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EDITORIAL

The most astute of the readership may remember an episode at the end of last year when the Statutory Registers for Sutherland were removed from the Area Repository in Brora to 'secure' accommodation in Thurso. Brora had been their home since compulsory civil registration of births, deaths and marriages began in Scotland in 1855 and, with the closure of the old Registrar's office in the village, the new service was to be delivered from the new Highland Council 'Service Point', a stone's throw away in the village's former and empty doctor's surgery.

Staffing levels had also been reviewed and changed. The late Jackie MacLellan, who had been Britain's oldest Registrar at the age of 97, when he died in June 1999, had been in post part-time for 67 years, and his assistant, 'young' Stewart MacLean (76), then took over the hot seat. With the Highland Council attempting to make savings in all spheres, it was decided in 2001 to make some of the 'economies of scale' at the Brora Registry Office. Mr MacLean was obviously not getting any younger and the new face of the council was to be their Service Points, places where the public could make all their complaints, pay their bills and get all the information which the council has to offer. In Brora's case, the new Service Point would also double up as the new parish Registry Office and their staff would be fully trained as Assistant Registrars, enabling them to take over the registration work of Mr MacLean.

Mr MacLean also provided a service, however, for which the new staff at the Service Point would not be trained; that of our common subject, genealogy. The remit of Mr MacLean, and Mr MacLellan before him, complementing their Registrar's duties, had been to offer professional help for people from all over the world in tracing their Sutherland family histories. Whilst not winning any awards for the amount of revenue they provided for Highland Council and the Registrar General, their service, nevertheless, was very well received by highly satisfied customers every time. Indeed, the quality and wealth of information that was provided only came through the diligence and patience of these remarkable researchers. Mr MacLean has since been given a contract to continue this service for 5 hours a week from a small room in the local library, without the use of the original Statutory Registers, but with access to fiche copies held in the adjacent new Service Point.

These changes brought an outcry at the time, mainly from abroad, and the local newspaper, the Northern Times, received their largest ever postbag on a single subject. Officials and politicians became involved, with the end result that the Registers have indeed been returned to Sutherland, but are now held in 'secure' accommodation in the Council offices in the neighbouring village of Golspie.

In these days of scrupulous public accountability and best value service, soaring outgoings and diminishing incomes, I can fully understand why the Genealogy Service has been effectively withdrawn and the Registers are no longer available in Brora. The service does not generate enough income and the secure storage required to house the Registers is too expensive, especially as the Registrar General has stated that all Registers will be removed from local repositories in 2003 and will be only available for viewing on fiche/pc under the supervision of the local Registrar. The rules for viewing the local registers are very stringent and very expensive. For example, if I wish to enquire about a relative from one of the Statutory Registers in the parish, then a search fee of £10 is payable for the first hour and then a single subsequent hour (if pressure on time permits) would cost a further £5. Searches

of the Registers are conducted by the Registrars only, and notes of the entries may be taken under their supervision. I would not be allowed to browse the entries in the Registers or on fiche at random, but must provide a specific target or targets to be researched. Photocopies of entries are charged for, over and above the search fee. Should I wish to consult Registers outwith the area covered by the local Registry Office, then I would be able to consult, via computer (see below), the General Registry Office for Scotland for the charge of £12 for 30 minutes.

What I cannot understand, and being a complete novice to this game as I have pointed out to you on more than one occasion in the past, is that if I went to New Register House in Edinburgh, I could pay my day-long, one-off fee of £17 to the Registrar General and look at any one of the myriads of entries in any of the Registers for Sutherland (or the billions for the whole of Scotland, for that matter) between 1855 and 2001 on fiche. I would be left to my own devices, unsupervised and, for the good-value entry fee, could spend the whole day there, amassing volumes of information in note form or pay extra for photocopies.

Why does this apparent anomaly exist and why is the information from the Registers not available to anyone, anywhere and (in these days of global 24-hour research) anytime. Maybe I have missed the point, but there appears to be a (revenue-generating) opportunity which the authorities have overlooked and, more to the point, an opportunity for researchers world-wide to conduct their passion conveniently and unhindered. Any views out there?

For anyone wishing to take advantage of the services which are offered, see extract below. A postal service is also available. Details from *Chief Registrar, Registration Office, Farraline Park, Inverness IV1 1NH*. E-mail: margaret.straube@highland.gov.uk

List of Services Provided by Highland Council's Ancestry Research Service

General Search

(Up to one hour) = £10.00

Up to additional hour (if available) = £5.00

Particular Search

(for a specified entry over a five year period) = £5.00

Local on-line Access (LOLA)

(Sessions of up to 30 minutes) = £12.00

This computer link to the General Register Office for Scotland (Lola) may be used independently or in conjunction with a General Search. The facility (which also includes the Divorce Register Index from 1984 onwards) allows access for searches in:-

- ⌘ All Scotland Statutory Indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages 1855 to Date
- ⌘ Old Parish Register Index 1553-1854
- ⌘ Census 1881 (Complete Household Information)
- ⌘ Census 1891 (Name, age and Parish details only)

Registration staff assist with all searches and although prior appointments are desirable it may be possible to arrange visits at short notice in certain circumstances.

In all categories the search fee applies whether or not the search is successful.

REGISTER OF CORRECTED ENTRIES - WHERE DARK SECRETS LIE

By John Durham

Have any of you have been fortunate enough to discover the initials RCE on the edge of a birth or death certificate at New Register House in Edinburgh? Such an entry indicates that there is additional information relating to the event to be found in the Register of Corrected Entries. Alongside the initials you will find a volume number and page number and it is that information that should be entered on the appropriate form and handed to the supervisor. The relevant volume will be delivered to your desk with the page number marked. In most cases you will simply find a minor correction to the original certificate, but sometimes you may be lucky and come across some very interesting additional information.

During my many years researching my family history at Edinburgh I have looked up at least twenty certificates that fell into this category, the vast majority of which relate to death entries. Some were relatively innocuous, simply correcting the date and/or time of death. Others followed further checks to confirm cause of death where there had been no medical attendant immediately prior to the death. Then there were accidental deaths, which required a post mortem to confirm the cause. Two such cases involved a fall, one of which resulted in a dislocated spine and the other, involving a coastguard, a fractured skull.

Sometimes the accident that led to the death required further investigation. One concerned a merchant seaman whose stated cause of death was a fractured skull. The additional information found in the RCE indicated that three months after the death there had been a formal inquest before a jury. The entry read as follows: -

Register of Corrected Entries: Volume 7, page 64, Feb 16th 1917.

Coroner's report 5.02.1917.

Place of death: On board ship in course of construction at West Pier, Leith

Cause of death: Falling a distance of 25 feet while at work - per verdict of jury.

Certified by Henry H. Brown, Procurator Fiscal

As my researches at times took the form of a mini one-name study of the name Durran and its variant Durrand I had to look at many death certificates to confirm which of several families the person belonged to. One of these stated that the cause of death was 'haemorrhage from wound of throat'. This could have signified an accident or perhaps suicide but, on looking up the RCE, I discovered that the cause was now described as 'homicidal wound of the throat', a clear indication of foul play. A look at the *Scotsman* for 29th and 30th November 1922 uncovered the distressing details behind this particular RCE entry.

A LEITH TRAGEDY YOUNG MARRIED WOMAN'S DEATH HUSBAND IN HOSPITAL

A tragic affair, involving the death of a married woman and serious injury to her husband, occurred in Sandport Street, Leith, yesterday afternoon. The woman, whose throat had been slashed, apparently with a razor, was named Mary Durrand or Bain, and the husband, who was also injured about the throat, as Alexander Bain, a marine fireman, employed on a Leith steamer.

It appears that shortly after four o'clock yesterday afternoon, a scream was heard in Sandport Street, and immediately afterwards Mrs Bain came staggering out of the entry at No. 42, where her mother resides. There was a gash in her throat, and she was bleeding profusely. For a short distance she staggered along the street, and then collapsed. The police were quickly on the scene and had the woman conveyed to Leith Hospital in an ambulance van, but on arrival at the institution she was found to be dead.

Later, the husband, Alexander Bain, was found with his throat cut in the house of his mother-in-law, of which at the time the only other occupant was a child. The man, who was in a critical condition, was removed to Leith Hospital.

Last night a woman residing in Sandport Street, who is an old acquaintance of the deceased woman, stated in an interview that she met Mrs Bain yesterday afternoon. Mrs Bain said she was going to meet her little boy, Tommy, who was coming from school, but she missed him, and she decided to go to her mother's house in Sandport Street to see if he was there.

From Mrs Graham's account of what subsequently happened, it appears that, on arriving in Sandport Street, Mrs Bain called out, asking if her boy was there. Her mother replied that he was not, and Mrs Bain then went into the entry.

Mrs Graham, who stood waiting for her in the street, shortly afterwards heard a scream and then a young woman ran towards her saying "The woman you know has her throat cut." She ran forward, and Mrs Bain, who had staggered a short distance from the entry, collapsed in her arms. A crowd soon collected. While the police were being summoned, the injured woman was laid on the ground. The police shortly afterwards arrived, and she was taken to the Hospital. Apparently Mrs Bain had had an adopted child - a little girl - in her arms at the time, for the little girl's clothing was covered with blood.

During the last week or two Mrs Bain had been residing with Mrs Paul at 83 Kirkgate, Leith. Interviewed last night, Mrs Paul said that Mrs Bain, who had also resided there in the summer, was living apart from her husband, but recently, when he was in hospital for ten days, Mrs Bain visited him. She was about 28 years of age and Bain is stated to be 29. During the war he served with the mine-sweepers. They were married seven years ago.

The next day, the following additional information appeared.

THE LEITH TRAGEDY DEATH OF THE HUSBAND

Alexander Bain, a marine fireman, husband of the woman, Mary Durrand or Bain, who died on Tuesday afternoon under tragic and dramatic circumstances in Leith, her throat having been cut by a razor in circumstances not fully disclosed, died yesterday morning in Leith Hospital, to which he had been removed suffering from similar injuries.

It has transpired that shortly before the woman's death Bain entered a barber's shop in Leith and asked for a razor. A razor was given to him, it is stated, and he immediately left the shop. As Bain was known to the shopkeeper, he was allowed to take the razor away without payment. It was shortly after this that Bain's wife ran on to the street and collapsed and that he himself was found with his throat cut in the house of his mother-in-law.

As already stated, Mrs Bain had gone to meet her boy Tommy on his way back from school. She missed him and proceeded to her mother's house in Sandport Street to inquire if he was there. On arriving at Sandport Street along with a woman friend she called out to ask her mother if the boy was there, and her mother replied from the window of the house that he was not. Mrs Bain then went into an entry, or, according to the story investigated by the police, was accosted by her husband and dragged into the entry. When the wound from which she shortly afterwards died was inflicted, Mrs Bain appeared to have been carrying a little girl, an adopted child, in her arms, the child's clothing being covered with blood.

Bain's movements prior to the tragedy have been investigated by the police, who stated that he was residing with his sister-in-law at 45 Sandport Street. He stated that he was going out to get his parish unemployment relief money. About four o'clock in the afternoon the police state, the couple were seen quarrelling in Sandport Street, and Bain eventually left his wife, who had charge of the little girl already referred to. After obtaining the razor he crossed over to where his wife was, pulled her into the entry, where apparently he made the fatal attack, and thereafter rushed to his mother-in-law's house.

A tragic event like that would have been relatively rare at that time and hopefully most family historians are not often confronted with such gruesome details in their researches. In complete contrast the information found in the RCE in connection with one birth certificate I looked up had a much more amusing outcome. The reason I decided to look up this particular birth was that there appeared to be some confusion over the children born to David Nicolson and Elizabeth Bain, who had married 3rd February 1860 in Wick. According to the IGI they had the following children William, b. 1860; Margaret, b. 1862; Elizabeth, b. 1865; David, b. 1867; Jane, b. 1870 and Alexander, b. 1873.

When I looked up the family in the 1871 census there was a discrepancy. William, Elizabeth, David and Jane were all there but in place of Margaret was a Magnus, aged 8, and the same age as she would have been. I thought that perhaps there had been twins born in 1862 and Margaret had died and Magnus had been omitted from the IGI, a not unusual occurrence. When I scrutinised the birth certificate for Magnus I found the RCE notation at the side and ordered the volume. On reading it the mystery was solved, as this is what was recorded: -

Register of Corrected Entries - Volume 1, page 15.

David Nicolson presented a Deposition dated 27th January 1870 to the effect that the child born on 9th October 1862, whose birth he had recorded on the 14th October 1862 as being a female named Margaret, was in fact a son and should have been named Magnus.

We are left to surmise why he made the mistake originally. An incident that my father, a general practitioner, related to me several years ago might suggest a possible solution. A female patient of his came to the surgery and somewhat embarrassed asked my father to confirm that she was a female. She had recently reached the age of 60 and on applying for her old age pension was told that she would have to wait until she was 65 as her birth certificate said she was a male called Thomas and not a female called Thomasina. It turned out that her father was a fisherman on an island whose home was at one end of the island and the Registrar's office was at the other end. He probably called in at several houses on the way informing his friends of the happy event and 'wetting the baby's head' at each one. By the time he got to the Registrar he wasn't in a fit state to remember if the child was a girl or boy and plumped for the wrong sex. Perhaps David Nicolson had the same problem. Who knows the real reason, but discoveries like this make family history research so much fun.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

By Sue Thomson

At the beginning of last year, we received a request from Iain Sutherland, now based in Yorkshire but born and bred in Lockerbie. He had just become a member of the Highland Family History Society and noticed a mention of Kilmorack Heritage, "That's next door to Kiltarity" he says, "Maybe they can help."

A visit was arranged and we met up. He didn't have a lot to go on, just notes and jottings from his mother Margaret Jane Sutherland nee Robertson. What he did know was that his grandfather Kenneth was born at Achnacloch in 1887. I don't normally meddle in Kiltarity but Achnacloch interested me as I had just met the present owner. Little did I know that between us Iain and I we would wander metaphorically up and down both sides of the glen for quite some time. By this time Iain was addicted to family research. The e-mails flowed to and fro with increasing rapidity. Every bit of information he found, I received a copy of it.

I was now up to my eyes in Scotts, Chisholms, Frasers, MacLennans and Robertsons, although I wasn't doing a lot for Iain at this stage, just answering the odd question, I kept the information at the back of my mind.

Kenneth Robertson, born 1887, was the son of Hugh Robertson and Margaret MacLennan who married at Eskdale in 1884. Hugh was the illegitimate son of Isabella Chisholm (sister of Aeneas Chisholm?) and William Robertson, late factor for the Chisholm. William was the son of Donald, who had been factor for 40 years.

Margaret MacLennan was the daughter of Kenneth MacLennan and Christian Scott who married in 1856. Kenneth was the son of Kenneth and Rebekah MacLennan. To date Iain has found a son of Margaret who emigrated to Australia on the *Jumna* in 1890 and another son Hugh who was a 'soldier at Fort George'.

He is wondering who was the wife of Donald Robertson factor. On the census of 1851 for Kilmorack he was described as a widower having the following children William 1825, Allan 1835, Christina 1836. Yet on his death certificate it states he was single.

I digress. In June this year I was asked for help from a Sheila Sinclair of Herfordshire, who said she was coming up on holiday, and she sent me a letter giving me her details to mull over. As the saying goes 'I couldn't believe it'. The first thing that caught my eye was a date the 13th August, my birthday, second that her father died when she was 3, my mother died when I was 2, two good omens and then Hugh Robertson, Achnacloch was her great grandfather. Well I was on to Iain and said I have found a cousin of yours. When I phoned Sheila she said, "I have only just joined the HFHS and I can't believe my luck." Her husband was amazed and said, "You mean you have found a live one?"

After being taken out for a lovely meal by Sheila and David, we came home for a coffee and Sheila was showing me her various certificates etc. Well, I was off the settee, tripping over

David's legs, my cat, the dog and arriving at the filing cabinet, I took out the file belonging to a good friend in Inverness and found I was right. They both shared the same family. In 1867 a Donald Scott, husband of Ann MacLeod, died. He was the father of Christian, who married Kenneth MacLennan and also father to Donald, who married Catherine Munro. Their great granddaughter is my friend Cath.

It is very unusual to find not one, but two living relations, who are both interested in their family histories. This happy circumstance makes this hobby of mine so worthwhile, as they are three lively people. It turns out that many years ago a will had been made out by Kenneth MacLennan leaving a sum of money to six people, one being Iain's grandfather (which passed to his mother) and another Sheila's granny. They had been searching for each other and the other one's descendants for some time, but thanks to the HFHS Journal they had at last made that vital connection.

As an addendum to the above Iain Sutherland and Sheila Sinclair would be very interested in any information about the following people: -

1. Alexander Scott Robertson "a natural Bone Setter" who lived in the Kiltarity or possibly Kilmorack area and was a relative of our Robertson Ancestors.
2. Hugh MacDonald who married Betty Campbell in Caplaich? Dingwall on the 21st. of October 1903. He was a Soldier at Fort George for many years.
3. What happened to William Robertson "Factor for the Chisholm"? He seems to have taken over from Donald his Father but apart from the fact that he donated money to the 1855 Crimea War Fund (from *Kilmorack Heritage Straths and Glens*) and according to son Hugh's Wedding certificate in 1871 was a "Late Factor" we can find no trace. There are some possible Williams but no definite link. Any help would be much appreciated.

The latest publication of the Kilmorack Heritage Association is the book called *The Braes*, Parish of Kilmorack, details of which will be found in the piece on additions to the society's library printed elsewhere in this journal. It is available at a price of £25.95 plus p&p.

As if that wasn't enough for them to have been involved in Sue and John Thomson have e-mailed to inform us that they have nearly finished the burials grounds in Kiltarity and hope to have a book in print by the end of the year. They will then start on Kirkhill (Wardlaw and Old Burchrew), Gilchrist and Urray (Old and New). The amount of work this group has done in such a short time is quite superb and hopefully others may be stimulated by what they have achieved to try to emulate them.

HFHS PROJECTS – CURRENT STATUS

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

By John Durham

More good news to report on this project as the work on Croy Churchyard has recently been completed and the results have been published this week. Whenever anyone comes into the churchyard while we are doing our best to record the less legible inscriptions, they invariably ask the same question, "Which is the oldest stone here?" To put reader's mind at rest the answer in this particular churchyard is 1648 and unusually the stone is almost completely exposed to the elements. This has had the effect of causing part of the top skin of the stone to flake off, ironically where the 6 and 4 of the date appears. Fortunately there are faint lines visible which indicate that the 6 and 4 were the digits carved originally.

When we did our first survey of this churchyard we thought that there could be about 100 stones under the turf. There were large gaps between stones and the ground underfoot appeared to be firm, normally an fair indication that there is something underneath. As it happened we only located a total of forty-four such stones of which twenty had no inscription on them. Of the twenty-four which did have inscriptions, mainly initials only, there were three in the 1600s, the oldest being 1658.

Three stones were very badly damaged and as the years of death were post-1854, I once again used the services of Margaret Mackay to check the copy death certificates at New Register House to allow us to try to reconstruct the original inscriptions. The following is a good example with the information highlighted in bold coming from the death certificates.

{Ornate, broken in several pieces and very badly eroded} [In me]mory of [Don]ald FRASER, late farmer, Gleb[e, Croy], who died 2[⁴] August 1883, aged 6[7] years; also of his be[loved wife] Christina Mc[GREGOR], who died 30th Novembe[r] 1881, aged 76 years; also of their son Charles, who died 3rd August 1883, aged 44 years; also of their daughter Elspet, who died 4th May 1856, aged 11 years.

Interestingly Margaret discovered that Christina McGregor had actually died on the 29th November 1881, and not the 30th as carved on the stone. On another stone that one of our Canadian members, Laurel Lahay, e-mailed me about, contained an even more inaccurate date. This stone is of her ancestral family by the name of Beaton and she had seen a transcription in a book and asked me to check it out for her. She thought that the date of death for Sarah Beaton was wrong by 10 years. When we checked the stone at Croy we confirmed that the inscription in the book agreed with that on the stone, viz: -

{Pointed, pink granite} B. In memory of Allan BEATON, who died 22nd September 1906; and his beloved wife Elizabeth McKILLICAN, who died 10th March 1871; also their children – Sarah, who died 10th March 1891; Johnann, who died May 1923; Jessie, who died 27th March 1946; Simon, who died 25th October 1950. "*Until the day dawn*".

A check at New Register House on the copy of Sarah's death certificate showed that she had in fact died on 23rd March 1881! So be warned, not all that you see carved on memorial stones

is necessarily correct. On a similar theme, not all you read in publications of monumental inscriptions (Highland FHS excepted) is accurate either. Our experience with Croy and particularly with Petty has shown that the volume entitled *Inverness District East – Monumental Inscriptions pre-1855* published by the Scottish Genealogy Society is particularly poor in this respect.

We have now transcribed memorial inscriptions in four burial grounds that are covered by the SGS publication, Old High and Greyfriars in Inverness as well as Petty and Croy. In the case of the latter two churchyards we have uncovered some alarming statistics. In Croy there are 168 pre-1855 inscriptions. Of these SGS identified and accurately recorded 75 of them producing an error rate of 55.4%. In the Old Churchyard at Petty there are 231 pre-1855 inscriptions and SGS only correctly transcribed 59 of them, giving an unbelievable error rate of 74.5%. I find the fact that a book with that level of inaccuracy was not only printed in the first place but is still being reprinted without comment beggars belief. In the meantime our Society will continue to produce publications in which family historians can find memorial transcriptions that will be as close to 100% accurate as we can possibly make it.

Having got that off my chest I have more good news for you. Our secretary, Angus Bethune, has been busy this summer recording in full the inscriptions on visible memorials in both Daviot and Gollanfield. He also started on Dores but was defeated temporarily by a plague of midges he encountered there one evening. As you can see from his article in this journal, Jonathan McColl is back at work in St Clements Churchyard in Dingwall. We only have one copy of the original publication of 1993 still available for sale. It was not printed locally and unfortunately the original pages from which it was produced have gone missing. Jonathan scanned in pages from a copy and then he had to edit some of them. He decided to revisit the churchyard both to check the original inscriptions and hopefully to find some more inscriptions (possibly under the turf) before submitting the results for publication.

A lucky encounter in the burial ground at Kilmuir on the Isle of Skye will hopefully lead to the memorial inscriptions there being transcribed and then published. When the society published the MIs for Kilmuir on the Black Isle there were at least three requests from people who thought that we had done the burial ground with the same name on Skye. We have always hoped that some of our members who live in areas remote from the main centres of Inverness and Dingwall would be prepared to do some transcription in burial grounds close to where they live. The person I spoke to on Skye was a member of the Kilmuir Community Council and they had been involved in improving access to the burial ground. Tourists visit it regularly as it is the location for the memorial to Flora Macdonald. When I tentatively asked if they would be interested in transcribing the MIs in Kilmuir for us I got a very positive response. It was agreed that I would send details of how we would like the transcriptions done and it would be discussed at the next meeting of their association. Watch this space!

INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

By John Durham

Not much progress on this project during the last quarter but this was expected as it covered the summer months. However I bumped into Donnie Macleaman in the library this week and he says he is slowly working his way through Kilmuir Easter. Once his grandchildren get back

to school he hopes to have more time available to continue the project. Margaret and Billy Mackay have made a start on Assynt and once the autumn comes they will have more time to get on with it. The last year saw the publication of seven 1851-census indexes and perhaps we can equal or improve that over the next year.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX (SNBI)

By Sandra Norton

I have had several e-mails and letters from new members who are confused between the Society's work on transcribing monumental inscriptions (MIs) in various locations and the work in progress on the Scottish National Burial Index (SNBI).

The purpose of the SNBI, in our Society's remit, is to record any death or burial entries pre-1855 held in the Old Parish Registers (OPRs) for the Highland area and to prepare them for publication. The counties we cover are Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness-shire, Nairn and Argyll. There are, unfortunately, relatively few parishes in each county with death or burial records.

Nairn, for example, has a burial record for just one parish, Auldearn, with entries dating from 1721-1854. Incidentally, this particular burial record gives name, burial date, abode, age and cause of death for an individual. Some parishes give even more information, while others note only names and death or burial dates.

Details of the parishes with the above registers are noted in the February 2000 Journal. The only alteration is for Caithness to which I can add the parishes of Bower, Dunnet and Reay. Thurso Parish death entries for 1671 had to be omitted from the SNBI due to illegibility. I can let any member know if a particular Highland parish register has a death or burial register. My address and e-mail are to be found at the back of this Journal.

Thanks to the many Society volunteers for the project some of the OPR death/burial entries are now in the process of being finalised. As each entry has had to be transcribed from the original register, checked twice then added to a database this has been a slow and laborious process. Old handwritten accounts, often damaged and almost illegible, have been interpreted, while place names have been checked from old maps where possible.

Thanks are due to those Society members who patiently transcribed these original entries. They are Ross Barker, Joyce Black, Kay Bone, Joan Clyne, Ann Cameron, Lillah Dowsett, Beryl Durham, Elsie Fraser, Iain Fraser, Olwen Jones, Wayne McKenzie, Donald McDonald, Donald McLennan, John McDonald, Margaret Mackay, Anne Maciver, Peter and Helen Milne, Patricia McDermott, Jane Patience, Margaret Shand and Marjorie Walker.

I shall shortly be contacting every database inputter who still holds SNBI work. I do appreciate your efforts and also those of Will Morrison (database co-ordinator) and Rosemary Shaw (checker). No more volunteers are needed at the moment, as I'm busy with the second and final check of the registers at present.

HFHS STRAYS INDEX

By Alan Ross

Thanks yet again to Donnie and Fiona for their continued contributions to the database. Where would I be without them?

This time I have highlighted the birth parish of INVERNESS. As the number of entries are too many for one issue, I have only listed the first one hundred names. The others will appear in subsequent issues. To give some variety, the surnames of DUNCAN, GORDON and MURRAY have also been highlighted in this issue.

| Surname | Forename | Chr | Birth Parish | Age | Event | Date | Source |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|------|-------------|------|---|
| ALLISON | Kenneth | INV | Inverness | 1926 | Death | | MI / Forest Lawn / N York / ONT / Can |
| ARCHER | Sarah | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 63 Census | 1851 | Census / Perth / PER |
| BAILIE | Ann | INV | Inverness | 1847 | 35 Death | | PR / Avon? |
| BAILIE | Capt. A. P | INV | Inverness | 1917 | 79 Death | | PR / Avon? |
| BAILIE | Frederick | INV | Inverness | 1865 | 65 Death | | PR / Avon? |
| BAIN | Kenneth | INV | Inverness | 1871 | 20 Census | 1871 | Census / Illogan / CON |
| BAYNE | John | INV | Inverness | 1826 | 93 Death | | News Obit / York / ONT / Can |
| BETHUNE | Jane | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 16 Census | 1851 | Census / Knockbain / ROC |
| BETHUNE | David | INV | Inverness | 1913 | Death | | MI / Daughter / Toowood / QLD / Aus |
| BLACK | Elizabeth | INV | Inverness | 1881 | 40 Census | 1881 | Census / St. Martins / WES |
| BLAIR | Arthur David | INV | Inverness | 1905 | Birth | | Times Colonist / Victoria / BC / CAN |
| BLAIR | Arthur David | INV | Inverness | 1997 | 92 Death | | Times Colonist / Victoria / BC / CAN |
| BROOKS | John | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 47 Census | 1851 | Census / Stirling / STI |
| BROOKS | Sarah | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 35 Census | 1851 | Census / Stirling / STI |
| BURT | Katherine* | INV | Inverness | 1829 | 30 Death | | News Obit / Quebec / Can |
| CAMERON | Alexander | INV | Inverness | 1855 | 43 Emigrant | | Ship Record / QLD / Aus |
| CAMERON | Alexander | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 21 Census | 1851 | Census / Knockbain / ROC |
| CAMERON | Catherine* | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 56 Census | 1851 | Census / Knockbain / ROC |
| CAMERON | Jannet | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 51 Census | 1851 | Census / Duff / PER |
| CAMERON | Christy | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 21 Census | 1851 | Census / Knockbain / ROC |
| CAMERON | Thomas | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 26 Census | 1851 | Census / Conlin / ROC |
| CAMERON | Duncan | INV | Inverness | 1871 | 20 Census | 1871 | Census / Illogan / CON |
| CAMERON | Mary | INV | Inverness | 1881 | 28 Census | 1881 | Census / Kiltarity / INV |
| CAMERON | Mary | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 23 Census | 1851 | Census / Knockbain / ROC |
| CAMERON | Robert | INV | Inverness | 1925 | 31 Marriage | | PR / Perth / W / Aus |
| CAMERON | Alexander M. | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 19 Census | 1851 | Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN |
| CAMPBELL | Alexander W. | INV | Inverness | 1835 | 74 Death | | MI / Toowong / Brisbane / QLD / Aus |
| CAMPBELL | Donald | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 18 Census | 1851 | Census / Perth / PER |
| CAMPBELL | Alexander | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 23 Census | 1851 | Census / Forres / MOR |
| CAMPBELL | Eliza | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 28 Census | 1851 | Census / Roskeen / ROC |
| CARGILL | Donald | INV | Inverness | 1824 | Apprentice | | Apprenticeship / Tyne & Wear |
| CARRUTHERS R.W. | William | INV | Inverness | 1913 | 53 Death | | News Obit / Kelowna / BC / Can |
| CARRUTHERS William Ross | William | INV | Inverness | 1932 | 84 Death | | Early NZ Engineers by F.W. Furkert |
| CHALMERS ? | ? | INV | Inverness | 1997 | 99 Death | | Stroud / GLS - Times Colonist / Victoria / BC / CAN |
| CHISHOLM | Mary | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 35 Census | 1851 | Census / Perth / PER |
| CHISHOLM | Isabella | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 18 Census | 1851 | Census / Duffus / MOR |
| CHISHOLM | Isabella | INV | Inverness | 1814 | 33 Death | | PR / Clifton / Bristol / GLS |
| CHISHOLM | William | INV | Inverness | 1881 | 47 Census | 1881 | Census / Kiltarity / INV |
| CHISHOLM | Lachlan | INV | Inverness | 1891 | Death | | News Obit / Brisbane / QLD / Aus |
| CLARK | Dr. Daniel | INV | Inverness | 1912 | Death | | MI / Forest Lawn / N York / ONT / Can |
| CLARK | John | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 11 Census | 1851 | Census / Cawdor / NAI |
| CLAYTON | George | INV | Inverness | 1990 | 55 Death | | News Obit / Winnipeg / Can |
| CLUNAS | Betsy | INV | Inverness | 1851 | 54 Census | 1851 | Census / Conlin / ROC |
| COOK | James | INV | Inverness | 1871 | 27 Census | 1871 | Census / St. Andrew & St. Leonard / FIF |

