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**CONTENTS**

1 Editorial .....  
 2 Some Comments on the Editorials .....  
 3 Bits & Pieces .....  
 4 Elusive and Eccentric Emigrants .....  
 9 More Bits & Pieces .....  
 10 HFHS Projects .....  
 12 Strays Index .....  
 14 GENyair's Future is Secure .....  
 15 Income and Expenditure Account 2001-2002 .....  
 16 A Farm Family in Ross & Cromarty 1820-1846 .....  
 19 Even More Bits & Pieces .....  
 20 The IGI is only an Index .....  
 22 Members' Research Interests .....  
 23 Members on the Internet .....  
 24 Queries (993-998) .....  
 25 Responses to Previous Queries .....

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**EDITORIAL**

Well! I think I struck a bit of a chord with many of the members, both still in gainful employment and even those who have retired. I was absolutely delighted with the feedback I received from many of you who appeared to empathise with my desire for a quick route to retirement enabling time to be spent on 'real' interests!

Oddly enough, since the publication of the last journal, a new law has been passed, courtesy of the oft-maligned European Parliament, offering employees the chance to set permanent changes to their working pattern, and I immediately jumped at the chance. First thing the following day, I submitted my completed application form to my manager. No time-wasting there then! I have proposed to my employers (Highland Council) that I work the full working 35 hour week that I am currently contracted to work, but condense these into 4 days, allowing me the luxury of the oft-dreamed three-day weekend. Potentially, no more Monday blues! Watch this space for progress, of what I think will be a bit of a landmark test case within the Council.

Hot on the heels of the last editorial, I thought I might touch on something that has probably affected us all at one stage or another, or certainly will in the future. I am talking about the death of a parent. I apologise if this is a sensitive subject, but unless our card is marked first, then there is nothing surer than it *will* happen. It has not happened to me yet, fortunately, but many's the time it has pre-occupied my thoughts, at the expense of all the trivial little ones that ping around the inside of my brain cavity.

I said that it affects us all. It does, but it affects us genealogists perhaps more than most. How often have you heard 'if only I'd asked my mother about Great Uncle Hector, before she died'? I imagine that it is this breaking the link with the past that can possibly trouble us *ad infinitum* following one of life's most distressing events. Parents are often the first port of call when beginning family history research. After all, who better to tell of our ancestors than a direct ancestor themselves - a living link with the past, crammed with more earthy snippets of information than is likely you would ever know yourself? What's more, they are often incredibly keen to pass on the family folklore to anyone who shows the slightest smidgeon of interest about Great Aunt Fanny and her illicit romp with a GI during the War resulting in.....perhaps I have gone too far!

Seriously, it is the flesh that you can put onto the bones, including the skeletons (may as well go the whole anatomical hog now) in the closets that makes the whole business of genealogy much more interesting than checking to see if you are the long lost successor to the throne of Greater Orcadia or heir apparent to the Carnegie steel fortune - or maybe not! Without these first hand or however many-handed stories which have passed down the family line along with the hereditary genetic squint or long nose or premature baldness (my trait), about all the stories of yore, the stepped, spiny family tree of purely names and dates is a bit mundane. I like some flesh, and spicy too!

Personally, I was lucky. But that's another story! No, seriously, I incessantly quizzed my paternal grand-mother to distraction, before she died (no connection!) in 1983, as well as paternal great-uncles who also departed this life in the Eighties. I amassed quite a bit of information and this was put to bed, until, strangely enough, my father began to dabble with 'the passion' several years following his retirement. The unusual situation of him interrogating me became a new hobby for both of us, and he began ferreting away with

distant cousins in Australia and Canada for any more priceless pieces of the jig-saw, it being too late to retrieve information from his deceased parents. Now he has all of this extra information, he is able to pass it on to me, so I am in the fortunate position of being able to glean second-hand information from him.

On my maternal side, my mother retains a lot of information in her head, little things probably, about people, places, events, which have been handed down the generations like pairs of trousers and old woolly jumpers! She has religiously tried to put names, places and dates to the many photos which came her way following the death of her older sister in the Nineties, after that of her mother in 1972. This is a great lesson to learn, as old photographs can be meaningless without this kind of data. But again, I find myself guilty of trying to teach my long since departed granny to suck metaphorical eggs! You don't need this kind of lecture, I'm sure.

As for the death of a parent, it's not something I want to really think about. Even though I live 500+ miles away from them, I would really miss them not being there, for a whole host of reasons, but including the only direct link I have with my ancestry. Besides, who else will take such an involved interest in these editorials?

### SOME COMMENTS ON THE EDITORIALS

We have had some welcome feedback from members as a result of the previous editorial. Dr Alan Beaton e-mailed to say -

I imagine that editing the HFHS journal is something of a thankless task - but I have appreciated your editorials; the last one especially "resonated" (ugly, fashionable term!) with me. (Struck a cord might be better. Now there's a question I have never thought about before. Is one striking a musical chord or a twine-like cord?) In comparison with other journals (even newspapers these days) it is also a relief to find someone who knows how to punctuate properly. So - keep up the good work; at least one reader appreciates you!

At least one more reader appreciates what Nick is doing, and I am sure that there are many more. In this case it is a former editor, Duncan Ross, who adds his 'halfpenny worth'.

Came home the other night and read your latest HFHS Journal, and just wanted to say how much I enjoyed - and identified 100% with - your Editorial. Been there. Done that. Sadly the T-shirt doesn't come in my size, however. As you know, I filled that space for the first few years of the Society's existence and many's the long night hour I spent at my portable typewriter, Tipes in hand, trying to put the whole damn thing together after a hard week's work. I was no stranger to the dawn in those days. It seems like another life. But I enjoyed it. Honest!

When it came to the Editorial, I'd often think 'nobody reads this bit anyway', but it was heartening to hear from overseas members, in particular, who said how much they looked forward to getting the Journal and reading the whole thing from cover to cover (including the Editorial!). I'm sure they still do. That kind of feedback made it all worthwhile. Many's the time I used to think 'most of our members are retired and must have more time to do this than I have.' But of course it's not like that when you're 'on the committee'! If you want something done, as they say, ask a busy man. Fact is, the

Journal in my time got so far behind it became a big embarrassment to all concerned. At least you got February's issue out in February. I may be one of the few HFHS members (apart from the committee) who fully appreciates what an achievement that is in itself.

And what you say about retirement and pensions is absolutely spot on. What ever did happen to the leisure society? I remember that prediction too. The big problem for the UK was going to be how we'd manage to fill the extra, well-paid, leisure hours than new technology (and increased efficiency, less bureaucracy, and better management, of course) were going to bring to us all. Ho hum.

### BITS & PIECES

Members are still continuing to send it comments on points raised in previous articles and also contributing new ideas. Please keep them coming in as they are very helpful to the sub-editor in filling in the gaps after articles etc. If your contribution doesn't appear this time, it will only be because we have run out of space.

### Reciprocal Research

I was wondering if any local members had Australian ties and would be interested in doing a research exchange. That is, we agree on a set number of hours and do research in kind on each other's family tree. I live in Brisbane CBD and within walking distance of State Reference Library <http://www.srlq.qld.gov.au/> as well as the John Oxley Library (specialises in Queensland History). I am also trained in Library Science.

My own interests lie in parishes of South Knapdale, Lismore, Ardchattan and Kilmornell, which are all within the county of Argyll. I would be interested in look-ups in that material that I cannot access via the city's genealogical society and libraries. .

If there is any interest, members may contact me via mail or email: Mrs. Sharon Hawkins, Apartment 1403, 363 Turbot Street, Spring Hill, Brisbane 4000, Queensland, Australia or <sharonhawkins@ozemail.com.au>

### Kilmorack Heritage Association

Yet more books of monumental inscriptions are available from Chez Thomson. In the Parish of Kiltarity the burial grounds covered are Tommacross, Old Kiltarity, Eskdale St Mary's, Glen Convinth, Clachan Comar, Erchtless Chisholm's, Corrimony and Belladrum. The cost is £16.99 plus p&p. The publication for the Parish of Kirkhill MI's includes Wardlaw Old, Wardlaw New and Kirkton of Bunchrew. The cost is £11.95 plus p&p.

Sue says that this Summer they intend to tackle the Parish of Urray with the burial grounds of Urray Old, Urray New and Gilchrist.

Anyone wishing to purchase either of the above publications should contact Sue Thomson, North Lodge, Beaufort, Beauly, Inverness-shire. (01463 783168) E-mail <john@northlodge.freeserve.co.uk>

## ELUSIVE and ECCENTRIC EMIGRANTS

By Dr Jenny Fyfe  
(talk given to the society on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2003)

Let me explain my title first. You asked me for something on emigration, but I didn't want just to repeat what I had already done on that subject, the story of Cromarty's emigrants and emigrant ships. I didn't know exactly what direction I would take, but you needed a title so I tried to think of one that would give me a little leeway. While I was mulling this over in my mind, a few chance, unconnected occurrences led me in the direction of the title I have chosen, *Elusive and eccentric emigrants*.

First of all, a cache of papers on church affairs was discovered in Cromarty manse and given to the Courthouse Museum. I was one of a group who sorted and catalogued these papers. In the course of this work, I came across a peculiar letter from Canada referring to a supposed emigrant from Cromarty and her family. The details were clearly not true and the story was somewhat bizarre. I will tell you more about this document later, but for now I'll just note that the word "elusive" came to mind while I was thinking about the lady's story.

At the same time I realized that this find exemplified an aspect of historical research that is quite common, and quite important, that useful material may often be found among sources that would not seem to be directly relevant to the topic being researched.

In the evening of the same day that I discovered this letter, I was logged on to a Canadian website and found, quite by accident, that I myself could be considered an elusive emigrant. I imagined a descendant of mind, a hundred years in the future, researching his family history and coming upon this document. Assuming that he knew little about me except my name, he would perhaps see this document as a source of leads that he might follow. He would learn that I had been an emigrant. This was true, but the article would have given him the impression that I was still resident in Canada in 2001. I left in 1993. It named, correctly, the University from which I acquired my doctorate, but gave a date which was ten years out and an incorrect thesis topic. It said that I had then embarked on an academic career at the University of Western Ontario – true, except for the fact that I had already been employed by that institution for many years.

This incident confirmed me in my belief that my title should contain the word, "elusive". It also illustrated another common aspect of historical research, that information should never be taken at face value. Wherever possible, it should be confirmed from other, independent, sources. What used to be called the techniques of internal and external criticism should always be applied, and especially to material found on the internet. Researchers are often warned to make sure that material from the internet comes from reputable sources, such as a government or university. But this source did actually come from a university, though to be fair it was not an official university document but merely an article in an alumni newsletter. Nevertheless, it could well have misled my putative descendant.

Incidentally, this document drew to my attention a fact which is quite obvious but which I had paid too little attention to in my previous work on Cromarty's emigrants. Emigrants do, quite frequently, return to their countries of origin, and if they are elusive emigrants they may become even more elusive at the point of return.

These two occurrences gave me the first word of my title, "elusive". I added the "eccentric" bit really just for the alliteration but also as a precaution. If I couldn't find enough information about elusive emigrants, I could always fall back on stories about eccentrics.

After that rather lengthy introduction, we come to the actual substance of my talk. I decided that the best way to approach the topic would be to consider some of the reasons why emigrants might be elusive and illustrate by particular examples. If the examples also illustrated eccentricity as well, so much the better.

The reasons fall mainly into two groups, those relating to attributes of the person concerned and those relating to qualities of the sources used. Perhaps there should also be a third group – those relating to inadequacies in the researcher, but since in this case the researcher is myself I don't want to make these inadequacies too blindingly obvious. I will point them out when necessary but I won't give them banner headlines.

In the first group – attributes of the emigrants -- a desire to deceive is clearly going to be a major cause of elusiveness. This is well illustrated by the case of the lady referred to in the church document. This document is a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1894, from H. S. Dunlavy of St John, New Brunswick, apparently a lawyer, to the minister in charge, parish of Cromarty, Scotland, who at that date would have been Rev. Walter Scott.

A number of years ago (it must be at least 65 or 70) a Daughter of Lady McCretchy of Cromarty Castle married (against her parents wishes) a fisherman named ROSS of your Town, and as a result of same two children were born to them, a boy (ALEXANDER) and a girl (BARBARA). The girl married a man named Fraser, and a number of years afterwards the family emigrated to Nova Scotia (Canada) landing there in the year 1858. I have a letter written by the Minister of the Church at which Mrs Fraser attended at Cromarty, and which was evidently written shortly after her arrival here. It is dated Cromarty 18 November 1858 and signed by W.R.MUNRO, so that if you will look up the Church in which W.R.Munro was Minister in 1858 you will probably find all the information I require.

Now what I want you to procure for me is a Certified copy of the Official Entry in the Parish Books of the Marriage of Mrs Ross, the birth of her two Children and the marriage of the Daughter to Mr Fraser, also of the Birth of their Child MARY MCCRETCHY FRASER.

It is absolutely necessary that I should have these Certificates without delay.

It would seem that this lady wished to present herself as a person of aristocratic birth on her mother's side. But there was no Lady McCretchie at that date, or, indeed, at any other date, and there was no Lady Anything of Cromarty Castle, since that had been demolished in 1770, so I think we can clearly classify Mrs Ross as an elusive emigrant, and also an eccentric one.

I had intended to check up on all the details of this family in the usual records, but unfortunately haven't had time. There would be little point in looking through fifteen or so years of marriage records to trace a marriage between a man called Ross and a woman of no known name. It should not be too difficult, however, to trace the births of Alexander and Barbara, and Barbara's marriage, and they might appear on either or both the 1841 and 1851 censuses. Since they would all be adults at the time of emigration they may be included in passenger lists. If only they had left a few years earlier, I might have found them in the list I made of passengers who sailed from Cromarty. Unfortunately I checked only ships which left

from Cromarty up to about 1850, and in any case there is nothing to suggest that the family sailed from Cromarty rather than Glasgow or Liverpool.

It is unlikely that Rev. Walter Scott ever replied to that letter for two reasons. He did not often reply personally to letters addressed to him as minister but passed them on to his Session Clerk who replied on his behalf in, usually, a rather perfunctory manner. More importantly, the letter referred to W. R. Munro who had never been parish minister. He was the minister of the Gaelic chapel, an institution of which Walter Scott was a decided opponent.

Another attribute of an emigrant that might make him or her elusive is not discreditable, merely a legal name problem. This, of course, could be a problem in any family history research, whether or not emigration was involved, although emigration might compound the problem. My own paternal grandfather is a case in point. He would be classified as an expat rather than an emigrant, but the principle is the same.

Many decades ago, I happened to be in Salt Lake City attending a conference of the Society of American Archivists. One day, the Mormons gave us a talk and a tour of their Family History headquarters and a nice lunch. They then let us loose to do what we wanted among their records. My interest in my family history was minimal at that time, but in order to take advantage of an opportunity I was not likely to get again, at least for some time, I tried to search for my grandfather, whose name I knew as John Fyfe. I knew also that he probably had some connection with the Falkirk area since he had retired there after a working life spent in Hong Kong. I found numerous John Fyfes in Stirlingshire, but none that I could identify as my grandfather. Certainly, none of them had married my grandmother, Margaret Mitchell, and no Margaret Mitchell that I could find had married a John Fyfe.

Many years later, I acquired a bundle of documents relating to my grandfather. His U.K. birth and marriage certificates listed him as John Laing. It was only after he moved to Hong Kong that John Fyfe came into existence. He is listed as such in his daughter's birth certificate and in his pension papers from the Hong Kong police. The one document that dates from after his return to Falkirk is his death certificate; it names him as "John Laing, known as John Fyfe". The column for his mother's name explains the situation. She was "Marion Mitchell, afterwards married to John Fyfe." My grandfather had been born out of wedlock. He was brought up by, and during part of his life took the name of, the man my great grandmother later married, but was never formally adopted by him. This out of wedlock birth was apparently such a shameful event in our family history, that right up to the death of my parents it was carefully concealed from us children. I had never heard of the name of Laing as having any relevance to our family. A change of name, with or without legal registration of the new name, must be quite a common cause of elusiveness. Criminals do it quite often, but my grandfather was not a criminal. What I still can't understand are the apparently rather lax procedures of the Hong Kong police who employed John Laing under the name of John Fyfe without question.

Reasons for elusiveness relating to the qualities of the sources used are so numerous that I can only illustrate a few of them. Again, many of them relate to all historical sources and I'm sure you are as conscious of them as I am.

Handwritten documents provide many problems even assuming that they are what they purport to be, i.e. they are not copies or forgeries, and that the person who wrote them

intended to give accurate information. If the handwriting is poor, and especially if the habit of crossing has been followed, the researcher may easily accept a mistaken reading. Particularly where personal or place names are concerned, this can be quite serious.

I'll take another example from my own family. My great grandmother's sister, Grace Livingston, née Milligan, and her husband, John, emigrated to North America from where they wrote several letters home. I was very excited when I first opened these letters because they appeared to come from London, Ontario, the city where I myself lived for several years. Grace lived on a farm with her husband and six children. The descriptions of their crops were compatible with a London location, but there were some discrepancies in other respects. For example, they had previously lived at a place called Caledonia and once when Grace was ill John travelled back to Caledonia to consult their previous doctor. I knew of no place called Caledonia near enough to London to make this feasible in 1852, and in any case by that date London itself was adequately provided with doctors. Then I came on a later letter headed not just London, but London, Cattaraugus County, London, Ontario, both now and then, is and was in Middlesex County, so obviously the Livingston family did not live there. I looked again at the headings. I couldn't believe I had been so stupid. It had purely been wishful thinking that had made me read them as London. Grace had quite clearly been writing from a place called Linden.

To find out where Linden was, I began by consulting maps and found quite a number, although not in Canada. There were possible Lindens in Alabama, Arizona, California, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas. Linden, Michigan seemed possible because there was an appropriately neighbouring Caledonia, although it was not in Cattaraugus County. It is now, actually, in Livingston County, so my imagination took flight and I wondered if that county had been named after my Livingstons. Tempting as that surmise was, I immediately rejected it; I did not want to be like those family researchers who describe an ancestor as a shipowner because he possessed a small canoe.

Linden, New Jersey, also seemed a likely prospect, but I could not be sure. The Livingston family, therefore, remained elusive for the moment. Things became clearer when I investigated the place to which they moved after leaving Linden. This was Franklinville, New York. My maps took me no further, but when I gave up print for electronics I was more successful. I discovered that both Franklinville and Caledonia were in Cattaraugus County (spelled differently, but obviously the same county as on Grace's letter heading). Linden, however, was still eluding me until I noticed a link in the Cattaraugus County website to a place called Lyndon. I clicked on the link but it only took me to the name of a hotel and a notice about a maple sugar festival. I found that fact quite interesting. In one of her letters from Linden, Grace told her father not to think that the amount of jam she made represented a waste of sugar, because they "made their own." So, the Livingstons were no longer quite so elusive. I had located their homes fairly certainly in Caledonia and Franklinville, although Linden is still not quite definite.

Another way in which Grace Livingston illustrates a possible reason for elusiveness is the short time she remained at any one address. You'd think that farmers with six children would be inclined to stay put, but not the Livingston family. They arrived in New York in April 1841 on the *Sheridan* from Liverpool, were in Caledonia in 1849, moved to Linden (wherever that is) in 1852, and seem to have been settled in Franklinville by at least 1859. The latest letter I have is from John Livingston to his sister-in-law in 1861, interesting

because of his account of the Civil War. In Franklinville there is a death record for a William Livingston, May 27, 1869, who might just possibly be a son.

I used this case to illustrate a possible source of elusiveness, but in fact Grace Livingston was not really elusive. She might have been if I had only the one letter with the heading, Linden, to work with, but since I had a bundle of letters from different places and since Cattaraugus was such a satisfactorily unique name to work with, it was actually not difficult to trace her story. The fact remains, however, that a mistake in a place name may well be a cause of elusiveness. There are several examples of this kind of thing misleading Canadians who are searching for ancestors in Scotland, such as that of George Rose, who compiled a family list on his website mentioning his forebear, John Rose, who was a mason in Cromarty. He obviously had mistaken the town of Cromarty for the Cromarty of "Ross and Cromarty". He was quite specific about where his ancestor lived in Cromarty; it was in "the house that Dr Townsend now occupies", i.e. in 1998, but there was no Dr Townsend in Cromarty at that date.

To revert to the Livingston family, there is an enormous amount of information in their letters that would be invaluable if I were seriously to start studying my family history rather than just picking up bits and pieces as I come across them. Much of the information in these and other emigrants' letters would be useful also for people researching names that happen to be mentioned in them, particularly in tracing other elusive emigrants who came from the same location as the writer of the letters.

This is not necessarily an easy task, because of the various disadvantages that personal letters may have as historical sources. One rather common difficulty arises from inaccurate or incomplete dating, but this does not apply to the Livingston letters. Both Grace and John dated their letters with day, month, and year, not just with something like "Tuesday", and they wrote out the names of the months in full so there is no confusion between American and British styles.

Another common difficulty which does apply, however, is that of accurately identifying very obscure people or people mentioned only by their first names. Grace often asked her sister to convey greetings from people she met in New York to their relatives at home, sometimes giving their full names but occasionally leaving me to wonder what she meant by "William asks to be remembered to his uncle." Sometimes even with the full name it is not clear who the subject is. For example, Grace talked of visiting Alexander Murdoch in New York. Could that be my ancestor of that name? Probably not, since there is no other record of him visiting New York.

I had intended to use a large part of this talk discussing passenger lists and how they may assist in making an emigrant elusive, but I didn't have time to pick out any interesting examples. It is fairly obvious that, since most of the originals were handwritten that the same kinds of mistakes that may arise from misreading personal letters will also arise from passenger lists. This applies whether one uses the originals or relies on transcriptions such as those made by the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, or the various compilations by Dobson, Whyte and others. Other problems relate to the conditions on the voyage. The emigrant you are interested in may be named in a passenger list and yet never arrive at his or her destination. If not listed as a landed immigrant, can we be sure what happened? Then, we have stowaways, who will not be on the passenger lists and may or may not be discovered on

the voyage, and may or may not be able to disembark at the other end. There are all sorts of exciting possibilities, but I'll leave them for another occasion.

I hope I have shown how difficult it is sometimes to find authoritative and accurate information about particular emigrants, but that the more difficult it is the more interesting the chase of an elusive emigrant can be. Information can be found in so many different places, some of them unexpected, and the outcome of your research may be quite different from what you expected when you began. But of course you know all this; it applies to family history in general just as much as to emigration history.

## MORE BITS & PIECES

Yet more pieces are coming into our in-box every day and the following disturbing item is from Margaret Mackay who has done sterling work for the society on several occasions.

**Where there is a Will – there may not be a way!**

Researchers at the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) cannot get copies of the early Wills. They have to be ordered through <[www.scottishdocuments.com](http://www.scottishdocuments.com)>. Neither can they see the original books. That's fair enough as far as conservation goes because you can view the scanned images at the NAS. But not everyone has a computer and I understand they have to be reduced in size if you don't have an A3 printer and, I was told, they take ages to print. I got the run-around yesterday. I was trying to order copies for Sue Thomson (Kilmorack Heritage) but I was not able to.

The curators themselves don't seem to know the rules. First of all I was told that I could not order anything before 1800. Then I was told I could not order any of the wills for the Commissary Court. One person told me it was because SCAN has the copyright but a second person said he had never heard of this. How can someone have copyright to public documents? The regular researchers are up in arms. There is a meeting about the problem apparently and I have added my name to those who are concerned by what is going on. I believe that there should be a facility in the NAS for researchers to print out what they are seeing on the screen, but that is not available at present.

### **Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry**

We have recently received an e-mail from Rob Droogleever in Australia. He is researching the regimental history of Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry, an Imperial mounted unit which served in the Boer War. It was formed by Major Alexander Thornycroft, Royal Scots Fusiliers, in October 1899 and lasted the duration of the war until June 1902. Thornycroft had a large number of Scotsmen serving in the unit. They include Robert John Fraser from Inverness, John Mackay from Sutherland, Robert McKenzie from Invergordon and Norman McPherson from Argyllshire.

If any of our members recognise any of these names or are a descendant of someone who served in Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry, Mr Droogleever would like to here from them, particularly if they have any letters, diaries, photos etc from that period. If there is any cost involved please let him know. He can be contacted on <[trwfd@hotmail.net.au](mailto:trwfd@hotmail.net.au)> or P.O.Box 42, Bulleen, Victoria, 3105, Australia.

## HFHS PROJECTS

### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

By John Durham

Unfortunately there has been no progress in checking either Daviot or Gollanfield. We did get a very reasonable Spring this year although rather earlier than expected. Graham and I never seemed to be available at the same time but I hope to have more encouraging news to report next time. Both Nick Lindsay and I will be speaking at a seminar in Fort Augustus this weekend (May 17th) at which it is hoped that more people who live within a reasonable distance of local graveyards will be encouraged to help in recording the inscriptions there.

Just after writing the above I received a disc in the post containing transcriptions of all the memorial stones in the Old Kilmore churchyard in Drumnadrochit. This was the work of one of our members, John Ball, and is most welcome. As the WORD document on the disc ran to 56 pages there must be quite a few stones in that burial ground. In the interim, until we have time to visit Old Kilmore to check the work done by John, the inscriptions will be indexed. Once that is done a copy will be placed in the society's library in Inverness along with that for Raassay which was promised in the previous journal and is now nearing completion.

### INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

By John Durham

Another successful period with the publication of five more indexes this quarter to add to the four produced during the previous quarter. Two of these, **Kiltearn** and **Tain** (Burgh & Parish), were revised editions of previous indexes first published many years ago. This now leaves Knockbain as the last of the original six to be revised and this should be done during the next quarter.

The three new indexes have all come from our regular transcribers. Anne Maciver produced the data for **Nigg**, Sue & John Thomson that for **Kirkhill** and at the SAFHS Conference in Dundee, Margaret Mackay handed me the disc containing the full transcription of **Clyne** Parish that she and her husband Billy had just completed the evening before. The ink has faded badly on the first two enumeration districts of Clyne. The worst example was that of a man whose surname was Mackay and only the last two letters 'an' were readable for his Christian name. Although the name looked like 'Norman' the index was printed as 'Duncan?' as it was felt that the latter name was the more common. Subsequent research of the IGI for the baptism of two of his children has shown that the person was in fact Norman Mackay and he was married to Margaret Hamilton. The indexes will be amended accordingly before being sent out to anyone purchasing a copy, but if you recognise the family and were unable to find them in the 1851 census when you last tried, there are to be found at the top of page 23 of enumeration district number 2.

What is in the pipeline? Anne Maciver now only has **Tarbat** to do to complete the east side of Ross-shire. Angus Bethune has said that given the time and opportunity he will beaver away at **Lochcarron** and, having discovered that Sue & John Thomson were working on Kirkhill,

Donnie MacLeman has now switched to working on **Petty**. As a result of my plea in the previous journal, Bill Lawson e-mailed me to say that he and his wife Chris have volunteered to work on the islands in the autumn once the dark nights come in. So now I am only looking for volunteers to work on the remaining Inverness-shire mainland parishes, those for that part of Argyll that our society covers and the last two parishes in Ross-shire, Applecross and Gairloch. Are there any takers?

### SCOTTISH NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX (SNBI)

By Sandra Norton

Thank you to the volunteers who heeded my plea for assistance with the inputting of data for the Inverness burial records and all others who have helped in this project.

I noted the SNBI progress in the counties of Caithness, Sutherland and Nairn in the February issue of the Journal. I promised an update for the remaining counties in our remit i.e. Inverness-shire, Argyll and Ross and Cromarty in this issue. The SNBI for the following parishes is now complete and prepared for CD-Rom.

#### **Inverness-shire:**

**BARRA** - only two entries, one for 1849 and one for 1854.

**BRACADALE** - has about 150 burial entries dating from 1834 to 1839.

**KIRKHILL** - burial dates are from 1783 to 1801 and there are 50 burial entries.

**PETTY** - has death and burial entries from 1796 up to 1854 and there are over 1200 of these.

**KINGUSSIE/INSH** - completed death and burials date from 1783 to 1854.

#### **Argyll:**

**BOWMORE** - holds only 40 burial records dating from 1817 to 1831.

**CAMPBELTOWN** - has both death and burial entries from 1761 to 1769 and from 1821 to 1852.

**GIGHA ISLE** - has a death register dating from 1794 to 1854 with around 530 entries.

**IONA** - 350 death records cover the period from 1835-1855.

**CRAIGNISH** - holds 40 deaths from 1761 to 1769.

**JURA** and **COLONSAY** - 90 death entries with dates 1848-1854.

**KILMARTIN** - death register dates from 1746 to 1752 and has over 100 entries.

**KILMODAN** has around 65 mortcloth entries. The mortcloth was placed over the coffin and the family of the deceased paid the church for the loan of the mortcloth. The Kilmodan records are thus actually mortcloth account records and note the amount paid for each funeral. I can check this for any society member with ancestry in this parish.

#### **Ross and Cromarty:**

**CONTIN** - holds both death and burial entries (only four!) dating from 1825 to 1852.

**CROMARTY** - has entries from 1827 to 1855. At present dates 1839 to 1855 are complete with almost 400 entries.

**DINGWALL** - has over 200 death and burials from 1786 to 1852.

FODDERTY - holds around 500 death entries from 1758 to 1794.

There are other Highland parishes in the above counties with death and burial registers that are nearing completion. Please contact me if you are interested in a specific parish and I can let you know whether or not it has a burial register. Data inputting for Inverness Burgh is in progress at present and there are many thousands of entries dating from 1688 to 1855.

**STRAYS INDEX**

By Alan Ross

Since the beginning of the year I have not had much time to do anything other than work and this may continue for the next few months. I have, however, received an interesting letter from Mr William Bridson and will be writing to him in due course, but at the moment everything is on hold.

The entries below complete the list of 'STRAYS' printed in previous issues of the journal that give their birth parish as Inverness.

As usual, \* denotes a married surname and not the persons maiden name

Surname	Forename	City	Birth Parish	Year	Age	Event	Source
WATSON	Mrs. James*	INV	Inverness	1861	43	Census 1861	Census / Hamilton / LKS
WILTSHIRE	Catherine	INV	Inverness	1881	40	Census 1881	Census / Hillingdon / MDX
WORMALD	John	INV	Inverness	1861	15	Census 1861	Census / Fodderty / ROC
WORMALD	John	INV	Inverness	1871	21	Census 1871	Census / Dingwall / ROC
YOUNG	Donald	INV	Inverness	1851	32	Census 1851	Census / Blair Atholl / PER

If you have a connection with the Isle of Skye, the following may well be of interest. I have listed all of the names of people in the Index whose birthplace was on or around the Island. Should you find a link, please contact me.

Surname	Forename	City	Birth Parish	Year	Age	Event	Source
BURNS	Flora	INV	Kilmuir, Skye	1851	21	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
CAMBELL	Angus	INV	Dumvegan, Skye	1851	20	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
CAMERON	Donald	INV	Skye	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Stronitlan / ARL
CAMERON	Cathrine	INV	Seal, Skye	1851	23	Census 1851	Census / Kirkmichael / PER
CAMERON	Ann	INV	Seal? / Skye?	1851	21	Census 1851	Census / Monzie / PER
CAMPBELL	Margaret	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	15	Census 1851	Census / Auchtermuchty / FIF
CAMPBELL	Christian	INV	Skye	1851	61	Census 1851	Census / Crieff / PER
CAMPBELL	Manton*	INV	Skye	1851			Descendant / Scots Link / Aus
CAMPBELL	Angus	INV	Snizort, Skye	1851	47	Census 1851	Census / Markinch / FIF
CAMPBELL	James	INV	Snizort, Skye	1851	12	Census 1851	Census / Markinch / FIF
CAMPBELL	Hugh	INV	Snizort, Skye	1851	17	Census 1851	Census / Markinch / FIF
CHISHOLM	John	INV	Struan, Skye	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / Blacknoman / CLK
DOUGLAS	Jean	INV	Isa, Skye	1851	23	Census 1851	Census / Auchtermuchty / FIF
FINLAYSON	Roderick	INV	Skye	1851	16	Census 1851	Census / Cromarty / ROC
GILLES	Hugh	INV	Skye	1851	65	Census 1851	Census / Crieff / PER
GLEN	Mary	INV	Kilmuir, Skye	1851	2	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
GLEN	Cristy	INV	Skye	1851	34	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
GLEN	John	INV	Skye	1851	35	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
GLEN	Flora	INV	Skye	1851	7	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
GLEN	Alexander	INV	Skye	1851	13	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI

GLEN	Donald	INV	Skye	1851	5	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
GORDON	Mary*	INV	Skye	1851	42	Census 1851	Census / Blair Atholl / PER
GRANT	Lachin	INV	Portree, Skye	1851	27	Census 1851	Census / Glenishiel / ROC
GRANT	Hugh	INV	Strath, Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Moulin / PER
KEMP	Janet	INV	Strath, Skye	1851	5	Census 1851	Census / Knockbain / ROC
KINUKIN?	Flora	INV	Skye	1851	19	Census 1851	Census / Miscellaneous Inst. / ANS
MacDONALD	Archibald	INV	Portree, Skye	1900	Witness		MI / Wife's Obit / Coghills Creek, Ballaraj VIC / Aus
MacDONALD	Angus	INV	Skye	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
MacGILLIVRAY	Archibald	INV	Skye	1851			W H F Press
MacINTOSH	Archibald	INV	Skye	1869	77	Death	MI / Sale / VIC / Aus
MacIVER	William	INV	Skye	1881	3	Census 1881	Census / Killerman / ROC
MacKINNON	John	INV	Skye	1851	32	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
MacKINNON	Catharine	INV	Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
MacLENNAN	James	INV	Skye	1851	11	Census 1851	Census / Dingwall / ROC
MacLEOD	Hennietta	INV	Skye	1881	36	Census 1881	Census / Hillingdon / MDX
MacLEOD	Donald	INV	Skye	1851	26	Census 1851	Census / Canina / ARL
MacPHEE	Archibald	INV	Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Canina / ARL
MacPHERSON	John	INV	Skye	1881	45	Census 1881	Census / Killerman / ROC
MATHESON	Donald	INV	Portree, Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Perth / PER
McCAN	Robert	INV	Skye	1851	30	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
McCLEAN	Mary	INV	Skye	1761	Death		MI / Malew / Isle of Man
McCLEAN	Donald	INV	Strath, Skye	1851	27	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
McCRIMON	Isabella	INV	Skye	1851	77	Census 1851	Census / Androssan / AYR
McDONALD	Malcolm	INV	Skye	1901	34	Census 1901	Census / Dingwall / ROC
McDONALD	Manton*	INV	Skye	1851			Descendant / Scots Link / Aus
McDONALD	Donald	INV	Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Descendant / Scots Link / Aus
McDONALD	William	INV	Skye	1851	23	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
McDONALD	John	INV	Skye	1851	50	Census 1851	Census / Roskeen / ROC
McDONALD	Alexander	INV	Snizort, Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Glasgow Gorbals / LKS
McDOUGALD	Neil	INV	Skye	1851	67	Census 1851	Census / Rothsay / BUT
McFIE	Margaret*	INV	Dunnis, Skye	1851	18	Census 1851	Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN
McFIE	John	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	26	Census 1851	Census / Rothsay / BUT
McFIE	Christina*	INV	Skye	1851	18	Census 1851	Census / Rothsay / ARL
McGILVRAY	Duncan	INV	Seal, Skye	1851	27	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINNIS	Angus	INV	Skye	1851	25	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINNIS	Alexander	INV	Skye	1851	27	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINTYRE	Malcolm	INV	Skye	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINTYRE	Mary	INV	Skye	1851	16	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINTYRE	Bella	INV	Skye	1851	19	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McINTYRE	Flora	INV	Skye	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / Dull / PER
McKAY	John	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	40	Census 1851	Census / Leith South / MLN
McKAY	Christin.	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	37	Census 1851	Census / Markinch / FIF
McKAY	Norman	INV	Skye	1851	67	Census 1851	Census / Rothsay / BUT
McKAY	Peter	INV	Skye	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / St. Vigeans / ANS
McKAY	Mary	INV	Skye	1832	52	Death	MI / Ballure / Isle of Man
McKENZIE	Alexander	INV	Skye	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / Greenock / RFW
McKENZIE	Hugh	INV	Skye	1851	Death		MI / Inverness / INV
McKENZIE	Arnie*	INV	Skye	1865	Death		MI / Isle of Man
McKENZIE	Alexander	INV	Skye	1842	51	Death	
McKENZIE	Hennietta	INV	Snizort, Skye	1851	41	Census 1851	Census / Roskeen / ROC
McKINDLAY	Mary	INV	Isle of Skye	1851	35	Census 1851	Census / Dalry / AYR
McKININNS?	Donald	INV	Skye	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
McKINNON	Hector	INV	Skye	1851	24	Census 1851	Census / Port Glasgow / RFW
McKINNON	J.	INV	Skye	1851	34	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI
McKINNON	Charlotte E.	INV	Skye	1851	4	Census 1851	Census / Lasswade / MLN
McKINNON	David	INV	Skye	1851	22	Census 1851	Census / Port Glasgow / RFW
McKINNON	John	INV	Skye	1851	28	Census 1851	Census / Muiravonside / STI



