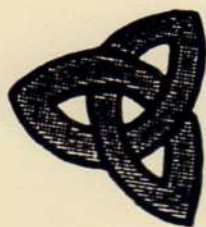


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Editorial

John's internet discoveries related inside these pages are yet another demonstration that the Internet is becoming more and more necessary for our work. We are all slowly coming to realise that eCommerce is gaining ground all of the time, despite spectacular and well-publicised ebusiness gains and losses, and Amazon's lack of profit. Our society is gaining a new member about each week from our Genuki website, we are selling our publications through GenFair, and I have my own pattern of named subsites on GenForum where I have discovered some distant cousins already, and have hopes of developing some serious history from the conversations with others in there.

Searchers after the history and culture and records of the Highlands and Islands area will receive some extra help over the next year now that the H&I Heritage Network is formed. This resulted from the Heritage Works conference in Nairn last November and we are marching apace. One of the presenters at that Nairn conference was Paul Basu of Highland Homecomings. He is lecturing in Inverness on Monday 12th June, on "Genealogy and the Web - Homelands and Homepages". On Friday 9th June the subject for Dr Hugh Dan MacIenman is "Defining a Sense of Place". Further details of both talks can be found on page 16.

I'm starting doing family history evening classes again this autumn, and now they're suggesting I teach computers too, but I don't know ...

Children have a wonderful way of keeping one's brain from falling asleep. We have a bedtime ritual of reading to our 11-year-old dyslexic son. This has usually been an almost undiluted diet of science fiction and Harry Potter, but he recently requested the Bible, the whole Bible start to finish. I've just completed Genesis and was reminded of how it is primarily one long family tree, with the earlier members lasting hundred of years (Methuselah peaking at 969 years) and having many children, often not starting until several decades into their second century. My Sierra Generations program is coping with it and it will be interesting to see what results. My own family tree has lengthened too with the birth of my daughter's Tasha McColl at the end of April. I had asked my computer colleagues if one were allowed to continue to work in the IT industry upon becoming a grandfather, but no helpful advice was offered, probably too alien a concept for many of them to grasp. Then of course the firm decided to make a 30% cut in the section of workforce in which I am a shining light, and I'm fat enough to be a significant part of that 30%, pity, but there it is. My various bosses have wangled a stay of execution until the end of the year though.

We are very definitely seeking a new editor, or editorial team. This Journal is slightly late because of our other activities taking over more of our lives: John being as he is retired from the rat race is planning visits to parts of the world other editors from here seldom reach, and that will knock him out of our circulation for at least three months. I have a lot of distraction in my family life with offspring, pets, and an old house which all need special attention, and special training needs and searching for new jobs will again take up a lot of my leisure hours. Please apply now; you can do the job most easily if you have a computer, an email account and fairly pernickety writing skills. Oh yes, an interest in genealogy helps. We have attempted to maintain a light touch over the years, providing articles which show off how family histories bind families and places, articles which demonstrate usual and unusual record sources, and people lists which bring together people who might otherwise never have met. New ideas are needed; will you keep the Journal in its present format or make it bigger and more glossy, or more academic, or more pictures, or what?

A Lucky Find on the Internet

By John Durham

I am sorry, but you are going to have to put up with another of what, to those of you who have been members of our society for some time, must seem like an endless stream of tales about my family history researches. The only way you are going to put a stop to them is to sit down in front of your PC and write an article yourself. There must be something interesting that you have uncovered while undertaking your own researches. Please write and tell us about it. Admittedly the previous journal did contain five articles from members but there is only one this time, and consisting of a single page. With over 20 pages to fill, I was wondering what I could bore you with this time when I had another of my lucky breaks.

Some background first. Like most family historians I was able to trace my paternal line back to 1800 without too many problems. My 3xgreat grandparents Donald DURRAND & Janet SUTHERLAND were married on Thursday 19th November 1801 in the parish of Orlig. Donald was a farm servant who worked on various farms in the parishes of Thurso and Orlig in Caithness in the early 1800s. Most of my attempts to extend this particular line any further back in time have been frustrated. The main reason is the haphazard recording of baptisms and marriages in the parish records during the 1700s. Quite often only one entry for a family can be found and, if you are very unlucky, none at all.

So where should I concentrate my researches next? When I took early retirement in July 1994 I had identified 186 descendants of the marriage of Donald and Janet. Realising that the 200th anniversary of their wedding would occur in November 2001, I thought up the idea of coming forward in time and trying to locate as many of the other descendants in time for this anniversary. Perhaps I could write up my research notes and possibly organise a gathering to coincide with the event. At first everything went well. Letters sent to the editors of newspapers in the area where the married siblings of my great grandfather had settled resulted in a number of responses, one of the Orkney branches producing 120 names.

By the middle of April this year the total had risen to 713. However, the seven plus years that I had to complete the task when I retired has dwindled down to only 18 months. Recently while wondering if I will complete it on time, I started to experience some mild panic. In the past two to three years most of the additions to the list have come from births intimated to me by relatives with whom I have made contact as the result of my researches. What I had been hoping for was another breakthrough similar to the letter with the 120 names mentioned above. Just over four weeks ago my prayers were answered.

Sorry, some more background information is required before proceeding. Anne Durran was the eldest daughter of Donald and Janet, and one of their children whose baptism was not recorded. She married Sinclair Manson in Dunnet in 1830 and had eight children. Of these two died young and three died single. The eldest daughter Janet married and my researches so far have located almost all of her descendants. This left me with two sons John, born 1842 and James, born 1848. My last recorded entry for these two was when they appeared in the 1861 census, with the elder brother John described as a ploughman. In 1866 their sister-in-law Janet Robertson had married a ploughman and the couple immigrated to New Zealand.

For some time I had assumed that John and James had also emigrated there. In fact one of our members Shirley Hay, who lives in Dunedin, found a reference to a Catherine Ann Durin Manson marrying out there in 1892. With her middle names possibly referring to Anne

Durran, their mother, this looked like a possible daughter for either John or James Manson. Cela Beale, another of our New Zealand members who have been so helpful to me, obtained a copy of the marriage certificate. This showed that Catherine actually came from Orkney. My impending trip to New Zealand next year was to be my last chance to find out if the brothers had ended up there. And then I had this amazing piece of luck.

My wife was working on one of her families and asked me to check the IGI on the Mormons website to see if I could find any more baptisms for the name Durkin. Having completed that task I decided to try the Ancestral File button rather than that to search the IGI. A previous attempt, during which I must have made a mistake when entering search details, had been a complete disaster. While taking more care with the search parameters this time, I decided to check for possible marriages for a James Smith Durran, another child of Donald Durran and Janet Sutherland. The last entry I had for him was as a witness to a baptism in 1840 and, as he was not in the 1841 census, perhaps he had emigrated. I put in the appropriate search parameters, but none of the results that were displayed were relevant.

Then I remembered that there was another son called Donald, who had also not appeared in the 1841 census. In went a new set of marriage parameters and up came a list, at the top of which was the marriage of Donald Durrand to Janet Sutherland on 19th November 1801 in Orlig. Well, I knew that already having looked at the entry in the OPR. I scrolled down the list and was brought up short when I saw the last entry on the page. It was of a marriage of Donald Durran to Janet Sutherland on 19th November 1801 in Orlig. This time there was no 'd' at the end of Durran, which it should have if the entry had been generated from the OPR. Clicking on this entry I opened a 'treasure chest' of genealogical information.

The first web page simply showed the marriage of Donald Durran and Janet Sutherland. Clicking on the 'Family' button produced a 'Family Group Record' showing their daughter Anne Durran. Clicking on her 'Family' button took me to her marriage and the two pages displayed overleaf. As you can see from the second page John Manson died in 1883 at the Linthouse Shipyard in Govan and brother James died in 1936 in Sevier, Utah. So much for my theory about New Zealand!

I then discovered that by clicking on an individual you progressed to their 'Family Group Record'. From this I found that James had a son born in Glasgow in 1886 and the next one in 1888 in Utah. He must have emigrated c1887 but both brothers were in Scotland at the time of the 1881 census. Out came my CD-ROMs for the 1881 census and fairly soon I discovered that John was a ship carpenter and James a blacksmith. John's death in 1883 at a shipyard could have been as the result of an accident. I had on a previous occasion looked up an entry for a ship carpenter who had died in a shipyard in Leith to discover that it was as the result of a fall from scaffolding. Perhaps the same fate had befallen John Manson? Having obtained a copy of the death certificate I soon discovered that this was not the case, and that he had in fact drowned. What happened to him is the subject of the article on pages 7-15.

James Manson had twelve children, of whom nine survived to adulthood and all married. I continued to move down the generations until I discovered that the names of living persons are not displayed. Instead of a name of a child you get M (for male) Living or F (for female) Living. This was a bit of a disappointment, but is in line with the privacy rules that the Mormons apply to these records. Included on one page were the names of the three persons who had contributed the detailed information that I had been looking at.

[continued on page 5]

Family Group Record

Downloaded from

Husband's Name

Sinclair MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-22P)

Born: 26 Oct 1802 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 1 Nov 1802 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 8 Aug 1876 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Married: 8 Jan 1830 Place: Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland

Father: Andrew MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1S3)Mother: Or (Barnetson) Or (Barnet) Janet BARNIE (AFN:1QZ3-5ZS)

Wife's Name

Ann DURRAN (AFN:1QZ3-2BC)

Born: 1803 Place:
 Christened: 20 Aug 1803 Place: Orlig, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 17 Nov 1897 Place: Greenland, Caithness, Scotland
 Buried: Nov 1897
 Married: 8 Jan 1830 Place: Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland

Father: Donald DURRAN (AFN:1QZ3-2BX)Mother: Janet SUTHERLAND (AFN:1QZ3-295)

Children

1. Sex Name

F Janet MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-2DR)

Born: 1 Jan 1831 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 10 Jan 1831 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 17 Nov 1897 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Buried: Nov 1897 Place:

2. Sex Name

M Andrew MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1LT)

Born: 2 Oct 1832 Place: Reaster, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 20 Oct 1832 Place: Reaster, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 4 Apr 1908 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland

3. Sex Name

M Donald MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1M2)

Born: 6 Aug 1834 Place: Reaster, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 21 Aug 1834 Place: Reaster, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 30 Nov 1898 Place:

4. Sex Name

F Jean (Or Jane) MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1NB)

Born: 11 Apr 1837 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 25 Apr 1837 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 15 Jan 1917 Place:

5. Sex Name

F Anne MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1PG)

Born: 12 Jan 1840 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 12 Feb 1840 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland

6. Sex Name

M John MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-2Z9)

Born: 24 May 1842 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Christened: 30 Jun 1842 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 3 Jul 1883 Place: River Clyde, Linthouse, Ship Yard, Govan Parish

7. Sex Name

M William MANSON (AFN:1QZ3-1RV)

Born: 6 Oct 1845 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland

8. Sex Name

M James MANSON (AFN:B64K-FQ)

Born: 22 Nov 1848 Place: Greenland, Dunnet, Caithness, Scotland
 Died: 15 Aug 1936 Place: Provo, Utah, Utah
 Buried: 19 Aug 1936 Place: Provo Cemetery, Provo, Utah, Utah

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[continued from page 3]

I tried to locate each of them in turn using two of the on-line telephone directories that are available on the Internet. Unfortunately none of them was on either directory.

Below the list of names and addresses of the three submitters was the comment that - "Ancestral File is a collection of genealogical information taken from Pedigree Charts and Family Group Records submitted to the Family History Department since 1978. The information is not verified against any official records. Since the information in Ancestral File is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the file to verify its accuracy". The start year of 1978 was slightly worrying. Perhaps this information was submitted as long ago as 1978 and, if all three contributors had been elderly at the time, they could have since died. However, the fact that one person listed in a Family Group Record had died in 1993 encouraged me to think that perhaps they could still be alive, but may have unlisted telephone numbers.

Accordingly I have written identical letters to each of them in the hope that at least one responds. I have had two letters returned with 'Not known at this address' and have had no response from the other one. Although this is a temporary setback, I am sure I will make contact with at least one member of what appears to be a fairly large branch of the family tree. The nine children of James Manson who married produced 32 children between them. At that rate there must be at least one member of the present generation who is interested in their family history. If any of our members are familiar with the workings of the Mormon Church, perhaps they could suggest how I should proceed with my search. Having found this vital information, purely by chance, it would be a shame if I were not able to follow it up and locate all the descendants of James Manson. If anyone can help, please get in touch.

The Mormons website is <http://www.familysearch.org>

1881 Census – The Lost County

By Elaine Johnson

I have a copy of the 1881 census on CD-ROM and am very impressed with it, so much so that, having exhausted all the useful searches I can make for my own family I have been enjoying simply playing with it, roaming round the towns and villages seeking information just for the fun of it. For instance, using two discs entitled "Scottish Region", I asked the computer to search out all the people who were born in Wick in 1831 and were still living in Scotland in 1881 – there were 195 of them. How many were still living in Wick? Surprisingly it was only a little over half, 106, but a further 54 were living in other parts of the Highlands, leaving only 35 who had strayed to the Lowlands, of whom 13 were in Edinburgh. What had drawn these people to the capital? Alas it does not seem to have been fame and fortune, with the exception of a policeman, all were either servants or tradesmen, ranging from a glazier to a bow maker.

During my wanderings I noticed that in Caithness about 1,500 people claimed to have been born in "Sunderland Durham England" but the area of Sunderland given was always the name of a place in the Highlands such as Golspie, Dornoch, Farr, Helmsdale and, most frequently, "Reay Sunderland Durham England". In fact in the parish of Reay, Caithness a whole community of crofters claimed to have been born in this previously uncharted area of England.

Fascinated I called up more and more searches, and slowly it dawned on me – nobody living in the whole of Scotland had been born in Sutherland, even the residents in that County had not been born there! According to the computer in 1881 Sutherland was populated by 18,827 people who had been born in Durham England and these incomers appeared to have driven out every last trace on the native Sutherlanders!

It seems that anyone who told the enumerator that he had been born in Sutherland is recorded on the CD under Durham England. To make matters worse people born in other counties but near the borders of Sutherland seem to have been unsure which county they were in. Thus the 1,397 people living in the Highlands who claim to have been born in Reay, Caithness are recorded as such, but the 982 who considered themselves to have been born in Reay, Sutherland have been recorded under "Reay Sunderland Durham England". Even in Thurso one person insisted that the county was Sutherland, and a further five who had left the town for other parts of the Highlands agreed with him. For their ignorance all have been recorded as English, including one Scottish soldier garrisoned at Fort George on the Moray Firth, who stands out as the only apparent Englishman in the regiment.

Maybe you have searched in vain for your Highland ancestors in the 1881 census since it became available on CD? If so try again, but this time enter Durham England as the birth county, you may be in for a pleasant surprise.

Editor: This error has now been corrected. Those of you who have purchased the software can get a free replacement disc from the Mormons at the Birmingham address from which you bought the original CD-ROMs.

The Disastrous Launch of the SS Daphne

By John Durham

From information found on the Internet I discovered that John Manson, a first cousin of my great grandfather James Durran, had died at Linthouse Shipyard on the River Clyde. On receiving a transcription of his death certificate via e-mail from my colleague Margaret Mackay, I fully expected to find that he had been killed in an accident involving his work, which was as a ship carpenter. It was something of a surprise to note that the cause of death was drowning. In addition there was an entry on the side of the certificate referring to RCE, Vol. 4, Page 89. For those of you who have not come across this before, the letters RCE refer to the Register of Corrected Entries. On death certificates these tend to indicate that the death was not natural and on looking at the Register, Margaret had found that, in addition to John Manson, at least another 38 people had been drowned as a result of an accident at the launch of the SS Daphne on the River Clyde. The RCE also contained the addition information that John had been buried at Craigton Cemetery.

The next step was to refer to local newspapers as such an event must have been widely reported. The date and time of death on the certificate was about 11:30am on 3rd July 1883. It did not take me long to spot the first reference to the incident on page 2 of the July 5th edition of *The Inverness Courier*.

A disaster of the most distressing character occurred on the Clyde on Tuesday. While being launched from the yard of Messrs. Stephens and Sons, Linthouse, a new steamer, the "Daphne" capsized and sank, and out of several hundreds of persons on board, chiefly workmen, more than a hundred were drowned. Last night's telegram states that the disaster has been even greater than at first reported. Of workmen alone, 131 are missing, and are believed to have been lost. In addition to these there were some strangers on board, some of whom must have met the same fate. Up to yesterday afternoon divers had succeeded in recovering 52 bodies, but they reported that they had seen many others in the vessel's hold.

In another column on the same page it was reported that one of the victims was a Simon Morrison, a joiner, who was believed to have come from Ullapool. On turning to the next page, I found the following article describing in more detail what actually happened that day.

LATEST NEWS Terrible Disaster on the Clyde Steamer Capsized and 131 Workmen Drowned

Glasgow, Tuesday Night – A terrible calamity occurred to-day on the Clyde, near Govan – the most appalling that has occurred in the history of the Clyde shipbuilding industry. In the forenoon the steamer "Daphne" was ready for launching in the yard of Messrs Stephen at Linthouse. The vessel belonged to the Messrs Laird, and was intended for the Glasgow and Londonderry trade. She was a vessel of 500 tons, an average-sized Channel boat, and similar to many others plying from Glasgow, which have been launched again and again in safety from, we should suppose, every yard on the Clyde. Whether it may not be unusual, it is certainly not invariable, to have large squads of workmen going on with their operations on board when a vessel is being launched, as seems to have been the case in this instance; for a foreman joiner states that he had a

score of men working on board at the moment when the dog-shores were knocked away, and there were carpenters, engineers, and others besides. The exact number on board the vessel may not be known for some time, but when the trigger was pulled, and the vessel began to move down the ways – according to one spectator – the number of persons on board made her look like a “bee-hive.”

The work on board was being pushed forward that she might be out of hands before the Fair Holidays. One eye-witness states that when the dog-shores were knocked away the ship went down the ways “at a great rate” an expression which suggests a velocity of an unusual and dangerous character. The ship, he adds, went “very deep by the stern,” no doubt owing to the speed with which she was sent into the water. It is doubtful if the vessel had not acquired the fatal list to port from which she never recovered even before she was fairly afloat, but be that as it may, it is almost certain that she had heeled over somewhat before the original way which she required in process of launching was off her.

The ship moving at great speed, with an unusual crowd of workmen on board, instead of receiving a fair check action on both sides at once, was pulled up by a chain acting only upon one bow. Such at least is one statement, and it is not unlikely. Then followed a scene unparalleled in the experience of the Clyde. In the presence of crowds who were in the very act of cheering her, the new ship heeled further and further over; everything loose on board tumbled to the lower side, the water rushed in at the open ports, adding to the unequal distribution of weight on board, and, within less time than it takes to tell, the vessel completely capsized, and sank entirely out of sight. Out of the crowds of workmen on board, a few swimmers managed to reach the shore or sustain themselves till picked up by eager rescuers, but the most of the men and boys went down with the ship and never came up again.

The news of the disaster spread very rapidly to Govan and Partick, and within a short time after it happened thousands of people were hurrying to the spot. There are about three thousand persons employed in the yard, to which their relatives fled with feelings of the greatest anxiety, all trusting that their dear ones had escaped, yet afraid to hope that this was the case.

The accident happened while the tide was flowing, and shortly before it reached its highest. Only a few spars of the vessel were to be seen at high water. No time was lost in an attempt being made to recover the bodies, but two hours elapsed before the first was got, and the work went very slowly. The bodies were tenderly carried on stretchers to the spar shed, round which the relatives and friends of the missing were sorrowfully waiting to identify them, and here the scenes of grief witnessed were of the most heartrending description. During the afternoon several of the Clyde river steamers sailed down the river, and as they passed the foundered steamer a mournful interest was excited amongst their numerous passengers at the sad work which was being carried on.

At six o'clock, a diver in the service of the Clyde Trust arrived, and without delay went down into one after another of the various compartments of the ship. With his aid, the recovery of the bodies went on much more rapidly. At the hour mentioned only fifteen had been got, and within an hour the figure was increased to thirty. At an early hour yesterday morning the number was forty-one, of which thirty-eight had been identified.

Those in charge of the yard expressed themselves utterly unable to give anything like reliable figures as to the number of persons on board the steamer when she capsized, but, judging from the statements of numbers of the rescued, and of other workmen, the estimate of 100 drowned must be pretty near the mark.

The statements by the survivors add little to that which had already been known. The following, by Mr Kinnaird, joiner, tells the story of those who were on board:-

“I boarded the vessel after the breakfast hour along with a large number of other workmen. The vessel was expected to leave the ways about half-past 11, and I believe she did leave about that time. I was busily engaged on the deck, and felt the vessel moving on the ways, and nothing occurred until she had taken the river. Then an extraordinary scene happened, and tremendous shouts arose from those on board. I felt the vessel toppling over to the right, and in a moment every person on board was hurled into the water. The shrieks and cries were terrible. I, along with some others, scrambled on to the bottom of the vessel, which was turned upside, and retained a hold. In a few moments a man came round with a small boat, and asked me to jump into the water. I did so, and was rescued. There would be about twenty persons besides myself who clung to the bottom of the vessel, and also succeeded in getting into the boat. Round about I could see a large number of people struggling and shouting in the water. Prior to the accident there were so many men and boys on deck that it was difficult to move about. I believe that over two hundred people were in the vessel. I cannot possibly describe the heart-breaking scenes which I witnessed.”

The “*Daphne*” is an iron screw steamer of about 500 tons burden. Her length is 175 feet, breadth 25 feet and depth 13 feet 6 inches, and her cylinders are of 23 inches and 46 inches respectively. Arrangements were being made to lift the vessel as quickly as possible, and so remove any obstruction to the navigation of the river. The work of lifting her would be entrusted to the Glasgow Salvage Company (Limited), under the care of Mr Weild, their superintending engineer.

An Inverness Man Drowned – Among those drowned we regret to observe the name of Alexander Macandrew (27) joiner, son of Mr Macandrew, sailmaker, Shore Street, Inverness. This young man was a most promising tradesman, and had been several years in Glasgow.

In many cases the exhibitions of grief were of a most affecting nature. Now a young woman would throw up her arms in agony of grief, and again an old man would lean against a wall crying bitterly. For although some time elapsed before any of the dead were brought ashore, the fate of many loved ones had been ascertained. It was about one o'clock ere the grappels were obtained in order to begin the search for the bodies entangled in the sunken vessel. Eight boats were used for this work, which was pursued with the utmost diligence. In about half-an-hour the first body was recovered from the part of the vessel near the bottom of the river. It was that of a well-dressed young man who was thought to be a visitor, as he was not recognised to be an employee. On his person was found a visiting card, on which was engraved, “W.M. Telfer, surgeon-dentist, 10 Parkgrove Terrace, Paisley Road, Glasgow.” The card was taken possession of by Mr D.C. Donaldson, temperance lecturer, who went to the address mentioned, where he saw Mr Telfer’s mother. He states that he inquired if Mr Telfer were at home.

At the slips from which the launch took place there was a large crowd, principally composed of people still in quest of missing relatives, and at times scenes of the most touching nature were witnessed. In the yard itself work is almost at a standstill, and large numbers of workmen are congregated in the ships on the stocks. Traffic on the river proceeds without interruption, several large American liners having passed up and down without any difficulty. An attempt to right the "Daphne" was made by means of three traction engines on banks, having chains led from the sunken vessel, but at 2.30 p.m. there was no apparent difference in her position; and further attempts were deferred until the arrival of apparatus from Ardrossan.

Dragging operations were resumed, but without result. At four o'clock the side of the vessel was considerably out of water, and large crowds were assembled on both banks of the river. The rain was then falling heavily.

Provost Thompson, of Govan, telegraphed from London - "Much disturbed to hear of the terrible accident to-day."

The features of all the bodies recovered bear a peaceful appearance, none being in any way distorted. Govan, which is usually very quiet, in the early hours of the day, presented quite a changed aspect to-day, small groups of people being assembled at every corner discussing yesterday's sad event, while various suppositions were advanced as to the cause of the disaster. Women mingle largely in these gatherings, and domestic duties of the housewife, as well as the daily toils of the artisan, are for the time neglected. Linthouse Yard was from an early hour besieged by anxious inquirers, though the crush was considerably less than yesterday. The Rev. Mr. Howie, Govan; Rev. Mr. Macpherson, Fairfield U.P. Church, and other ministers were at the scene.

There then appeared a list of those believed to be still missing. As the full list of those who perished appears later, this has been omitted. The article goes on: -

It would now appear that the loss of life amounts to 131, as 52 bodies have been recovered, and 79 other men and boys in the above list are missing. The divers resumed search about five p.m. and continued work till eight, without result. No news has reached the shore up to this hour of what the possible result might ensue from attempt being made to raise the ship.

Glasgow 1 a.m.

The recovered dead number 52, and the missing 79, making a total of 131, who have perished. Divers report that there are many bodies jammed between the timbers and iron plates, and that they could not get them out. Operations will be resumed early to-day.

As I wished to know if there had been any reference to John Manson in the local press in Caithness I asked Anne Dunnett, secretary of the newly formed Caithness Family History Society, if she could check the *John O'Groat Journal* for me. Surprisingly she was unable to find any reference to John Manson or even a death intimation. However she kindly photocopied the following article from the 12th July edition of the paper entitled "Glasgow Letter", which includes details of the aftermath of this terrible accident.

She said "No." He then asked her if he was in Govan. "Oh, yes." Said she "he went away down to see the launch. He's drowned. I know he's drowned." "Well, Mrs Telfer, will you let me see his photograph?" said the visitor. The photograph was produced, and from it Mr Donaldson was at once able to say that the body in Govan was that of Mr Telfer the dentist. Mr Telfer told his mother he was going, but she asked him to stay at home, as she had dreamed last night that something had happened to him. Mr went, nevertheless, and was one of those on board the ship when she went down. Mr Telfer, who was twenty-one years of age, only began business for himself last week.

(By Telegraph)

Glasgow, Wednesday Night.

According to information obtained to-day concerning the catastrophe the extent of the disaster was much greater than was estimated last night. At the present moment the list of missing men, as shown by the books of Messrs Stephen and Sons, includes over 120 names, and there were many strangers besides workmen on board, who cannot be traced.

Early this morning the task of searching for the bodies was resumed, and proceeded throughout the day. Up to 3 p.m. fifty-two bodies had been recovered, and many others have been seen by divers in the hold of the vessel. So difficult is the work of the divers that an attempt is to be made at once to get the vessel floated, the intention being, if possible, to have it lifted by this night's tide. Special preparations are being made for that purpose, ropes and chains being attached to various parts of the starboard side of the ship, and engines are fixed at three different points on the river bank under the superintendence of Mr J. Stephen and Mr Kemp, two partners of the firm. Should these arrangements prove effectual in raising the vessel on its keel, the search for the bodies will be greatly facilitated. On the other hand, if the firm are unsuccessful in their efforts, the Glasgow Underwriters' Association will take possession of the vessel, close up all apertures, and pump the steamer dry. This course, if adopted, will considerably delay the recovery of the bodies seen lying about the vessel.

It is stated officially that when the accident occurred, Mr John Stephen, a member of the firm, was present superintending the operations, and that Mr Robert Macmaster, manager, and Mr Colin Wallace, foreman carpenter, had charge of the launching. Under them were Angus Macnabb, who, it is believed, has lost a son by the accident; and William Gouk, foreman carpenter.

How the accident occurred is still a matter of conjecture, but the general opinion is that the vessel was top-heavy. Another theory is that, while in motion down the ways, she received a violent strain on the port side, which caused the slipping of the anchor and chain attached thereto, and so throwing the impetus suddenly on to one side, and thus causing the equilibrium of the vessel, on taking the water, to be easily destroyed.

Captain Price, of the Board of Trade, arrived from London this afternoon, and at once proceeded to Lighthouse, where he made a careful inspection of the launching slip, taking special note of the distance the anchors and weights had been dragged on either side of the ship. Though the ground has been considerably trodden, the anchors lay in the position to which they had been dragged by the ill-fated vessel.

The Effect of the News in Town

About half an hour after the accident happened the news spread through Glasgow and the neighbourhood with wonderful rapidity. At the Exchange the matter was the subject of excited comment and an early edition of the evening papers was soon sold out. In Govan where the large bulk of the men in the Linthouse Yard lived the excitement was very great. Women were seen from all parts of the town hastening towards the Messrs Stephen's works to enquire for the welfare of their husbands or sons, and in a short time the yard presented an excited appearance with distracted families. As soon as possible a hurried list was made up of those supposed to be on board when the boat was launched, and many heartrending scenes took place when mothers learned that their sons were no more, and wives that they were now widows.

At low tide in the afternoon about 40 of the bodies were recovered and conveyed to the spar house for identification. Here many affecting scenes took place as parents recognised their children and children their fathers, sisters their brothers and wives their husbands. Many of the women had to be cared for by the doctors in attendance and the several clergymen who were present ministered unto them the consolations of religion. Strong men wept at the sight and were not ashamed of their tears. As soon as possible after identification the bodies were sent home in undertakers' vans and the mourners were taken away in cabs. All the bodies recovered have been identified. For the last three days there has been a continual stream of funerals wending their way with their solemn freight to the various cemeteries in and around Glasgow.

The Agony of Suspense

It is estimated that about 80 bodies are still enclosed in the sunken vessel; and it is a pitiable sight to see anxious men and care-worn women hanging on inside Messrs Stephen's Yard expecting every instant their dead to be brought ashore by the divers. Some of these poor creatures have scarcely left the yard since the catastrophe happened. Every body brought ashore is eagerly scanned by those in waiting, and every disappointment gives a new poignancy to their grief. When spoken to by a minister the only response is the heart-piercing words, "Oh, if only I had him." As it will be Wednesday at the very earliest before the vessel can be lifted and the bodies got out one cannot imagine the terrible agony of suspense the sorrowing widows and mothers must endure.

Operations for Lifting the Ship

Several divers are engaged at every low tide battering down the hatches and otherwise rendering the sunken steamer watertight. They have tried to go down into the cabins in order to bring up the dead but they found this to be too dangerous a task as the tube conveying the air to them might get twisted or cut and so prove fatal to themselves. A diver from London has arrived to-day with a patent dress called the "Fleuss" by which he is enabled to remain under water for 4 hours at a time without any communication with the surface, and it may not be unreasonable to expect that he will bring up the bodies of the men still in the vessel. Meanwhile the ship has well nigh been rendered watertight and appliances have come round from Ardrossan for pumping the water out

of her. Probably by Monday the pumping operations will begin and it is hoped that the vessel will be docked by Wednesday.

Expressions of Condolence

Expressions of sympathy and letters of condolence are coming in by hundreds. References were made to the disaster at the meeting of the Town Council, Trades Council, the select committee of the House of Lords on the Clyde Trustees' new dock bill and by many other important bodies. The Premier's wife, Mrs Gladstone, who was in Govan about six weeks ago, has sent a beautiful letter of condolence. Her Most Gracious Majesty, ever anxious for the welfare of her people, has also sent the following telegram from Windsor Castle:- "The Queen hopes that the account of the loss of life at the launch on the Clyde is exaggerated. Her Majesty, who is deeply grieved at the disaster, asks if you can give her any further information." The Queen I understand is kept aware by telegrams of how matters are proceeding. Many other messages have been received from important personages and from several shipping companies who have had vessels built on the Clyde.

Public Meetings

A public meeting has been convened by the Lord Provost of Glasgow for Wednesday first in the Council Chambers, the object being to express sympathy and raise subscriptions for those bereaved of their bread-winners. Throughout the surrounding burghs other public meetings will be held next week. Several of the public works have already begun to lift subscriptions, and although these works will be stopping for ten days at the Fair time the workmen will gladly give from their little store, to the needy, and take a little less pleasure themselves at the holidays.

Services in the Churches

To-day as a mark of sympathy the church bells were tolled throughout the city and tomorrow special services will be held in all the churches.

Incidents

Many narrow escapes have been related and of those drowned in the cold black river many incidents have been told how they had laid their plans for the Fair holidays and what fine trips they were going to have. Several young men were engaged to be married on Friday first - Fair Friday as it is called - the day on which the works stop, but a change has come over their pleasuring; truly it is said "man proposes but God disposes." Instead of the usual cheerful hearth at the holidays many a home will have a vacant chair, and instead of being a house of joy it will become a house of mourning. In Glasgow and the neighbourhood at present there is a voice heard, as in Rama of old, "lamentation and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they are not."

I then made contact with William Cross, who sent me a copy of his book "The Mystery Bridge", from which I obtained the list of the 124 men and boys who lost their life that day.

