

highland family
history society



ISSN 0262-6659

comunn
sloinntearachd
na
Gaidhealtachd

Published by
The Highland Family History Society
Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtach

JOURNAL

Vol. 18 No. 2

February 2000

CONTENTS

1 Editorial
 2 James Henderson of Clyth - 1779 to 1848
 7 SAFHS - 1st Annual Conference
 8 HFHS Projects - Current Status
 11 Appeal for New Editor
 12 Unforeseen Rewards of Membership of HFHS
 14 William McKay, Sergeant in the 9th Highlanders
 19 Heirloom Night
 23 Symbols of Mortality etc - Some Answers
 25 My Chisholm from Urray
 26 Library Acquisitions
 28 Members' Research Interests
 30 GENfair - The Online Family History Fair
 31 Queries (915 - 970)

© 2000 : Highland F.H.S. & contributors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- CHAIRMAN** Neil Murray
SECRETARY Angus Bethune
TREASURER John Durham
JOURNAL EDITOR Jonathan McCol
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY John Durham
SYLLABUS SECRETARY Alison Forbes
RESEARCH ENQUIRIES Barbara Tulloch
PUBLICATIONS Catherine Harper
LIBRARIAN Mary Murray
SAFHS REPRESENTATIVE Neil Murray
STRAYS CO-ORDINATOR Alan Ross

All correspondence - c/o Reference Room,
 Public Library, Farraline Park, Inverness IV1 1NH
 Please mark each item for the attention of the appropriate official

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for year 01/09/99 - 31/08/2000

Membership Category	United Kingdom	Overseas
Ordinary	£8.00	£11.00
Family	£10.00	£13.00
Pensioner	£5.00	£8.00
Institutional	£12.00	£15.00

EDITORIAL

We were very sorry to lose a long-time friend and our secretary for many years, Lorraine Maclean of Dochgarroch who died recently from cancer. This small bundle of energy was involved in many things despite her own illness and caring for her husband, the Rev Donald, who was in his 90s when he died last year. The Inverness Field Club and Drumadrochit's branch of Riding For The Disabled were also strengthened by her unbounded enthusiasm, and she still had time to write and publish many books and be active in her own family affairs. She recruited me to the committee of this Society, not knowing my name but just proposing that the 'tall Canadian' be approached. A very nice person to know, she will be sadly missed.

I really promised myself to publish Version One of my family history this year, or maybe next at a pinch, but at the rate I'm going it'll be after Christmas next year, which would only leave a week of my self-imposed deadline. Even then, it will really be Version Two, as the first one was in three copies in 1986, as a present for my father and entitled *What's The Point Of It All?* This was the question he used to ask me when I might show off the latest exciting snippet of information of the children of a sibling of a great-grandparent, or a 1930s photo of a collection of great aunts. But I showed him! So what if it were only twenty pages long and had typed-out drop-charts and a few stuck-in pictures? It was *something* to show for years of collecting stories and possessions of all these relatives. Since then I've added more, so the combined drop-chart with the best part of a thousand names would be ten or fifteen feet long, and somehow I'll print it out for the family gathering I'm planning for 2012. For the word 'planning' you may care to substitute 'vaguely hoping towards.' That will result in the New Edition McCollierie from all the corrections to Version 2000 (or 2001) these relatives are bound to produce, whether in person, by letter, or through the website I'll have operating by then. A boy can dream can't he?

To illustrate the other sources of records we can find, this came from Ronald Leppard in Malvern, Worcs. In Malvern's Christ Church is a very fine Processional Cross given to the church in memory of two airmen who lost their lives in the last war: Sgt J D Marshall who died 5 October 1940 and Flt Lt D W Mackenzie who died 13 October 1944. He discovered that James Marshall was born in Edinburgh on September 23rd 1911 and Robert Mackenzie, the son of James and Isabel, born in Dingwall in 1921. Sgt Marshall married Marion Mackenzie, possibly the sister of the other pilot, in Dingwall on July 18th 1940. Mrs Marshall moved to Malvern and was there when her husband died. She presented the Processional Cross which is still used every Sunday. One of Dingwall's two newspapers, the *North Star*, printed Mr Leppard's letter seeking living relatives of the family, and elicited a couple of replies. Marion was the only girl in a family of four boys, the children of a Dingwall saddler. R D W was normally called Walter and his grave is in the Netherlands. Her other brothers Jackie and Henry were teachers, Henry (PE) in Dingwall Academy and Jackie (technical) in Fortrose Academy until he retired due to ill-health and died of motor neurone disease. He is buried in Dingwall's Mitchell Hill cemetery. Her older brother James Ian was once a reporter for the *North Star*. It is thought that Marion remarried in Malvern, and perhaps went to Australia.

We're looking for help at the SAFHS Annual Conference in Edinburgh on Sat May 6th. Neil and Mary Murray are unable to attend this year so we need someone to help (wo)man our stall over the lunchtime period. Volunteers please call John Durham (01463-790656) or email him at JohnDurran@compuserve.com.

**James Henderson of Clyth
1772 to 1848**

Surgeon, Farmer, Fish-curer and Merchant

by

Ann Voller & Maurice Henderson

*The authors are cousins, and live in Sussex and Surrey respectively.
They are great-great grandchildren of the subject*

James was the eldest of the ten (or maybe it was eleven) children of Benjamin Henderson and Elizabeth Sutherland. Benjamin was descended from the Hendersons of Achalibster and Westerdale, his father being Adam, sometime tacksman of Achinarras. His mother was Margaret of the Stenster Hendersons. Elizabeth, Benjamin's cousin, was the daughter of James Sutherland of Swinzie, a descendant of the Sutherlands of Forse and of Langwell, and his wife Jean, known as "Lady Swinzie".

We have not found any parish records relating to the birth, marriage or death of Benjamin and Elizabeth. The IGI has a Benjamin born "about 1757" and "Mrs Benjamin Henderson born about 1759, spouse: Benjamin Henderson." Both entries indicate residence at Clyth. It would appear from the wording that the entries were made many years after the events. There is a strong supposition that these entries refer to our ancestors. Benjamin was tacksman of Oslay from Whitsunday 1776, the tack having been granted to him by his mother-in-law Mrs Jean Sutherland and her son John of Swinzie. This is the best indication we have of when Benjamin and Elizabeth were married, but it seems they were very young. In 1789 Benjamin became tacksman of Clyth on the Ulbster Estate in which capacity he would in time be succeeded by James. The Oslay tack was not due to expire until 1795 but the Swinzie Estate, of which Oslay was part, was sold in 1789 and this was undoubtedly why Benjamin and Elizabeth moved to Clyth.

We are fortunate that Dr. James Henderson was a well-known character in Caithness and in consequence, many references to him have been found.

James was born at Oslay on 23rd June 1779. He took an arts course at Aberdeen University in 1797-8 and studied medicine at Edinburgh University for five years from 1798. He joined the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards (later to become the Scots Guards) on the 3rd September 1803 as an Assistant Surgeon. He served most of his time in the south east of England at Chelmsford Barracks, Knightbridge Barracks, Cox Heath Camp in Kent and at Chatham. It appears that Benjamin died sometime around November or early December 1803. He made a Will on 25th June 1779, two days after James was born, and it was registered at the Wick Sheriff Court on 16th December 1803, which suggests he died shortly before this date. Elizabeth and her son John were drowned in a shipwreck in Wick Bay on 5th October 1804. Records of shipwrecks do not include any incident at Wick and sailings and arrivals were not recorded at this time. However, many newspapers reported the wreck of the schooner 'The Two Brothers' of Sunderland which sailed from Wick on 4th October 1804 and was wrecked at Lam the following morning. She carried a crew of four and three passengers. The body of a lady passenger was found. As this is the only shipwreck we can find we are forced to the conclusion that the lady was Elizabeth. Our conclusions are supported by a document dated 29th June 1805 by which James made a composition with his parents' creditors. In it he stated that Benjamin died in 1803 and Elizabeth was lost at sea in October 1804. The document also

stated that a considerable part of Elizabeth's property was lost with her, but we do wonder whether this was the businessman's attempt to limit his parents' creditors to 7/6d in the £. Alternatively, Elizabeth could have been taking property to Edinburgh where Benjamin had a sister.

James resigned his commission officially on the 2nd May 1805, to look after his suddenly new-found business interests (in addition, his brother William, and some of his sisters were quite young) but he had spent long periods on leave prior to this. Whilst on leave he wasted no time in establishing himself, for on 15th February 1805 he entered into a contract with the crews of eight fishing boats for catching cod, ling and herring for him in the ensuing nine years.

As time went by his reputation as a doctor increased considerably, he is thought to have been the first doctor in the area with formal training. James is said to have carried out vivisection experiments in the basement of his house at Clyth Mains, which had a tunnel leading out to sea where he disposed of the remains. It has also been suggested that he may have been involved with body-snatching in the local churchyard. In 1820 an 18 year old Robert Macnisch, a graduate of Glasgow University, became James' medical assistant, but he gave up this employment after eighteen months because of ill health and it is said "with the need for more congenial society". Caithness must have been a contrast for a young city boy. (Macnisch qualified as M.D., LL.D. and became a notable author. He died at the age of 35.)

The *Caithness Courier* ran an interesting piece in January 1971: "Dr. Henderson of Clyth entered into an agreement with the Devil to hand himself over to the powers of darkness after 21 years in exchange for the ability to heal to a particularly high degree during that period. He was to surrender himself to the Devil 'at the kiln end'. The surgeon practised very successfully for 21 years and as the day of his fateful appointment with the Devil approached, he built a bottle kiln in Clyth Mains yard. On the day after the agreed date, the Devil charged, Dr Henderson with breach of contract, as he had not turned up to meet him as arranged. Dr Henderson argued that 'I could not fulfil my part of the deal as there was no kiln end to meet you at.' The Devil had to concede that this argument was valid as he had been running round the kiln all night and could find no end."

The origins of this delightful little story are unknown and readers may make of it what they will, but the kiln exists!

James succeeded as tacksman of Clyth in 1805. Wester Clyth and Roster (part of the estate) contained about 2000 Scotch acres and held a number of sub-tenants, but there is no information on the extent of the complete holding. In *The General View of the Agriculture of the County of Caithness* by Captain John Henderson, published in 1812, there are many quotes of Dr James' farming practices. He is said to have spent large sums on the improvement of his holding and to have done much to develop the herring fishing industry in the area and above 3000 barrels of herring had been caught in the space of one year. His father had made improvements to the harbour at Clyth: the roofless storehouses can still be seen there today. In 1805, families evicted from Strathnaver had settled in Roster. James had also been to Tongue in Sutherlandshire and the surrounding district and induced a number of crofters to come to Roster as fishermen. Between 1805 and 1808 the number of barrels of herring branded increased more than three-fold. It is also recorded that in 1808 there were 10 boats at Clyth and by 1814 this number had increased to 40. In 1809, James proposed to the British Fisheries Society that he provide Dutch fishermen with cottages and land, no doubt to obtain

their expertise, but it is not known whether this idea came to fruition. He was probably the first curer in Caithness to ship herring to the Baltic, and seems to have been shipping large quantities to the West Indies. Was this why his brother Adam went to the West Indies?

Also in 1809, he was one of a number of persons to set up fish curing houses in the new settlement of Pultneytown, established by the British Fisheries Society, for which he paid £5. 10s. 0. yearly for Lot 4. In 1814 James had financial problems having lost money through the failure of Mr Robert Dunbar of London, and made an arrangement with his creditors. James appears to have lost all his assets except the lease of Clyth. (It is not clear whether this lease included all the other lands originally leased by his father). He carried on his business thereafter chiefly through loans, but he did not pay sufficient attention to his accounting, did not balance his accounts annually, and appears to have put little effort into collecting debts due to him.

James visited the British Fisheries Society settlement at Ullapool in 1826 with the idea of recruiting crews so that he could extend his operations round the northern coast from Thurso. He wished to set up stores of salt and casks so that fish could be stored without loss of time. He had obtained a loan of £1,000 from the British Fisheries Society, but the project was not successful and he got into much trouble with the Society over the non-repayment of the loan. Herring shoals were very fickle, and about this time were declining on the west coast. In 1827 the herring appeared in the Ullapool area on only two nights.

In the Spring of 1826, James discovered he could not pay his creditors and proposed to pay off his debts in instalments, but found he was unable to do so. On 9th March 1827 a Petition for Sequestration was presented to the Court of Session in Edinburgh by Donald Horne, one of the trustees of the late owner of the Caithness Banking Company. James had given a promissory note for £682 which was due the previous 4th December. The Petition was served on James in Edinburgh on 24th March. James did not put in an appearance to object to sequestration of his assets and the Court ordered creditors meetings to be held. Donald Horne applied for a warrant to apprehend James and reported that James had "retired to the sanctuary of Holyrood House for his personal safety". On 24th April James applied to the Court for Personal Protection "because he was being threatened with incarceration at the instance of his creditors".

There were 172 claims totalling £12,423, a huge sum in those days, among which were the British Fisheries Society for their loan, bankers in Edinburgh for £1,590, a lawyer in Edinburgh for £1,392, a London firm, Davidsons Barkly & Co. for £1,337, harvest shearers, shore labourers and Latheronwheel women for fishing. His inventory included medical stock at Clyth and Pultneytown, and fishing materials at Clyth, Occumster, Latheronwheel, Pultneytown, Staxigoe, Portskerra, Skerra and Armadale, and disclosed very large sums invested in his business. Debtors were in London, tenants on the Estate of Clyth, fishermen in Skye and the north-west coast and medical patients. There were unbalanced accounts with merchants in Belfast and busses (large fishing vessels) fishing from Bremen. As a result of the poor state of his accounts there are no reliable figures for debts due to James, one total given was over £9,000, but estimated total value of his estate was given as over £7,000.

The medical supplies at Pultneytown were larger than those at Clyth, and he also had a property somewhere in Pultneytown, which the contents suggest was a small hospital. We have not been able to find the location of this building. It is very likely that this was a

maternity hospital. This property was sold by the Trustees. He also had a lease of some lots of ground in Staxigoe on which stood two red herring houses and two dwelling houses. In November 1827, Sir John Sinclair, James' landlord, brought an action before the Court of Session to remove James from the lands of Clyth. The Trustees resisted this action for the same reason that they refused to accept an earlier offer from Sir John of £5,000 for the farms occupied by James, namely that the lease was a valuable asset. The papers in the Scottish Record Office indicate that James had a brother living at Clyth Mains at this time (this must surely have been William) and that a sister had recently died there. We have not identified this sister, but we can say that it was not Margaret or Alexis because they were running a school in Barnstaple, Devon.

James considered giving up the Clyth lease but instead proposed a Composition whereby 15/- in the £ would be paid in instalments over two years. He named James Smith of Orling as his surety. In a report by the Trustee, Robert Innes, agent for the Commercial Banking Company, Wick, dated 20th June 1829, he proposed to the Court that the sequestration be withdrawn and the bankrupt discharged. James was therefore able to keep his remaining assets, the extent of which is unclear, but the most valuable was the farm at Clyth Mains, which, we learn, consisted of 97 acres under cultivation.

The first major cholera epidemic in Britain was in 1832 and in September that year there was an outbreak in Wick and Pultneytown. Public health precautions were almost unknown at that time, and with the influx of considerable numbers of itinerant workers for the summer fishing season, it was not surprising that the disease should reach the area. It caused great alarm and there was an exodus of people engaged in fishing, some breaking their contracts. In 1834 and 1836 the herring fishing failed completely.

It was against this background that in 1836 James was again adjudged bankrupt and his Trustee, James Waters, Collector of Customs, Wick, continued his fish-curing business to pay his creditors. James claimed that in his fishing business he acted only as a manager for James Smith of Orling! The extent to which money was owed to him by his debtors is unknown, (they included Clyth tenants and fishers). We have not been able to study the papers relating to the second bankruptcy which seriously impairs our knowledge. Without doubt these papers contain much information about the cause of the second bankruptcy and James' last months in Caithness. The lease of Clyth expired at Whitsunday 1840 and in May a notice appeared in the *John O' Groat Journal* requesting his debtors to account for sums due or face legal action. In the same paper was a notice of the sale of his farm stock (which included 142 animals) and his household effects. James had left Clyth by this time and is said to have moved to Wick, but no trace could be found in the Wick census of 1841. It is known that he returned to Edinburgh University in 1844 to obtain his degree; his previous studies at the University enabled him to obtain tickets which were adequate for his army career.

It appears that from 1845 to 1847 the Doctor held the position of Surgeon at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh, situated at Milton House, Canonigate, where he devised a plan "for the gratuitous instruction, at their own homes, of midwives and sicknurses in the Highlands".

The Doctor died of apoplexy on 11th April 1848 in a lodging house at 20, Union Street, Glasgow whilst on his way to the West Highlands in furtherance of his plan for the instruction of midwives. Efforts have been made to find his Will, but it seems likely in all the

of England. Jamesina also came south and also married into a farming family in another part of Sussex. James died in London in 1896. Jamesina died at Horsham, Sussex in 1934.

Principal Sources:

- Caitness in Life and Thought - Some Caitness Notables, by John Mowat FSA 1928*
- Roll of Commissioned Officers in the Medical Service of the British Army, Aberdeen University Press 1917*
- Caitness Family History* by John Henderson 1884
- The General View of the Agriculture of the County of Caitness, by Capt. John Henderson 1812*
- North Highland Archives
- Scottish Record Office
- Public Record Office
- Dictionary of National Biography* p697 vol 8 1917 (Robert Macnish)
- University of Aberdeen Library
- Edinburgh University Library
- The Northern Ensign* 26 September 1905
- John O' Groat Journal* - various dates in 1804 and 1848
- The Edinburgh Evening Post and Scottish Record* 22 April 1848
- The British Fisheries Society* 1786-1893 by Jean Dunlop 1978
- The Napier Commission - Minutes of Evidence* 1883
- Latheron Kirk Session Minutes
- Wick Sheriff Court
- Donald A. Young, Caitness

Scottish Association of Family History Societies
11th Annual Conference

The Scottish Genealogy Society look forward to meeting you at the 2000 Conference in The Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Conference Centre, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh on Saturday 6th May 2000. The theme for the Conference is "Scottish Relations" and will feature the following speakers and topics.

- William Lawson *The Value of Oral Tradition*
- Dr Rosalind Marshall *Scottish Portraits as a Resource for the Family Historian*
- Richard McGregor *On being Clan: past present and future*
- The Experience of the ordinary 'clansman' seen through McGregor eyes.*

The doors will be open at 9am for registration and to allow delegates to have their first look around the book stalls. The Conference will commence at 10am and following the closing speeches at 4pm, the book stalls will remain open until 5pm. The cost of the Conference will be £10 and the cost of lunch, if required, an additional £8. Full particulars and booking forms are available from the Conference Secretary, Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Please enclose a SAE.

circumstances that he did not leave one. Similarly, attempts to find a record of his burial have been unsuccessful. We think he must have been buried in either Glasgow, where he died, or in Edinburgh, where he was living. Nor have we found the last resting place of his parents or earlier generations. This has caused us to wonder whether perhaps there was a family cemetery not included in the Monumental Inscriptions.

Dr. James seems to have been generally well-liked, at least by his peers, three people were inspired to write obituaries for newspapers, although one obituary indicates that he had his detractors. These obituaries paint a picture of a caring man who looked after his patients and tenants very well. The fact that he proposed to lecture on midwifery for no pay is an indication of his caring demeanour. On the other hand one witness before the Napier Commission in 1883 (dealing with crofters' grievances) was critical, some forty years after the departure of James; "Dr. Henderson was tacksman still, and it is worthy of notice how he treated the people. He was proprietor, fish-curer and merchant. One account was kept for all dealings, which was of course on the truck system, and the people knew only at the end of four years how matters stood with them." It may also be worthy of notice that this probably describes the normal method of doing business at that time.

James was undoubtedly very active in several areas of business in addition to his medical work which at times must have taken second place to his interests in organising the fishing, in fish-curing and farming. (He even found time shortly after returning home from the army to command the Clyth Company of the 2nd Battalion of the Caitness Volunteers from June 1805 to December 1808). Papers we have seen indicate his enthusiasm and the large sums of money involved in his business activities, and as a result he was probably over-trading. We have not found any statement giving a reason why he gave up and left Clyth. We can only surmise that either his landlord refused to renew the lease (Sit John Sinclair had died by this time), or James had had enough and decided to "retire" to Edinburgh.

In *Caitness Family History*, John Henderson notes that the Clyth family was extinct, but he did not know that the Doctor fathered an illegitimate son in 1838, our great grandfather. James was a 59 year old bachelor, and the boy's mother, Ann Sutherland was 18. The circumstances surrounding this event are not recorded; it is assumed that she was a servant at Clyth Mains. The Latheron parish register has an entry: "Henderson, James, natural son of James Henderson, surgeon in Clyth, and Ann Sutherland in Forse, was born in July 1838 and baptised 19th February 1841." In the census return for 1841, there is recorded Ann Sutherland, James Henderson (age 2), Ann's brother and father. They resided in a tiny crofter's cottage at Newlands of Forse. On the 12th and 13th March 1841, Ann Sutherland brought a case against James at the Wick Sheriff Court for maintenance of their son and he was ordered to pay 40/- in-lying charges and nursing fee plus £5 per annum paid quarterly until the child was twelve years of age. How much of this award Ann received is not known because James is thought to have left the district not long afterwards (maybe this is why he left) and he died seven years later. This was not the only instance of James' waywardness, in 1825 one Betty Forbes in Clyth had been required to appear before the Elders of the church to explain herself and named James as the father of her child.

Young James, the Doctor's son, moved to London sometime in the 1860s having left behind an illegitimate daughter, Jamesina. In 1870 James married Rhoda Matilda Stevens, the daughter of a Sussex farming family, and subsequent generations have lived in the south east

HFHS Projects - Current Status

Monumental Inscriptions

by John Durham

As reported in the previous journal the work on Rosemarkie Cemetery has been put back until the weather gets a little bit warmer and less windy!

Indexes to 1851 Census Returns

by John Durham

This project has suddenly come to life once more now that the new year is upon us. In the past two weeks the indexes to both Dornoch and Dingwall have been checked, sorted and printed and are available for purchase. The final checking of Cromarty, the last of the areas to be included in Black Isle project, will be completed this weekend. By the time that you are reading this journal it is hoped that the fiche containing this large index will have been produced. Indexes now completed are as follows:-

Area covered	Entries	Format
Inverness Burgh	12,663	4 fiche
Wick Burgh	6,716	2 fiche
Nairnshire (whole county)	8,835	3 fiche
Thurso Burgh/Parish & Watten Parish	6,396	2 fiche
Dornoch Burgh & Parish	2,981	Booklet
Dingwall Burgh & Parish	2,362	Booklet
The Black Isle comprising:-		
Avoch	2,028	
Cromarty Burgh & Parish	2,700	
Fortrose & Rosemarkie	1,773	
Resolis	1,550	
Urquhart & Logie Wester	3,151	
Urray	2,591	
TOTAL	13,793	4 fiche

Margaret & Billy Mackay, who were responsible for transcribing both the Caithness indexes listed above, have just started on Latheron Parish, whereas John Walford has completed Reay Parish. Hopefully, by the end of the year, all parishes in this county will have been indexed.

Scottish National Burial Index (SNBI)

by Alexandra Norton

I have recently taken over the post of Co-ordinator of the National Burial Index for the Society as mentioned in the last HFHS Journal. Much help is needed from members of the Society to get this project moving along quickly, so please offer your services if you can!

Some questions answered

What is the purpose of the National Burial Index (NBI)?

The purpose is to record the death and burial records of people throughout Britain which took place prior to civil registration. The index was first proposed in 1994 by the British Genealogical Users Committee. Family History Societies rather than individuals, are involved in the transcribing, so no duplication of work should take place. It is hoped that the index will complement the International Genealogical Index (IGI) with which it shares certain features. Both are indexes, not full transcriptions and both are useful searching aids. It is also hoped that the NBI, like the IGI, will be published cumulatively every few years.

A national index on microfiche or CD-ROM will be produced for public distribution, a valuable aid for all genealogists.

The Scottish National Burial Index (SNBI)

It was decided not to merge the Scottish data with the English and Welsh data at present for various reasons and to market it as a separate organisation. However, the general set-up is essentially the same.

What information will the SNBI give?

The forename and surname of the deceased person along with the death and/or burial date, with the place of death and/or burial, the age and occupation if given and "extras" if available, such as "son of John", "widowed", "an old man" etc.

Where are burial records to be found?

Although these records are not so readily found as Baptism and Marriage entries, they can be located, and many Family History Societies (including ours) are copying then publishing Monumental Inscriptions from churchyards around the country. However, there are other sources such as Kirk Session registers which occasionally disclose burial entries.

The main source for the purpose of the SNBI is that of the OPRs.

What can I volunteer to do?

Transcribers, Inputters and Checkers will be needed for collecting and collating the information and adding it to a database.

At present, **Transcribers** are the first priority (no computer necessary). If you can spare the time to check any of the OPRs listed below, please contact me. You will need access to the relevant microfilm held in various places such as the Society or other Libraries, Local Archives and the Scottish Record Office. I will supply you with transcription record sheets and instructions.

There are only a few parishes in each county which hold death/burial records, often in the form of mortcloth records.

There are several parishes still to be transcribed in most of the relevant counties which contain Burial or Mortcloth entries. They are:-

Caitness with Thurso (41/4) 1671 - ?

Sutherland with Dornoch (47/2) 1821-1854; Kildonan (52/1) 1831-?; Lairg (53/1) 1804-1844 and Loth (54/3) 1830-1849.

Ross & Cromarty with Contin (60/2) 1825-1854, Fearn (64/1) 1783-1791; Fodderty (65/1) 1758-1794; Kilmuir Easter (69/1) 1783-1789; Rosemarkie (80/1) 1775-1820 and (80/2) 1820-1854; Rosskeen (81/1) 1801-1813

Inverness-shire with Inverness (98/1) 1602-1616, (98/9) 1688-1819 and (98/10) 1820-1853; Dores (96A/1) 1753-1796 and (96A/2) 1831 (1 entry); Kilmonivaig (99/1) 1801 and 1805 (1 entry each); Kilmorack (100/1) 1674-1708; Kingussie and Insh (102/2) 1783-1854; Kirkhill (103/1) 1663-1801; Petty (106/3) 1800-1819 and (106/4) 1820-1853; Barra (108/1) 1849-1854; Bracadale (109/2) 1834-1839; Harris and St. Kilda (111/2) 1820-1846.

Nairn with Auldearn (121/3) 1721-1819 and (121/4) 1819-1854.

Argyll with Campbeltown (507/2) 1773-1819 and (507/6) 1817-1854; Craignish (508/1) 1761-1767; Dunoon and Kilnun (510/1) 1765-1820; Kilmodan (522/1) 1786-1799; Bowmore (536/1) 1792-1819 and (536/2) 1819-1854; Gigha (537/1) 1792-1819 and (537/2) 1819-1854; Iona (538/0) 1835-1854; Jura and Colonsay (539/2) 1848-1854.

Volunteers are also needed as Checkers. Again, no computer is needed - only the means to check the Transcriber's work against the relevant OPR on microfilm.

I hope by the time the next Society Journal is published to be able to ask for help in adding the checked burial records to databases on computer but more about this later.

Contact: **Alexandra Norton, "Cromarty", 15 The Loanings, Peebles EH45 9JT.**

HFHS Strays Index by Alan Ross

Welcome to my first ramblings of this millennium and I wish you good fortune for the coming years. Thank you for all the support that you have given to me and for the information that you have sent since I took on the role of Strays' Co-ordinator. Please keep your findings coming as the database is growing steadily.

Over the last few months a good amount of strays have arrived through the post and via e-mail. A large number of these include newspaper cuttings of obituaries containing much useful information to genealogists. When you cut something from a newspaper please be sure to include the name of the paper and its date of publication written on the back. I have a fair amount of such cuttings, some with photos, but without any reference as to when and where they appeared. A prime example is that of the obituary of Katherine A. HAMILTON (née

AIRD) born in Lochinver in 1902. Two pictures of her appear, one young, one old, along with a host of information about her family. It would seem that she died in Canada, possibly Winnipeg, but the cutting does not give her age or place of death. Also, there is no information as to which newspaper the clipping is from.

This also goes for things like MIs: I have a couple of gravestone inscriptions where the name and location of the cemetery have been omitted. Maybe someone can help me identify the location in particular of the following grave? The information which appears typewritten on a strip of paper reads :- 'PATIENCE / McLEMAN In loving memory of Donald PATIENCE died 23 Oct 1955 aged 91 years. Also his beloved wife Christina McLEMAN died 23 Nov 1955 aged 88 years. Natives of Avoch, Ross-shire, Scotland.'

One of the earlier strays recently to come my way was Flora MacLOUD, a lassie from Inverness who is recorded in the Bishops Transcripts as becoming married to one William RADLEY, a soldier of Norton Forget? [possibly Norton Ferris, Wilts?] Middlesex, at Potterne, Wiltshire on the 1st March 1757. Yet another stray that someone may well have lost was Marjory LAWRENCE who was born in Fort Augustus about 1877. Did Marjory run away from home? I wonder, as she appears as a fourteen-year-old maid in Scruton, Yorkshire on the 1891 census. The 1851 census for Exeter St. Davids, Devon tells us that Roderick WILLIAMSON a forty-year-old married victualler born in Inverness was a prisoner in the county jail. Looking back at these three in particular one can well imagine that each in turn would have a very interesting story to tell.

The military historians among you may be interested to know that I have been sent some information on Capt. (later Lt. Col.) John 'Jock' MacGREGOR V.C. born 1 February 1889 in Cawdor, Nairnshire. Jock served with the 2 Mounted Rifles (1 Central Ontario Regiment, CEF). He fought in both wars and was awarded the Victoria Cross during the closing stages of the Great War near Cambrai, France between the 29 September and the 3 October 1918. Jock died in 1952 and rests in the Cranberry Lake Cemetery, Powell River, British Columbia.

Mary Davidson of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia sent in some other very interesting information on Scottish emigrants. One was a very detailed account of Charles ROSS, the third son of a Scottish nobleman born about 1794, who worked for the Hudson Bay Company and became the first chief trader in command of Fort Victoria. One of your ancestors perhaps?

Appeal for New Editor

We firmly feel that the Journal needs new blood, ours (or at any rate Jonathan's) is becoming thin with age. We have received several favourable comments over the decade or more we've been co-editing this, but before we are packed off to Homes For The Bewildered we would like to hand on to fresh faces and ideas new. We have a time limit: by this time next year John will be in Australia and, with many friends and relations both there and in New Zealand to visit and talk family history into the small hours, will be unavailable for a number of weeks. Please let us know that you would like to take over so that we can pass on useful knowledge while it's still fresh in our minds and before it turns into reams of good advice!

Unforeseen Rewards of Membership of the
Highland Family History Society

by John H.B. McIntosh, Saskatchewan, Canada
& Mrs George McIntosh (nee Terry McIntosh) Michigan, U.S.A.

We are third cousins who have recently found one another (although neither of us felt lost) through the intermediary of the Highland Family History Society, and we would like to pay tribute to the services that you provide, which made our meeting possible. The story, as they say, so far:

In 1857, Alexander Chisholm and his wife, Ann McLennan, of the parish of Killearnan, Ross-shire, set sail for Canada. Although his wife died on the voyage, Alexander later remarried and settled in St. Louis, Michigan, U.S.A. where the family prospered. He died in 1904 "a staunch and sturdy Scotch pioneer of strict integrity". His son the Hon. Hugh Chisholm was elected to the State Legislature in 1890 endorsed by the Prohibitionists.

Alexander's sister, Helen Chisholm, married Finlay Mackintosh who had been born in Glen Urquhart, Inverness-shire. On the urging of their uncle, four of Helen and Finlay's sons, namely Alexander, Murdo, Finlay Jr, and Andrew, and a daughter Catherine McKenzie Mackintosh, decided to emigrate to the village of St. Louis, Michigan starting in 1872. It is understood that Finlay's croft on the shore of the Beaulieu Firth "had the most beautiful view in the world, but could not support a large family". Murdo's daughter Mildred is still alive and bright now aged 95 years, (a first cousin of our respective grandfathers). She relates that the brothers mistakenly took the train to the major city of St. Louis, Missouri (instead of village of the same name in Michigan), and trying to correct their mistake, with the last of their money, returned as far as Saginaw. They were obliged to walk the last 20 miles, eating apples from trees along the way to sustain themselves. (Could they have been McIntosh apples?)

We have a letter from Helen Chisholm Mackintosh dated 1897 in which she writes plaintively to her son Finlay Jr "when you were leaving, in five years you were going to come back again. But I suppose that none of you has a word about coming back to Scotland". This strategy worked as Andrew did return for a visit in 1911, when his mother was in her 87th year.

Andrew Mackintosh had moved to Akron, Ohio where he worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. His only grandson was in the American army stationed in Europe in World War I and visited his family in Killearnan while on leave. He was subsequently killed in action. Andrew's oldest sister, Amelia, had married into the Caskie family (of "Tartan Pimpernel" fame) and emigrated to Akron as well. We have reunited with her descendants who still live in that State, as well as other members of the Caskie family from Islay.

Meanwhile, in another branch of the family, John, the eldest son of Finlay and Helen Mackintosh, obtained a croft of his own in the parish of Resolis, Ross and Cromarty, but died of pneumonia in 1900 at the age of 45, according to his tombstone in Kilnuir Churchyard. His eldest son, David Ross Mackintosh, served in the Seaforth Highlanders during the Great War and died without issue in 1953. The younger son, known as John McIntosh Sr, had the opportunity of emigrating to either Rhodesia or to Canada, and chose the latter. He was a successful merchant, and his son served as a Major in the Canadian army and then, for over fourteen years, as a Member of Parliament.

Only bits and pieces of this story were known to us until recently. When the older generation died, the family did not stay in touch for the usual reasons. Before we knew one another, we had each spent time with Alistair Macleod, the Genealogist for the Highland Regional Council in Inverness, who was most helpful in getting us started. We both also joined the Highland Family History Society.

In 1996 [the undersigned] John McIntosh, a Canadian descendant of Finlay Mackintosh, drove down the road in a rented car to Finlay's old croft in Killearnan on the chance that the present owners might know something of the family's fate. A pretty teenager with long dark hair answered the door bell and when she was given the visitor's name she said: "That's funny - my father is also named John Mackintosh." Surprises all round. It turned out that the owner and the visitor were third cousins, and the croft had never been out of the family, passing to the youngest son who had stayed at home to help his ageing parents. This led to the happy discovery of many hitherto unknown cousins, including two first cousins of our grandfathers still living in the Black Isle and the descendants of an earlier generation living in Ohio and Australia.

In the Highland Family History Society records of monumental inscriptions in the Killearnan churchyard, we found reference to a stone erected by Finlay McIntosh in memory of a daughter who died in infancy. We could not find the tombstone itself at the church, even after a thorough search. But one of our cousins pondered the matter and urged us to look again, as she was certain that the tombstone was there. It turned out to be concealed beneath an enormous bunch of ivy but, as a result, it was well preserved. If in future those living next to Killearnan churchyard see someone working away with pruning shears, they will know that we are back for a visit.

Here is how we met. The Journal of the Highland Family History Society prints "New Members Research Interests". In June of 1998, after years of perusing new issues, John McIntosh of Saskatchewan noticed an entry for Terry McIntosh of Michigan, whose research interests seemed remarkably similar. He dashed off a note before leaving for a family wedding in the Bahamas, and upon his return found a letter waiting, that had crossed in the mail with his own. Terry McIntosh had found his research interests in the compendium printed by the FHHS. The rest (and all of the above) is History.

Our efforts continue. Recently we met some of the Chisholm clan who descend from the original emigrant. We hope to find one day descendants of Catherine Mackintosh (Mrs Curtis) who emigrated to Michigan with her brothers. It is also a challenge to make sense of the muddle of Mackintosh families in Glen Urquhart in the early 19th century. We are grateful to the Highland Family History Society for its records and services that gave us the opportunity to meet and combine our research. Genealogy is rewarding in many ways, but the best part is making new friends of people with whom one is connected, no matter how remotely.

