIEN (daughter of).  
A brother and sister could be indexed as separate surnames,  
one under MacDONALD, the other under NienDONALD. Or a son  
and daughter of John as MacKEAN and NienEAN. These names  
are "a nightmare" to look up, because there are so many  
variations. The IGI makes some attempt to group different  
spellings together, but does not always succeed. The OPR  
index lists them all separately, and they can be several  
pages, or several fiche, apart - e.g. "M Intosh", "M'Intosh"  
"Mac Intosh", "Macintosh", "Mc Intosh", "McIntosh". The same  
applies to other spellings as well - e.g. "M Kintosh",  
"M'Kintosh", "Mac Kintosh", "Mackintosh", "Mc Kintosh",  
"McKintosh". "Nicintosh" and "Vicintosh" are other  
possibilities.

or spouse (if a marriage). In the next column, F=female;  
M=male; W=wife; H=husband. Then M for marriage, C for  
Christening, and B for birth. If the original register  
gives birth and Christening dates, only the latter  
is indexed - another good reason for checking the actual  
OPR entry. The next column gives the date and place  
of the event.

The second last column, headed "Batch", is also  
important. If the code begins with the figure 7, it means  
the information was supplied by an individual, as opposed  
to being extracted from church records, etc. In other  
words, the chances are a Mormon somewhere in the world  
is interested in (or descended from) the same person  
as you. It is possible to get the name and address of the  
other person by writing to the Mormon church, who will  
send you a form to fill in.

The IGI does not list deaths. If they have the IGI,  
most libraries will also have the complementary "Parish  
and Vital Records Listings" (also on fiche), which lists  
the sources of information used to compile the IGI.

It is very difficult to be sure you have looked up  
every possible spelling of a surname, for the permutations  
are astonishingly numerous. There are 200 known variations  
of LINDSAY, for example, and 225 of DALZIEL. Bill noted 53  
different spellings of TAILOR, then got fed up counting.

Quirks to bear in mind, include the following:-

OLD SCOTS

QUHITE = WHITE  
MINGIS = MENZIES  
McKENYIE = McKENZIE  
AULD = OLD  
ZULE = YULE  
ALSCHINOR = ALEXANDER  
STRIVILING = STIRLING  
SUYERLAND = SUTHERLAND  
DALZIEL = DALYELL

ABBREVIATIONS

ALEXR = ALEXANDER  
WMSON = WILLIAMSON  
STWAPT = STEWART  
TOSH = MacINTOSH  
DWRITIE = DOUGHERTY  
STRQN = STRACHAN  
XFER = CHRISTOPHER

METATHESIS

(Letters changing place)  
MIDDLETON = MIDDLETON  
MITCHELL = MITCHELL  
STURAT = STUART  
JHON/JNO = JOHN  
ISOBLE = ISOBEL



accommodations or inhabitants. However, in this place, they are a hearty set of genteel young gentlemen, almost all bound I think for New Zealand. I have not as yet had much intercourse with them (I find bed easiest for my foot) a Scotch lad occupies the same stateroom with me - he is a good hearted soul and lends me diverting books etc. The Captain is a very respectable agreeable man and is very attentive to his whole "family". I think they are fully 100 altogether, fore and aft. Our food and drink is of the best description, wine and malt liquor is used every day at our table, I do not use any myself, the doctor purges me with his wind. Plenty of roust and barlie, boiled beef - geese, ducks and hens - and a calf cow to give us milk, so that we want for nothing but a fair wind. We shall not call at Portsmouth, as at first expected.

There is a New Zealand woman on board going home with her husband. They are steerage passengers. She seems to be a very cheerful person and by no means bad looking altho' rather of a "mahogany colour" or rather olive! The expence owing to the delay of the ship ... has been of course heavy but not so much as I expected, and I don't mind it much if I only can get a situation either in N.S. Wales or New Zealand. ...

I can't say much more but feel my hand very sore - but am glad I have done so much. ... Farewell for a week or so my Dear Ann and William, mind be good to old Mam. and tell Cirsty to be as good as she always has been to her. I am My Dear Mother, thy affectionate son - Geo. T. Leisk.

Cove of Cork - on board the Coromandel  
5th Jan: 1840

My Dear Mother,

In the first place, I know you will be pleased to see my handwriting somewhat improved and in the second place to find me dating from a nice snug harbour in Ireland. The fact is, after my last letter to and dated off the Isle of Wight, we had very disagreeable weather leaving the Channel; contrary winds mostly and blowing hard - but on the evening of 31st and all New Year's Day and night, while about 150 miles to the south and west of the Land's End, we experienced a complete storm; the wind 'snowing' the sea as old James Gardiner used to say. We could carry

nothing but two bits of sails like handkerchiefs and the sea making a passage over the ship. To make matters worse, the vessel became leaky having 4feet and upwards of water in the hold and all pumps going so that at last after trying every plan to weather it out, the Captain had to bare up for this port where under 'Providence' we arrived safe on Friday morning. The ship will have to go into dock as she has sprung a leak. ... It is generally thought she will be repaired here, in which case we will be fully three weeks or a month. ... I am getting fast free of the rheumatism and feel as usual quite hearty and a capital appetite. ... Thy affectionate son, Geo. T. Leisk.

Ship Coromandel. Cove of Cork.  
11th Jan: 1840

My Dear Mother,

As it's only a penny of postage now - I send this line or two just for fun - more of our Cabin passengers are up at Cork enjoying themselves and a joyous lot they are. Some I should think very unfit for Colonists. Two were taken to the Police Office for rioting on the streets and pulling down Pawn Brokers Balls; this was after being at the theatre which they "pulverised" that night. As for me, I have never been out of the ship since she left London nor do I wish to leave her. ... I have plenty of books and that is all I care for. ... God bless thee and Ann and William. Sometimes I think long for Uyea - for the walks with Ann to the end of the isles and looking out on Mr Sanders motions. I remain my Dear Mother, thy affectionate son, Geo. T. Leisk.

Ship Coromandel, Cove of Cork.  
29th Jan. 1840

My Dearest Mother,

We have moved down from "Passages" to this place and now lay ready for a fair wind. We are taking in plenty of fresh stock - swine, potatoes, turnips, bread, and all sorts of stuff that is good for food. This detention of the ship will make but a poor return to the owners, the expence here has not I believe been under £500 - but they must of course take all these casualties into consideration - they surely make money sometimes. ... It has been a mercy

for us that we have been in port with all the ill weather we have had - the number of disasters have occurred in the channel and about the coast. and a vessel bound to the West Indies with troops, which sailed from here about the time we called in, put back a day or two since, in a sad mess, and the troops and officers horribly ill pleased with their trip. ... I ever remain, thy affectionate son, etc. I can walk the deck and pull a ropes end with any of them now. So much for the d----d London rheumatism and I think I am getting fat withall! A passenger had a boy the other day - he is to be called Coromandel!

Ship Coromandel. Cove of Cork.  
1st Feb: 1840

My Dear William,  
I have written several letters to Mother and Ann but have not addressed you since I left Edinborough. ... since leaving London, we have unshipped two Chief Mates, one for stowing the cargo wrong, getting drunk in the absence of the Master, when of course he ought to have been very sober and vigilant. He fetched his wife on board when we were at Gravesend and put her to bed in the Captain's cabin; so when the Captain came on board, he was in a horrid passion, for there was everything in confusion. The decks were unreded up, the men grumbling at the absurd orders the Mate gave them - curious looking Jew fellows tempting them to run away and join another ship and to crown all, a strange woman (who looked no better than she should have looked), snoring in his berth. So he just told the Mate to walk over the side of the ship, his wife, traps and all, and next morning when I awoke, he was gone and another reigned in his stead. Now this gentleman they called Tousy and a sorry dog he was. The other poor devil was a good seaman when sober but Tousy was not. He had been a midshipman in a war vessel, I believe not the first-rate school for learning seamanship. At least, he has paid more attention to having a neat jacket, a fine braided cap, rings on his fingers and all the paraphernalia of a Master than to gaining a knowledge of his profession. So when the owner, Mr Ridgeway of Liverpool, came here to look after the ship, he found Tousy in such disorder he quickly sent another Mate from Liverpool to fill his place. Tousy was not requested to leave the ship but only to act as Second

11  
Mate. This hurt my Gentleman's pride. He could not submit to fill the station he was actually fit for, so he 'cut his stick' and the devil follow him, for he was too great a (puppy?) for me - very ignorant and as fine as he thought himself - very vulgar. Our present Chief Mate, chosen by the owner himself, seems to be a sober-minded, steady, thorough-going seaman. I like his face and I like his manners. He has done more in two days to get the ship ready for sea than the other fellow did in three weeks. ... When I wrote thee from Edinborough, I perhaps lectured thee too severely about your interference between Mother and the servants. If I did so, I ask pardon and now I am sure when you reflect about the matter and remember that I am far away and how anxious I am that you should not only not annoy poor old Mother but do everything in your power to please her and to make her comfortable ... It is all I request of you and God knows when I may have the pleasure of writing thee again. ...

I hear from Mother or ann such good accounts of thee as how you never now contradict her or ram a goblet in her face or interfere about the lasses or the kitchen work - but I shall say no more about this as I am certain you will do all I have told you to please Mother and more. I hope thy complaint if not away altogether, is at least somewhat moderate; I trust thou considers that God afflicts thee not without a good reason. May it lead to the eternal welfare of thy soul after death, is the earnest prayer of thy affectionate brother, Geo. T. Leisk.

On board the ship Coromandel, Capt. French.  
24th June 1840, 10 o'clock in the morning.

My Dear Mother,  
I have just time to say that we are beating up Sydney Harbour, all well. There is a vessel sails for England (James Holmes) today at 12 o'clock and the Pilot Boat takes this ashore to the office. Of course I can say nothing as yet about the place - I am quite well and 13lbs heavier than when I weighed in the cellar at Uyea - there will likely sail another vessel soon, meantime I must close this as they are waiting. God bless thee and all of you, I shall write in full once I get on shore.  
Thy ever affectionate son, Geo. T. Leisk.

## BOOKSHELF

READING OLD HANDWRITING. By Eve McLaughlin. 2nd ed. (1987) Federation of Family History Societies. Available from the author, Varneys, Rudds Lane, Haddenham, nr. Aylesbury, Bucks., England.

FACSIMILIES of DOCUMENTS of use to FAMILY HISTORIANS. By F.C. Markwell and Pauline Saul. Federation of Family History Societies (1987).

The deciphering of handwriting, whether modern illegible or 16th century unintelligible, and whether in public records or family documents, is a continuing source of frustration and difficulty to the amateur family historian. These two works each go some way towards lessening the difficulty.

The chief weakness of Eve McLaughlin's excellent wee book is that it is entirely English, down to the quite useful short bibliography which omits even G.G. Simpson's Scottish Handwriting. The author is not to be blamed for that, but the limitation does restrict the booklet's value for Scots genealogists.

Nevertheless, within a total of just 20 pages there is much helpful information, beginning with cheerfully encouraging advice on how to start, followed by sensible guidance with examples and explanations. It is all very simply written by an expert well aware of the idiosyncrasies of clerks, clerics and witnesses, and of the puzzles they create, including signatures like "scratches apparently made by an angry cat", capital Gs "like a Swiss roll in various stages of degeneration", and needless elaborations which are "a case of education being seen to be had".

Amongst the most useful examples of handwriting shown are representative alphabets from about 1600, 1700 and 1800, with commentaries on their special features. There are also several short facsimile texts, with transliterations for a couple of them, which contribute further to the value of the booklet as a mini textbook. For entertainment and instruction, at £1 a copy including postage in the U.K. (£1.20 abroad, £1.50 airmail), you can hardly go wrong.

The Markwell and Saul Facsimiles, though containing quite a wide range of handwriting examples, is published with a different purpose from Reading Old Handwriting. Its stated aim is "to help family historians, especially the more inexperienced, appreciate the wide variety of records available to assist their research". It may well achieve its purpose. But of 118 pages of facsimiles, the last five pages only are of Scottish origin while the others are all English. Even then, the Scottish examples comprise a page of a census return of 1841, an extract of a death registration of 1878, an O.P.R. page of 1799, a testament testamentary in secretary hand, and a retour (Latin) of 1759. Four of these are not uncommon and are readily legible and intelligible to a modern reader, which raises a question about the reason for their inclusion at all.

Indeed, given our different legal, administrative, and local government systems, it is a little difficult to see that the main purpose of the book is served for anybody not working on English records. However, it no doubt has some use for Scots readers as a collection of specimen scripts, although even that is limited by the lack of transliterations. Nonetheless, the idea behind the book is sound. A corresponding volume for Scotland, preferably with a rather higher average standard of facsimile, would be of value if somebody should be enterprising enough to produce one.

G.D.R.

BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY. By George Pelling. Federation of Family History Societies.

That this is the fourth and enlarged edition of George Pelling's guide for beginners in family history speaks for itself. It is eminently portable, full of useful information on sources and methods of research, and there is an invaluable section on recording all the information, often the most difficult part for the amateur researcher.

While English family historians will find the book excellent, it is of little use to those of us with Scottish roots, though this is not made clear in the



title. for those who visit Register House, there is one glaring mistake: the closing times are given as 5.30 p.m. throughout the week. I wonder what the staff would have to say to an extra 5½ hours work?

A.E.S.

INHERITANCE OF ENGLISH SURNAMES. By Christopher M. Sturges and Brian C. Haggett. Hawgood Computing Ltd., 1987. Price £2.00.

An interesting little book. The authors attempt to show how families and their names rise and decay, using statistical methods and computer modelling. Much to this reviewer's relief, they also provide an alternative method of arriving at the results by rolling dice. I don't intend to explain their method, although I think I understood it after a couple of attempts, but their argument seems convincing. Running the computer, or rolling the dice, builds up a picture of a number of families over a number of generations and shows how some names flourish and some fade away - resulting in an increasingly limited range of surnames.

The emphasis is of course on English surnames - although it obviously applies to Lowland Scotland too. The one area where it is not so relevant is the Highlands, where older naming systems lasted much longer than elsewhere. This is unfortunate from our point of view, but it does not invalidate the value of the book. If you have ever wondered why your family tree is lopsided, this book has the answer.

P.R.

#### BOOKS IN BRIEF

The People of Lonmay, 1696 (with index by Elizabeth M. Riddell). Aberdeen & N-E Scotland FHS. Aberdeenshire's Poll Tax records were transcribed and published in 1844. This is a facsimile reprint for the Parish of Lonmay, the first of a series eventually covering the whole county. Includes index to names and places, and an occupations breakdown. Interesting to note beggars were supposedly exempt from the 1696 Poll Tax, which was levied at a variable rate. A useful and curiously topical booklet, as we prepare for a different kind of Poll Tax in 1989.

## THE ORKNEY FENCIBLES

By Allan Munro

This Fencible Regiment, ranked eighth among the Scottish Fencibles, was raised early in 1793. Service was in Great Britain after voluntary enlistment, a bounty being given to stimulate recruitment.

Mr THOMAS BALFOUR, of ELWICK, was appointed to be Major Commanding. An Army list for January 1794 designates the regiment as THE ORKNEY AND SHETLAND FENCIBLES, and gives the following list of officers:-

THOMAS BALFOUR, Maj. Comm. Commissioned 20:4:1793  
 JAMES MOODIE, Captain. Commissioned 21:4:1793  
 ROBERT BAIKIE, Captain Commissioned 21:4:1793  
 GEORGE CRAIGIE, Captain/Lt. Commissioned 22:4:1793  
 HUGH FRASER & JAS. MALCOLMSON, Lieutenants.  
 JOHN CRAIGIE & ROBERT SINCLAIR, Ensigns.  
 R. NICHOLSON, Quarter-master.  
 ROBT. GROAT, Surgeon.

The following is a copy of a Pay Roll for Captain Moodie's company, dated week ending 7:3:1794.

SERGt ANGUS MCKAY  
 SERGt JAMES GRAY  
 SERGt ROBT. MCKAY  
 CORPORAL HEPBURN  
 CORPORAL CORNER  
 DRUMMER DON MCKAY

Pte. Jas. MORRISON	Pte. Geo. MCKAY (1st)
Pte. Alex. PREIST	Pte. Geo. MCKAY (2nd)
Pte. Gifford OMAND	Pte. John MCKAY
Pte. Robt. MATCHES	Pte. Wm. LINAY
Pte. Peter GAUDY	Pte. Angus McDONALD
Pte. Robt. STOVE	Pte. Wm. MCKAY (1st)
Pte. H. RUSSLAND	Pte. Wm. MCKAY (2nd)
Pte. John STOUT	Pte. John MUNRO
Pte. And. STOUT	Pte. Don. MCKAY (1st)
Pte. Magnus CROMARTY	Pte. Wm. McLEOD
Pte. Alex. CROMARTY	Pte. John McLEOD
Pte. Alex. BAIN	Pte. Angus GUN
Pte. And. MANSON	Pte. Geo. LOUITT
Pte. John CALDER	Pte. Jas. CHALMERS
Pte. Wm. TAYLOR	Pte. Ben MALCOLMSON
Pte. Chas. HENDERSON	Pte. Jas. MALCOLMSON

Pte. Wm. SINCLAIR  
 Pte. Chas. BINGHAM  
 Pte. John MOWAT  
 Pte. Bremner TAYLOR  
 Pte. Peter JOHNSTON  
 Pte. Thomas MOWAT  
 Pte. Don. GUN  
 Pte. John NICHOLSON  
 Pte. John WILSON  
 Pte. Jas. ROBINSON  
 Pte. Don. CORRIGIL  
 Pte. Jas. COUTS  
 Pte. Dav. GARRIOCH  
 Pte. Magnus SCLATTER  
 Pte. Gilbert VEDDER  
 Pte. Magnus TAIT  
 Pte. Don. McKAY (2nd)  
 Pte Wm. LAWRENCESON  
 Pte. John SINCLAIR  
 Pte. Jas. PEACE  
 Pte. Jas. GUN  
 Pte. Hector McKAY  
 Pte. Hugh McLEOD  
 Pte. Geo. PEACE  
 Pte. Jas. McKAY  
 Pte. Dav. WICK  
 Pte. John HEDDLE

Preist and Lawrencecon are undoubtedly Shetland names. Bingham is an English surname. The majority of the McKays, Gunns, McLeods and the Munro are from Caithness-Sutherland. Presumably 35 out of the 65 are Orcadian.

The pay given in the pay-roll:-

Sergeants - 1s.6d. per day  
 Corporals - 1s.2d. per day  
 Privates - 1s.0d. per day

But 6d. per day was usually deducted for rations, except whilst on furlough. One item of officers' expenses records: "4s. for 2 pints of whiskie".

The uniform of the Regiment:-

Cocked hat of black cloth.  
 Scarlet coat with yellow facings.  
 White crossbelts.  
 White pantaloons  
 Black cloth, or canvas, gaiters.

There does not appear to be any specimen extant of the Regimental Badge, and no record of the Colours.

Arms of the Regiment:-

The Sergeants carried a Halbert. The Privates carried a firelock, known as Black Bess, with a bayonet. The firelock weighed 12lbs, without the bayonet, and was effective up to about 200 yards, but did not carry the round bullet straight for more than 100 yards.

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 The Orkney and Shetland Fencibles were disbanded and paid off in December 1797. Capt. Moodie and Lt. Taylor joined the Caithness Fencibles, and many soldiers followed with them.

My great-great-grandfather ALLAN MUNRO was born in Fort George about 1797-1800 (stated in 1851 census return for Latheron). I believe that the JOHN MUNRO who is listed above may well be his father, as the Regiment were known to be in Inverness-shire from around 1794 until paid off in 1797.

Miss Alison Fraser, Archivist at Kirkwall Library, has assisted me to obtain further information regarding the Regiment. Any reader of this article who may have knowledge of the existence of OPRs for the garrison at Fort George around 1790-1800 could be of great help in my quest to prove my theory. I have listed all the Munro entries for Ardersier in the I.G.I., but found none listed for Fort George. Indeed, I only saw one birth entry of any name listed as taking place there.

Mr Allan Munro, 63 Tern Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.

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A MERMAID.—The declaration of two fishermen on the Argyleshire coast appears in the *Shipping Gazette*. They say—"We, the undersigned, do declare that on Thursday last, the 4th June 1857, when on our way to the fishing station, Lochindaal, in a boat, and when about four miles S.W. from the village of Port Charlotte, being then about six P.M., we distinctly saw an object about six yards from us, in the shape of a woman, with full breast, dark complexion, comely face, and fine hair hanging in ringlets over the neck and shoulders. It was above the surface of the water to about the middle, gazing at us and shaking its head. The weather being fine we had a full view of it, and that for three or four minutes.—John Williamson, John Cameron.—Islay, June 9, 1857."

The "Inverness Advertiser", August 4th, 1857.

LETTERS

I was delighted to read, on p.3 of Journal No.21, the letter from Donald Mackenzie to Roderick Mackenzie. "Killembet" is just a few miles west of Terang and the Presbyterian church where my family worship is the "John Thompson Memorial Church", built in memory of Donald Mackenzie's master, who was accidentally killed in a buggy accident before he could carry out his plans for a new church for Terang. His wife had it erected in his memory, and it is the town's landmark. I may add, "Killembet"", or Keilambete as we know it, is some 180 miles from "Port Phillip" (now Melbourne)!

Mrs Margaret McIntosh,  
28 Swanston Street,  
Terang, Victoria,  
Australia 3264.

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I have a fascinating "believe it or not" sequel to the note you published on p.15 of Journal No.22, regarding Andrew McPherson and Lucy McDiamid. As you may recall, at the end of the note I said that I had lost track of them, as they were not to be found in the 1851 Census.

I was checking through cemetery inscriptions in the Nova Scotia Public Archives one evening when, to my astonishment, there they were, in Upper Middle River Cemetery, Rocklin, Pictou County, N.S. The inscription reads:

"Andrew McPherson, native Inverness, Scotland; immigrated to Pictou 1843; died 28 March 1870 age 83; wife Lucy McDairmaid died 2 February 1878 age 81."

How amazed I was to discover that this Sutherland couple, whose fortunes I had followed, were buried not a hundred miles away from here. I wonder if they emigrated to turn their backs on the disgrace of their son Archibald's sheep-stealing episode?

Two other stones in the same cemetery appear to commemorate their son John (m. Annie ---) and daughter Elizabeth (m. John Grant), as the dates of birth agree. Three other stones also relate to McPhersons, but are of later date, and still have to be investigated.

Mrs Margaret Hambleton,  
40 Cheltonwoods Lane, #107,  
Halifax, N.S.,  
Canada B3M 3V2.

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I am collecting information on all McGregor families who have a connection with the North-East of Scotland - Inverness, Banff, Nairn, Moray and Aberdeen shires. Any family tree connections going back to last century and beyond would be of great interest. More particularly I would like to investigate Census records of 1851 in detail, but since there are a very large number of these for the area, I wonder if members would look out for McGregors when they are searching the '51 Census for their own ancestors. Any information will be gratefully received and all expenses refunded.

Richard McGregor,  
43 Alder Crescent,  
Luton LU3 1TG, Beds.  
(Tel. 0582-571326)

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BIIS and PIECES

Our Library now has a list of some baptisms and marriages for the parish of DUTHIL & ROTHIEMURCHUS, Inverness-shire, 1719-1764 (some gaps), which are not in the OPRs in New Register House. There are also names extracted from the Kirk Session minutes for those dates not in Church records. Mrs Margaret Mackenzie, Tigh na h'Ath, Dulnain Bridge, nr. Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire PH26 3NU, would be pleased to deal with any enquiries.

Scotland's sixth family history society has been formed in Dumfries and Galloway. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs Eve Adamson, 39 Roberts Crescent, Dumfries DG2 7RS.

From April 1988, the fee for a weekly "ticket" at New Register House, Edinburgh, goes up from £27 to £30. The monthly fee is increased from £75 to £80, and the quarterly fee from £150 to £160. The daily rate for an "inclusive" search remains at £9.

It's been suggested our Register of Research should be issued on micro-fiche in future. In this format it would be easier to up-date more regularly, and cheaper to produce. But it might be less easy for some people to use. What do you think? Any thoughts on the matter please pass to our Treasurer, John Durham.

## By A. S. Cowper

In 1709 John Sutherland, eldest son of Thomas Sutherland, tacksman of Brora, contracted marriage with Kathrine Rose, daughter of Walter Rose, minister of Rogart. John Sutherland's 1600 merks Scots money, along with 800 merks of tocher, were to be used for investment in land to provide for him and his wife and the longest liver of the marriage and any children there might be.

In 1711 John Sutherland advanced 1000 merks to James Sutherland of Clyne, and at the same time he discharged Walter Rose of the tocher he was to pay for Kathrine, so that it is possible that the loan to Clyne was the tocher money.

John Sutherland died in 1719, leaving a son and two daughters. About 1722 Kathrine Rose married David Ross, tacksman of Brora, and in 1726, as executors to the creditors of John Sutherland, she and her second husband confirmed the bond to James Sutherland of Clyne, and the annual rent of 120 merks due on it.

In 1744 Alexander Sutherland of Kinminity died, and his creditors took action against his son, James. Kathrine Rose and David Ross then raised an action against James Sutherland, Kinminity's son, who had become of Kinminity as son of the deceased Alexander Sutherland of Kinminity and grandchild of James Sutherland of Clyne. Kathrine Rose and David Ross obtained a Decreet of Adjudication against James Sutherland, claiming an accumulated sum of 2154 merks. They then assigned their right in the Adjudication to their son Donald Ross, writer in Edinburgh, who in 1751 was concerning himself with the bond.

Kathrine Rose had a son, William, by her first marriage to John Sutherland. When William Sutherland in 1739 left Scotland on military service he gave his stepfather the power to act on his behalf in the matter of the 1000 merks lent by his deceased father to Clyne. The Factory document was signed at Tain in the presence of William's lawyer, Robert Dallas.

In an undated letter some time later, William Sutherland, then Sergeant in Captain Dennis Company of Colonel Fleming's Regiment of Foot, "recruiting in

Abingdon, Berkshire, South Britain", wrote to his parents expressing regret that, despite his having written several letters to them, they had not replied, so that he felt he was "the object of your disdain and neglect." He told them of his having survived the Siege of Carthaginia, so that we know he took part in Admiral Vernon's unsuccessful action in the War of the Austrian Succession. On his return to England, he was quartered near London. There he had met in with his cousin, Lt Patrick Sutherland, who would have bought him out of the Army if he had been willing to go with Patrick to New Georgia. For health reasons he chose not to go abroad.

What seems to have made him write is that news reached him of "the melancholy accident whereby Kinminity was deprived of life". This refers to Kinminity's fatal fall over a stair at Fochabers in 1742. Kinminity's death revived the matter of the bond of 1711, and William expressed the hope that his parents had got what was due them on the 1000 merks loaned.

Unfortunately, the end of the letter has not survived except for a few words mentioning his half-brother Donald Ross, the Edinburgh man of law. This letter forms part of the collection of papers belonging to Donald Ross, kept in the Scottish Record Office and made available by courtesy of the Keeper.

SRO Ref. RH 15/103/8

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**SUMMER SCHOOL**:- "Exploring Your Family History" is the title of a residential course being held at the University of Aberdeen from August 6-13, 1988. The course will include lectures, tours, and visits to local record repositories. Time will also be allocated for research, and individual attention to each student is promised. Details from:- University of Aberdeen, Residential & Catering Services, Kings College, Old Aberdeen AB9 1FX. (Tel. 0224-272664).

**CONFERENCE**:- The Anglo-Scottish FHS are holding a day conference in Manchester on June 19, 1988. Topics include "Tracing Ancestry in Scotland"; "Tackling Problems at Kew"; and "Migrants in Census". Details from:- Mr H. King, Conference Organiser, 65 Taunton Road, Ashton under Lyne, Lancs OL7 9DR.

