

# hìghland family history society



# comunn sloinntearachd na gaidhealtachd

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Please mark each item of business for the appropriate Official.

The entertaining report from The Ross-shire Journal of June 1897, which appears on pages 4-9, was passed to us by Willie Fraser (member no 822). His interest in the case of breach of promise stems from the fact that the accused, John Campbell, was a brother of his grandmother on his mother's side.

As a follow-up to Ken Renault's item in issue 10/1 on the Mormons' work here are Glenda Nieforth's notes on the religious reasons for the interest of the LDS in ancestry registration, from which come the enormously useful spinoffs of cheap and easily available microfiche and microfilm copies of the IGI, old parochial registers and so on. Mrs Evans and others I hope will feel that this compliments the earlier article.

The Farraline Park archive has new acquisitions: books on family history and the national records offices, some of which will be reviewed in the next Journal, magazines from other societies, and (tan-tantara-tantara!) the 1891 census. We have all 45 spools of microfilm covering our area from Shetland to the outskirts of Glasgow and they are naturally proving very popular.

There exist specialist computer magazines and specialist genealogy ones and even combinations (one is in our archive in Inverness), but not all of us belong to more than one FHS, nor have sufficient interest in computers per se to take those magazines, yet many of us have access to personal computers and wish to use them for other things as well as word processing.

Would anyone care to send in reviews, positive and/or negative, of programs for genealogy? I have heard of 'Trees' and 'Family Tree' and others, but I do not know how useful they are, nor how expensive, nor what machines they'll go on, nor what else is available. How, for example, do they compare with a general-purpose database program? Tell us and we'll tell the others.

Small-World Department. When in Dublin on holiday recently, I went to the local cemetery wherein have lain my mother's grandparents since 1937. On chatting with the clerkess who keeps the registers, I discovered that two other family-history detectives had been in that day. The first one was from New Zealand looking for Farrells, which was her (maiden) name. The next came from America looking for people living on the Such-and-Such estate, which was her uncle's.

Then came I, in from Scotland. She looked up the relevant entry for 1937 and announced that her family had moved into my grandfather's house after his death, when she was three. She told me details of his artistry expressed in paintings on the walls that my mother had never mentioned (having been, as a child, more interested in the penny-jar on the mantelpiece), so don't let anyone put you off wandering about graveyards!

"Stirling Burgess List 1600-1699". It is the first of three monographs on the burghesses of Stirling, drawn from the burgh council records over three centuries.

It contains an introduction to Burgessy, the guildry and the incorporated trades, followed by the names, occupations, relationships, places and fees of some two thousand persons admitted as burghesses. As such, it is a major source for family and social historians interested in Stirling and surrounding areas of Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire and Perthshire. Copies price £3.50 which includes p&p are obtainable from CSFHS Monograph Sales, 4 Victoria Place, Stirling FK8 2QX.

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Book Review

**Pre-1855 Gravestone Inscriptions in Lochaber and Skye.** Alistair & Margaret Beattie. Published by the Scottish Genealogical Society 1990.

At first sight, this is an attractive little book. The cover is vaguely Pictish and, riffling through, there are glimpses of maps. On pp 94 and 95 there are also maps showing where the graveyards are to be found. Clearly a great deal of work has been done, though not entirely by the Beatties, it seems.

But - where is the Index? There is one on p 89 with surnames and cryptic numbers, but it makes no immediate sense, you have to refer to an un-numbered page at the beginning to find where to go next. At the end of each graveyard, there is another list of names, with more cryptic numbers after each one. With practice, these can be understood - I think. To be fair, there are four pages at the beginning which should be read with great care before hunting for the burying ground that holds one's family.

The title says pre-1855 and that says most of it, but it is a pity that these very condensed records stop short there, as if a second Flood had wiped out everyone in Lochaber and Skye who died after that date. Just occasionally, later deaths are mentioned, so it may be worth looking for another generation.

This book does not say, to take an imaginary case, that John Cameron, who erected the stone in memory of his parents who died in 1850 and 1853, is also buried in the same grave and commemorated, with his wife and some descendants, up to 1968, on the same stone. This omission is maddening to a searching relative.

Our method of recording everything that is on the stone gives a far better and more useful book than the Beattie's way of doing things, and probably takes no longer to put on paper than their method.

Trevor Mackay (92 Madagascar Drive, Kings Park, NSW 2148) is involved in the start of the NSW Branch of Australia's Clan Mackay Society and increases the world-wide network of them: all over Oz, in New Zealand, Canada, USA, and, oh yes, Scotland. Good luck to them.

We've had a few letters expressing interest in a summary of our Inverness lecture last September on the Strathnaver Clearances. Sadly, this lecture didn't happen as at the last moment Dr Bangor-Jones was unable to make it. We naturally hope the lecture will be given in the next session and, if technology allows, will publish a summary later.

We mentioned in issue 9/3 that Peter Gibson in NSW (PO Box 169, Maroubra, NSW 2035) had started an index for Argyll's 1851 census. He and John MacInnes have entered, up to date when their newsletter no. 3 was issued, about 65000 names from nearly all of the mainland parishes of Argyll and they have begun work on the islands. They have been made aware of similar indexing projects elsewhere, including our elements mentioned inside the back cover of each Journal, and have added these to their list. But Argyll 1851 is their primary aim and 35 parishes are in there.

The index should be available for use early this year for a charge of A\$5 or equivalent: US\$4, £2.50 etc. This will buy you a search for a single individual, with a printed copy of the search; an extract of the most likely family member given the information provided by the enquirer; where no likely entry is found, one free search at any time in the next five years when the index will have had more names added; and return postage. They also say that more extensive searching and genealogical work can be carried out at A\$25 per hour.

It is always nice to have feed back that the Journal is not a waste of effort. Mrs Sue Tregoweth in Te Kuiti in NZ wishes her thanks to go to Neville McKay for she "recognised the same problems and so wrote to the same places" mentioned in Mr McKay's article on the 'Mackays of Kororareka & Lochalsh', which appeared in our last Journal, and was very pleased to extend one family line (Nicholson-Murray) back another generation to the Sutherland family who moved to Kororareka before 1840. She "could search for five years without luck and one article in a magazine could change it all".

Finally, here is a request for information, not a riddle: who can tell me what sort of songs my 4xgreat-grandfather sang when standing or sitting at his loom in the wilds of Argyll in the 1740s?

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Professor Morrison, the chairman of the Central Scotland F.H.S., has sent details of the publication by their Society of

**AMUSING CASE IN DINGWALL SHERIFF COURT**

(The Ross-shire Journal - June 18 1897)

Proof was led in the Dingwall Sheriff Court on Tuesday, before Sheriff Hill, in an action in which Lizzie Mackintosh, daughter of Mr Mackintosh, crofter, Craggen Valley, Kiltarlity, sues John Campbell, griever, Tarradale Mains, for £300 in name of damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage. The pursuer was represented by Mr Campbell, solicitor, Inverness, and Mr John Macrae, solicitor, Dingwall, appeared for the defender.

**Two Hundred Love Letters**

The pursuer, on being examined, stated that she had known the defender for a long time, in course of which he wrote her over 200 love letters. He proposed to her in Inverness, in presence of her father, in the month of December 1895, and she agreed to marry him, the marriage to take place after the New Year. In the spring of 1896 the defender called at the pursuer's house and renewed his promise, and fixed the Martinmas term following for the marriage. When the Martinmas term arrived the defender failed to fulfil his promise. She and her sister called upon him on Wednesday, 13th January 1897, and asked him for an explanation of his conduct and the cause. He, however, put her off with a promise to call and explain. The defender did not again call, and he had failed to fulfil his promise.

She had suffered in her health by his conduct, and her feelings had been deeply wounded. She had been attended by Dr Leach, Beaully, for a month. She had made preparations for the marriage by the purchase of articles of naperery, and her father bought a chest of drawers. She had an illegitimate daughter about ten years old, and the defender was well aware of this fact when he courted her. He frequently gave presents to the child on his visits. Presents had passed between the pursuer and defender, and they were -

**Photographed Together at Inverness.**

She used to meet the defender by appointment at the Beaully Sacraments. (Laughter)

Mr Campbell - "It was quite common for you to meet him at the Beaully Sacraments?"

Witness - "Yes; I used to meet him on the Sundays."

Witness, continuing, said she also received Christmas cards from him and also money gifts. There were a number of crosses on his letters. (Laughter) In one letter he said he was always dreaming of her day and night. (Laughter) She gave him the

present of a piece of wedding cake, and he wrote her saying that he put it under his pillow and dreamt about it. (Laughter) On the 30th March, 1889, defender wrote - "I have more love than I can express for you." In another letter he wrote - "I hope to see you soon, when I will get a kiss. (Laughter) I can hardly cut my beard just now owing to the cold weather - (Laughter) - but I expect to get the kiss when I see you." (Renewed laughter)

Cross examined by Mr Macrae for the defence, witness said she was forty years of age. The defender proposed marriage in a room at the back of the shop occupied by Mr Fraser, Young Street, Inverness. Her father was present at the time. Her father had only one dram with the defender before he proposed to her. Defender said to witness that he expected to get a house at Tarradale Mains. She had suffered in health owing to the pursuer's conduct. She could not say what was wrong with her; but -

**She was Near Breaking Her Heart.**

She had never contracted marriage with any other person. She met defender at Inverness feeling market on the 21st of May. He took witness and another girl into Gellion's Hotel and gave them a dram. He said to her then that he thought she would be the last person that would bring such an action against him. She did not say that it was the fault of her father and sister that the case had been brought forward. She told him that she had had enough of him. Witness could not write; but her letters were written for her by two neighbours.

By Mr Campbell - Defender often gave her 2s and 2s 6d, and at the New Year time he gave her £1. He often told herself and her father it wasn't the money that kept him back from marrying her, that he had hundreds of pounds in the bank.

Andrew Mackintosh, father of the pursuer, who gave his evidence in Gaelic, said, in answer to Mr Campbell, the defender frequently called at their house, and kept company with his daughter Lizzie. He looked upon them as lovers, and he thought Campbell was to marry his daughter. He was with her in Inverness at the feeling market, and they met Campbell. His daughter produced a £1 note, and said she got it from Campbell. That day Campbell said to him, "Liza and I are to be married, and I will keep her well." He cautioned Campbell to be careful what was bringing him west - (laughter) - but Campbell said he was to marry Lizzie at the New Year, and preparations were made for the marriage. He (witness) bought a chest of drawers for the wedding - (laughter) - and left the rest for his wife and his daughter to prepare. His daughter suffered very much when Campbell did not marry her, and was attended to by a doctor. He was afraid she would go wrong in her mind. (Laughter) He objected to their meeting on Sunday, and was tired of the letters that passed between them.

Andrew Mackintosh, brother of the pursuer, deponed he knew Campbell was a sweetheart of Lizzie's for some time back. Campbell mentioned to him that he intended to marry his sister. Every time he met the defender he asked about his sister. We therefore looked upon Campbell -

#### As a Future Brother-in-Law.

May Mackintosh, pursuer's sister, stated she was a servant at the Station Hotel, Fortrose, in 1896. One day at Muir of Ord station Campbell told her to come home and give up her place. She understood it was because he was to marry her sister. She gave up her situation and went home. After the New Year she called on Campbell, along with her sister, and told Campbell it was time he was marrying her sister. Defender said it was indeed about time, but he was not well at the time. He promised he would be up at their house on the following Wednesday, but he never came. He sent a letter, which stated that he could not marry Liza then. Her sister was in bad health for a time, as the marriage did not take place.

In answer to Mr Macrae, witness said she left her place because she thought her sister was to get married, but as it did not take place she went back to her situation. When she and her sister called on Mr Campbell in July last they were acting on Mr Squair's advice. Her sister said to him that she was to go to a place, but Campbell told her not to go, as he was to marry her. Mary Cumming, domestic servant, said she was working at the harvest at Urray when Campbell and the pursuer were there. She looked upon them as lovers, and they were talked about in the district as lovers.

John Campbell, the defender, aged 45, said, in answer to Mr Macrae, he was a foreman ploughman with Mr Fearn for 10½ years. The first meeting he had with Liza Mackintosh was eight years past last August. She was for five years at the harvest with them. He kept company with pursuer the first year he knew her, but -

#### He Did Not Court Her Then

with a view to marriage. There was no doubt he liked the girl well enough, and as she invited him to her house he went. He wrote her pretty often. Shown a number of letters, he admitted they were sent by him to the pursuer, and he received letters from her in reply, but did not keep them. He was in Inverness at the feeing term, and met her and her father, but he never proposed marriage to her that day. He might have said to her father, jokingly, "Will I get your daughter?" but he had a dram at the time. (Laughter) He never spoke seriously to her or her father about the marriage.

Mr Macrae - Perhaps the dram softened you. (Laughter) He had been taking a dram too much in Inverness on that day, and he gave pursuer fl, but as he was tipsy he could not tell what

else took place on that day. He was in the habit of saying to a married man, "Will you give me your daughter?" (Laughter) He again met the pursuer at the Inverness games in September, but he made no remarks regarding the marriage. She never said she was making preparations for the marriage. Pursuer and her sister called on him on the 13th of January, and he went home with them a bit of the road.

On the road pursuer was very quiet, and he asked her what was wrong with her, but she said nothing. After he went three miles he said he would go no further, and her sister said to the pursuer, "What you have to say to him say it now." Pursuer then said that he had now been courting her for eight years, and he had promised to marry her. He said to her that she might not get so wild over it, as he never fixed any time for the marriage. She replied that her sister came home for her sake from her place, as she thought they were to get married.

They pressed him to go over to their house, but would not go over then, and promised to write when he would go. He wrote to them afterwards, but did not say he would never go over to their father's house. The next thing he got was a letter from Mr Squair on the subject. He felt annoyed at getting this letter, but took no notice of it. He met pursuer in Inverness on 21st May last. He shook hands with her. He had a dram with her and Ann Johnstone in a hotel. (Laughter) He spoke to her about the case, and said he thought she would be the last in the world to raise such an action without a foundation. She said it was her father and sister that raised it against him.

#### Selections from the Letters

In answer to Mr Campbell, defender deponed he was not writing any other girl than pursuer. She was his sweetheart.

Q - Were you in love with her?

A - Well, I was never in love with her.

Q - What then did you mean by writing such letters as the following? - "If you would be so true to me as I am to you, you would not believe what other people are saying. I will never marry another." (Laughter) "Dear Liza, if you are getting tired of waiting, I would be sorry to keep you from a good match, but I will never marry another." Did you mean to marry the girl at that time?

A - Well, yes, if she kept the same to me as I did to her. (Laughter)

The other letters contained sentences like the following - "My mind is always on you." "I am glad to hear that Mrs Maclean thinks so much of me. If you thought so much of me we would be married long ago." "I am always telling lies what I don't want

to be telling." "Good night, dear, hoping to see you on Saturday first." "I have more love for you than I can express, Liza, but I am afraid you are coddling me."

In further reply to Mr Campbell, witness said he often gave her 2s or so, to buy sweeties or something like that. (Laughter) He got presents of stockings from her. He had an intention of marrying the pursuer, and he never changed his opinion; he intended to make her his wife. He often asked her, "How would you like to be my wife?" (Laughter) Another letter was produced by Mr Campbell, which stated that "he did not mean to leave her behind?"

Q - What did you mean by writing that?

A - I cannot tell.

Mr Macrae said he had two or three other witnesses to examine for the defence, and craved an adjournment until Friday. This was granted.

(The Ross-shire Journal - Friday July 16 1897)

#### THE KILTARLITY BREACH OF PROMISE CASE

##### Pursuer awarded £50 damages

Some time ago an action was raised in the Dingwall Sheriff Court by Lizzie Mackintosh, daughter of Mr Mackintosh, crofter, Craggen Valley, Kiltarlity, against John Campbell, grieve, for £300 in name of damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage. His lordship has now issued the following interlocutor, and awarded pursuer damages, amounting to £50, with expenses:-

Dingwall, 10th July, 1897 - The Sheriff Substitute having heard parties' procurators on the proof and cause, finds -

(1) That the pursuer and defender first met when engaged in harvest work at the farm of Urray, about eight years ago, and the acquaintance thus formed has been kept up since;

(2) that, during that period, they frequently corresponded by letters and there are in process upwards of one hundred of the defender's letters, in many of which he expresses great affection for the pursuer;

(3) that, in December, 1895, the defender met her and her father in Inverness, and, while taking some refreshment in a shop there, the defender proposed marriage, and was accepted by the pursuer, with her father's consent, and a time was fixed for the wedding;

(4) that the defender has failed to carry out the engagement then made, and has committed a breach of promise of marriage, and is therefore liable to the pursuer in damages; assesses the same at the sum of £50 sterling; finds him liable in expenses; allows an account thereof to be lodged, and remits the same to the auditor to tax and report, and decerns.

CRAWFURD HILL

In a note the Sheriff reviewed the evidence at considerable length, laying special emphasis on defender's letters to pursuer, and also to the meeting in Inverness in 1895, when the promise of marriage was made in presence of pursuer and her father. The agents were - For the pursuer - Mr D.M. Campbell, for Mr Squair, solicitor, Inverness; and for the defender - Mr John Macrae, solicitor, Dingwall.

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This intriguing piece has been sent in by Ian McKendrick (member no. 831). "I have received from my cousin Mrs L. A. Scott of P.O. Box 127, Home Hill, Queensland 4806, Australia the following information. Near to her home, beside the main road to the north, is a lone grave. The inscription on the headstone says:

John Macrae  
Born 1st May 1838  
Dingwall Ross. Scotland  
Died 10th Aug. 1880  
Mary Lea/Glenshiel, North Queensland  
Australia

The sad story is that on that day he left the local station (ranch) to round up some stray horses. He was found some hours later, shot through the head, with his pistol by his side. No other tracks were found near the body. None of the people for whom he worked could explain his death! I have since found out that John was born at Dingwall, the son of Duncan Macrae and Margaret Macrae (cousins?). They were married on the 6th February 1827 at Loch Broom. Any member who is interested can obtain a photograph of the grave.

The even stranger twist of fate is that he was found by a man called Ross and his two sons. We think that he was Donald Ross of Kilmuir, Skye. He was married to Margaret Clow, my great grand-aunt from Snizort, Skye. They had emigrated to Australia on the 'Mary Pleasants' in August 1857.

I do not know if it would be of interest to members to know that Mrs Scott is compiling a Master Register of all Scots and their families, who have either lived or are living, in the Shire of Burdekin, Queensland. The Shire covers the towns of Ayr and Home Hill and their surrounding areas".

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

by Glenda Nieforth

As a worker in the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have frequently been asked the question - "Why do Latter-day Saints (Mormons) expend so much energy and expense doing genealogy?" This question cannot be answered easily without a little background information about our beliefs and doctrines.

Latter-day Saints believe that family relationships are both eternal and sacred in nature and that Jesus Christ lives and is the Saviour of mankind. We believe that Jesus Christ was literally resurrected with a body of flesh and bone. (see Luke 24:39)

We believe that all persons born on this earth will enjoy this same privilege of having a tangible body of flesh and bone after this life. Because of the resurrection, it is possible for us to dwell in the very presence of God the Eternal Father where we will have the blessings of family love and affection for all eternity.

In Matthew 3:13-17, we read about Jesus who came to John the Baptist to be baptized by immersion to fulfill all righteousness and thus pointed out that baptism is essential for salvation. Latter-day Saints believe baptism to be the first step toward salvation.

We also believe that a just God would not discriminate against those who have not received this ordinance. Therefore, Latter-day Saints provide the opportunity for all deceased persons to receive by proxy this necessary ordinance. It is in our Latter-day Temples that vicarious baptisms take place.

Thus, we ensure that all people that have lived will have this earthly ordinance performed for them. First Corinthians 15:29 indicates that this ordinance was also practised in the early church. Latter-day Saints, therefore, gather together the records of their families as far back as they can trace in order to verify their family relationships. Then these families are tied together in the saving ordinances which God has prescribed.

We read in Matthew 16:19 that Jesus Christ gave the Apostle Paul the power to seal on earth. This sealing power would then be validated in heaven. With the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ this same sealing power has likewise been restored. This power currently is held by the prophet, seer and revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, even, President Ezra Taft Benson.

Therefore, the earthly ordinances of baptism and the sealing of families together for eternity are thus performed. Latter-day Saints, by proxy, participate in these ordinances to perpetuate family life throughout all eternity and to gather family members together into the very presence of our Heavenly Father, whom we love, honour and revere.

I hope what I have written will clarify why family research is so important to Latter-day Saints. If you have further questions I recommend the pamphlet "Why Genealogy" which can be obtained in any Family History Center.

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The secretary recently received a letter from a Mr Patrick Anderson who has been carrying out research into the short life of his namesake uncle who served in the Black Watch and the Air Flying Corps in the 1914-18 War. He died of wounds in 1921 and Mr Anderson has been instrumental in getting his uncle's name added to the R.A.F. Roll of Honour at the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.

In the course of his research he has discovered that the Imperial War Museum are compiling an inventory of the War Memorials of the Crimea, Boer, 1914-18, 1939-45, Korea and Falklands conflicts. If anyone is interested in assisting them in this task they should contact Catherine Moriarty, Research Co-ordinator, National Inventory of War Memorials, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.

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The Scottish Genealogy Society is running a five-day non-residential summer school in Edinburgh on Researching Scottish Family History from Monday 24th August to Friday 28th August 1992. The course is designed to give practical guidance to all interested in carrying out research on their family history and the programme will include workshops, lectures on sources for genealogy, visits to repositories and provide opportunities for on-the-ground research. Numbers will be restricted to fifteen members so that attention can be given to individual needs of course members.

The course will be based at the Scottish Genealogy Society premises in Victoria Terrace (off George IV Bridge), Edinburgh. The Society has an excellent library and many facilities for research. Fees for the course, including tuition, visits and use of the library facilities, are £90. Application forms and further details are available from:

Summer School,  
Scottish Genealogy Society,  
15 Victoria Terrace,  
Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Closing date: 30 June 1992

## A STAMP, A COIN, A NAIL AND A PIECE OF WAX

by James Shaw Grant

(Talk given to the Society 26th November 1991)

Tonight instead of a sheaf of notes I have brought along some items I have picked up over the years and I begin with this stamp. It is marked Western Isles Rocket Post and the letter it is on was posted on July 28th 1934. It links together the death of a Hebridean island community and Man's journey to the Moon.

The island of Scarp is off the west coast of Harris just a stone's throw from the mainland but often was cut off for weeks at a time because the Sound of Scarp is open to the full fury of the Atlantic. Early in 1934 a young wife was expecting a baby but it was a stormy night and the doctor couldn't get across. When the baby was delivered the midwife realised she was dealing with twins and there were complications. The next day, Sunday, it was possible for a boat to cross to Hushinish on the mainland but when they got there the boatman found the telephone out of order and had to travel eighteen miles on to Tarbert for the doctor. When he reached Scarp hours later he ordered the mother to hospital.

As there was no ambulance service there they took down the barn door and strapped her to it. They rowed her in the boat across to the other side, laid her on the floor of the local bus and drove her to Stornoway, about forty miles over the worst road in the Highlands. The second twin was born in Lewis Hospital thirty-six hours after the first, so the twins were born in different islands, in different counties and in different weeks. Questions were asked in Parliament about the medical service in the Western Isles.

Some months after, a German inventor, Gerhardt Zucker, approached the British Post Office with the novel idea that a lot of the problems in remote areas could be solved if mail and medicines were delivered by rocket! He offered to give a demonstration, the Post Office was interested and naturally chose Scarp as the venue.

The inventor was financed by a Herr Dombrowski who thought he could finance the experiment by charging for letters conveyed by rocket across the Sound. You paid half-a-crown for his stamp to get it into the rocket mail and also a penny ha'penny to the Post Office who took over on the other side.

We were all crouching behind boulders on the beach when Zucker pressed the plunger and the rocket soared twenty-five feet into the air. Then an almighty explosion and thirty thousand letters came fluttering down like confetti. (You can see this letter is singed along one edge).

Zucker tried again later successfully but, for the Post Office, the idea was dead. He became one of the scientists who

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developed the V1 and V2 rockets and contributed to the technology which eventually took man to the moon. At some point he quarrelled with Hitler and was liquidated - and that is the story of the rocket mail.

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My second piece of bric-a-brac takes me into different territory altogether. These two silver coins are generally described as hard Spanish dollars and were the only acceptable currency around the Mediterranean in the 1820s. These particular coins were part of the hoard of the last two men hung for piracy or murder in Scotland.

In 1821 a vessel sailed for "the Brazils" with an innocuous cargo. Shortly before it left some extra barrels were loaded, ostensibly of beeswax but much too heavy. The captain let it slip to the mate that it was actually 30,000 Spanish dollars, perhaps to finance a revolution in South America. Halfway across the Atlantic the mate, named Peter Heaman, and the cook Francois Gautier, mutinied. They murdered the Captain and Leaning Seaman Paterson and sailed north for the Hebrides and landed on Barra. Their idea was to transfer the money to a small boat and scuttle the 'Jane', row to the Ross-shire coast and pass themselves off as shipwrecked mariners from a Norwegian vessel lost in the Minch.

They miscalculated the wind direction and landed in Lewis near Swordale. They also forgot that most of the cargo was lighter than water, so although they knocked holes in her bottom she didn't sink. Anyway they landed and buried the treasure on the beach.

The customs heard of the strange vessel off the coast and investigated. They went to Swordale and saw the folk but were not happy with the story. They couldn't find any contraband but these Norwegian seaman seemed flush with Spanish dollars. The answer to the problem was on its way to Stornoway because the 'Jane' had drifted round Tiompan Head into Broad Bay and come ashore near Tolsta. Despite it being a Sunday the good folk of Tolsta saved the cargo and were soon selling beeswax on the streets of Stornoway.

The Maltese cabin boy told the whole story to the customs men and the next day an armed party came from Stornoway and arrested the men. They were shipped to Leith for trial at the High Court of Admiralty in Edinburgh. Last weekend I had a letter (on an entirely different matter) from the great-granddaughter of the captain of the vessel that took them to Leith!

The trial caused a sensation. Here were two men, Heaman and Gautier, not British subjects, committing a crime three thousand miles from Scotland on a ship not flying a British

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flag. It was argued and accepted that the High Court of the Admiralty had jurisdiction over any crime on the high seas as otherwise any pirates could always get off with any crime anywhere. The two were executed on Leith Sands and their bodies handed to the anatomy department of Edinburgh University.

These coins came into the hands of the local doctor, Dr Millar who had two daughters. A few years before their tragic deaths from accidental gas poisoning in their nineties, they gave the coins to my uncle, a minister in Stornoway and a great friend of the family. After his death my brother-in-law found a secret drawer in his desk containing the coins wrapped in a note giving their origins and about the same time I picked up a transcript of the evidence of the trial of the mutineers - so that is the story of the dollars.

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My little bit of wax takes us into an entirely different area of history.

About twenty years ago my wife and I spent a holiday in Russia, when conditions were very different from today. We went on a tour of ecclesiastical art treasures, led by Tamara Talbot-Rice, widow of Edinburgh University's professor of Fine Arts. She was a world authority on Russian art and had belonged to one of the princely families of Russia, escaping with her parents during the Revolution at the age of ten. She wouldn't say how but said that "we children thought it was great fun but our parents didn't" so they must have had quite an adventurous escape.

We spent a lot of our time visiting the churches and I was interested to find that in several services were in progress; practising churches in spite of the communist system. They were tolerated because of their value to the tourist trade. The Greek Orthodox Church was unhappy about it, but had to accept that all ecclesiastic buildings belonged to and were open to people like ourselves to attend services and leave hard dollars (or hard pounds) behind.

Outside all these practising churches were scores of beggars, people who because of their faith were non-persons, receiving no help whatever from the State and living on the charity of people who attended the services. I was surprised at the size of the congregations, mainly old people, but with quite a sprinkling of young. The singing was truly magnificent. Looking back on it, it is obvious that below the surface the Church kept something alive which has influenced the events we are seeing in Russia today. How much does modern Russia owe to the grannies who kept the religion of their childhood alive underground?

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After one of these services, I happened to be the last in line as we went out. The door was opened by an elderly verger all wizened and bent up. I thought I should acknowledge his courtesy, so I gave a sort of bow. He immediately gripped my hand and shook it very warmly and pressed something into my palm: this little bit of green wax. The only conclusion I can come to is that it was from one of the holy candles but I don't know if it was a one-off idea of his or a symbol of some sort used by the church when it was underground.

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That brings me to the last of my bric-a-brac: a very ordinary looking iron nail, handcrafted. When I got it a few years ago, it was absolutely black, as fresh as the day it was made on the blacksmith's anvil, sixteen hundred years ago. It is one from a hoard of twelve tons of Roman nails found in the early 1960s at Inchtuttil in Fife. They must have been buried when the legions were hurriedly recalled from Britain because of trouble on the Danube.

Almost incredibly, the great bulk of them were sold for scrap in Glasgow but some found their way into museums; this one was given to me by a friend working on the site at the time. It is interesting because of the link this bit of Scotland had with the Roman Empire. It is also interesting because according to the authorities this is the type of nail probably used in crucifixions.

Although I'm proud of my nail it is linked in my mind with another item I do not own - although I covet it deeply - a little piece of bronze in the museum in York and inscribed with a prayer of thanksgiving to the God of the Sea offered up by a Roman schoolmaster, Scribonius Demetrius in AD 84. He had just accompanied the Roman fleet in the first circumnavigation of the British Isles. It was a pretty hairy voyage because they encountered some heavy storms by the Hebrides. It didn't do his morale any good when the locals explained that the storms were caused by the spirits of departed heroes, so he offered up this prayer when he got back.

When Scribonius Demetrius' tour of duty in York was over, he returned home. On his way he happened to meet Plutarch, the biographer and historian and the account of his voyage is preserved in one of Plutarch's histories which is how it has come down to us.

That is the image I want to leave with you, an image that annihilates time and space. The picture of Plutarch, well known historian, sitting down in the First Century AD with a schoolmaster, a contemporary of St. Paul, under a blazing Greek sky among temples and wild flowers, talking about the weather of the Western Isles!

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**GENEALOGICAL ITEMS IN THE FRASER-MACKINTOSH PAPERS IN SRO**

Charles Fraser-Mackintosh was one of the most famous Highland historians of the last century, whose many writings are still a gold mine for genealogists and local historians - see in particular his two series of "Antiquarian Notes". References to most of his published genealogical material will be found under the appropriate clan name in Joan Ferguson's "Scottish Family Histories" - and the works themselves can be found in Inverness Public Library. Also there, on the balcony in the Reference Room, is the "Fraser-Mackintosh Collection"; this was his personal library, which contains copies of many rare Highland histories and genealogical works - including some in manuscript form.

There is, however, another Fraser-Mackintosh Collection - to be found in the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh - and this consists of the papers connected with his legal practice. As a leading Inverness Solicitor - and later as MP for the county - he had dealings with most of the landed families in the Highlands, and as a result these records contain estate papers and letters that shed light on the history of many of the clans.

It is impossible to list (at this time anyway) all the families and estates about which there is general material in this collection - and to find out exactly what there is you will need to visit the SRO and examine the "handlist" (i.e. the catalogue) which gives brief indication of what each numbered bundle or box of papers contains.

The following specifically genealogical material was collected by Fraser-Mackintosh from his friends and clients in the Highlands, and some of it was subsequently used in his articles on particular clans. No doubt he intended to write more such articles on the other families he had notes about, but never got round to it - and we are lucky that at least some of the raw data he collected is still available for inspection.

In most cases I have not examined these papers myself, and therefore cannot comment on what any particular item contains and how useful it may be to a modern researcher - but I can say that the very first item in the list that follows, though small in itself and containing facts since published elsewhere, nonetheless provided me with a vital clue in his incidental comments (the nickname of a particular man) that helped solve an especially tricky genealogical problem I had been working on for many months. Some items, as you will see, do not even have a particular family named - so researchers may enjoy something of a lucky dip if they look at these papers.

The reference number for the Fraser-Mackintosh Collection in the SRO is GD.128, and anyone looking for other material in these papers will start by looking in the handlist with that number - which also prefixes all the following items:

GD.128/1/8	McIntosh of Aberarder
14/1	Urquhart of Kinnudie
14/8	Charles Fraser, Inverness 1894-5
19/8	Grant of Ballindalloch; McPherson of Invereshie
21/1	McIntosh
22/1 & 2	McBean of Tomatin
22/12	Polson 1886
23/1	McKenzie of Allangrange 1804;
	Capt. Murdoch McKenzie 1829
25/4	Fraser of Culduthel, and others 1822
28/6	Fraser of Kinmeries; Fraser of Lovat
32/6	Fraser of Belladrum
32a/14	Fraser of Culbokie 1825
35/1 & 2	Campbell of Calder/Cawdor
38/6	Dunbar
40/5	Dunbar
44/7	Genealogical notes
53/9	Earl of Fife's family
56/4	Graham of Callander; Lindsay;
	Airley and others
58/10	Genealogical papers
58/12	Genealogical notes
59/9	Fraser
67/8	Rose of Shandwick 1873
68/1	Grant - some family histories
68/8	Grant of Househill
69/1	Bayne of Tulloch; Davidson of Tulloch and related families
69/6 & 8	Chisholm
70/2	Dallas

**ROSS AND CROMARTY 1841 CENSUS INDEX**

I have heard from Marjory Bleidner who has compiled this index, and she tells me that it is on sale for S45 a copy plus postage and packing - which, as it is a bulky book, amounts to about a quarter of the price of the book itself; see issue 9/4 of the Journal for her address if you wish to obtain a copy.

She also tells me that she is willing to give a copy to the Highland Family History Society on certain terms - including the Society paying for that post and packing - and she looks forward to hearing from the committee in due course.

**A LIST OF THE POOR IN ASSYNT PARISH 1812**

I found this list among the marriage entries in volume 1 of the Old Parish Register for Assynt (44/1), which may be of interest to anyone whose ancestors came from there in the early nineteenth century. It is entitled:

List of poor to whom relief was distributed by the Minister, elders and gentlemen of Assynt Parish "from Unapool all along to Knockan", and is dated 16th September 1812. It reads as follows, so far as I can make out the writing:

Unapool	Anne McChisteny	6/-
	Kath. McIntosh	5/-
	Mary MacDonald - since dead	4/-
	Anne McLeod	4/-
Edrachalda	Murdo McKenzie	5/-
	Jannet MacDonald	4/-
Culin	Barbara McLeod	2/6
	Christy Gray	2/6
AchnahaigLash	Florance Mackenzie	6/-
Inchnadaff	Florance Mackenzie	3/-
Stronchrubie	Christy Douglas	1/6
	Christy McLeod	4/6
	Kathrine McLeod - since dead	3/-
	Anne McLeod	3/-
	Merran McLean	5/-
Lyne	Jannet Douglas	2/-
	Christy McLeod	2/6
Bracklash of Ledbeg	Henny McLeod - an idiot	1/6
Ledbeg	Alexr. Cunningham	4/-
	Merran Mackenzie	3/-
Ledmore	Isobel McLeod	3/-
	Christy Mackenzie	5/-
	Christy Sutherland	1/6
Cromalt	Isobel Mackenzie	4/-
Elphine	Widow Jannet McLeod	5/-
	Jannet McLeod	6/-
Knockban	Torquill McLeod	6/-
	Rodk. McLeod	7/-
	Merran McLeod	2/6
Auldannakalach	Jno. McLeod	3/6

Signed: William Mackenzie, Minister  
Murdo Mackenzie  
John McLean, Clerk.

Anyone wanting further information on the above items, and any HFHS members wanting specific entries in New Register House checked free of charge (maximum of 3 at any one time) or research done at a 25% discount can contact Graeme Mackenzie at: HIGHLAND ROOTS, P.O. BOX 155, EDINBURGH EH7 5UW or phone 031-668 3521.

**MEMBER'S RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- 891 Mrs Helen Strutt, Box 124, Brock, Saskatchewan, Canada  
SOL OHO  
Researching MILLER in Orkney?
- 892 Mrs John E Holland Sr, 1971 Nicolet Drive, Cheboygan,  
Michigan, 49721-9331, U.S.A.  
Researching KENNEDY in Kingussie 1750-1853 and ALLAN in  
Coldstream, Berwick-shire. Especially interested in Angus  
KENNEDY who was born 1813 in Kingussie.
- 893 Mr Jim Cameron, 'Hillcrest', 20 Seaview Road, Buckpool,  
Buckie, Banffshire AB56 10X  
Researching CAMERON in Contin and MCRAE in Scatwell, both in  
Ross & Cromarty for the period 1800-1899.
- 894 Mr Donald Fraser, 5 Balnacraig Road, Inverness IV3 5LN  
Researching FRASER in Kilmorack, Inverness-shire c1765.
- 895 Mrs Catherine Ensor, 71 Bennetts Road South,  
Coventry CV6 2FN  
Researching MUNRO both in Clashnessy/Assynt, Sutherland and in  
Kiltarn, Ross & Cromarty pre-1820; MCRAE in Inverness-shire  
pre-1850; McDONALD in Dundreggan/Invermoriston pre-1860;  
MCLENNAN in Urquhart & Logie Wester pre-1820; STEWART in  
Urquhart/Inverness pre-1820 and MCKENZIE in Resolis, Ross &  
Cromarty pre-1850.
- 896 Mr & Mrs James Bain, 5 Humphrey Park, Church Crookham,  
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 0UD  
Researching BAIN in Halkirk & Thurso 1780-1900; HENDERSON in  
Reay & Lybster 1800-1900; DINGWALL in Kirkhill 1800-1900; GUNN  
in Dunbeath & Kinlochbervie 1800-1929 and MATHESON in Contin  
1800-1900.
- 897 Mr Alan J Maryon, 37 Pickards Way, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1SD  
Researching GOLLAN in Nairn. This member has sent in family  
charts relative to this name as well as a query.
- 898 Miss G M Swaney, 1 New Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight  
PO36 8NB  
Researching SWANEY in Sanday, Cross & Burness c1800 and in Evie  
& Rendall c1850. All these parishes are in the Orkney Islands.
- 899 Mr Radleigh A MacKenzie, Box 1355, Gravenhurst, Ontario  
POC 1G0 Canada  
Researching MacKENZIE, FRASER & McKILLIGAN in the parish of  
Petty pre-1770.
- 900 Mr John McMillan, Heather Cottage, Kincairg, Invergordon  
IV18 0LF

Q U E R I E S

Researching McMILLAN, McCULLOCH, MacPHERSON and MUNRO in Campbeltown pre-1900; McCULLOCH in Kirkcudbright pre-1880; MILLER in Irvine/Dublin pre-1930; SPROUL in Paisley pre-1915; and KENNEDY in Greenock pre-1877.

901 Mr Alan H Duncan, Tyndrum, Norden Heath, Corfe Castle Wareham, Dorset BH20 5DT  
Researching DUNCAN in the parishes of Tyndrum & Killin in Argyllshire 1700-1825.

902 Mr Douglas Cameron, 125 Rose Street, Dunfermline KY12 0QT  
Researching CAMERON in Erroglie, Inverness-shire 1800-1850 and DICKSON in Caithness 1850-1900. Would like any information on Angus CAMERON - Angus the Bard.

903 Mr Antony D Ferguson, The Hollies, Webbs Lane, Beenham Berkshire RG7 5LL  
Researching FERGUSON in Golspie 1700-1799 and then in Latheron & Westerdale 1800-1899; GRANT in Golspie 1700-1799 and finally GUNN in Thurso 1700-1899.

904 Mr & Mrs James Semple, 4700 S.W. 15th Street, Des Moines IA 50315 U.S.A.

905 Ms Mhairi J Macdonald-Greig, 16 Caroline Gardens, Edinburgh EH12 6XJ  
Researching MacDONALD/McKULKIE in Killearnan 1740-1780; JOHNSTON/GIBSON/SABITON/CRAIGIE in Rousay & Egilsay, Orkney early 1800's and TOLMIE/MACRAE in Lochbroom/Ullapool early 1800's.

906 Mr Alan J L Macleod, 51/3 Mortonhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HN

MEMBER'S CHANGES OF ADDRESS

The first amendment is the result of the recent marriage of Sarah Euren, to whom we send our congratulations.

222 Mrs Sarah Jordan, 45 Cliff Road, Torbay, Auckland, New Zealand

582 Mrs Brenda MacIntyre, Findon, Culbokie, By Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV7 8JJ

721 Mrs M Chandler, 'Springwood', Norton Grange, Little Kineton, Warwick CV35 0OP

733 Miss Jessie Stewart, 7 Ardross Place, Inverness IV3 5EL

871 Mrs K I Elam, 93 Hewitt Avenue, Wood Green, London N22 6QE

Members' Queries are published free of charge; non-members will be charged fl per item. Queries should be as clear, concise and specific as possible. Readers who reply to an enquirer directly are asked to send a copy of their answer to the Editor, for possible publication.

444 TUACH: Margaret TUACH married Alexander MacRAE - Corrieleol with issue :- Mary b. 1814; Ann b. 1815; Kenneth b. 1817; William b. 1819 and Christy (my great grandmother) b. 23/8/1828. My other TUACH (MackENZIE) ancestors I am interested in are Donald b. 1828 Contin, married Janet MATHESON (to Australia) and Roderick b. 1819 Contin, married Flora MATHESON. I would appreciate hearing from any of their descendants. - Mrs Margaret Eddy, P.O. Box 733, Shepparton 3630, Victoria, Australia.

445 JACK: John JACK, a linen and woollen manufacturer of Ardiersier, was born in Avoch in 1777 the son of John JACK and Jean FRASER. In 1799 he married at Ardiersier, Jean GRANT, a daughter of William GRANT, wheelwright and Anne MAN(N), of Ardiersier. They had 15 children viz Katherine b. 1799; Jean b. 1801 (she married Kenneth MackENZIE, a gardener at Springfield, Forres in 1821); Ann b. 1803; Isobel b. 1805; Janet b. 1807; John b. 1808; Margaret b. 1812; Charlotte b. 1814; Georgina b. 1814; Alatheia Young b. 1817; Christy b. 1819; Elizabeth b. 1821 (she emigrated to Melbourne in 1840 and married Robert GLASS in 1846. Later c1855 she may have married James TURNER of Castlemaine, Victoria); Sarah b. 1824; Helen b. 1825 and William b. 1827. Apart from Jean, Elizabeth and Sarah - what became of the other 12 children? Did they emigrate also? I would be delighted to hear from anyone connected with these families. - Mrs Thea Brown, 216 Mount Pleasant Road, Christchurch 8, New Zealand.

446 MUNRO: John MUNRO was born c1791 in Sutherland, probably Dornoch. He enlisted in the 78th Regiment of Foot on 25th June 1805 when he was underage. He was discharged unfit with pension September 1827. He married Elizabeth MUNRO at Inverness 2nd November 1827 with issue Ellen b. 1832; Catherine b.1836, both Kiltearn; Duncan b. 1842 and Andrew b. 1844, both Assynt. John died between 1844 and 1851. Elizabeth settled in Evanton, where she died in 1866. Ellen is believed to have married, whereas Catherine remained single. Duncan became a blacksmith on the Black Isle, married Jessie McLENNAN with issue (details known). Andrew became a tailor in Evanton, married Catherine McKENZIE at Kiltearn 28th July 1871 with issue Jane; Betsy; Joann; Lexy; Andrew and George. More MUNRO was an older sister of John who married John CAMPBELL 19th February 1814 at Assynt with issue Margaret b. 1815; Angus b. 1817 and Catherine (date unknown). Information sought concerning parents and also brothers and sisters of John and More MUNRO. - Mrs Catherine Ensor, 71 Bennetts Road South, Coventry CV6 2FN

