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EDITORIAL

Just how good can my timing get? I've been employed by just one company for over twenty years in various admin functions, especially in setting up, especially in stock control and especially in computer systems. Before me, my father built up two chunks (the Irish and English ones) of the multi-national and made a success of them for decades. Back another bit and my grandfather started that Irish branch half a century ago. All in all, my family history for several generations has involved *Trowa*. Then again, every few months for the last decade I have been writing articles about the Highland factory surroundings and people and systems and what have you for the firm's journals, both the pretty one that lists who's new, who's been married, how wonderful the company is and the social one that lists who's new, who's been married, who's won the golf tournament, and so on. So in the springtime when the bracken was unravelling itself by the roads I wrote a *Family History of Jonathan* article for the social one which went down a treat with the editor. Good eh?

And three weeks later they had a 'Re-organisation' and laid me (only me) off!

But I'm not bitter and twisted you know, far from it (growlgrumblegrumblegrowl) as this could be the Making of me. So I'm undergoing training in building and running computer networks and wishing I could fit everything I'm being told inside my head, but I'm nervous that it's full and thus too late. So take this to heart and be warned: **Family History Can Be Hazardous To Your Health!**

But not every burning bridge spills milk, and too many cooks can gather moss. The silver handshake has enabled me to get a better computer than John Durham's and I can now send him my editorials and things ready-typed on disks. If he had a modem in his computer like I have *inside* mine (nyah nyah nyah-nyah nyah) I could just fax them through over the phone line. Isn't technology wonderful? I'm nearly ready to go on-line and paddle the Internet, but not yet, Bob and Alastair, not yet. When I figure out how to operate there, I fancy setting up a McColl page in CompuServe. Anybody willing to recommend a genealogy package for me and my PC? I am a fan of PAF with its clarity, cheapness and good database, but have started scratching at its boundaries. John likes his *Reunion* because it does any size of drop chart and everything is easily exportable to a word-processor. Bæderbund's Family Tree is easy to grab off the shelves of Inverness's computer shops and its box says it's marvellous. Please let me know your opinions.

Who would like to join Kathy Elam in providing and manning and womanning an HFHS stall at the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair each May in London? A Presence would be good for us all, so get in touch with Mrs K Elam, 93 Hewitt Ave, Wood Green, London N22 6QE.

Thanks, Ian McDonald, for the erratum in our St Clements MIs. Homer nodded but I've put your correction in red ink on the original for whenever we need to reprint. On the subject of MIs, The Scottish Genealogy Society recently purchased the last ten copies of Avoch and the Aberdeen Family History Shop the last five copies of Easter Suddie. As Avoch was only published last November a reprint of 100 copies was soon in hand. Suddie was printed some time ago and a visit to the burial ground was needed to prepare a new map and to check to see if there had been any changes. There are four new stones and two, which were lying face down when the original survey was done, have been raised and set up on their plinths. Well done the local Council! The hot summer last year combined with close cutting of the grass has resulted in the outline of a further forty seven stones becoming visible. They will all be checked (one is dated 1671) and the new edition will be available by the end of August.

REAY FENCIBLES IN NORTH AMERICA

by Donald Whyte, F.H.G., F.S.G.

A list of the officers of the Reay Fencibles Regiment appears in John Mackay's book, *The Reay Fencibles, or Lord Reay's Highlanders* (Glasgow: Clan Mackay Society, 1890), but information about the lower ranks is sparse. It is not generally known that a number of them emigrated to North America, where initially, they encountered hardships before settling at what became known as 'Scotch Ridge,' in Charlotte County, New Brunswick. There they formed a little colony, as distinctively Scottish as that formed in Glengarry County, Upper Canada (Ontario), by the Glengarry Fencibles.

A Royal Warrant for embodying a regiment of Fencibles from the territory of Hugh [Mackay], 6th Lord Reay, was issued on 24th October, 1794, to Col. Hugh Mackay Baillie, grandson of Col. Hugh Mackay of Bighouse. At the time Hugh [Mackay], 6th Lord Reay, was incapacitated (he died on 26th January, 1797), but his cousin Eric, who succeeded as 7th Lord Reay, gave some assistance, as did Col. George Mackay of Handa, afterwards of Bighouse.

The Reay Highlanders were mustered at Fort George by Sir Hector Munro, of Indian fame, in March, 1795. The regiment consisted of 800 men. As soon as the men were uniformed, drilled and armed, the Fencibles were sent to Ireland, where by steady conduct they gained the confidence of Generals Lake and Nugent. The regiment distinguished itself at Tara in May 1798, and at Ballinrush, in Tipperary, in August of the same year. It was recalled to Scotland in 1802, and disbanded at Stirling on 26th September, following an address by General Baillie.

When the men from the parishes of Assynt and Eddrachillis reached their homes, they found little work. Edward S. Fraser of Reelig, in a manuscript history of emigration from the Scottish Highlands and Islands, written about the close of 1804 (MS. 9646, National Library of Scotland) tells us that in Lord Reay's country, there were by then 15,000 to 20,000 sheep on five or six farms, and that on five or six farms with leases not above three years old, the numbers would greatly increase. He stated that "The people are not expelled, only narrowed in pasture". The Fencibles of Assynt and Eddrachillis decided to emigrate to North America. Their destination was North Carolina, where many Scots had settled from around 1737, and they embarked with their families on two ships, the *Fortitude* and the *Nellie*, 16th May, 1803, possibly from Loch Laxford. Their leader was a lay preacher, Neil Morrison.

Out on the broad Atlantic the emigrants learned from a passing ship that yellow fever was raging in the Carolinas, and they refused to be taken there. The *Nellie* put in at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and the *Fortitude* reached Boston, Massachusetts, on 16th August. The passengers were treated kindly, but, seeking land, had to look elsewhere. Five or six families, in spite of the rumours of fever, set out for North Carolina. One former Fencible, James Mackenzie, being a good stone mason, found ready work in Boston. The main group heard of a tract of land at Kennebeck, Maine, but on arrival found the terms unsuitable. However, it being so late in the season, they had to winter there.

Having been informed of vacant crown land on the Schoodic River, they moved there in the spring of 1804, finding themselves again on British ground. They were determined to settle together, but a sufficient area could not be found nearer than Chiputneticook Ridges. Unfortunately, there were already three claimants. Next they were told of land behind Digby, in Nova Scotia, and embarked for that place. Again they were frustrated, but three families settled at Broad Cove, Lunenburg. When some wealthy Scots in St. Andrews, Charlotte County, New Brunswick, heard of the departure of the immigrants, they were displeased, and

sent a schooner to bring them to St. Stephen, on the St. Croix River. They built there a little village of log houses until they could do better.

Joseph Porter, one of the claimants to land at Chiputneticook, surrendered his interest, and a 'Memorial' drawn up before 12th June, 1804, was laid before the Assembly at Fredericton. It was subscribed by the ex-Fencibles, who were:

	No. in family
Neil Morrison, Senior	6
Donald Morrison, his son	
John McKenzie	7
Thomas St. Clair	8
William St. Clair	men, sons of
Alexander St. Clair	Thomas
Donald McKenzie	2
John Morrison	9
Neal Morrison, his son - man	
Donald McDonald	5
John Mathewson	6
Robert "	his son, a young man
	total of 43 souls

The 'Memorial' continued with a list of heads of families, sometime at Kennebeck and Penobscot, expected to come forward:

Donald McLeod	
Donald McKenzie	
William Morison	
Duncan Morison	
Neil McKenzie	
George Balfour	
Daniel McKay	<u>20 Families</u>
George McLeod	mostly large, but whose
Hugh McLeod	particular numbers
Neil McLeod	Mr Morrison cannot at
Alexander McDonald	present determine.
Daniel McKay	
Rory Morison	
Hugh Morison	
Peter Morison	
Donald McCulloch	
Angus Morrison	
George McKenzie	
Jane Morrison	a widow.

Possibly some of those named moved elsewhere, including Neil Morrison's own son Donald, the St. Clairs or Sinclairs, George Balfour and others who do not appear in a list of immigrants drawn up, 11 November 1804, "lately arrived at St. Andrews from Scotland by way of the United States of N. America". Perhaps some of those who sailed on the *Nellie* had joined their countrymen. This list, in the New Brunswick Archives, Fredericton, is as follows, with the families numbered and a running total of 75:

1. John Morison
Janet Morison
Catherine Morison
Mary Morison
Christian Morison
John Morison, Senr.
John Morison, Junr.
Ann Morison
2. Donald McCulloch
Mary McCulloch
James McCulloch
George McCulloch
George Scobie McCulloch
John McCulloch
3. Alexander McDonald
Barbara McDonald
Ann McDonald
Elsie McDonald
Margaret McDonald
Lucia McDonald
4. Angus Morison
Christina Morison
Margaret Morison
Catherin Morison
Donald Morison, senr.
Donald Morison, Junr.
5. Donald Mackay
Ann Mackay
William Mackay
Janet Mackay
Mary Mackay
Margaret Mackay
Donald Mackay
6. Neil MacKenzie
Effy MacKenzie
George MacKenzie
William MacKenzie
Isabella MacKenzie
Elizabeth MacKenzie
7. Hugh Morison
Ann Mackay
Janet Morison
Isabella Morison
8. Hugh MacLeod
Catherine McLeod
George MacLeod
Janet MacLeod
9. John Macleod
Janet Macleod
William Macleod
Ann Morison
Janet Macleod
10. John Mackenzie
Ewry Mackenzie
John Mackenzie
11. Neil Macleod
Barbara McLeod
Ann Mathieson
Neil MacLeod, Junr.
12. Roderick Morison
Christian Morison
13. Peter Morison
Catherin Morison
14. George Macleod
Barbara Macleod
15. Donald McLeod
Jane Macleod
16. Widow Macleod
William Macleod
Isabella Macleod
17. Neil Morison
Geo. Morison
Roderick Morison
Margaret Morison
Margaret Morison

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On the back of this document:

"The following Six Families Emigrated to the United States in company with the seventeen Families enumerated on the other side, and propose coming into this Province early next Spring":

1. Hugh Mackenzie
Barbara Mackenzie
Mary Mackenzie
Effy McKenzie
Donald Mackenzie
William Mackenzie
2. Alexander Mackay
Isabella Mackay
Charles Mackay
Anne Mackay
Barbara Mackay
Mary Mackay
George Mackay
3. Alexander Morison
Catherin Morison
Ann Morison
4. John Macleod
Henry Macleod
Hugh Macleod
5. John Gunn
Ann Gunn
Alexander Gunn
Mary Gunn
Ann Gunn
6. James Mackenzie
Catherin Mackenzie
Ann Mackenzie

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The lists were handed by Neil Morrison to John Campbell, in St. Andrews. Not long afterwards an order of survey was obtained, and Major Macdonald, Crown Lands Surveyor, was sent by the Government to undertake the work. The grant comprised about six miles from east to west, including the whole tract for which application had been made. Apparently, since nothing had been done to develop these grants, the lots on the Chipmunk Ridges in name of Capt. Nehemiah Mark and his associates were reclaimed by the Crown. The Scots sought to form a distinct community and the area became known as Scotch Ridge. After the immigrants obtained lots, they began to walk out from St. Stephen and Milltown, carrying a week's provisions on their backs, and commenced clearing the land and building log houses, roofed with spruce bark. They returned each Saturday to where their families resided.

It was not until 1812 that the settlers received their titles. By that time they had been joined by James MacKenzie, who had worked in Boston and at Calais, in Maine, not simply as a mason, but as a stage dancer. He was obviously a versatile man and was the first Scotch Ridge settler to own a horse and carriage. He married at Boston, 12 October 1806, Isabella St. Clair or Sinclair, possibly a daughter of one of the men recorded in the 'Memorial' drawn up before 12th June, 1804. James and Isabella had eight children: Margaret, Donald, Barbara, Annabella, Flora, William, Isabella and Elizabeth, all born between 1807 and 1825.

At first the settlers had only the religious services of Neil Morrison, who died in 1826 but among preachers who visited Scotch Ridge were Rev. James D. McGregor (1759-1830), from Pictou, N.S., and Rev. John Spratt (1780-1869), from Halifax, N.S. About 1828 the Scots began to build a church, and the parish of St. Stephen in which they were, was divided to form the parish of St. James. The first four ministers who served the community from about 1833 were all Scots: Rev. Peter McIntyre, from Argyll; Rev. John Reid, from Isle of Skye; Rev.

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Lewis Jack, from Aberdeen, and Rev. John Turnbull, from Miramichi, who returned to Scotland in 1874. The religious fervour of the Scotch Ridge settlers is attested by the fact that at least six who engaged in the ministry were sons or grandsons of the original settlers.

N.B. The author, along with Duncan Ross and David Evans, initiated the first meeting of our Society, in September, 1981, in the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, at which he lectured on "Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History". He is the author of *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada before Confederation*, published in 1986. A second volume has just been published, and is obtainable from Ontario Genealogical Society, 40 Orchard View Blvd., Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1B9, Canada. Volume one is still in print.

THE MURDER OF CONSTABLE ROBERT McBEATH, V.C.

b. 22nd Dec. 1897 Kinlochbervie, Sutherland

Robert McBeath joined the Seaforth Highlanders on the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. He was just 16 years old. Three years later he was awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery shown during the Battle of Cambrai, during which action he had single-handedly attacked a nest of enemy machine guns and captured three officers and thirty men in the process. After the war, he and his wife emigrated to Canada and he joined the Vancouver Police on August 12, 1921.

On October 10, 1922, while walking the beat on Granville and Davie, he arrested a man named Fred Deal for impaired driving. While escorting his prisoner to the nearest call-box the man pulled a hand gun from his pocket and shot McBeath in the chest. The officer died almost instantly. Fred Deal was arrested later that day and at his subsequent trial for murder, he was sentenced to death. On appeal the sentence was commuted to one of life imprisonment. He served 21 years before being released and deported to his native Jacksonville, Florida. He died a few years later.

N.B. This article was submitted by Mrs D. Grant, 345480 Acorn Avenue, Abbotsford B.C. Canada V2S 5C3, who is researching winners of the V.C. with connections in Canada and would be glad to hear from anyone with relevant information.

CORBETT in Eddrachillis: (see query no 714 in Vol. 14 No. 3). Will Kenny Macdonald who kindly contacted me regarding the above details recently, please write again with an address so I can write back to him. Miss J.A. Woolsey, 26 Rushall Green, Luton LU2 8TN.

RECORDED MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN SUTHERLAND

As with so many areas in the Highlands, Sutherland tombstones have been the subject of a Scottish Genealogical Society publication (*Pre-1855 Tombstone Inscriptions in Sutherland Burial Grounds*) which records all inscriptions of births and deaths before 1855. This publication, which may be purchased from the Scottish Genealogical Society (15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL) is available for consultation at the Inverness Reference Library. The following table sets out the graveyards whose pre-1855 stones have been recorded and gives the parish locations which can be observed in the attached sketch map.

The Highland Family History Society has no immediate plans to record Sutherland tombstones but we are anxious to track down all known work and to liaise with people who have an interest in recording stones which were not covered by the Scottish Genealogical Society. We would be grateful if members who might be willing to record further Sutherland tombstones or who have information at hand to supplement what is in the table in the following pages would please contact: Mrs Lucille Campey at Moulinard, Tain, Ross-shire IV19 1NF.

SUTHERLAND PARISHES



Burial Grounds in Sutherland - Pre 1855 MIs Recorded by the Scottish Gen. Society

Burial Ground	Parish	No. pre-1855 Gravestones	Pub. Part No.	Golspie	549
Elphin	Assynt	8	5		14
Nedd	"	60	6		14
Inchnadampf	"	71	9		14
Lochinver	"	61	9		14
Stoer	"	108	12		15
Stoer Old Church	"	50	12		
Kinloch	Eddrachilles	15	9		
Oldshoremore	"	78	9	Rogart	5
Scourie	"	55	9	"	13
Kylestrome	"	7	12		
Handa Island	"	1	15		6
Kinlochbervie Free Ch	"	1	15		10
Polin (1)	"	-	9		15
Alt na Caillich	Durness	8	1		7
Arnaboll	"	17	9		
Balna Keil	"	199	11		
Skerry	Tongue	57	4		
Melness	"	89	8		
Tongue	"	100	9		
Bunahoun	Farr	30	1		
Grumbeg	"	1	1		
Kirkton near Melvich	"	41	1		
Strathy	"	111	8		
Farr	"	140	12		
Achna H-Uai	Kildonan	3	1		
Achness	"	10	1		
Kildonan	"	35	1		
Navidale	"	29	1		
Helmsdale	"	209	2		
Kinbrace (Achannecan)	"	19	4		
Altanduin	"	4	5		
Loth	Loth	105	4		
Loth Church	"	7	8		
Clyne Kirkton	Clyne	279	3		
Ascoile	"	9	4		
Sciberscross	"	16	4		
Clyne (Brora)	"	74	13		

1) No inscribed stones but some rough marker stones.

2) Private burial ground of Sutherland family with memorial stones from time of Cromartie, 4th Duke (1851-1913).

3) Formerly Ross and Cromarty, now Sutherland.

PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR 1996-97

The Society's winter programme of talks gets underway on Tuesday 24th September when 'Emigration from the Black Isle and Easter Ross' will be the subject of Professor Janet Fyfe's talk. Raised in Cromarty, Dr Fyfe pursued a career as a librarian in England and Canada. She gained her PhD researching Scottish Emigration at the University of Guelph, Ontario. On retirement from her post as Professor of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario she returned to Scotland and lives near Cromarty where she continues to pursue her research interests and speaks to local history groups.

Dovetailing neatly with Dr Fyfe's talk, Rob Gibson will address the Society on 29th October on 'Influences in Population Movement in the 19th century.' A former history teacher at Alness Academy, he has lectured widely on the Highland Clearances and other influences on Highland population movement in the 19th century on behalf of Aberdeen University Centre for Continuing Education and Highland Community Education Department. He is the author of 'The Clearances Trail.'

Newcomers to family history research and experienced members of the Society should find much of considerable value in Dr Alison Rosie's illustrated talk on the Scottish Record Office on 26th November. A member of the SRO's staff, Dr Rosie has Caitness family connections and will bring with her a range of slides illustrating the kind of material which can help genealogists add flesh to their ancestors' bones. She will describe how to access information

at the SRO and bring with her a range of publications of interest to members.

Norman Newton is well known to HFHS members as Reference Librarian at Inverness Library, as a previous contributor to the Society's programme and through his work as a tutor for the Aberdeen University Centre for Continuing Education's Certificate in Local Studies. Focussing specifically on *Emigration to Cape Breton*' his illustrated talk on 17th December will also describe how effectively information has been recorded on Cape Breton Island.

It is easy to forget that the commonplaces of our own lives, especially our childhood days, can be of interest to future generations. Today's events are tomorrow's history and members should not forget that recording their own reminiscences forms an essential part of their genealogical records. The prospect of publishing selections of members' reminiscences in future issues of the Journal may be worth considering as a follow-up to *Doraine Patience's* presentation, *'Preserving Family History Through Reminiscences'* on 28th January. Doraine is a tutor with Worker's Educational Association. In recent years she has been engaged in recording the reminiscences of elderly residents in the Highlands, often working in Residential Homes for the Elderly where her work brings meaning and purpose to the lives of the residents and has a therapeutic effect on a range of debilitating conditions. Selections from her work have been published. This evening will involve some practical activity for members in recording some of their own personal reminiscences.

Catherine Mackay will talk about her work on *'Genealogy with Children'* and other research interests on 25th February. A primary school teacher, she has recently been researching *'Names in Inverness and Ross & Cromarty and Fishing in the Inner Moray Firth.'* She has earned acclaim for her innovative work with the children of Park Primary School in Invergordon on the publication of a series of booklets with a local focus on *'The Victorians, the Great War and the Second World War'*, stimulating considerable interest in genealogical research among her pupils. Her enthusiasm for this work has had a significant effect in bringing old and young together in the local community and her pupils' publications have been read by Invergordon exiles throughout the world.

For our March meeting on the 20th, we go to the provinces and share a joint meeting with Dornoch Heritage Society in the **Carnegie Library, Council Buildings, Dornoch.** *'Family Homes and Heritage'* is the subject of Elizabeth Beaton's illustrated talk which will focus on the living conditions and housing of various occupational groups in the Highlands from the 18th to 20th centuries. Elizabeth Beaton is well known as the author of *'Buildings in Sutherland and Caithness.'* She is a retired Inspector of Historic Buildings, chairs the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Group and has lectured widely on vernacular architecture. **Note - This meeting is held on a Thursday rather than the normal Tuesday.**

Following the AGM on the 22nd April (it starts at 7pm, 30 minutes earlier than usual), John McMillan completes the Society's programme with *'The Oral Tradition - Yarns by a Fisherman's Fireside.'* A former part-time lobster fisherman, his interest in family history, boats and the sea was stimulated at an early age when he listened to yarns about the lives of the herring fishermen. This anecdotal evidence has been authenticated by researches into the living and working conditions of the fishermen who followed the herring in the west coast waters from the Minch to the south of Ireland. His talk on the changing nature of the industry, the living and working conditions of the fisherfolk, their superstitions and lore will demonstrate the strong oral tradition of the fishing communities. John is the Society's syllabus secretary and is Rector of Invergordon Academy.

MID NINETEENTH CENTURY ARMY PENSIONERS

IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND

Prey to Ambivalent Government Attitudes and Loan Sharks!

by Angela Finlayson

Family history research has its frustrations. A useful compensation for reaching dead ends about individuals is to unearth more about background social conditions. When I found that one of my great-great-grandfathers had been a Chelsea Pensioner, and confirmed this from the 1841 Wick Census (which gave his location as Thurmster, his parish of origin as Latheron and his age 50, thus indicating a birthdate of between 1786 and 1791), I thought that it might be easy to trace him. And so it might have been, if only I had known the Regiment in which he had served and if he had not shared a name, James Sutherland, with several other Latheron men and several other Pensioners.

Intermittent short forays into the War Office Records in the Public Record Office at Kew enabled me to eliminate some James Sutherlands as having different years or parishes of birth but did not otherwise help. Muster Rolls and other documents did not distinguish clearly between four James Sutherlands in the 79th, which seemed the most likely Regiment. Nor did they at first yield much of more general interest - unless perhaps seeing smears of dried blood on muster rolls which had been compiled in the field, can be said to add a certain element to the authenticity of the search!

Later, however, following the second edition of a PRO booklet¹ I found a series, WO 22, which I had not previously noted. Unlike most War Office Records the index showed this to be classified by area rather than regiment and, at number 139, the name Thurso leaped out at me. It appeared that, before 1842, pensions were sent to be paid out by a variety of local officials such as excise officers and presumably their records have not survived.

After 1842, Staff Officers of Pensioners were appointed responsible for a number of districts. They were required to make regular returns to London, recording Pensioners who had moved into or out of their districts as well as those whose pensions had ceased or who had died. For each Pensioner named on these returns there is information on his regiment, rate of pension, date of admission to pension, rank and district to which, or from which, he had moved.

In this series the box of returns headed Thurso seems to cover the whole of the North of Scotland (the next nearest are Inverness, Stirling, Edinburgh and Glasgow). Unfortunately, although the index describes the returns as covering the years 1842-56 I could find none earlier than 1846 or later than 1852 so it is only a seven year period that is covered for the Thurso area, too late for my ancestor. Unfortunately also, there is no overall list of Pensioners already in the area at the beginning of the period.

However, within these limitations, there is some fascinating material which would repay deeper investigation than I had time for. At the family history level, although there is nothing on my James Sutherland, there is a note of an older James, from the 3rd Veterans, who had been admitted to a pension of 1/- on 31 July 1816 and who had died on the 22 November 1852 aged 72, and a younger James, a sergeant from the East India Company, who was admitted to a pension on 10 September 1828 which was paid until 25 June 1849.

There is similar information of interest to family historians on perhaps another 50 individuals (including some eleven Sutherlands whose details I noted). There is also a list, with less detail, of perhaps another fifty individuals transferred into the Thurso district from Fort

George on 28 July 1846.

Of greater general interest however, are some statistical analyses at the end set out, like other returns, on forms provided from London. For 1846 the districts covered in the Thurso box are listed as Thurso itself, Wick, Sweeny (sic - presumably the presence of Colonel Gordon of Swiney made this a more suitable location than nearby Lybster for Pensioners in Latheron parish), Helmsdale, Golspie, Dornoch, Bonar Bridge, Aultnacalgach and Farr Kirk. (Kirkwall and Lerwick were added in 1848).

The number of Pensioners within each of these local districts in 1846 (a total of 412) were classified into three categories:-

those Fit for Local service:	91
those Fit for Reserve Only:	77
those Totally Unfit:	244

These figures could be related to the statement by Mackay Scobie² that, for many years after the Napoleonic wars, well over £2000 was being paid quarterly to pensioners in Caithness and Sutherland by bank agents in Dornoch and Thurso. Other sources have suggested that, because the pensions were paid quarterly in arrears, many Pensioners lived in debt at the mercy of loan sharks.

It would seem that the Government was apprehensive about the possibility of local unrest. Some return forms contain two-line local summaries of correspondence received from London reflecting this unease. One summary indicates that there had been enquiries as to whether any of the Pensioners were inclined to join illegal societies; another suggests official discouragement of emigration, while a later summary indicates some change of policy as emigration may now be assisted.

More practical matters were also under discussion - with a reference to Pensioners' uniforms wearing out and the possibility of supplying them with 'plain suit' after five years. (Mackay Scobie refers to Pensioners, when collecting their pay, as usually wearing vests made of old regimental tartan or red coats with medals or regimental insignia.)

The new Staff Officers were required to classify Pensioners within districts according to the amount of their pensions; their occupations if any; occupational earnings; their distance from the places where pensions were paid; and the total number of wives and children under and over 14.

In 1852, when there were 465 Pensioners, 340 wives were mentioned, together with 886 children aged over 14 and 327 aged under 14, making in all over 2000 individuals, quite a sizeable proportion of the northern population.

Twenty-seven Pensioners were recorded in 1846 as having won Waterloo or other medals. Pensioners' Mortality Records are broken down by district and age for each of the years 1846-1852.

Staff Officers were also expected to report whether Pensioners were of 'good, indifferent or bad character' - there were no indications as to how this information was to be obtained but the return for 1852 shows only seven entered as 'indifferent' and one as 'bad', the Staff Officer professing himself as lacking information on 14 others. Elsewhere in the returns Pensioners

were to be classified as 'industrious or anxious for employment' or 'idle or careless'.

Detailed analysis of these returns would take a considerable time and, since all the material in this one box, WO 22/139, relates to the north of Scotland, it seems a pity that it is only available in London. There would seem to be a case for having it and other records transferred nearer to the territory that these men believed themselves to have been defending.

¹ *Public Record Office: Records of Officers and Soldiers who have served in the British Army. 2nd edition 1985.*

² *J. Mackay Scobie: An Old Highland Fencible Corps. 1914.*

THE MISSING MELVILLES - THE CRISLICH MYSTERY

by Allan C Lannon

On 15 December 1813 at Golspie Inn, Donald Matheson offered £56 and Sergeant Melville £52 for the yearly rent of tenancies of Sutherland Estate property at Crislich, Foick and Coppernugach. Those tenancies were situated in the parish of Clyne, Sutherland in an area to the north west of Loch Brora on a tributary of the River Brora called Black Water. It would appear from the records that Sergeant Melville was allowed to remain at a yearly rent of £60. The suggestion that he could remain indicates that he had the tenancies before 1813 and there is evidence in the records that he still held the lands in 1815 at a rent of £60 per annum.

There were many Melvilles in the parish of Clyne and some in the parish of Golspie through the latter part of the 18th century and throughout the 19th century. Those Melvilles were all inter-related and almost certainly from a single ancestor resident in the area in the early 1700s.

An earlier article, *'The Melvilles of the Doll'*, outlined the structure of the Melville family in this area and repetition of those details is neither necessary or possible here. However, suffice to say, it is now certain that Alexander of Crislich was from the line of Melvilles in which I have an interest, though there may be a little doubt as to his exact position within this family.

It is assumed that Sergeant Melville and Alexander Melville are one and the same person mentioned in the 1813 and 1815 tenancy records and possibly the son of Alexander Melville of Doll and his spouse Sarah Mackay. A further indication that the period of tenancy was more that just a few years is the fact that Alexander Melville of Crislich was married to a Margaret Graham and had five children born there between 1806 and 1816. The family disappeared from the area sometime after 1816 and despite much searching only one clue to their possible whereabouts came to light.

In response to the earlier article in the H.F.H.S. Journal, *'The Melvilles of the Doll'*, correspondence was received from Dr Bangor-Jones, an authority on the Clearances in Sutherland, that the Melville family had left for Dundee. I have no proof, as yet, that they did indeed go there and no indication as to where Alexander and Margaret finally settled.

The trail having run cold, research in other areas of the family history was called for. Much material has been received from correspondents in Australia and New Zealand. In particular, a descendant of Clyne Melvilles, Richard Snedden in New South Wales, Australia, has provided volumes of material of great interest and with much detail on the Clyne Melvilles and related families who went to the southern hemisphere. Material from Richard Snedden and the late Heather Melville in New Zealand, another provider of information, threw up the name of Adam Graham Melville, bookseller of Melbourne, who married two sisters from Brora in

Sutherland who were, in fact, his cousins.

It seemed reasonable to speculate that this Adam Graham Melville might be connected to the missing Alexander Melville and Margaret Graham. Where to start searching for proof was the big question.

Research in Australia by Richard Snedden unearthed some remarkable information on Adam. He did indeed marry two sisters and also married for a third time. His first wife was Isabella Melville, born 1837, the daughter of John Melville and Roberta Pope. This couple who lived out their lives in Clyne had nine children at least six of whom went to Australia, some via New Zealand. Adam's second wife was Mary Melville, born 1844, the sixth child of John and Roberta. The third woman he wed was an Elizabeth McKennery or McTrennery. The records are not clear on the exact surname.

Isabella was born in Loth in Sutherland and died in 1870 in Melbourne, Australia. She married Adam Graham Melville, (who was born in Edinburgh in 1842) in Edinburgh on 10th April 1862. He was given as aged 19 years and a bookseller of 12 Calton Hill and she was described as a spinster of 19 years, also of 12 Calton Hill. They were married at Viewforth Free Church, Newington, Edinburgh and described as '*cousins german*'. They went to Australia about 1862-63 and their son, John, was born and died there in 1863. Little is known about their life together in Edinburgh or Australia. It would appear that Isabella went to Edinburgh to work and probably was employed by or, at least, resided with Adam's family. Adam himself served his apprenticeship in the bookbusiness, according to an Australian source, for the Edinburgh firm of Gall and Inglis.

On the discovery of Adam Graham Melville's second marriage on 8th January 1872 to Mary Melville a number of puzzles appeared. At first, dates were not clear and there was some question as to what the gentleman had been up to. His relative haste in marrying the sister of his first wife, the fact that he went to South Australia to reside for a week and marry her and that he described himself there as a '*bachelor*', all led to various suspicions.

The reasons for much of the above became clear when it was discovered that a son, David Graham, was born on 22nd December 1871 to Adam and Mary Melville in Adelaide and the fact that in Australia it was, prior to 1871, not possible to marry one's sister-in-law. The relationship Adam was having at that time with Mary could be legitimised promptly and conveniently by a marriage in South Australia where the law changed in 1871 with the introduction of the South Australian '*Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Act*' to allow such a marriage. Though he could legitimately have admitted to a previous marriage, it might have been convenient for him not to have to acknowledge his first wife and, indeed, having a son before that marriage and around the time of the introduction of the marriage act might also have proved to be embarrassing if not illegal. Additionally, it could possibly have been surmised that the description of Adam as a bachelor might have been a mistake if it were not for the details recorded at the time of his third marriage to Elizabeth McKennery (Trennery). The marriage certificate indicates this as the second time that he entered the state of matrimony and not the third as it clearly was.

In Australia, Adam Graham Melville did well for himself and was highly thought of. He was clearly a person of some knowledge and repute in the literary world and was engaged, on at least one occasion, in presenting his knowledge to the Library Association of Australia. At the Sydney meeting of October 1898 he presented a paper entitled, '*The Book-Trade in Australia since 1861*'. This paper includes a section where Adam mentions an incident in Edinburgh when he was '*a very little boy*'. He tells how he saw a crowd surging round a hackney coach

with a policeman sitting beside the driver. This coach, he states, carried Madeline Smith who was alleged to have murdered her lover. She was being taken from the High Court to Calton Hill Gaol. This gaol was not far from where he resided. Adam mentions Madeline Smith's fair face, large blue eyes and intense gaze and how twenty-five years later Madeline Smith and a gentleman unknown to him entered the library connected with his business in Melbourne and how he immediately recognised the much changed woman by the eyes he had seen years before. This '*very small boy*' would, in fact, have been 14 or 15 years of age at the time of Smith's trial in 1857 and though there is no mention of Australia in a short biography in a biographical dictionary, she did marry an artist-publisher by the name of George Wardle. Madeline Smith was not the only '*celebrity*' mentioned and Adam also stated that the author and traveller Rudyard Kipling and Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon also used the library.

Further evidence of Adam Graham Melville's achievements is noted in a biographical entry in a book entitled '*The Early Australian Booksellers*' and in his obituary notice in the Melbourne daily newspaper '*The Argus*'. The former entry states, '*With his knowledge of books and of English society, with his urbanity and tact, he created an atmosphere that made Mullen's Library a literary club and meeting place for the intelligentsia and the elite of Melbourne, rivalling in local society the prestige of Mudie's Library of London*'. The obituary contains details of his career and in one passage states, '*He was always ready to place the benefits of his wide reading at the services of patrons and his personality impressed itself upon all who came into contact with him*'.

Several of the Melvilles of Clyne, and their descendants in Australia, reached positions of prominence as doctors, politicians and in other professions. However, there did appear to be something extra special and more interesting about this character that warranted further research. Could he really be a descendant of Sergeant Alexander Melville and Margaret Graham of Crislich? The records in Edinburgh would have to be the next port of call in this investigation.

The birth record in the OPRs for Adam Graham Melville indicated that his father was a John Melville and his mother Agnes Lawson. This information had been available from Australia, though in a source there his mother had been given as Agnes Moses. A marriage for John Melville and Agnes Lawson had been noted from the fiche but the conflicting names left some doubt. On examination of the OPR the name Lawson was confirmed and further research showed that Agnes Lawson's mother was a Sarah Moses. Clearly an error had been made on the Australian record. Agnes' father was William Lawson. Adam had at least four brothers, Alexander, George Grey, John and William Hume, and two sisters, Margaret, who married George Street and Agnes about whom nothing further is known. A letter from Bernays Melville, Melbourne, Australia to Una Melville in New Zealand in 1970, gives information regarding John Melville and mentions a son Charles who went to New Zealand. I have, as yet, no evidence of the existence of this son. Bernays also states that two sons went to the USA but this also I have not confirmed. Since he is talking about close relatives and though some of the dates in his letter are incorrect, it is clearly possible that his information is accurate.

On the death certificate of John Melville the parents were given as Alexander Melville and Margaret Graham both deceased. John was aged 52 years and 6 months and he died on 2nd February 1859 of cancer of the liver, kidney and glands. His residence was given as 12 Calton Hill, Edinburgh. His father, Alexander, was noted as being a merchant. The death date and age confirms a birth date of 1806, the year of birth of Alexander Melville and Margaret Graham's son, John.

A major breakthrough had been made and here was clear indication that the earlier supposition

