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HIGHLAND
FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY

comunn
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gaidhealtachd

Published by
The Highland Family History Society
Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd

ISSN 0262-6659

JOURNAL

VOL. 7 NO. 2

1988 - 89

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The development of a surname from a patronymic is a fascinating subject and is, of course, the basis of most Highland surnames. The process must have gone on through the centuries until the recording of surnames in English stabilised the forms. It might have happened more frequently, but for the strong consciousness among Highlanders of the importance of actual kindred. One can think of Campbells, for instance, remaining as Campbells among Macdonalds for many generations, but local memory was sometimes aware of others who found it advantageous to adopt a prevalent local surname.

It is certain that immediate descendants of a distinguished individual sometimes lost sight of their original tribal surname, because of the status deriving from their patronymic. Other names, because of their distinctive sound, could well have initiated the transition from patronymic to surname, and mouth-filling names like Eachunn come readily to mind.

In South Uist, it seems there were two, if not three, different strains of Maceachen and it could be that they were derived from different eponymous Eachunns. (Eachunn, as you know, is usually rendered in English as Hector). However, the most numerous and historically cohesive group were those known as Clann Eachainn Bhuidhe, including as they did the Maceachens of Howbeg and probably the family of Druim an Darraich in Arisaig. It is that family group which enables me to pose the question "Who were the Maceachens?" with any logical justification, as they themselves were quite happy to be Maceachens and never asked why.

My question arises mainly because Neil Maceachen of the Howbeg family changed his name to MacDonald in 1746. Neil was identified with the escape of Prince Charles Edward Stuart from Scotland and with his subsequent life in France and, although he left a fragmentary account of his experiences during the escape, Neil gave no indication of his reasons for changing his name. Perhaps, at a distance of two hundred and two score years, it is possible to hazard a guess that, as an experienced Jacobite secret agent, he felt that "his cover had been blown" by his known association with the Princes' escape and that he required a new identity. You will remember that, in the somewhat transparent disguise of Flora Macdonald's manservant, he accompanied her and the Royal Fugitive on the famous journey "over the sea to Skye". He suffered permanent exile in France thereafter.

It may be that the nebulous figure of Neil Maceachen would have been entirely forgotten were it not that his son, known as Alexandre Jacques Joseph Etienne Macdonald, joined the French army and rose to be one of Napoleon's 26 Marshals, and was

created Duke of Tarentum by the Emperor. This exotic French nobleman came to Scotland in 1825 to visit his father's birthplace in South Uist, and he was naturally lionised by fashionable society in Edinburgh when he passed through that city.

Although the Duke's autobiography makes it clear that his object in coming to Scotland was to find out something of his own background, he fails to reveal what, if anything, he did discover, although he lived for some 15 years following his visit. The most likely explanation for this omission is that the Duke spoke practically no English, and no Gaelic, while most of his Gaelic-speaking cousins who might have told him something of his background were equally deficient in French, and could find very little point of contact with him.

The Edinburgh intelligentsia were, at that time, indulging in a Highlander cult, largely stimulated by Sir Walter Scott, and the distinguished expatriate was thus doubly interesting. Scott recorded the information that the Duke was of a tribe of Clanranald Macdonalds, known as Maceachen because they descended from a certain Hector of that family, and that his father had adopted the general name of the clan when he returned to France.

Where Scott got his information is not known but that explanation received universal acceptance and was elaborated by writers of Clanranald history, notably by Mackenzie and by the clerical authors of the "Clan Donald" history. The Maceachens were shown to derive from one Hector son of Roderick, the third Chief of Clanranald. The descent followed through one Hector of Kilmalew, who is referred to in a charter of 1509, and from him to another Hector, son of Ewen Macdonald Maceachen, in whose favour there is a retour of the tenure of Blaich in Morvern in 1615. This last Hector was the father of Ewen Maceachen of Druim an Darraich in Arisaig and of Ronald of Howbeg, the Duke's direct ancestor.

This authoritative account should dispose of my question "Who were the Maceachens?", but unfortunately the pedigree is seriously flawed at each stage. In the first place, there is no evidence that such a person as the eponymous Hector son of Roderick, third of Clanranald, ever existed. His reputed descendant, Hector of Kilmalew, did exist, although there is no evidence that he ever had Kilmalew, as the charter of 1509 was in favour of his son Ewen.

However, the same Hector is claimed in Maclean pedigrees with some justification; he is also known as Hector of Urquhart, or Eachunn Buidhe, meaning possibly "the yellow-haired" but more probably "Hector the fortunate". (Americanese "yellow", signifying cowardly, was happily unknown in the sixteenth century). Hector Buidhe's great-great-grandson, Donald Hectorson, was in 1613 granted charter to the same lands given

to Ewen of Kilmalew in 1509, comprising the whole lands of Kingairloch, which were said to have been in the hands of Donald's ancestors "beyond the memory of man"; and Donald's surname is unambiguously given as Maclean.

One of the witnesses to this 1613 charter was "Hector Macewin Macleane of Blaich" - clearly the same individual who was retoured to Blaich in the mainly patronymic identity of Hector Maceven Maceachen, son of Ewen Macdonald Maceachen, in 1615. I am aware of no documentary evidence that this Hector was the father of Ewen Maceachen of Druim an Darraich and of Ronald of Howbeg, although it is likely that he was. But, if so, the door is firmly shut against the alleged Clanranald ancestry of those families. Hector of Blaich's grandfather was the well-documented Donald Maclean of Kingairloch, who was a member of the Council of the aspiring Lord of the Isles (Donald Dubh, son of Angus Og) in 1545. In the following year he was granted remission by Queen Mary for the crime of helping the English to burn Arran.

It is possible that some Maceachens derive from a Hector of the Clanranald Macdonalds but, despite Scott's assertion, the Duke of Tarentum does not appear to have been one of them. The Duke's father, Neil Maceachen, adopted the name Macdonald but, even at that time, it was recognised that he had no real claim to the surname.

In 1746 there was published in London a curious pamphlet entitled "Alexis - The Young Adventurer". It gave a highly romanticised account of Prince Charles Edward's experiences in Scotland. All the characters were thinly disguised under classical names. In July 1747 the pamphlet was being discussed at a meeting in Edinburgh and Alexander Macdonald of Kingsburgh, who also featured in it, declared that because of its content it could only have been written by Neil Maceachen or by Kingsburgh himself. In the key which the author thoughtfully provided, one of the characters, Veracious, is identified as Neil Maceachen "properly Maclean". Shortly afterwards, another anonymous booklet appeared entitled "The Journal of the Escape of the Young Chevalier". Part of the narrative can be clearly identified as the account given by Flora Macdonald to Dr Burton of York when he visited her in Edinburgh in the Autumn of 1747. She refers to "my faithful servant" Neil Maceachen, "originally Maclean".

This dismissal of Neil to a menial role, and the insistence on genealogical detail, must have been intended to distance him from the Neil Macdonald, who was back in Scotland and probably in Edinburgh on some secret and dangerous mission, even while Flora was being interviewed by Dr Burton.

The Maceachens in Uist to this day support the claim to their Maclean connection, although they are not aware of doing so. They call themselves Clann Eachainn Buidhe, the race of Hector

Buidhe, who was, as you will remember, the ancestor of the Kingairloch Macleans. One of their legendary family heroes is Fearchair Mac Eachainn Buidhe, who was very famous, although they cannot quite remember what he was famous for! I am fairly convinced that this individual was Farquhar Maclean, the last pre-Reformation Bishop of the Isles. Donald Maclean of Dochgarroch advises me that the patronymic is not strictly accurate but the Bishop, unquestionably, was of that branch of the Clan Maclean to which the Dochgarroch and Kingairloch families both belonged.

I will now go on to discuss the history of the Maceachens in Uist, subsequent to Neil's departure for France, if only to show further how inaccurate information, finding its way on to the printed page, can assume unmerited authority. Just under 100 years ago, in 1892, interest in the Maceachens of Howbeg was rekindled following the death, without issue, of the third Duke of Tarentum. Another Neil Maceachen, whose father had been second cousin to the first Duke, was consulted, as the most senior representative in Uist, who might know something of the family history. Neil detailed how the Marshall's grandfather, Alexander Maceachen, had four sons - John, the eldest; Neil, who went to France and became Macdonald; Ronald; and Angus.

The first three are well documented but even Neil, the informant, could not be very sure about Angus, because he had never seen any of these people. But what is surely remarkable is that he did not mention a fifth son, Alexander (Alasdair Mor), who got the tack of Howbeg in 1789. Neil could well have seen this man. But, certainly, he knew as close neighbours several of his daughters and his son Alexander junior (Alasdair Og), the last Maceachen tacksman of Howbeg.

This information, such as it was, was accepted and incorporated in the published history of the family. Building up the family tree, however, created a problem. The last Alexander, so called sixth of Howbeg, was recognised as a full cousin of the Duke. But his actual father was not identified in the family group along with the Duke's father, Neil. It was thus fairly reasonable to assume that John, the eldest son of Alexander, fourth of Howbeg, must have been the father of Alexander, the so-called sixth representative.

John was therefore nominated fifth of Howbeg, although he had never been tacksman. His father had given up the tack of Howbeg before 1730 in exchange for lands in Moidart, and it was a younger brother of John's, Alexander, who re-acquired the ancestral lands 60 years later in 1789, by virtue of having married a first cousin of the Clanranald of the day. His son, also Alexander, in turn had the tack during his lifetime, and he is the Maceachen of Howbeg who was identified as the Duke's cousin.

John might well have been the titular fifth of Howbeg, but the published account must have been confusing to his actual descendants, who are still living in Arisaig. They knew who they were, but the books said they did not exist, as their male line had become extinct with the death in 1836, without issue, of John's surrogate son Alexander, so-called sixth of Howbeg. (As a matter of fact Alexander, who was still alive in 1840, did leave a son who survived until 1869 - as his neighbour and contemporary, Neil Maceachen the informant, must have known when he gave his account of the family history in 1892, and established the published version).

That version made the published family record a lot of nonsense. But, worse still, such recorded inaccuracy can filter back into oral transmission, giving it the dignity of corroboration from tradition. An octogenarian once told me that his great-grandmother had been the daughter of John, fifth of Howbeg, although I could have shown him her death certificate which showed that her father had been Alexander Maceachen, John's unrecorded brother, who was in fact tacksman of Howbeg. Her mother, Mary Macdonald, was a niece of the celebrated Flora and her maternal grandmother, Penelope, a daughter of "Old" Clanranald of the '45. Perhaps, if my friend had been unable to read, he might have known these additional points of interest.

I hope that by recounting this family history, I have been able to demonstrate a genealogist's nightmare, although I will admit this is an extreme example. A family group adopts a patronymic (Maceachen) as a surname in preference to its original one (Maclean). A man of that group later changes that surname to a third (Macdonald) without recording his reason for so doing, and speculation follows leading to wrong conclusions. It is important also to remember that a man with the same surname may succeed to a territorial designation like Howbeg, but it does not necessarily mean that he is the eldest son of the previous occupant.

Finally, an informant may have his own reasons for telling less than the whole truth, and whatever inaccuracy he tells is very likely to become published fact and be endowed with the authority of Holy Writ as a result. And a venerable sage may easily give you inaccurate information because he has read it somewhere, but at the same time leave you with the impression that this is genuine family lore learned at a parent's knee.

I should finally point out that my account of the origins of the Maceachens runs counter to the decisions of august bodies like the Lyon Court. However, I take comfort from the fact that the historians R.W. and Jean Munro, consider the Kingairloch Maceachens were really Macleans. Indeed, in their recent book **the Acts of the Lords of the Isles**, they say so without comment, as if there had never been any doubt about it - "A body kens that"!

RESEARCHING FROM AFAR
by Allan Munro

We may envy those amateur genealogists who reside in, or near, Edinburgh who wish to research their Scottish ancestry. All they have to do is wait until the holiday rush period has abated, and then book a day or two at New Register House. In relative peace and quiet they can have access to all the Old Parochial Registers and view the modern registrars' original copies. (This is even more than can be done in England, where you may only search the indices at St. Catherine's House). But you have to work fast, as time is money, while you are on the premises at Register House.

But is that really necessary? Do we really have to go to Edinburgh to research our ancestry? Perhaps it is much more "positive" to be able to "prove" each find by being able to call for the original register. But there is an exciting way to play this "genealogy game" by remote control.

Most people are aware of the International Genealogical Index and know where it may be found. Some libraries have holdings of all the U.K. Some even have all the world. But does everyone realise how to see the Scottish Census returns without going to Edinburgh?

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (i.e. Mormon Church) has filmed all the Census Returns 1841-91 and will allow any interested researcher to order any film, to be brought from America to the genealogy library near you, and held there for a period of three months for you to "read" it as often as their library hours allow. That same library will have all the other facilities, such as the I.G.I. for the world, and microfilm of OPRs (ordered in the same way as the Census Returns). They also have a system of finding out who else may be researching your family tree. The hospitality extended at the library is free. The charge to "hire" a film for three months viewing is £1.50. There is no obligation upon visitors to become members of their church.

Why not make the "game" even more exciting and, having chosen an area where you suspect your ancestors were born, become an amateur family/local historian and gather all the local facts and figures for that locality? Perhaps start with the First Statistical Account for Scotland which gives such a wonderful picture of life in the late 18th century. If your ancestors were born in the north of Scotland you can have an extra bonus because the Pentland Press of Thurso has issued reprint booklets of individual parishes at a very moderate cost. (These are available in the Highland F.H.S library on free loan to members).

I am an exiled Scot from Caithness and my mother was born in Stronsay in the north isles of Orkney. I live near a Mormon

Church and have availed myself of their hospitality, over the past year, for about two hours on two days of each week. (More time is available, but four hours a week is the ration I allocate to my hobby).

I have an 10x8ins hard-backed booklet, containing 100 ruled pages. In this booklet I have all of the 1871 Census for Stronsay on the right-hand pages, and on the left-hand facing pages I enter the family tree of each household where I have traced the family in the I.G.I. Obviously I have concentrated upon the surname Sinclair first, as that was my mother's maiden name. Then I tackle the other maiden names of my grandmother, great-grandmother, and so on. The Census gives a clue to whether children survived to maturity and indicates, to within a decade, the time of death of a married partner (i.e. the surviving spouse is indicated as widow or widower).

This I mention because the I.G.I. does not include many burials. The whole concept of the I.G.I. is baptisms and marriages. Likewise, I have become aware that few burial registers existed in my home county of Caithness for the early years. Indeed, in the parish extract of the First Statistical Account for Wick the writer, the Rev. William Sutherland, says: "The number of births in the parish, at an average of three years, may amount to about 120 per annum. Marriages run from 27 to 30, but some omit to record either births or marriages. The deaths are not recorded because, in this populous and very extensive parish, there are no less than seven different burial places, besides the principal one within the churchyard of Wick. Instances of very great longevity are rare, but many exceed 80, and a few arrive at 90 years of age." The early birth registers in Wick date from 1701, and marriages from about the same date.

Returning to my narrative of Stronsay, I can now extract almost any statistic that I care to think of from my notes. The most common surname (Miller 9.5%). The most common name (James). The number of fishermen, farmers, blacksmiths, joiners, masons, midwives, etc. How the 8736 acres is split into farms from 10 to 900 acres. The year I chose, 1871, was the time of the peak population, totalling 1267 persons (I know, because I have written them all down!). By 1987 it had slumped to less than 500. But the exciting part of it all is to see who the neighbours were and how the "boy next door" married. I should hasten to add that I have relevant extracts of the 1851 and 1881 returns (not entire) to compare with my complete transcript of the 1871 return.

By judicious use of the "30-year generation" cycle, and comparing children's names (often their middle name is the surname of their grandparents), I can assemble some conjectural family trees which often link one household with another nearby.

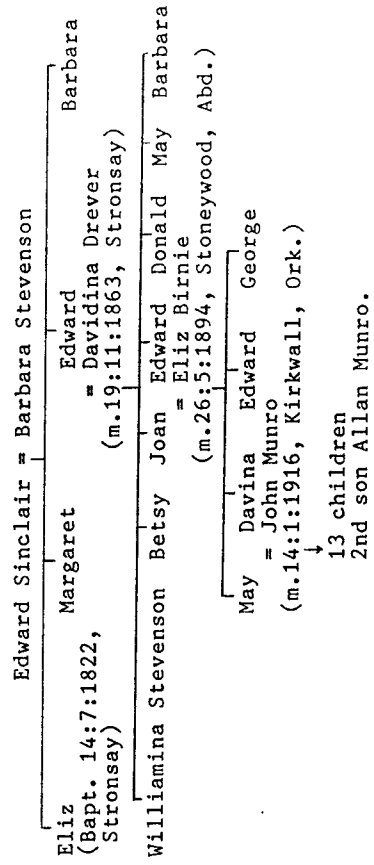
The task is never really finished, but by Remote Control I have enjoyed an exciting game whilst discovering my ancestors in Stronsay.

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POSTSCRIPT: Should any reader have connections with Stronsay, I will gladly pass on any extract upon receipt of an S.A.E. The cost of photo-copying will inhibit the extent of my generosity.

ALLAN MUNRO, 63 TERN CLOSE, READING, BERKS RG3 4AZ.

Mr Munro also submitted his Stronsay family tree, as follows:-



He writes: "There is a gap of 27 years in the birth registers from 1770 to 1797 and, alas, Edward Sinclair (senior) appears in the 1851 Census as a man aged 65 (i.e. born 1786). Marriage registers did not exist in Stronsay in the 18th century, and are sparse until later in the 19th century. The first marriage in my family list is in 1801. I have formed a conjectural tree going back to 1743, which may well be true as the names and dates fit a pattern. But I cannot be sure because of that 27-year gap."

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In a similar vein, Cynthia McInnes, Box 348, Yeppoon 4703, Queensland, Australia, writes: "I live about 500 miles north of Brisbane, on the Central Queensland Coast. Distance is a problem as I can never get to Brisbane to look up the archives, or the State Library, where lots of records are held."

One big problem we all have over here is cost. The State Governments have nearly trebled costs of B/D/M certificates

since the genealogical rush began. The Archives will not do any more researching - you have to employ a researcher. Australian Post enters into it also, as postage is always going upward. They have almost doubled the cost of I.R.P. coupons.

My McInneses in Victoria have hidden in the forest and don't want to come out - even after years of coaxing. Likewise in Scotland. One problem over there is that, despite I.R.P.s and money for donations, the letter-answering return is almost nil. I have recently written lots of letters to different Parishes and County Record Offices, and had one reply. It gets disheartening, and I feel it's a waste of time and money.

Trying to find a great-uncle who was killed and eaten by natives in New Guinea is a nightmare. A friend was with him and must have recorded his death - somewhere - but the Archives want "more information". It's a bit silly, as that's all I know myself.

It's always pleasing to hear of people's successes when they find a 'long-lost relation'. I, too, am waiting for that day."

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Duncan MacDonald (Member no. 409) wishes to buy Norman H MacDonald's first book which was entitled "The Clan Ranald of Lochaber" and published in 1971. Can anyone help?

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The following, which should perhaps precede each meeting of the Society, appeared in The Scots Link of February '89.

A Prayer for Genealogists

Lord, help me dig into the past
 And sift the sands of time
 That I might find the roots that made
 This family tree of mine.
 Lord, help me trace the ancient roads
 On which my fathers trod
 And led them through so many lands
 To find our present sod.
 Lord, help me find an ancient book
 Or dusty manuscript
 That's safely hidden now away
 In some forgotten crypt.
 Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
 My soul when I can't find
 The missing link between some name
 That ends the same as mine.

Curtis Woods.

JOHN MACKENZIE and ANNE MACDONALD
From Scotland to Glengarry County, Ontario

John MacKenzie, an Architect and Plasterer was born in the year 1775 at Brahan in Ross-shire, Scotland. Tradition has him being a 'MacKenzie of Redcastle', but this has never been proven. Nothing is known about his parents, but if Scottish naming patterns were followed his father would have been named Alexander.

His wife Anne MacDonald was born in 1777 on the Isle of Skye to Margaret Macleod of Ballemeanoch and her husband James MacDonald of Knocowe. James was a brother of Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh, Castle Camus and brother-in-law of the illustrious Flora MacDonald who sheltered Bonnie Prince Charlie.

An old family picture has the following written on the back of it :- 'John MacKenzie Architect and Plasterer met his future wife Anne MacDonald while she was visiting her uncle the Chief of the Clan Macleod'. They were likely married sometime in 1803 as their first child was born in 1804. Their children were :-

1. **MARGARET** - Born April 28th 1804 at Bracadale, Isle of Skye and married to Donald MacDonald, a Free Church catechist and Teacher on July 7th 1828 at Snizort. With issue:
 - a. **JOSEPH** - Born 1829 and died Nov. 9th 1901 at Lewisham, N.S.W., Australia.
 - b. **DONALD MONROE** - Born 1831 and died Oct. 5th 1905 at Salt Lake City, Utah after being involved in mining in California and Nevada. Two sons buried in Battle Mountain, Nevada, U.S.A.
 - c. **ANNE** - Born 1833 and married to Duncan MacDonald June 13th 1853. Family members lived in and around Glasgow, Scotland. Margaret did not emigrate to Canada with the rest of her brothers and sisters probably because she had been married for two years when the rest of the family emigrated in 1830.
2. **MARY** - Born April 25th 1806 at Bracadale and died 1897 in Glengarry County, Ontario. She was married to John J. Kellie of Martintown, Ontario, who had been a Saddler. No issue.
3. **ALEXANDER** - Born Dec. 10th 1809 at Bracadale and died in 1881 at Kenyon Township, Glengarry County. He was married to Anne MacAllister Murray with issue:
 - a. **JOHN ALEXANDER** - Born July 10th 1844 at Kenyon Township and died there July 16th 1924. Married to Sarah McRae with issue.
 - b. **NORMAN McQUEEN** - Born 1846 at Kenyon Township and died there Dec. 14th 1864. No issue.
 - c. **DONALD WILLIAM** - Born Jan. 10th 1848 at Kenyon Township. Died Dec. 20th 1921 at Greenville, California. Married Alice Forbes of Dominionville with issue.
 - d. **RODERICK** - "Rory" was born in 1849 and died in 1924 at Plenty, Saskatchewan. Farmed lot 22-9th Kenyon and moved to McLean. (He was author's great-grandfather).

- e. **ALEXANDER ARCHIBALD** - Born in 1850 at Kenyon Township and died in 1937 at Sault State Marie, Ontario. Married twice, at first to Martha Beacroft in Greenville, California and later to Marion Blythe of Glengarry County. Two sons from first marriage both died at the Battle of Ypres in 1915 serving in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders and 90th Winnipeg Rifles.
- f. **JOHN JOHNSON** - Born 1851 in Kenyon Township and died Feb. 18th 1918 at Oakland, California. Operated a brewery and bar in Bodie, California. Married to Catherine Holland with issue.
- g. **ANNE MacALLISTER** - Born 1853 in Kenyon Township and died in 1941 at Muskegon, Michigan. Married to William Smith with issue.
- h. **DONALD ALEXANDER** - Born 1856 at Kenyon Township. Date of death unknown. "Dan" was married to Cassie Bell in Greenville, California.
- i. **NORMANDA** - Born 1858 at Kenyon Township and married James Tait with issue. They lived at Winnipeg and then Victoria, British Columbia.
- j. **ANGUS MURRAY** - Born 1864 at Kenyon Township and died 1927 at Los Angeles, California. He was married to Elizabeth Forgy of Greenville, California. No issue.
4. **ISABELLA** - Born Feb. 17th 1811 at Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland. Died at Glengarry County. Married to Robert Douglas of Prescott County, Ontario with issue:
 - a. **HECTOR** - Born 1837.
 - b. **JOHN**
 - c. **CATHERINE** - Married to an Urquhart of Glengarry County.
5. **FLORA** - Born Dec. 18th 1813 at Portree, Isle of Skye and died June 4th 1893 at Toronto, Ontario. Flora was the second wife of Donald Cattanach known as the "Squire of Laggan" and lived in Glengarry County with issue:
 - a. **ANNA JANE** - Born 1840 in Glengarry County. Married name Perry.
 - b. **JESSIE FLORA** - Born 1845 at Dalhousie Mills, Ontario. Married Alexander Wellington Ross formerly of Glengarry and later of Winnipeg, Manitoba. A.W. Ross was for a time Member of Parliament for Lisgar, Manitoba. He was owner of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway, land speculator and entrepreneur in Manitoba. With issue: Hugo, who died on the Titanic and John.
 - c. **MARGARET** - Born 1847 at Dalhousie Mills. Married to Malcolm McLean who was the first Mayor of Vancouver, British Columbia. With issue.
 - d. **MARY J.D.** - Born 1850 at Dalhousie Mills. Married to Dr. L.A.C. Panton a Professor at Guelph Agricultural College.
6. **WILLIAM KENNETH** - Born Dec. 15th 1815 at Portree, Isle of Skye. Died April 19th 1865 at Vankleek Hill, Ontario. William was a barrister and Judge of the Surrogate Court of Prescott County, Ontario. Married to Marcelle Daoust with issue:
 - a. **HENRY WILLIAM** - Born 1949. A Watchmaker in Montreal, Quebec.

b. ANNE M. - Born 1853 West Hawksbury Township, Prescott County, Ontario.
c. JOSEPHINE - Born 1860 at Vankleek Hill, Ontario.

7. JAMES RODERICK - Born Feb 17th 1817 at Portree, Isle of Skye. Married Oct 31st 1850 to Isabella Murray, sister to Anne who married James R.'s brother Alexander. James R. was a teacher and later Postmaster at Skye, Ontario. He was also Secretary of Kenyon Township and Deacon of Kenyon Presbyterian Church, Dunvegan, Ontario. James R. died in 1901 at Kenyon Township with no issue.

It is not known exactly when John McKenzie and his wife Anne MacDonald came to Canada, but their son Alexander's tombstone in the cemetery at Kenyon Presbyterian Church, Dunvegan, Ontario says "emigrated 1830". The first indication of the family being in Glengarry is in the early 1830's when Hector is born to daughter Isabella Douglas.

Army lists cited by Pringle and MacDonnell note a John McKenzie in the 4th Regiment Glengarry Militia from "the limits of Kenyon" posted as Captain Oct. 23rd 1837. There is a distinct possibility that this is the same John McKenzie as his farm at lot 22 - 9th Concession Kenyon Township is on the northern border of the township. The 4th regiment of Glengarry Militia fought in the Battle of Windmill Point in the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada.

A Captain John McKenzie appears on the lists of subscriptions to the Kenyon Bible Society of 1839-1840, while A Historical Sketch of Dunvegan Presbyterian Church says that "Jock McKenzie did the plastering for the first log church built at Dunvegan in 1840".

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T H E J O U R N A L

Pardon the slight delay. Our editor of many years Duncan Ross regretfully has had to stand down owing to his personal and professional commitments and the reins have been taken up by me as Thinker and John Durham as Doer. The Journal has had Duncan's stamp on it since the beginning and we can only hope ours will work as well as his always did.

But on we roll. This is last year's no. 2, shortly you will receive the combined 3/4, and soon after that volume 8 no. 1 to bring us up to date. For them we have a small treasure chest of articles but more are always welcome showing personal searches, asking questions, giving or demanding advice and so on. Black-line illustrations can also be of great interest so please get to it and help us show you off.

A FISHING VILLAGE MOURNS

The Society is currently involved in preparing a number of booklets on Monumental Inscriptions including that of Avoch churchyard. During the checking process we noted that on four of the stones the death by drowning of five persons had occurred on 14 June 1871.

This information indicated that some accident must have occurred and a scan of the microfilm copy of the Inverness Courier of 15 June 1871 supplied the relevant details.

"AN OVERCROWDED BOAT SWAMPED TWELVE PERSONS DROWNED

One of the most distressing calamities that we have ever had to record occurred yesterday, within a stone's throw of the shore, at the fishing village of Avoch, in this neighbourhood.

The men had had a good take of fish the night before, and as usual, before going to bed, they sorted their creels, and stored them all in one of the big boats of the village for the purpose of being carried in the morning to market in Inverness. They left the boat anchored, about half-a-mile out to sea, and then got home and retired to rest.

The sailing party told off for managing the boat next morning consisted of five men, and along with them were to sail sixteen women, whose duty it was to take charge of the several creels of fish, and sell them on arrival at the market.

At six a.m these men and women, 21 in all, assembled on the shore, and put off for the big boat in a small salmon-fishing coble, belonging to William and George Jack, father and son. The sea was perfectly calm, there was not even a ripple on its surface; had it not been so, they would probably never have ventured to crowd into so small a craft.

They pushed off, and had made but little way when the boat began to take in water. By this time they were in comparatively deep water - one foot beyond depth being as fatal as a hundred - and the passengers became excited and alarmed.

In a frenzy of panic, one of the women flung herself overboard, and in the midst of the agitation of the other passengers the boat sank. The women clung to the few men who were on board and prevented most of them from either saving themselves or saving others.

The scene was fearful, and the cries painful beyond description. The accident was observed from shore, and the alarm was immediately given, but unfortunately the tide was out, and the boats were high and dry on the beach. It took some

little time in the confusion of the moment to launch a boat and reach the scene of the disaster.

The two Jacks saved themselves by swimming on shore, other two of the men succeeded in clinging to the boat, and five of the women did the same until they were rescued. The others, we lament to say, all perished, and two of those who seemed to be rescued died after having been taken ashore. The tide was running strongly at the time, and the bodies were carried out to sea, so that of those drowned only a few were recovered up to two p.m. yesterday.

The following are the names of those who were drowned and of those who were saved:-

Saved - John Ralph, sen., and John Ralph, jun., father and son; William and George Jack, father and son; Jessie Patience, unmarried; Betsy Brodie, unmarried; Sarah Sutherland, unmarried; Jessie Macleman, unmarried; Ann Mackintosh, unmarried.

Drowned - James Ellison, unmarried; Donald Paterson, unmarried; Ann Ross, married, leaves one of a family; Betsy Patience, married, leaves three of a family; Jessie Sutherland, unmarried; Sarah Skinner, unmarried; Margaret Jack, married, leaves five of a family; Margaret Brodie, unmarried; Jane Paterson, unmarried; Betsy Skinner, married, leaves three of a family; Jessie MacLennan, unmarried.

The report of the event in which no fewer than 12 persons had in fact drowned as the result of the same accident did not tally with the information to be found on one of the stones. The stone in question indicated that William and George Jack, father and son, had drowned on that fateful day but the report in the Courier said that they had both swum ashore and survived.

We had a further look at the microfilm to check up on this apparent anomaly. The answer was discovered in the copy of the Inverness Courier which appeared a week later on 22 June 1871.

"THE LAMENTABLE BOAT ACCIDENT IN THE FIRTH

We recorded last week the melancholy accident by which twelve persons were drowned in the Moray Firth, off Avoch. That number of deaths, heavy and deplorable as it is, does not include the whole of the fatal results of the calamity. Two of those who were brought to the shore in life died shortly afterwards from exhaustion.

The recovery of the bodies was a harrowing spectacle. They were all found, which is so far a comfort to the survivors; but no

one who witnessed it can ever think without a shudder of the circumstances attending the melancholy procession that accompanied each corpse from the shore to the village.

Six funerals took place on Thursday and eight on Friday. 'Never,' said a correspondent, 'did I witness so mournful and deeply distressing a scene'. It will be seen from our advertising columns that an appeal has been made to the public to relieve the wants of some of the families who are bereft of support, and we trust it will be generously responded to".

The two persons who died after reaching shore 'in life' must have been the father and son who, according to the stone in Avoch churchyard, had drowned that day. The reference to an appeal triggered a further search through the microfilm for that day. This resulted in a reference to yet another tragedy which had befallen the same village.

"TO THE BENEVOLENT PUBLIC

The appalling calamity which occurred here on Wednesday 14th curt., by which no less than FOURTEEN PERSONS were DROWNED - the details of which appeared in the newspapers. - will no doubt appeal powerfully to your sympathy - the more so that this is the second distressing occurrence of the same nature which has happened within a month.

On the former occasion, three fishermen belonging to this village were lost by the upsetting of their boat - two of them leaving widows and helpless children - and of the fourteen who have now perished, some have left widowed mothers in very destitute circumstances, and others have bereft their families of much needed support and guidance.

To assist in meeting the exigencies occasioned by these disastrous accidents, which are of such magnitude as to overtax the resources of private benevolence, we felt justified in making this appeal to the public for pecuniary aid.

John Gibson, Minister of the Parish of Avoch.
David H Philip, Congregational Minister, Avoch.
Avoch, 19th June 1871".

This reference to yet another drowning tragedy occurring during the summer is a further reminder of how dangerous an occupation fishing was during the last century. A further visit was made to the library to look at the microfilm and the relevant report appeared in yet another copy of the Inverness Courier, this one dated 25 May 1871.

"THREE AVOCH FISHERMEN DROWNED

We regret very much to learn that one of the boats from Avoch employed in dredging oysters in the Firth was lost last week, and its crew of three fishermen drowned.

The boat went out with others on Tuesday, but did not return in the evening. The day was stormy throughout, and it is clear, from the evidence that has since reached the shore, that the vessel has gone to the bottom.

Two of the men, named Alexander Skinner and Alexander Allison, were married and leave families behind them; the third was a promising lad of seventeen, son of a respectable fisherman in the place.

The bereaved families are left destitute, and we are sure many will be glad to contribute to their assistance through Mr Philip, the Congregational minister at Avoch".

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FORT GEORGE RECORDS

In reply to Mr Allan Munro's query about Fort George baptisms (Journal No. 24, p 17), I understand that in Ardersier parish before 1855 separate records of baptisms and marriages were kept for Fort George - of baptisms from 4 October 1798, with irregular entries on first two pages from 1791, and of marriages from 1793, with entries on first two pages irregular as to date.

The existence of such garrison records - and there may of course be others - seems to have been overlooked by writers on army sources of genealogy. Incidentally, from Mr Munro's note it looks as if this is another warning against accepting microfiche indexes now in circulation as being anything like comprehensive. - R.W. Munro (member no. 207).

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If any of our members have ancestors who served in regiments of the British Army between 1661 and 1913 they may be interested in a letter from Captain (Retd) E A Gray to our secretary. He is prepared to give advice free to anyone who has a problem with soldier ancestors provided they enclose a S.A.E. For those members who require more specific research at the Public Record Office at Kew, Captain Gray offers to undertake research briefs on a professional basis. He has also offered to write a short article for the Journal on Highland soldier strays who served during the mid-eighteenth century. His address is 32 Minster Drive, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5UP.

NEW MEMBERS

587 Mr G H & Mrs E J Thomas, Bruich Mill, Kiltarlity, Beauly, Inverness-shire, IV4 7HG
 MORE : Sarclat, Wick. CORNER : Corbigoe, Wick. MACCULLOCH : Oban. THOMAS/HORSFALL : West Yorkshire. All covering the period 1700-1899.

588 Mrs J P Broster, Gamekeeper's Cottage, Ashton, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 3BA
 BROSTER : Cheshire 1400-1899 specifically but also doing one name study. GRAY : Wick 1800-1899 & Kirkintilloch 1700-1799. BREMNER : Caithness 1700-1899. RAMSAY : Glasgow 1700-1899. MORE : Wick 1700-1899. HASELL : North Somerset 1600-1899. PANES : North Somerset 1800-1899.

589 Mr Ronald Phimister, 5 Scotston Gardens, Dundee, DD4 7UN
 PHIMISTER/WHIMISTER/FIMISTER/PHMISTER : Caithness 1700-1899, Aberdeen 1845+, Banffshire 1853+.

590 Mr Graeme M MacKenzie, 47A Harrowden Road, Inverness, IV3 5QN
 MACKENZIE : Ardnagrask, Urray 1700-1900 & Mey, Canisbay 1700-1850. MURRAY : Wick 1700-1850. MORRISON : Canisbay 1700-1850 & Urray 1700-1900. MACMILLAN : Glen Urquhart 1600+. FRASER : Dores 1700-1850. MACTAVISH : Ruthven, Dores 1700-1850. CLAY/MACLAY : Glen Urquhart 1650-1800 & Strathspey 1600-1750. MACPHEE : Glen Urquhart 1700-1800.

591 Mrs Margaret Morrison, 133 Shillinghill, Alness, Ross-Shire, IV17 0TD
 GILLANDERS : Contin, Kilmorack, Urray & Applecross 1800+. MATHESON : Contin & Kilmorack 1800+. MACLEOD / MORRISON : Eddrachillis 1800+.

592 Mrs Mary Kelly, 119 North Valley Road, Highton Geelong, Victoria, Australia

593 Mrs A S K Urquhart, 93 Saltash Street, Yagoona West, N.S.W. 2199, Australia
 URQUHART : Cromarty 1700-1799.

594 Mr Ronald W McDonald, 22 Dunecht Road, Westhill, Skene, Aberdeenshire, AB3 6RH
 MCDONALD : Daviot & Inverness 1790-1800 & Marnoch 1800+. FRASER : Inverness & surrounds 1790-1800. ANDERSON : Inverness 1790-1800.

595 Mrs Heather Somerville, 18 Bright Street, Eagle Hawk, JOHNSTON/MCKAY : Kirkhill & Victoria 3556, Australia
 BROWN/MACINTYRE/SINCLAIR : Dumbarton 1750-1900.

606 Miss Eilidh Mackenzie, 26 Balmacaan Road, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire IV3 6UR

607 Mr Bruce F MacDonald, 37 Reids Road, Highbury 5089
 MACDONALD/MACKENZIE : Inverness 1750-1850.
 South Australia, Australia

608 Mr John David, Drosymor, Southerndown, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF32 0AN
 GALLIE : Laggan 1758-1774 & Kincardine 1774-1803.

609 Mr Ewen MacDonald, Howglen, Huntly, Aberdeen-shire AB5 5BW
 MCDONALD : Knockhoilum, Boleskine 1700-1899.

610 Mrs Mairi E Maxwell, 37 Woodman Drive, Linden, Wellington, New Zealand
 MACLEOD : Broadford, Strath pre-1857. ROBERTSON : Eglol - Strath pre-1860. BUCHANAN : Kilmore - Strath 1800-1899. MACKINNON : Ord - Sleat pre 1875 & Otago, New Zealand 1870+. KENNEDY : Sleat 1780-1826.

611 Mr Andrew Anderson, South Keiss, 4 Balconie Steading, Evanton, Ross-shire

612 Mrs M Walker, 34 Paddock Way, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0LG
 SUTHERLAND : Latheron c1820. REID : Wick 1800-1850. CRAIG : Howe - Keiss, Wick 1800-1850.

613 Mrs Joan Leggett, The Barn, 67 Preston Crowmarsh, Benson, Oxford
 SUTHERLAND : Clyne c 1740; Uppat, Rogart 1770-1805; Rhives c 1805; St Vincent, West Indies 1796-1899. BAILLIE : Rosehall c1740. MACLEOD : Tain c1823. MURRAY/THOMSON : St Vincent 1800-1899. TOUGH : Aberdeen pre-1800.

614 Mrs I Fraser, 4 Victoria Terrace, Inverness, IV1 3QA

615 Mrs G Law, 51 Crown Street, Inverness, IV2 3AY

616 Mrs Christina M Mackay, Dochart, 3 Livera Street, Evanton, Dingwall IV16 9YA

617 Miss A A McKay, 26 Cromwell Court, Forbesfield Road, Aberdeen, AB1 6WB
 Researching the following surnames for the period 1700-1899 :- MCKAY/MACKAY : Farr; THOMSON/ROSS/SINGLAIR : Thurso; WILLIAMSON : Banniskirk, Halkirk; MATHESON/CUTBERT : Loth.

618 Mrs Susan McPherson, 63 Ewan Barron Road, Inverness

596 Mr Garry Mitchell, 1 Walker Place, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 1HQ
 MCKENZIE : Gromarty 1750-1820. MURDOCH/MURDIE : Old Machar 1750-1820.

597 Miss J R Cooling, 25 Froggnall, Deeping St James, Peterborough, PE6 8RR
 ROSS : Scotland 1700-1899. CLARKSON : Kingston upon Hull 1700-1899.

598 Mr John A McPherson, 'Slottsbacken', 167 Deepwater Road, Castle Cove 2069, N.S.W., Australia

599 Mrs Mary Ketchin MacDonald, Maoriha, Brumley Brae Road, Elgin, Morayshire, IV30 2PP
 MCDONALD/FRASER : Urquhart & Logie Wester 1800-1830. WELLS/ROSE : Inverness & Duthill 1800-1899. HENDRY : Moray 1800+. JENKINS : Moray 1760-1890.

600 Mr Edward A Meldrum, Clachan, Dunlichity, Farr, Inverness

601 Mrs Marilyn G Hammond, 17 Baralga Street, Cranbrook, Queensland, 4814 Australia

602 Miss Isabel Bruce, 26 Rosehill Drive, Aberdeen, AB2 2JJ
 MORRISON : Tain 1770-1870. MACKENZIE : Dingwall 1800-1850.

603 Mrs Charlotte B H Speirs, 15 Cairnview Crescent, Aberdeen, AB2 5DR
 MCINTOSH : Ardersier & Inverness 1790-1890. FORREST : Inverness 1800-1850. GARDINER : Inverness 1850-1860 & Carriden 1860+. ROSS/FRASER/MALCOLM/MCCOWAN : Inverness 1850+. MCDONALD : Leachkin, Inverness 1800+. FERGUSON : Inverness 1800+.

604 Miss Jackie Coutts, 26 The Annexe, N & N Hospital, St. Stephens Road, Norwich, Norfolk

605 Mr Gordon E Strachan, 81 Dalrymple Avenue, Wentworth Falls, N.S.W 2782 Australia
 MACPHERSON : Laggan, Inverness 1700-1838. Donald MACPHERSON and his wife Christine? had 7 children :- Grace born c1812; Hugh born c1814; Ewen born August 1817; Ellen Mary born c1818; Duncan born c1820; Isabella born c1821; Catherine born c1831. MACLEAN : Isle of Rum pre-1838. Charles & Marion (born c1771) MACLEAN had the following children :- Flora born c1796; Marcella born c1798; Janet born c1799; Mary born c1801; Allan born 1803-4; Margaret born 1802-5; Hugh born 1806-7; Belle born 14th May 1808. The family emigrated to Australia on board the "Brilliant" out of Tobermory, Isle of Skye in September 1837. Allan married his 1st cousin Janet MCLEAN (born c1815) who was the daughter of Hector & Mary MCLEAN.

