

highland family
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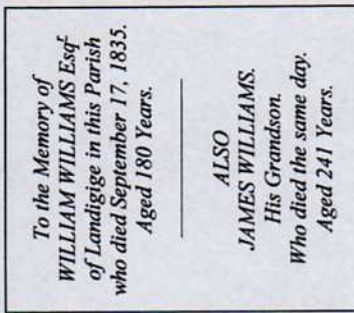
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Welcome to the Summer edition of the Journal. This is the time of year when we (in the Northern Hemisphere, anyway) should be getting out into the garden and be trying to get to grips with the first flushes of growth. This is what we *should* be doing. However, as you will read inside, this is actually *not* what I have been doing, at least not in my own garden!

For the past, what seems like several months now, I and other members of my local heritage society have been involved with a vegetation clearance project from our local disused graveyard at Clynekirkton, near Brora in Sutherland. We have made some spectacular and fascinating discoveries and have pieced together some of the previously unknown history of the site, which will benefit locals and visitors alike.

Following the final stage of the battle with the sprouting flora, I also managed to fit in a wee holiday too, visiting family in South Wales. While I was there, I just could not escape from the bug and was inevitably drawn to a graveyard or two, just out of pure misguided curiosity. It was all very interesting comparing the overall appearance, layout and style of the Welsh graveyards and just fascinating spending a few hours in graveyards that were unfamiliar to me.

In the small city of St Davids, in Pembrokeshire in West Wales, I was fulfilling my interest in the graveyard of the magnificent 12th Century cathedral, which dominates the community. The graveyard is beautifully attended to, but over the years, the majority of the headstones had been removed to the perimeter walls, presumably for reasons of safety. Whilst reading one of the memorials, casually propped up against the wall, my eyes nearly popped out of my head. It appeared that two of the persons commemorated on the stone had lived to ages of biblical proportions. You can see from the photograph overleaf that the inscription reads:



This is as it appears, as bold as brass, on the stone. Do the people of West Wales have the secret to the elixir of life? Is there something in the water? In the air? How can this possibly be? There is also the rather mind-boggling question of how James, the grandson of William, died on the same day as his grandfather, but was stated to be 61 years older on that day! And what befell of them, both dying on the same day?

Only some careful detective work may lead to the real answer. It appears that this could be the work of a mischievous, but neat vandal mason, who has inscribed an extra '1' in front of '80' to make 180 and another '1' following '24' to make 241. If you look closely at the photograph, the slightly uneven spacings between the numerals can be seen, and this, I think, could explain it. But it certainly took me in and made me, not surprisingly, very interested in this particular stone! I am still left wondering what happened to the pair of them and wondered if they had been involved in some sort of accident, maybe a fishing tragedy. But that's for another day. It also gave me plenty of thought and food for the editorial too. It just goes to show that inspiration can come from anything.

And to top it all, of course, on my return, my garden had suffered from a further two weeks of neglect!



GRAVESTONE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP
Brora, 1st & 2nd June, 2002

Following on from the Clynekirkton Project, which Clyne Heritage Society in Brora have been recently undertaking, there will be a practical workshop covering the recording, managing and conserving of gravestones in the village. Spread over two days, the event is being jointly organised by the Council for Scottish Archaeology's (CSA) Carved Stone Decay in Scotland Project and Clyne Heritage Society.

Dr Susan Buckham, the CSA's Carved Stones Adviser will be coming from Edinburgh for the weekend to lead the workshop and volunteers from the Clynekirkton Project will also be on hand to pass on their hard won experience. The programme is as follows:

Saturday 1st June.	
10.30	Introduction and Welcome at Brora Heritage Centre.
10.30 - 11.30	<i>The role of the Carved Stone Adviser and the Carved Stone Decay in Scotland Project</i> - Susan Buckham, Carved Stone Adviser, CSA.
11.30	Transfer to Clynekirkton Graveyard for Field Training.
11.45 - 12.30	Field Training - Recording the Situation and Material of a Memorial.
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch.
1.30 - 3.15	Field Training - Recording the Inscription and Condition of a Memorial.
3.15	Transfer to Brora Heritage Centre.
3.30 - 4.30	<i>The Clynekirkton Project - Why it Began, What Procedures were Followed, Which Organisations were Involved and How it Turned Out</i> - talk by members of Clyne Heritage Society.
Sunday 2nd June.	
2.00	Meet at Clynekirkton Graveyard.
2.00 - 4.30	Field training - Recording Carved Stone Decay.

If you wish to attend either or both of the days, or know anyone who is interested in learning more about graveyard management and the recording of gravestones, please contact Jacqueline Aitken at archaeology@highland.gov.uk or telephone 01408 621674 for further details and to reserve places.

HISTORY FAIR

South Ayrshire FHS are hosting a History Fair at the Walker Halls, Troon on Saturday 22nd June 2002 at 10am. The subjects for the four talks are 'Medieval Ayrshire - A Frontier Zone'; 'Ayrshire's Role in the Development of Agricultural Education'; Commerce meets the Cloisters - Melrose Abbey and its Ayrshire Lands' and 'Prehistoric Pots to Modern Mansions: Archaeology in the West Region of the National Trust of Scotland'.

DEBT, DISASTER and DECEPTION Court of Session Productions for Northern Scotland 1800 – 1840

by Rosemary Bigwood

Court of Session Productions may not sound a very interesting source of information for family historians but as in so many other instances the litigation of our ancestors has, in fact, left a wonderful legacy of detail about bygone persons and life in the past.

The Court of Session was from very early times the highest civil court in Scotland and heard cases, which were referred from other courts all over Scotland – such as the sheriff courts or commissary courts. Cases covered an enormously wide range of matters – divorce, business affairs, curatories of children, bankruptcies, disputed successions, illegitimacy, trade, administration of estates and inheritances, trade at home and overseas. The process was the collection of formal papers such as the written pleadings of all parties concerned – which might be just one page or involve the storage of a considerable number of boxes of evidence. Accessing Court of Session cases is often a very complicated affair but there is one part of the Court of Session papers that is easily accessible. This concerns the productions which formed part of the written evidence given up at the trial and were kept with the processes. In the 1860's and 1870's work was undertaken to sort out the processes and the larger productions comprising separate volumes were then taken out of the rest of the case papers and stored apart. Plans were transferred to the Register House series of records, charters were joined to an existing series of Charters and the productions so called, mainly consisting of actual bound volumes, were given a class reference CS96 and they are now kept in West Register House, Edinburgh.

In 1987, the List and Index Society published a catalogue of all these productions, mainly covering the years 1760-1840 though there are a few earlier ones. There is also a manuscript addition to the index, available on fiche, for the years 1840-1947. The List and Index Society book gives a description – often quite detailed – of the contents of each production, and there is a most useful index to the whole under names of persons, places, occupations and subject matter. Thus in the index under crops and grains, you will find references to processes which deal with almonds, apples, bamboo, chestnuts, clover seed, hay, hops, opium, juniper berries, lint and lint seed, mangel wurtzels. Under Wick, there are entries for an agent in the Commercial Banking Company, the Collector of Customs, debtors, inventory of fish curing implements, or riots. There is a section in the index for occupations and trades which include entries for nearly three hundred different occupations – bellhangers and bookbinders, artificial flower and feather makers, cowfeeders, fish-hook retailers, sugar planters, trunkmakers and mail coach contractors. The National Archives of Scotland call number is given for each production in the Index.

The value of this material for the family historian is two-fold – firstly in providing information about a particular person or family and secondly as a source of more general information about a place, occupation or in providing a picture of social conditions in the past.

A case Cuninghame v Henderson provides an interesting example of a production as a source of genealogical information. Lawyers appear to have borrowed the Register of baptisms and marriages for the parish of Inverkeithing and Rosyth covering the years 1711 – 1744 as one of the proofs produced as evidence in the case. For many years this parish register was regarded as lost and was only discovered quite recently when an index was made of the

productions. Legal demands for proof of a birth or marriage appear in various other cases. In 1768 a Hamilton man – Thomas Scouler – had to produce his family bible containing a record of marriages and births, while one page of the bible of David Campbell in Dundee and Glasgow, covering the years 1788 – 1800 was torn out and kept as evidence.

There are some cases, which concern disputes over inheritance, which may be a source of a great deal of personal information. One large production was the result of a court hearing about the right to inherit the estate of Udney in Aberdeenshire. It was a long and involved legitimacy case concerning the descent of the Udney family covering four generations and spanning the years 1760 – 1866. A detailed account is given of the lives of several generations in Scotland, London and abroad. The evidence produced included marriage and baptismal certificates, Burgess admission tickets, tickets, sasines and other proofs of titles, as well as copies of letters that give a very intimate insight into family life.

Genealogical gleanings may also be found in a number of other productions through listings of various kinds – not just relating to the landed gentry but to those whom they employed or worked on their lands. Rentals of sequestered estates or of lands held in trust may name tenants and quite often lists of employees of businesses will not only provide names but throw light on working conditions. William Henderson ran a spinning business at Dunbeath in the early years of the nineteenth century. He gave out lint to the spinners who worked at home and returned the spun yarn. Their pay was often given out in tea, sugar, linen or other goods. The production in this case is a ledger for 1804 listing the workers by name, their place of residence and a tally of their pay.

Estate accounts of the property of David Urquhart of Braelangwell which was roused in 1812, were given up in the early nineteenth century; the productions consist of farm and household day books for the years 1805 – 1812; farm journals, livestock books, grain and meal books, as well as trust accounts. The farm journals for the year 1808 name the day labourers employed on the estate and the wages which were paid.

A detailed list of persons in a different context appears in the Nominal Roll of the Fraserburgh Regiment of Militia of 1808. Nearly all the men listed were from Aberdeenshire or Banffshire, though there were a few strays. It was interesting to note that very few were over six feet tall. None were over 50 but there were several who were described as schoolboys, one as young as 12 and several between 13 and 14.

More and more people when tracing their family history have become interested in putting flesh on the bones, in filling out the background of what an ancestor did or how he lived. The productions provide a wealth of source material to illustrate such matters. Particularly in the nineteenth century, a great many people went bankrupt – ranging from small merchants to large landowners. One of the results of bankruptcy was the necessity to take an inventory of the goods of the debtor. James Grubb was a salmon fisher, fishcurer and merchant in Ross-shire. He lived at Ardoch of Pointsfield, near Cromarty and was declared bankrupt in 1817. His debts were itemised and it was clear that he owed large sums of money for the purchase of casks and vinegar needed in his business, for boat repairs including 15-foot oars, and ropes. He had also fallen behind in payments for various household provisions – sugar, tea, pepper, currants, yellow soap and candles, as well as beer and ale (costed at 5/- a gallon). He had needed to buy a new patent kitchen stove, a tin pan and had to pay a guinea for a "smoke doctor for curing the kitchen chimney." Wages to his servants had also remained unpaid. Grubb, it appears, had lived well when times were good. An account due to the draper

showed that he had spent money on flannel, blue cloth, green flannel, silk, nankeen and striped silk, as well as tartan. He was clearly ambitious for the education of his children who attended Fortrose Academy. James and George during the autumn session of 1817 had received instruction in reading, grammar, elocution and penmanship at 14/- each for the session, and both had needed private instruction at 2 guineas extra. William was instructed in English reading and orthography. Ann's educational requirements were not itemised.

Another financial failure in 1817 was the business of Donald and Peter Fraser, nursery and seedsmen in Inverness. Their garden equipment, which presumably they sold as well as used in the nursery, included scythes, hedge shears, Dutch hoes, axes, chisels, hedge bills, sickles, pruning knives, spades, rakes, 2 small garden engines (not described further), and one other garden engine. Keeping down vermin was clearly a problem then as now. They had in stock 426 mole traps, 32 wire mousetraps and 18 rat traps. They sold a range of vegetable seeds and bulbs were also popular. Another section of the inventory described the contents of the nursery garden. There were huge stocks of young trees of many kinds, both seedlings and trees of 3 and 4 years as well as many garden plants and shrubs.

Both Donald and Peter had their own accommodation and the list of furniture indicates a very comfortable standard of living. In Donald's house there was a parlour, furnished with sideboard, set of tables, round table, 8 chairs, an old piano, coal scuttle, mirror, 8 small prints, a clock, fireirons, hearth rug and carpet. The drawing room contained a round table, tea table, 12 chairs, a sofa, 6 candlesticks, tureen and 24 plates, tea urn, 3 decanters and tea crockery.

James Mackenzie had a confectioner's shop and manufactory in Inverness but went bankrupt in 1838. He employed three men and one woman. His premises consisted of three workshops and an upper cellar. In the workshops there were confectioning pans, barley sugar flags, a work table, trough and table, tin shapes, boards, scales, marble slabs, mortars and sieves. The list of contents of his workshop indicates the sort of confectionary that was popular and the flavourings used.

In analysing the trade of those who went bankrupt in the north of Scotland in the nineteenth century, the number of those involved in selling haberdashery was noticeable. In the second half of the eighteenth century, Inverness seems to have been prospering. Then at the time of the end of the Napoleonic War the kelp industry which had been the means of livelihood of many people in the west collapsed, the price of cattle had fallen disastrously, linen spinning was ceasing, the fishing was uncertain, the lot of the tenants on the land became more and more difficult.

Landlords, gentry, tenants and farmers all felt the pinch and this in turn would have affected their buying power. The case of James Fraser, merchant and haberdasher in the Green of Muirtown, Inverness is interesting. It appears that he was not just the victim of a downturn in trade. When his business first got into trouble in 1811, it was said that "from the confused state in which the Bankrupt kept his books of accounts, it was impossible for the interim factor to make up any correct list therefrom of the debts due to the estate." When the factor of his estate tried to have a meeting with him, he found that Fraser "had left this quarter of the country and occupied himself for some time in collecting his debts in the Western Islands." He told his wife he was going away and would be back in a few days but when summoned to court, Margaret Mackenzie or Fraser said that her husband had not ever returned and that she had had a letter from him from Greenock, saying he was off to America. Nothing else had

been heard from him after what was termed "his elopement." A complete inventory of his shop goods was made and revealed a fascinating list of contents - materials of all kinds (muslin, shirting, flannel, gingham, frieze) swansdown sold by the yard, stockings, gloves, hat covers, comforters, caps, buttons, staytapes, garters, umbrellas, hat stretchers and capes.

Financial problems were not only restricted to trade and manufacture; the *Inverness Journal* encountered many difficulties between 1818 and 1835 and a mass of interesting material has survived in the productions. There are advertisement books for the newspaper, letter books, ledgers, cash books and reports by the judicial factor.

Overseas trade was always hazardous and many of the productions concerned the businesses of those trading with the West Indies and other ports abroad. In some cases, logbooks of the ships have been preserved as part of the evidence of trading ventures. Logbooks may be mainly concerned with the weather (wet and windy) but sometimes they provided fascinating reading. The 'Peggies and Mary' was a brig of Campbeltown, involved in the herring fishing, coastal trading and voyages to France, Spain and Portugal, over the years 1753-1762. They encountered ferocious storms and there were many other troubles, such as difficulties in getting or selling cargoes. This was war time and not only was there the danger of the French privateers but the English press gang was on the look out for likely recruits and the sight of a man-of-war was enough to make all the crew rush ashore to hide.

It has been my experience that productions are an often-overlooked source of family and social history. I can only hope that this small selection of what is available will encourage you to consider making more use of what is a fascinating collection of documents.

At the end of the meeting Mrs Bigwood handed out the following list of entries relevant to the Highland area that she had extracted from the various indexes to the productions: -

1755-59	John Fraser, merchant, Black Isle. Trading in tobacco, salmon and herring
1760-68	John Noble, merchant, Inverness. General merchandise and skins
1765	Commissioners of Supply of Cromarty - proof of valuation of lands of Glenurquhart and others
1772-84	William Fraser, merchant and glover - account books
1784-1800	William Ross Munro of Aldie and Alexander McPherson, writer, Inverness - accounts
1788	Alexander Robertson, merchant, Fortrose - sequestration
1794-1804	Andrew Macrae and Son, lint manufacturer, Cromarty - spinning book
1796-1821	Duncan Forbes of Culloden - rental and factor's accounts
1799	Henry Andrews, merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1800-07	William Henderson, Dunbeath - spinning book
1805-1815	David Urquhart of Braelangwell - farm and household day books and farm journals
1809-14	Hugh Cobban, merchant, Inverness
1810-1813	James MacDonald, merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1811	John Purse, merchant, Dingwall (haberdashery)
1811-13	Gilbert McKenzie, merchant, Invershin
1811-13	James Fraser, merchant, Green of Muirtown by Inverness (haberdashery)
1811-29	George Mackay of Skibo: account book
1812-17	John Dallas, saddler, Golspie and Dornoch

1814 Alexander Taylor, saddler, Tain
1814-15 Donald Clark, road contractor, Gargask
1814-18 Alexander McDonald, merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1814-26 John Stewart, grocer, Inverness
1815 John Fraser, merchant, Bridgend, Inverness
1815-16 Alexander Clark, merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1815-19 John Ross, coal and wood merchant, Inverness
1815-20 Lovat Estates - rentals
1815-24 John Fraser, distiller, Ferintosh
1816-17 Alexander Fraser, baker, Inverness
1816-17 Donald and Peter Fraser, seedsmen, Inverness
1816-19 James Grubb, salmon-fisher and trader, Ardoch
1816-19 John Munro, drover and cattle dealer, Rosskeen
1816-35 Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie - rentals of Caithness estates
1817 John Ross, distiller, Balbair
1817-21 George Mackenzie of Leckmelm, fish-curer, merchant and cattle dealer
1817-21 Alexander Macrae, merchant and fish-curer, Invershiel
1817-33 John Macdonald of Morar - accounts
1818-19 John Purse, merchant, Dingwall (haberdashery)
1818-19 Adam Macrae, merchant, Cromarty – formerly Dingwall
1818-20 Maclean and Macdonnell, merchants, Inverness
1818-35 Inverness Journal - ledgers and reports
1819 Alexander Mackenzie Jr., merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1820-22 Arthur McIntosh, bookseller, Inverness
1820-22 William Robertson, merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1821-22 Alexander Fraser, manufacturer, Inverness (haberdashery)
1821-22 Landles and Calder, fish-curers and merchants, Helmsdale
1821-31 James Grant, tacksman, factor on Strathspey
1822-24 John Clark Jr., merchant, Inverness (haberdashery)
1822-28 Hugh Ross of Knockbrake – factor’s accounts
1823 William Geddes, vintner, Inverness
1823-24 John Matheson, tanner, Inverness
1823-24 Duncan Montgomery, distiller and grain dealer, Poyntsfield, Cromarty
1823-35 William Munro of Achany, cattle dealer
1824-25 Lewis Grant, bookseller, Inverness
1824-26 Duncan Chisholm, solicitor, merchant and leather dealer, Inverness
1824-28 Beaully Distillery Company
1824-32 John Mackenzie, cattle dealer and general merchant, Assynt
1825 Robert MacGillivray, upholsterer, Inverness
1825-26 Robert Tulloch, grocer and haberdasher, Campbelton
1825-26 Murdo Maclellan, mealdealer, Tullich
1827-28 James Henderson, fish-curer, Clyth
1827-29 James Harper, distiller, Clynelish, Sutherland
1827-31 Donald Forbes, merchant and cattle dealer, Melness
1827-33 William Baillie of Dunain – curator’s accounts and rentals
1829-39 James Finlayson, farmer, cattle dealer, grazier and coal merchant, Allan near Tain
1830-32 Alexander Gordon, fish-curer and trader, London – formerly Cromarty
1830-33 Colin Munro, writer, Dingwall
1830-34 Summers Hunter, glass, china and stoneware merchant, Inverness

1830-37 James Rose, distiller, Seafield, Ross-shire
1830-42 Donald McLeod of Geanies – trust letter books and accounts
1831 George Andrews, distiller, Braealangwell
1831-32 John McAndrew, solicitor, printer and publisher, Inverness
1831-32 Alexander Jack, general agent, candlemaker and merchant, Inverness
1831-34 Alexander, Duncan, Angus and Murdoch Macrae, cattle dealers, Inverness and Ross-shire
1835-40 Alexander Farquharson, inn keeper, Wick
1836-41 James Henderson, fish-curer, Clyth
1838-39 James Mackenzie, confectioner, Inverness
1838-41 Donald Smith, farmer and wool merchant, Glen Nevis
1838-40 James Ure, Maryburgh, near Dingwall

BOOK REVIEW

Population Lists of Strathnaver, Strathly and Strath Halladale 1667-1811.
Bangor-Jones, M. (Ed.), 2000. The Assynt Press.

This is a fascinating book! From start to finish, even though the lists are just names of people probably completely unknown to the reader, there is an intrigue which grips. Only 44 pages long, and in the house style of the Assynt Press (being soft-bound in A5 format), this handbook is extremely informative and leads the reader into a false sense of comfort about the ease in which the information has been gathered. Think twice! A brief glance at the front cover (an extract of one of the transcribed lists), which for all intents and purposes is completely illegible to the everyday reader, of whom I am very much one, and you can then begin to imagine the painstaking difficulty and dedication in persevering with this type of research. Give me a Tolstoy any day!

For anyone with an interest in the north coast of Sutherland, this is a work of art and compulsive fodder. For the rest of us, it gives a tremendous insight into the potential amount of information available for any given area, for those who are genuinely interested and motivated to delve beneath the surface. Who’d have thought that because of a single murder of a Caithness MacKay chief in 1649, a list of Sutherland cattle-raiding suspects as long as your arm would have even been produced, let alone survived?

Each list of north coast names is preceded by a concise introduction outlining the background to the particular list. This introduction offers the reader a glimpse into the local politics and goings-on of the times and is an invaluable accompaniment to each gallery of rogues. For those of us who are novices in this field, some of the names (including the patronymics) are truly staggering in their complexity even now, let alone all those centuries ago. How about Hutcheon McWilliam McEan McAllaster for a name, as detailed in the 1667 list of Depredations on Caithness, for example?!

With the ‘45, the names become generally much simpler. But then it is both interesting, as well as sad, to compare the list of those who volunteered (or who were volunteered?) for the Hanoverian cause against the Bonnie Prince with the list of Heritors and Parishioners (survivors of Culloden?) of just a year later.

Finally, the first Census of the United Kingdom in 1811. The inaugural Census was not a comprehensive study of the population at large, especially so in the Highlands with all of the inherent problems of the massive area and widespread population (the impending Clearances must have made subsequent enumerator's jobs a much simpler one). However, fascinating facts arise from the lists. For example, Bettyhill (a contemporary 21st Century centre of population on the north coast) had only 2 resident families in 1811, compared with the 22 families (117 people) in the long-cleared and now cleared and empty township of Grumore, now incidentally forming one of the featured locations on the recently formed and well worth visiting Strathnaver Archaeology Trail.

In summary, these lists are absolutely fascinating, even if you have no connection to the area. The book fires the imagination to a time when the population of these areas was greatly in excess of today and you can almost visualise the now empty straths just teeming with people, brought to light once again by the contents between these covers. For the arguably under-priced sum of £2, this publication has a tremendous amount of direct data, most valuable to the family historian, as well as general background information for the reader interested in North Highland traditions and history. With no direct connection to the north coast myself, I was gripped by the amount of information contained within the pages and found myself drawn to the names of the people with whom I believed I had no previous attraction. Spend £2 - you've had all the hard transcription work done for you and, even if you can't find your missing link, you will find interest, satisfaction and intrigue.

The book is available for £2.40 (including postage and packing) in the UK or £3.00 abroad from: Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones, 1 North Somerville Place, Dundee DD3 6JU.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As indicated in the previous journal it was proposed that the following amendment be made to Section 4 (i) of the constitution: -

"Subject to any direction by the Annual General Meeting, or by an Extraordinary General Meeting, the affairs of the Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee, meeting at least four times in each year, and consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, with not less than two, and not more than seven, other members. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of four of its members. The Chairman shall have his own, and one casting vote, if required, and his decision on all points of order shall be final."

This amendment allows for the appointment of a Vice-Chairman at the AGM who would deputise for the Chairman at both committee meetings and the monthly meetings of members during the winter session. Neil Murray was required to stand down as Chairman after three years in the post. The amendment was carried unanimously but unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers, the meeting was unable to appoint either a Chairman or a Vice-Chairman.

These two appointments are essential to the continued existence of the Society. For too long the same people have year after year continued to fill the same posts on the committee. We deserve a break and really do need some more volunteers to assist with the smooth running of your Society. Please think about volunteering to help even if it is only for one year.

HFHS PROJECTS

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

By John Durham

At long last we have completed the inscriptions in the Greyfriars Cemetery in Inverness and copies are now available on the Internet, from your friendly bookseller at society meetings and by post! I made a preliminary visit to Croy Churchyard and noticed that it is a mixture of old gravestones surrounding the church with a more modern section extending beyond the north wall. Now that the SAFHS Conference is over for another year we should be able to get to work on this burial ground in the near future. First of all Graham and I will divide it up into smaller areas so that volunteers can get on with transcribing the upright stones leaving the two of us to locate those under the turf. Going by our experience in other cemeteries I am sure there will be quite a few new inscriptions to be found.

As mentioned previously Jonathan McColl has input details of monumental inscriptions recorded originally by Sandy Gillies at Fodderty. These have been indexed but not yet checked. A copy of the work so far will be placed in the reference room at the library once this journal is posted out. We need volunteers (a nice job now that summer is just around the corner) who live near the burial ground to help Jonathan with the next stage.

INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

By John Durham

Since I last reported we have produced three more indexes. Anne Maciver completed Logie Easter and Donnie Maclellan finally finished his marathon work on the Parish of Rosskeen, which has close to 3,700 entries. A revised version of Killeaman was also published. In the original anyone born outside Ross-shire had the county of birth entered against his or her name, whereas those within Ross-shire had the parish listed. We intend to bring other parishes that were first indexed many years ago up to the same standard as the later series of indexes we have published in the past three years. In a result of this action it should be possible in the future to produce a county or even a Highland index on fiche or CD-ROM.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX (SNBI)

By Sandra Norton

Volunteers are required to help with the inputting of data now that the transcribing and checking phases are now complete. There have been problems coping with the complexities of the program called SHROUD used to input the data, as it is a DOS-based system. Is there a computer literate member out there who could volunteer to write an interface between SHROUD and ACCESS? If so I am sure that there will be more volunteers who would find no problem keying data into an ACCESS database that is standard with MS OFFICE2000. Please contact Sandra at the e-mail address to be found on the inside back page of the journal.

