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EDITORIAL

I've just returned from a day-long seminar held in Edinburgh to coincide with the launch of the latest Historic Scotland Guide for Practitioners entitled 'Conservation of Historic Graveyards'. There were in excess of 260 registered delegates and surprisingly, of these, only 6 (myself included) directly represented family history societies. Given that the country's graveyards are perhaps the richest source of primary information about otherwise unrecorded individuals, especially in the pre-1855 era, this small fraction appears to be a gross under-representation of the family history sector. It begs the question why?

Could it be that family historians were largely uninterested? Unlikely. Could it be that the organisers (the Technical Conservation, Research and Education Division of Historic Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland) targeted their publicity inappropriately, ignoring the genuine interest and potential help from the mass of dedicated amateur genealogists in our midst? To my mind, this is the most likely and rational explanation and somewhat borne out below. Or could it just be that the professionals are in some way not keen for the amateur (derived from the Latin *amator* = 'lover', as opposed to the alternative interpretation 'unskilful') to become involved? This may be the conspiratorial theorists view and somewhat cynical, but must remain a possibility.

Angus Mitchell, the only independent and amateur speaker at the seminar (representing the Scottish Genealogy Society), gave the day's most emotive and highly professional address to the packed lecture theatre, which highlighted the lack of consultation with our common field. He pointed out that in the new Guide being launched at the seminar, there were lists of 1100 graveyards in Scotland, whereas the Scottish Genealogy Society has knowledge of 1700. This appears to be indicative of the lack of liaison which could have been so easily harnessed into the fold. Indeed, the National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland, a group formed in 1993 comprising members of national organisations with a professional interest in carved stones, which has hitherto neglected to consult with the voluntary sector, have now committed themselves to consultation and not, it seems, before time.

It was highlighted later in the seminar that there are over 40,000 members of Scottish Family History Societies, whose collective voice can no longer be ignored. These local Societies, as well as a whole range of other interested voluntary bodies, form a very powerful lobby.

This lobbying, following a lack of consultation, has been at the forefront of a campaign driven by a member both of this Society and Vice-Chairman of Clyne Heritage Society in Brora, Sutherland. Willie Gunn received word that the Statutory Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths for Sutherland were to be taken from the Area Repository in Brora and transferred to the Registrar's Office in Thurso, in the neighbouring county of Caithness. Upon the closure of the cramped Old Registrar's Office in Thurso (it had been replaced by a swish new Service Point), the Statutory Registers disappeared to Thurso and his rallying article appeared in the local Sutherland weekly newspaper, the Northern Times. The intervening week saw the paper receive one of its largest ever postbags on this subject and the officials are now reconsidering their original plans with a view to establishing secure accommodation for the Registers back in Brora.

This, and the above, shows that the amateur should be respected, consulted and listened to at all stages, so that the optimum solution can be reached for the benefit of all.

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THE ANCESTRY AND HERITAGE OF A COMMUNITY

By Harry Harrison

Talk given to the Society on 23rd October 2001

Let me say straight away that I have a firm belief that there is a very close relationship between Local and Family History. The main part of my talk will go into detail about the community which appears in my title – which is of course the whole of the ancient Parish of Kilmorack, but I shall concentrate on the local geography and demography as a necessary background to understanding the circumstances of the families who lived there. I suppose in reality it is more than a single community, for the Parish is an enormous one – forty miles from end to end, and in effect consists of one large community and three smaller ones, plus a number of scattered crofting townships, of which there were at least a couple of dozen at various times in the past three hundred years. Some of the locations were very remote from local amenities such as shops and this must have made it a hard life for many of the inhabitants.

Who am I, and how did I get involved in Kilmorack Heritage. Well, I was born in Warwickshire a long time ago; my father's family came from Yorkshire, and my mother's from Staffordshire. Both my grandfathers travelled south to participate in the expansion of the Warwickshire coalfield in the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. I am an architect by profession, and have spent nearly all my working life in Government Service carrying out research into building practice, so although I have only an amateur's interest in local and family history, I do know a bit about research. As is quite usual, I understand, I did not develop this interest until after most of the senior members of my own family had died. In the last two decades, and more particularly since I retired from full-time work ten years ago, I have spent a great deal of time researching my own family roots, and there is no trace whatsoever, so far as I can discover, of Scottish blood, nor for that matter of Welsh or Irish blood in any of my own ancestors. I have, however, investigated the forebears of my sister-in-law, both sides of whose family come from Wales, and have come up against the usual impasse with patronymics. I am a member of several Family History Societies, and the Society of Genealogists in London.

My interest in Scotland started off by spending holidays in the Highlands. My brother and I have shared ownership for the past 35 years of an old crofting cottage on the Lovat Eastates now shorn of most of its land. It was interest in the history of that croft and its neighbours that started me off on this trail, and many of you will doubtless have read my account of the four townships which surround that croft, "*Urchary and Farley, Leanassie and Breakachy*". That account was written in the main before I found out about the Kilmorack Heritage Association.

The Association was formed in 1997 primarily to assist in recording and making available both to the inhabitants of the Parish and to a wider public, the history, which of course includes family history, of the whole of the ancient Parish of Kilmorack. As we all know, it is no use doing research unless others can benefit from it, and this leads me to speak of our programme of activities and how we make the results available.

In its first two years, the Association organised an exhibition of local photography, which also included one or two historical artefacts, which went on tour of the Parish in an adapted double-decker bus. This helped to gauge the extent of local interest. For two years now the Association has participated in Highland Archaeology weeks, during which guided tours of

Beauty were arranged, as well as a minibus tour of the Parish visiting local sites of historic interest, and walks to the Iron Age forts on the Braes above Farley. These were summer activities. During the winter, programmes of lectures were arranged which took place in Kilmorack Hall, open to all members of the public, not only Association members, covering topics such as the contents and availability of local archives.

When I became involved with the Heritage Association it had already started work on assembling information for a local history. I suggested to them that the Association might like to consider the preparation of a series of three further books covering the remainder of the Parish in more or less the same degree of detail as the first one I compiled, and this was accepted by the committee. I drew the short straw when it came to deciding who was to compile these books. I was also accorded the honour of being made President of the Association, which I suspect is one reason why I was volunteered to give this talk.

All the work we do is very much a combined effort on the part of a few of our most active members. We have recorded the memorial inscriptions on the headstones in all the local burying grounds, and have made available a limited edition printed version. Also, the Association has taken over responsibility for the book on Urchary and Farley, Leanassie and Breakachy, and we have now issued two further volumes, one on the Glens and Straths, and one on the Village of Beauty. We are now well on the way to rounding off the fifth book, on the Braes, which should be available soon, and that will complete the initial coverage of the whole Parish. Of course, as we all know only too well, research is never complete, and our archives continue to grow at a considerable rate. What we might do to make that information more widely available, whether further books are feasible, and on what topics, is for future discussion.

As we do not have a large membership, we do not have the resources to commission the commercial production of our books, since printing commercially would require ordering a run of more than a thousand copies at a cost of several thousand pounds. So we produce camera-ready copy on a home computer, and have then Xeroxed and bound in batches of a few dozen at a time by a High Street printer. The sales of one batch then finances the printing of the next. Because printing in penny numbers makes the process, and therefore the selling price, relatively expensive, we have made special provisions for access by people who may find purchase difficult.

We also have a website at: - www.kilmorack.com. A specialist who has close contacts with the Association put this together for us, and it has proved to be an extremely valuable source of contacts with former residents of the Parish or their descendants. We now have members world-wide – including Canada, the U.S.A. Australia, France and New Zealand.

What resources are available to the Association? I suppose our most valuable resource would include the various microfilms. We now have microfilms of the 1851, '61, '71 and '91 Censuses for the Parish, and microfilm of the OPR's. For the 1841 Census we have noted down only the heads of families from the microfilm, which the HFHS has placed in the Inverness Library. Extended indexes have been prepared for all these, which are held on computer, and there is no intention of publishing these. Complete transcripts were not possible for copyright reasons. We also have the CD-ROM for 1881 Census and the IGI microfiches for the whole of the U.K.

To me it is inconceivable that those people interested in their ancestors are not equally interested in the places where they lived, the houses they inhabited, the land they farmed, the amusements available to fill their all-too-brief spare time and in the social and historical and other happenings in the locality over the years. We encounter examples of this all the time. Only a few weeks ago, we conducted a Canadian member to the croft lands where her ancestor had farmed, and we had to leave her in peace for a while as she looked over the old homestead.

All of you present tonight must be fully familiar with the records which form the family historian's basic sources of reference on vital events – Old Parish Registers, Censuses, Certificates of Birth, Marriages and Deaths, Burial records – and I do not propose to say anything more about these, beyond saying that we too have been faced with the virtual impossibility of reading old handwriting and faded microfilm and the continuously increasing expense of acquiring this information. You will all doubtless have struggled to interpret the unfamiliar patronymics such as those illustrated in OPR's from 1705. I acknowledge my indebtedness to Alistair Macleod for the translation. If only the original handwriting was as easy as this transcript! However, the historical and social background of the families is not easy to discover, and I would like to recount to you some of my experiences in obtaining information about Kilmorack and Beaulieu.

The main source of this type of information is the local newspaper. By and large this information is readily available, though very time-consuming to research. If one already knows about an event and has an approximate date, all well and good. But if one is fishing blind for information, it can take forever, and this is primarily due to the often-haphazard recording of events in the local press. Beaulieu did not have and has never had a newspaper of its own, and local events were covered, if at all, in the Inverness press. If the newspaper had a local correspondent, which the *Highland Times* certainly did for Beaulieu in the 1920s, then coverage might well be a regular feature.

In the early years of local newspapers, most of the news which they printed tended to be national and international rather than local, and prior to around 1880, the inclusion of information relating to Kilmorack and Beaulieu in the Inverness papers was rare. Although depending to some extent on the size, and whether bound volumes or microfilm is being used, searching for mentions of a locality in a newspaper, which was issued weekly, can in my experience take around half a day of very concentrated effort per year's issues searched. Wartime issues of four pages can be done at two per half day, and to scan those published twice weekly of course takes twice as long. After looking at several issues, one begins to know in which part of the newspaper to look. If one finds suitable material manuscript copying is laborious, and photocopying, especially at the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, is rather expensive.

But sometimes one strikes gold! A truly remarkable series of articles in the pages of the *Highland Times*, *Highland News* and *Football Times* in the second and third decades of the Twentieth Century written by the self-styled "Beaulieu Gutter Sparrow", Willie Ross. Frequency of publications was at times weekly. Many of the tales recounted would make ideal bedtime reading for those with a penchant for such topics. In the main, the articles are in two parts – a story with more or less local connections consisting of upwards of half a column, sometimes longer, and a second part that, frankly, is local gossip with the identities of the characters only alluded to. This gossip, while it was no doubt very meaningful to local inhabitants who knew the people concerned, for the most part is not nearly as meaningful to

readers sixty to seventy years later. We know that the locals eagerly looked forward to the articles, though somewhat in fear and trepidation lest their peccadilloes were discovered and aired in print and this has been confirmed in conversation by some of the more elderly inhabitants.

Because of the time involved in searching for information for our own locality, I tended to look only at one newspaper's issues per year. Inverness, as I am sure you know, had several newspapers, and what was considered relevant local news by one newspaper would not necessarily be considered so by the others. So the acquiring of information from this source is very haphazard, and, as has already been pointed out to me, one can miss quite major items by not searching all of them. I calculate that the task of scanning all the Inverness newspapers to cover the fifty years from 1900 to 1950 would have taken me around 700 man-days! Needless to say, neither my eyesight nor my powers of concentration were up to that.

The community referred to in the title of my talk is, as I have already said, the Parish of Kilmorack. It is probably not quite correct to speak of the Parish as only one community, since it is one of the largest Parishes in Scotland, and there are, and have been for the last three hundred years and probably longer, at least four separate communities centred on Cannich, Tomich, Struy and Beaulieu. Although Beaulieu started off as roughly the same size as the other communities, it grew to be by far the largest by the end of the Eighteenth Century, and now dominates the area.

There are many pitfalls in establishing the location of places where people lived. For one thing, there are an incredible variety of spellings of the different locations in the parish, with some places having seven or eight different spellings. I suspect that some of these differences occur because of poorly-educated Census enumerators. Matters are not helped by disputes between Gaelic speakers. One major difficulty with research in the Highland area is that I have no Gaelic, though we do have Gaelic-speaking members of the Association. I am told that Gaelic originally was not a written language, and spellings were at the discretion of whoever was recording them. Some of the most confusing place names are those written by English-speaking surveyors trying to match the Gaelic. I always try to retain the spelling as used in the original record from which the information comes, although I must say it does lead to confusion occasionally.

One can just imagine a conversation between a surveyor and a local at more or less any time up to the end of the Nineteenth Century, when the majority of locals spoke both Gaelic and English, but about a quarter of them spoke only Gaelic. Surveyor, anxious to obtain the Gaelic name, but speaking in English: "*What is the name of that hill?*" Local: "*That little hill covered in whins?*" "*Yes*". Little hill does not have a name, so local proceeds to say in Gaelic: "*Little hill covered in whins*". Surveyor writes down a phonetic parody of the statement.

We cannot now trace around two dozen place names used in the Old Parish Registers. Just to give one single example, 276 baptisms occurred at Coridon and are to be found in the Kilmorack registers between 1674 and 1708, about 14% of the total recorded during this time but Coridon is not mentioned after 1708. It is not shown on any map discovered so far. One suggestion was that it was in Kirkhill at Wardlaw, which I cannot really credit. In view of the places from which the majority of the people mentioned came, we have come to the conclusion that it was in the area of Struy, but we are now very unlikely to get a definitive answer.

calculate they probably had at least seven moves and probably more during their sixty years of marriage. We have not yet got very far back with their forebears.

Over the years, about one half of all people living in the Parish were not born in the Parish. To take a particular example, in the Parish as a whole, in 1861, 1611 people were recorded as being born in the parish, that is to say 57% of the total population. Of the remaining 43% born outwith the parish, 574 people were born in the county and Inverness itself, of whom 267 were from Kiltarlity Parish and 80 from Kirkhill Parish. There were 475 born in the neighbouring county of Ross, of whom 190 were born in Urray Parish. Places of birth of the remainder varied widely, with few only from any particular area – examples include 28 from Aberdeen-shire, 10 from Moray, 12 from England and 11 from Ireland.

Let's have a look at this kind of information in more detail, and take one of the small townships first of all – the one I know most about, Farley, on the Kilmorack Braes. In the 1851 Census for Farley, including Coille na Cleithe, of the 82 people in the Census, 10 were born in Kiltarlity, 6 in Urray, 3 elsewhere in Ross-shire, 2 in Inverness and 1 in Kirkhill, so around 27% were born outside the parish, though none had come from a long distance. In 1891, of the 52 inhabitants of Farley, 4 were born in Ross-shire, 1 in Kiltarlity, 3 elsewhere in Inverness-shire, and 1 was from Northumberland, giving a total of 17% born outside the home parish. Of course, one must make the usual reservations about the accuracy of recording in the Censuses.

Of the 30 adults and 22 children named in the 1891 Census of Farley, only five persons remained to be named 27 years later in the 1918 Electoral Roll. Many of the adults died of course in the intervening years, but all the children named in 1891, unless they died prematurely, would have reached an age to be included in the Electoral Roll by 1918, bar three girls under thirty years of age. (The voting age for women in 1918 was 30 years). [Editor: What about war casualties?]

Turning now to the largest community, the village of Beaulieu, we find that around half the population of the village of Beaulieu over the years 1851 to 1891 were incomers. With such a high proportion of the population born outwith the Parish, the rate of turnover of the population of the village from one generation to another was, not surprisingly, very high indeed. A check has been carried out on the names of male children born in the Parish age 10 and under and recorded in the 1851 Census as living in the village (Enumeration District No. 1), to see how many were still recorded forty years later in the Census of 1891 (E.D. Numrs 2 and 3). Such children would then have been age 40-50 years.

There are the usual reservations to be made on the accuracy of recording of ages and of places of birth. However, in order to allow some tolerance, the check was made for all names from 1851 who were age 35-55 in 1891, at the same time taking into consideration possible variants of spelling, eg. McKenzie spelled MacKenzie. Of the 84 names recorded in 1851, only four were recorded in 1891. Of course, there is no guarantee even that those four names were of the same actual people recorded in 1851, but it is suspected that two of them were the same people. The reason why the names of females were not checked is that the Census normally records only married names, whereas the maiden names are impossible to identify forty years later without enormous effort.

Of the 84 boys age 10 and under in Beaulieu 1851 Census, there are no less than six bearing the name James Fraser, three William Cameron and two each of Donald Cameron, Alexander

But place names are not the only mysteries. The same is true of buildings and street names. To give an example, no-one seems to know nowadays where the Beaulieu Theatre was situated, advertised extensively in the local press around the end of the Nineteenth Century? Was it perhaps in the former Priory Hotel burned down in the nineties? Another problem locally is that house names have changed, sometimes several times, over the years.

Our experiences with trying to discover local maps of our patch have been very mixed. Since much of the area was divided between Lord Lovat and The Chisholm, it is to these sources that we looked first of all. There is now no central holding of Chisholm archives since the lands were sold in the Nineteenth Century, and it would seem that many of the records are now in private hands.

Lovat lands were forfeited to the state after Culloden and the execution of Lord Lovat, and the survival of written records in the National Archives from this time is very good. They have been catalogued and summarised. They give much valuable information on local conditions during this time, and a number of families can be identified from them.

There is only one Lovat Estate map in the National Archives from this time, that of 1757, which is a lithographed copy of a map said to still be held in the Lovat Estate Office, but the Association has not been allowed to see the original. Since the photocopies are not good enough for reproduction, we have had to redraw them using the most relevant items of information. Incidentally, since one cannot copyright information, but only the actual form in which that information is conveyed, that gets us off the hook of possible copyright infringement. Nor have we been allowed access to other maps of Glen Strathfarrar (1759) and Lovat lands in the Barony of Beaulieu of 1798. This is particularly disappointing, since these maps give the names of all the tenants and where they lived and farmed. We have had to make do with old tracings made by locals many years ago when access was allowed, which I have now tidied up a little before reproducing them.

I must confess that I was rather taken aback to discover that there are so few families who stayed in the Parish more than two or three generations. If this is typical of Highland communities, then it makes it much more difficult for family historians to draw up reliable pedigrees. Land ownership of course tended to keep families in one place, but in our Parish there were only about half a dozen land-owning families until the past fifty years when death duties began to bite hard, and of these, two in particular, the Lovat Frasers and the Chisholms, owned about nine tenths of the land in the Parish. Even the farms and crofts in the Parish were normally let on 19-year leases under what we would now consider to be quite arduous conditions, with no guarantee of renewal. So even the farming and crofting families could move on before all the children had been born. For the families of the labourers and farm workers who changed jobs at the annual hiring fairs such as the Lammas Market in Beaulieu, which persisted until around 1900, it could mean even shorter periods of domicile in one place.

Let me take one family example. The ploughman at Teawig Farm during the inter-war years, Alexander Bremner, and his wife Janet Manson, were both born and were married in Caithness. Their first three children were born in Dornoch, we do not yet know where the next three were born, their seventh was born in Bonar in Sutherland, their eighth at Helmsdale, their ninth at Kildon in Sutherland and their tenth at Culbo, Rosolis. After leaving Teawig they ended their lives at Muir of Ord, but were buried in Kilmorack. I

Fraser, Donald Fraser, Hugh Fraser, John Fraser, William Fraser, Alexander Mackay, Alexander Mackay, Donald Mackenzie, John Mackenzie, William Mackenzie, Alexander Mackintosh and John Macrae, with single occurrences of the remaining 47. Pity the poor researcher trying to sort out the six James Frasers!

By 1932, Beaulieu had grown to a population of 1,741, but it was largely at the expense of the surrounding country. Depopulation of the countryside was accelerated by the Clearances and consequent emigration, and by the mid Nineteenth Century, the proportion of older people in country districts of the Highlands compared with the rest of Scotland was rising. The proportion of people over the age of 45 in the Highlands rose from 23.8% in 1861 to 33.5% in 1931.

However, in spite of this tendency for the average age of the population to increase, I think it is a demonstrable fact from the data that families in occupation of land, the crofters and tenant farmers on the Braes and in the Glens and Straths tended to stay put for longer periods, on average, than did the families in the Village of Beaulieu.

A total of 201 persons from the Parish of Kilmorack emigrated to Nova Scotia in two ships arriving in Pictou in 1801. They are listed in Appendix H of *The Braes* and in Appendix E of *The Glens and Straths*. There were around three thousand emigrant ships altogether bound for the New World in these times and no doubt other ships also carried emigrants from our Parish. The ship "*The Hector*", sailing from Poolewe at around this time was also thought to have carried emigrants from Kilmorack Parish, though passenger lists of this ship do not name their home parish. However, we do know from Canadian sources that several were from our patch.

The First Statistical Account puts the total population of the Parish of Kilmorack in 1797 as 2,318 and the proportion emigrating in the one year of 1801 therefore was at least 8.6% of the whole population of the Parish. This total, no doubt in part prompted by the Clearances, represented an enormous drain on the lifeblood of the Parish, although some would no doubt argue that the available arable land was in any case insufficient to support the indigenous population.

Emigration of local people was not, of course, confined to the times of the Clearances. There was a steady trickle of reports in the local press of emigration to Canada, Australia and South Africa in the first three decades of the Twentieth Century, and almost every issue contained an advertisement encouraging emigration. Just to cite one piece of evidence, at least eight of the First World War dead are those of emigrants from Kilmorack serving in Commonwealth forces, or around 8% of all those killed.

A count has been made of all the marriages of residents of the village of Beaulieu recorded in the Old Parish Registers of Kilmorack, over the whole of the 134 years from 1771 to 1851. The number of marriages involving residents of Beaulieu recorded there totals 168, involving 225 residents of the village, or just under one quarter of all marriages recorded, the remainder being in the rest of the Parish. In 57 of these marriages both of the partners came from the village; in 44 marriages one of the partners was from the village and one from elsewhere within the Parish of Kilmorack; in 67 marriages one of the partners was from the village and one from outside the Parish of Kilmorack. Only 20% of the spouses came from outwith the Parish.

What the records do not show, of course, is the marriages of Beaulieu residents that took place outside the Parish of Kilmorack. Here we rely on identification of strays by other family historians. However, of those marriages that were recorded, it looks as though Beaulieu residents did not look far away for their spouses, with very few indeed coming from outside the counties of Inverness and Ross & Cromarty, as one might expect in the days when travel opportunities for young folk, apart from military service and emigration, were limited. I suspect this pattern is repeated elsewhere in the Highlands.

Much of the current history involving people who are still alive has to be remembered rather than written down, in view of the coming into force of the Data Protection Act and its effect on the keeping of written and computerised records. We have found this to be a difficulty, and I would be interested to hear your own experiences. When records have to be remembered rather than written down, the collective memory of the whole Association is important.

I found twenty-two names of soldiers and one sailor from the parish who were reported as killed during the First World War, and six from the Second World War, yet their names do not appear on the Kilmorack War Memorial. I suspect one or two of these men may have been from neighbouring parishes, but most are definitely natives of Kilmorack. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records do not help in this respect, for many do not give home addresses. I do not wish to imply any criticism of those responsible for commissioning the War Memorial, because it is probably now impossible to determine the full facts, but it does leave a number of unanswered questions. But it is these and other similar questions that point to the need for societies like ours, covering both the heritage of the area and the families that lived there.

NEW VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS?

The talk above is reproduced from his notes, which our speaker very kindly gave to me after a meeting that at one time looked as if it would not take place, certainly not indoors. When I arrived for the meeting with my car loaded with radio mike, amplifier, speakers and publications for sale, I was confronted with confusion. The gates to the school playground, where most members coming to our monthly talk park their cars, were closed. To make matters worse, due to the interest engendered by Harry's books, there were a larger number of people than usual wishing to hear his talk.

It was soon realised that the school was closed because of the October holidays and this had not been noticed at the time the booking was made. After a half-hearted attempt to see if the Salvation Army hall on the other side of the road was available, we were saved at the last moment by an offer from the Inverness Methodist Church to use their small hall on Huntly Street. So the meeting commenced at last, albeit some 45 minutes late. Fortunately the weather had been particularly pleasant and almost everyone stayed on to enjoy Harry's talk.

This story has a happy ending. The room we held the meeting in is the ideal size for the number of people that regularly attend our meetings and the chairs were very comfortable! Several members wondered if we could hold our meetings there in future. I am happy to report that overtures to the Methodist Church have been looked upon favourably and it is hoped that we will be able to use this facility in future, starting with the December meeting.

STRAYS INDEX

By Alan Ross

May I thank all those of you who took time to write to or e-mail me over the last few months. I do apologise for not replying to you as yet but I have spent most of the time away from home. Please be assured that I will reply to you in due course but it may be some time, as the box of 'Strays mail' gets larger every time I see it.

This issue we highlight 'Strays' who were born in the ROC parish of Lochcarron. As can be seen most of the entries are taken from the 1851 census. Perhaps someone can offer an explanation as to why so many born in this mainland parish should turn up on the Isle of Skye in 1851. Some of the forenames do appear to have been spelt incorrectly. I hasten to add that this is not due to my typing errors but it is as they were sent to me or as they actually are written.

* Indicates married surname

Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Year	Age	Event	Source
CAMPBELL	Anne*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	44	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
CHISHOLM	Duncan	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	12	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
FINLAYSON	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	69	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
FINLAYSON	Jessie	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
FINLAYSON	Jessie*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	62	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
GILLANDER	Duncan	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	20	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacIVER	Margaret	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	13	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacKENZIE	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	36	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLEAN	Flora*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLEAN	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	10	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLEAN	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	60	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLENNAN	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1871	40	Census 1871	Census / Dingwall / ROC
MacLENNON	Isabella*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	35	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLENNON	Norman	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	41	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLEOD	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	66	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MacLEOD	Mary*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	31	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MATHESON	Kenneth	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MATHESON	Mary*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	36	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McCREA	Ann	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	37	Census 1851	Census / Strachan / KCD
McKINNON	Christy*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	32	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McKYE	Anabella	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Dalry / AYR
McLENNAN	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	30	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	45	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1881	51	Census 1881	Census / Dingwall / ROC
McLENNAN	Mary*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	41	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	Murdo	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	80	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	Roderick	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	39	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	Ann	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McLENNAN	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1861	55	Census 1861	Census / Dingwall / ROC
McLENNAN	Mary	ROC	Lochcarron	1881	68	Census 1881	Census / Dingwall / ROC
McLEOD	Duncan	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	20	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McRAE	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	18	Census 1851	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McRAE	John	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	33	Census 1851	Census / Kenmore / PER
McRAE	Mary	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	30	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV

McRAE	Issabella	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	35	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
McRAE	Christy	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	37	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHESON	Donal	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	47	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Murdo	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	30	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Donan	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	35	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Jessi	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Isabella	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	60	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Flora	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	20	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Catharine	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	34	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
MURCHISON	Isabella	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	26	Census 1851	Census / Portree / INV
WHITE	Hugh	ROC	Lochcarron	1851	85	Census 1851	Census / Duil / PER
WHITE	Margaret*	ROC	Lochcarron	1851		Census 1851	Census / Duil / PER

One of the more common names on the database is MONRO/MUNRO. It has turned up in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as all parts of the United Kingdom.

Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Year	Age	Event	Source
MONRO	Anne	NAI	Nairn	1851	10	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	Catherine	NAI	Nairn	1851	8	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	Hector	ROC		1861	48	Census 1861	Census / Fraserburgh / ABD
MONRO	Isabella	NAI	Nairn	1851	16	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	Isabella	INV	Ardersier	1851	48	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	James	NAI	Nairn	1851	53	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	James	NAI	Nairn	1851	13	Census 1851	Census / Belhelvie / ABD
MONRO	Jessie	INV		1851	29	Census 1851	Census / Dundee / ANS
MONRO	John	CAI		1861	44	Census 1861	Census / Fraserburgh / ABD

Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Year	Age	Event	Source
MUNRO	Agnes Mary*	ROC	Dingwall	1994	87	Death	News Obit / Winnipeg / Can
MUNRO	Alex	ROC	Kiltearn	1851	16	Census 1851	Census / Dingwall / ROC
MUNRO	Alexander	SUT		1853	58	Death	MI / Nelfield / ABD
MUNRO	Alexander	INV	Inverness	1851	59	Census 1851	Census / Aberdeen West / ABD
MUNRO	Alexander	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	29	Census 1851	Census / Port Glasgow / RFW
MUNRO	Alexander	ROC	Roskeen	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MUNRO	Angus	ROC	Roskeen	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Duil / PER
MUNRO	Catherine	ROC	Ferintosh	1851	27	Census 1851	Census / Lasswade / MLN
MUNRO	Catherine	SUT	Creich	1851	25	Census 1851	Census / Roskeen / ROC
MUNRO	Christian	ARL	Campbellton	1862		Death	MI / Knox / Georgina / ONT / Can
MUNRO	David	ROC	Kiltearn	1851	21	Census 1851	Census / Old Monkland / LKS
MUNRO	Donald	SUT	Creich	1851	50	Census 1851	Census / Boyndie / BAN
MUNRO	Donald	ROC	Fearn	1871	22	Census 1871	Census / Dingwall / ROC
MUNRO	Donald	ARL		1881		Death	MI / Knox / Georgina / ONT / Can
MUNRO	Ellen*	INDIA		1818		Descendant	NSW / Aus
MUNRO	Euphemia Effie	SUT	Creich	1898	36	Marriage	Family / New Zealand
MUNRO	Helen	INV	Urquhart	1851	39	Census 1851	Census / St. Clements / Aberdeen / ABD
MUNRO	Hellen	MLN	Edinburgh	1851	14	Census 1851	Census / Dingwall / ROC
MUNRO	Humfrey	ARL		1851	43	Census 1851	Census / Lambeth Church / SRY
MUNRO	Isabella*	INV	Inverness	1861	28	Census 1861	Census / Hebburn-on-Tyne / DUR
MUNRO	Isabella	MOR	Edenkillie	1851	12	Census 1851	Census / Cawdor / NAI
MUNRO	James	INV	Inverness	1861	30	Census 1861	Census / Hebburn-on-Tyne / DUR

