

highland family
history society



AND
HISTORY
SOCIETY

ISSN 0262-6659

Published by
The Highland Family History Society
Comunn Stoinntearachd na Gàidhealtach

comunn
sloinntearachd
na
Gàidhealtachd

JOURNAL

Vol. 22 No. 3

May 2004

EDITORIAL

Here we go again. Back to filling a page. However, it's a little different this time - I feel confident that I can reach the bottom without struggling. Which may be more than can be said for the readership! Family history (as I have learnt - and still am doing so) can be such a fascinating and rewarding past-time, as I've discussed previously and am sure you already know.

However, another amazing story has come to my attention recently. I was picking the brains of a local crofter, George MacBeath from the Doll, near Brora, about place names in Clyne, as preparation for a book I'm about to publish (watch this space for details - plug, plug!). In our discussions, he mentioned that he had just discovered that his own name appears in a recently published book and went on to explain how and why. The book, called 'The Sea on Our Left', was written by Shally Hunt, who is one half of a middle aged English couple that decided to attempt a clockwise walk around the entire coast of Britain. They completed their 4,300-mile journey in 10 months and the book recounts their epic trip. While passing through Brora in Sutherland, they pitched their tent on the raised beach below George's croft [photo overleaf] and he is mentioned in the text for his kindness, along with a tale or two that he recounted to them.

How did he know of his new-found 15 lines of fame? Through a neighbour? From the author herself? From the book in the library (it actually is in the local library!)? None of these! He discovered that his name was in print through a letter sent to him from a Mrs Christina Pannett, who lives on the other side of the world in Tawa, 20 miles from Wellington, in New Zealand! Mrs Pannett's maiden name (OK, I realise that you're probably ahead of me here) is, of course, MacBeath, and her grand-father, George (who died in Dunedin in 1927), hailed from the Doll, before his emigration in the late 19th Century to the new world. She knew little of his background, so she took the opportunity of a longshot and contacted the current George MacBeath, whom she had discovered by chance when she read 'The Sea on Our Left'.

Well, naturally, our George is an indirect relative of the old George, and replied to his new found cousin with a wealth of information regarding her long lost grandfather and his surrounds. Thoughtfully, he visited the ruined croft where old George was raised and took photographs which he also sent, and he plans to visit Christina when he makes a second trip to New Zealand this coming Autumn.

There is just one more tangible twist in the story - there always is! Some years ago, an elderly Doll crofter named Davie MacKay, gave our George a gold chain [photo overleaf], the type which gentlemen of a previous era used to attach to their waistcoats, often associated with a gold watch. George was told that it originally belonged to a George MacBeath and the reason he was receiving it, was that the crofter believed it should return to a George MacBeath. Our George accepted it and didn't think too much about this until the arrival on the scene of his distant cousin, and he now believes that it was given to the crofter as a parting gift to a friend when old George emigrated. Both Davie and old George were employed as carters on the Sutherland Estate and both were from the Doll. When George visits Christina in the Autumn, he is going to present her with what must, in all probability, be her own grand-father's watch chain. A really nice touch and a happy ending to a lovely story.

This remarkable stroke of fortune is just one example of things coming together out of the blue; there must be many more other cases out there too. Has anything like this ever happened to you?

('The Sea on Our Left', by Shally Hunt, Summersdale Publishers, Price £7.99 UK Sterling. ISBN: 1 84024 105 5)

CONTENTS

1 Editorial
 2 Raised Beach & Gold Chain (photographs)
 3 Bits & Pieces
 8 Highland Victims of the Daphne Disaster.....
 11 HFHS Projects
 13 HFHS Strays Index.....
 15 Yet Another Stray.....
 16 A Shipping Disaster in Canada - 1857
 17 Members' Research Interests
 18 E-mail Addresses (an update)
 19 Queries (1016-1023)
 21 Response to Query No. 1008

© 2004: Highland F.H.S. & contributors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| CHAIRMAN | George Christie |
| VICE-CHAIRMAN | David Williams |
| SECRETARY | Angus Bethune |
| TREASURER | John Durham |
| JOURNAL EDITOR | Nick Lindsay |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | John Durham |
| SYLLABUS SECRETARY | Alison Forbes |
| RESEARCH ENQUIRIES | Sheila Munro |
| LIBRARIAN | Anne Maciver |
| SAFHS REPRESENTATIVE | Neil Murray |

Correspondence for the Syllabus Secretary and Librarian
 should be addressed - c/o Reference Room,
 Public Library, Farraline Park, Inverness IV1 1NH
 Addresses for the other officials are on the inside of the back page

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for year 01/09/2003 - 31/08/2004

Membership Category	United Kingdom	Overseas
Ordinary	£8.00	£11.00
Family	£10.00	£13.00
Pensioner	£5.00	£8.00
Institutional	£12.00	£15.00

BITS & PIECES

We are still receiving a very good response to the items that appear under the above heading. Please keep them coming in. An article or two would also be gratefully received.

Sub-Groups

There was a significant response to this item. **Ross Barker** says - While I haven't thoroughly digested this Journal issue, I was struck by John Durham's article about a possible sub-group in the Lochaber / Fort William area. And while I don't know the reasons for the Caithness group forming their own and not affiliating with the HFHS, I have a little experience with my other membership, that of the Aberdeen & North-East of Scotland FHS.

Since my strongest area of interest is Morayshire, I began my membership in the ANESFHS looking for articles pertaining to that county. For a while, it seemed that everything I read - MIs, history, color (or colour, if you prefer) - all seemed to be of the Aberdeen and Northeast coastal areas. I began to think that THEY thought that Morayshire was in the purview of the HFHS since it was so much closer to Aberdeen (looking at a map of the Aberdeen group's interests, one can see how Moray sticks out much like a useless appendage!)

I ultimately realized, however, that there were two distinct sub-groups to that particular society, the Glasgow Group and the Moray/Banff Branch. How these groups are set up bylaws-wise I have no idea. But I think the sub-groups rather than a separate society would be a good thing to establish. For one, should there be a schedule conflict in one's busy life, one would have ready information about a meeting date and topic for the sub-group. The same could work in reverse, the topic being of such interest as to attract members from the main group.

In my own experience, just before I made my second trip to Scotland in October 2002, I enquired of meeting schedules for both societies as well as the branches. Possibly due to this very fact that I was over-scheduling my days spent in Scotland, I found myself able to attend only two (out of four) such meetings, the Moray/Banff one, and a few days later the main one in Aberdeen (my first visit to that coast). Besides the topics presented and discussed, one of them inadvertently brought me closer to the title you imposed on my alleged article in this Journal, "Some Libraries I Have Known." I was introduced to the Old Library in Elgin and its vast holdings on Moray history simply because it is the site of the Moray/Banff Branch meetings.

It would also seem to me that the presumably limited resources of a sub-group could best be put to use by providing a portion of the Journals produced by the larger group. Obviously, it is far cheaper to add two or more pages to an existing publication than to produce one's own from the ground up.

What I have no knowledge of, Nick, is how competitive the various Family History Societies are. Is it, for example, pride, that would cause one group to form their own society rather than being a sub-group of an existing, larger one? Having grown up in this vast land, where all of Scotland would approximate just the lower peninsula of my own state of Michigan, it seems to me that most places in Scotland are "just around the corner" from most others. Although I realize that in older days, the distance from Tam to Inverness, for example, was much shorter than today.



The raised beach below George MacBeath's croft at Doll



The gold chain which George MacBeath will be taking to New Zealand

But while your average resident is not used to travelling fifty miles or more to a given meeting location (nor can afford the petrol to do so, I realize), still the knowledge that one of their Society's branches is holding a meeting on a night (or weekend day) when they are free, might induce them to travel the distance and perhaps uncover, perchance, another facet of their own family history. Am I anywhere near the mark? Or am I missing something?

JD here. Since the last journal was printed I have spoken once again to Mrs Weir concerning the possible sub-group in Lochaber. She said that she was going to advertise locally to see if there was any support for her ideas and would get back to me. So far she has not done so. Niek responded to Ross to help keep the discussion going

Sub-groups. Ah yes. Why Caithness went alone, I am not sure. It was just before my time, but Caithness has always been a bit different. Probably the Norse attachments. We in Sutherland were thinking of forming a group under the HFHS umbrella, but this has since lapsed following the death of the leading aspirant. As you are probably well aware, I have no roots here, so don't have that urgent desire for direct subject knowledge here (although I do find it very fascinating locally), rather I am happy standing slightly back from the edge and taking in the view from the inside page.

Incidentally, or should it be co-incidentally, I addressed the Moray group at one of their meetings (in the fantastic Elgin Library) in December. They have a small, but very active and interested group there, and I have got to know Bruce Bishop fairly well over the years as we both have given talks on burial grounds at various seminars over the years.

I agree with your thoughts on more local and accessible meetings, and am very struck by the idea of adding extra material for the Journal! I will now actively encourage the formation of as many local sub-groups as I can think of. How about one in Portage?

Then **Rosemary Shaw** joined in as well - Re a possible sub-group in Lochaber, this is an excellent idea. The HFHS covers a very large geographical area. We just have to look at the publications list to see how much has been achieved, but it nearly all relates to the northern counties and the Inverness area. And of course there is so much more

So a Lochaber group (perhaps even extending to Badenoch?) would be great. I definitely think taking them on board as a sub-group would be beneficial to both sides, sharing know-how and experience and avoiding duplication of effort. It's rather a pity that the Caithness FHS decided to go their own way as I do think there is more to be gained by sticking together. I don't imagine that there would be more than one or two sub-groups but perhaps this is the way forward, in order to get a better geographical spread. Will be interested to see what comes of this proposal.

And we also had this from **John Potter**. Some years ago I investigated a reference in an ancestor's diary which stated "Went to Bolton to Ada Cheetham". Already being a member of the Sheffield Family History Society, I enquired which FHS covered Bolton. I was told that it was the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society who had a branch called the Bolton and District FHS. The Bolton FHS have their own committee, Chairman, Secretary, etc, and have regular monthly meetings. I attended several meetings during my researches and found the members very helpful.

However, I found out more about family history through the M&LFHS. They have their own library in Manchester, meeting rooms and computers. Besides the Bolton FHS, they also have under their umbrella the Oldham and District Branch, the Irish Ancestry Branch, the Computer Branch and the Anglo-Scottish FHS. I attended the Computer meetings and under their recommendation and supervision started to use 'Brothers Keeper' software to record my researches. Recently when I started my Scottish research I attended one of their monthly meetings 'Scottish Family History on the Web - Update'. The Scottish data that they hold is very comprehensive.

I mention all this as an example of why I support your opinion that the proposed sub-group in Lochaber should remain under the umbrella of the HFHS. My experience, as shown above, is that all the groups within the M&LFHS (and their members) benefit from the facilities that the 'parent' society has. It has certainly helped me. Additionally, even though I have now exhausted my researches in their area I remain a member because of the wide expanse of knowledge that they have.

78th Highlanders in Java

Duncan Ross, a previous editor of the journal many moons ago, wrote on the above subject.

"Congratulations on another fine HFHS Journal. Not moody or menacing in any respect, just very interesting. The bit about the 78th Highlanders in Java caught my eye, because I have a forebear who was a Sergeant with that regiment and was invalided home from Goa around 1810. By then in his early 50s, he was pensioned off as 'worn out', but joined a veteran battalion at Fort Augustus where he married the local barmaid, a girl of about 18, and went on to raise a family of four. So - not as worn out as all that, then".

Research in Skye

Marjorie MacInnes e-mailed to give further information about research facilities covering the Isle of Skye. "I noticed in the latest journal's section on Bits and Pieces that Anne MacKinnon had given you information about research in Skye. Enlarging on what she said.

<www.skye-kin.co.uk> is me and I concentrate on the West of Skye, the parishes of Duirinish and Bracadale.

<www.skye-roots.co.uk> is run by Norma MacLeod in Portree and she covers North Skye - the parishes of Portree and Raasay, Kilmuir, Snizort and Stenschoill. Our websites are linked.

We each hold a database of families in our respective areas, dating from before 1800 to more recent times. Those are on computer and are being added to daily from censuses, old parish records, monumental inscriptions and many other sources. We welcome any enquiries, but there is, of course, a charge for the service.

Inverness Savings Bank

J. G. Nairn, a very new member of the Society was interested in the second part of the article on the Inverness area in the 1840s by Peter Munro that appeared in the November 2003 Journal. He wrote in to make the following brief comment on it.

"The Savings Bank in Inverness was opened around 1836. In 1851, the Actuary of the Glasgow Savings Bank was paid a salary of £350 per annum. This rose to £600 by 1861. In contrast, the Actuary at the Glenlivet branch of the Inverness Savings Bank had to provide a guarantee of £150 and was paid a salary of £4 per annum. Apart from receiving deposits and making repayments during opening hours, there were many other duties, including half-yearly balances and preparation of returns to Commissioners and to Parliament. I hope this is of interest".

Kilmorack Heritage Association

Once again the work being carried out by John and Sue Thomson is highlighted, and deservedly so. For their latest venture, they are looking for information on the people and places in the area for three books on Kiltarity Parish they are currently working on. Photographs, stories, old maps, family trees etc will be gratefully received.

I recently passed on a request from a William Tully about an ancestor of his who had a connection with a farm located in the area covered by the KHA. This was their reply. "We are the Heritage group that covers the area that you are interested in. The time span that we usually cover is from 1700 up to date. I have looked up the baptism that you mentioned and alas it appears that Kenneth had only one child baptised, your Alexander.

There are various spellings recorded:- Balloan, Baloin, Belloan, Ballaloe, Ballaloane, Balaone, Balloin. The gaelic form would be Baile Lon (the 'o' should have an accent over it but this machine doesn't have one. Pronounced bal loan. Meaning 'farm of the marsh'. It appears on a MacLean and Morrison map of 1838, of which there is a copy in our book 'The Braes'. (see our website www.kilmorack.com) if you have a map of this area the nation grid reference is 505459.

Records of Dornoch Jail

Alastair Gordon wrote in as follows as he is particularly interested in the Dornoch Jail Records that Nick mentioned in his February editorial. "I have nearly finished writing up my family history and would be most grateful if you could send me anything you have about Gustavus Sutherland (born c1775, died by c1850). It is the kind of name that might stick in your mind. I have been through, I think, all the Sheriff Court (SC 9) records of possible relevance.

Gustavus is the black sheep of our family (youngest brother of Besey Sutherland, wife of my oldest known ancestor Adam Gordon of Griemachary). He was a bully and a thief by habit and repute. His main crimes were stealing turnips from Rhives and hay from Drummoy in 1824, for which he was banished from Sutherland for 2 years (SC 9/48/1 and SC 9/7/84), and stealing and killing a sheep from Drummoy in 1832, for which he was sentenced to 9 months in Dornoch jail (AD 14/33/50, JC 26/612 and JC 11/81). In some of the numerous smaller cases that involve him, he may well have spent short periods in jail pending bail".

Alastair went on to ask Nick what sort of records are the ones he has seen? Nick replied - "Thanks for your e-mail and interest in the Jail Records. Indeed, he was the black sheep, and I have several entries against that oh so distinctive name! However, having compared my transcriptions with your list of offences they match exactly, so, unfortunately no new cases. Attached are the relevant transcriptions, copied directly from the records".

Page No	Date	Record
60	09/06/1824	Gustavus Sutherland, residing in Golspie, was committed Prisoner to the Tolbooth of Dornoch in virtue of a Warrant granted by two of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Sutherland on a Petition of the Procurator Fiscal, for the Public Interest, Narrating that the said Gustavus Sutherland was detected in the act of Stealing and thefously Carrying away a quantity of Hay from a Hay Stack in the Corn Yard of the Farm of Drummu, in the Parish of Golspie, the property of Mr Hugh McPherson, Tenant there, and of him, the said Gustavus Sutherland, being habit and repute a thief. This Commitment is for further Examination.
64	04/09/1824	Gustavus Sutherland from the village of Golspie, who was incarcerated upon the Ninth day of June last at the instance of the Procurator Fiscal, for the Crimes of Theft and of being habit and repute a thief, was this day tried before Charles Ross Esq, Advocate Sheriff Depute of the County of Sutherland, and found Guilty of attempting to Steal and Thefously carry away a quantity of Hay, from a Hay Stack in the Corn Yard of the Farm of Drummu, in the Parish of Golspie, the property of Mr Hugh MacPherson, Tenant there, and was banished the County of Sutherland for the space of Two years from this date, fourteen days being allowed him for arranging his affairs.

Page No	Name	Committed	Crime	Committed till liberated	Tried	Committed or Acquitted	Sentence	Libertated or Removed after Conviction
176/177	Gustavus Sutherland	When	Thief	In the Course of Law	Tried	Committed	Sentence	Libertated or Removed after Conviction
		By Whom				By Whom	When	By Whom
		Sheriff				Acquitted	When	By Whom
		13/11/1832				Convicted	When	By Whom
		20/11/1832				Convicted	When	By Whom
		Sheriff				Convicted	When	By Whom
		27/04/1833				Convicted	When	By Whom
		Inverness Circuit Court,				Convicted	When	By Whom
		28/01/1834				Convicted	When	By Whom
		On expiry of his term of imprisonment				Convicted	When	By Whom

HIGHLAND VICTIMS OF THE DAPHNE DISASTER

By John Durham

In the previous journal I included details of five of the ten victims of the sinking of the SS Daphne who had Highland connections. The tragedy occurred when she turned over on her side while she was being launched on the River Clyde on 3rd July 1883. The information was sent to me by William Black, a researcher at the Glasgow Museum of Transport, which he had gathered together to accompany a display in the museum on the 125th anniversary of the disaster. If anyone recognises a member of a family they are researching, please get in touch with me, as Mr Black is very keen to make contact with present day descendants if at all possible. The first mentioned, John Manson, was a first cousin of my great grandfather, hence my interest in the story.

John MANSON

A shipwright, he was born 24th May 1842 at Greenlands, Caithness. His father was Sinclair Manson, deceased, a farmer and his mother was Ann Durrand. He first married Christina Farquhar on 5th September 1869 at St. Nicholas, Aberdeen. She was born 20th October 1850 at St. Nicholas, daughter of Andrew Farquhar and Elizabeth Miller. One son, John (9), was born in Govan. Christina died at Glasgow 19th November 1878. John married secondly Jane Grubb on 18th November 1882. She was born c1849. They were residing at 64 Langlands Road, Govan. Rent £9 10s per annum.

His body was recovered on 3rd July. Buried at Craigton on 6th July. Death registered by brother, James, 18 Mollinsburn Street, Springburn.

He had been employed at Stephens for 11 years. Although he had no insurance provision, he was a member of the Carpenter's Society, who would pay his funeral expenses. For many years a member of Glasgow Shipwright's Society and colleagues from all yards in district attended his funeral, meeting in hall of Evangelical Union Church, White Street, Govan. Jane had known her husband for 20 years, having been a friend of Christina. There had been six children, five of whom had died. Had moved into present address recently, with intention of taking a lodger to supplement income.

Jane had been in poor health for five months and John had made her attend a doctor, despite expense. She had wanted to attend the launch but John said it was not worthwhile "as it was only a small boat." When he did not return home at his usual time, she knew something was wrong and his body was brought home at 7pm. Now she worries that her health would not enable her to live long enough to see her stepson through school.

[In spite of her worries about her health, Jane returned to Aberdeen and survived a further 14 years before dying 27th September 1897 at 13 Great Western Road of cancer of the pancreas. Following the death of his father, the stepson Jane was so concerned about, John Sinclair Manson, appears to have moved to Aberdeen with her. He was admitted to Robert Gordons College on 9th June 1884, at which time he was living at 12 Regent Quay, Aberdeen. The following year he came top in his age-group and was awarded a 3-year Foundation Scholarship. By August 1886 he was now living at 6 Canal Street, Aberdeen. He recorded the death of his stepmother in 1897 in Aberdeen but was not living with her in the 1891 census.]

Duncan MCGREGOR

A labourer, aged 50, he was a native of Knockbain, Ross-shire. His father was William McGregor, deceased, a crofter and his mother was Annie Allison, also deceased. He married Flora Davidson on 15th April 1859 at Avoch, Ross & Cromarty. She was born at Knockbain 6th December 1842, the daughter of Alexander Davidson and Ann McIntosh. They had three grown-up children. Eldest daughter was married, while son (23) was a cabinetmaker in Greenock and younger daughter (15) in service. They were residing at 108 Queen Street, Govan.

His body was recovered on 4th July and buried at Craigton on 6th July. His death was registered by son, William, 5 Morton Terrace, Greenock.

He had been employed in the yard only for a few weeks. His widow was badly affected, having been married for 25 years. He had been in ill health for some 12 months, during which the family had been forced to sell many of their belongings. During this time the landlord had not pressed them for the rent, "knowing he might have faith in us." On the night of Monday 2nd July, having worked until 10pm, Duncan read Psalm 149 before retiring, a normal nightly habit. Flora had a dream that night, in which all her family were gathered round but she could not see her husband. Then she saw him lying on the bed, with a white sheet covering him. In the morning Duncan dismissed this dream and she thought he would not be aboard, not being fit for heavy work. Although Flora learned of the accident shortly after it happened, she did not become uneasy until after 6pm, when she had been expecting Duncan home. Summoning a neighbour, they both went to the yard to search for him.

Donald McLEAN

A caulker, aged 44, he was a native of Soay, Skye. His father was Donald McLean, crofter and his mother was Mary Cameron, deceased. He married Catherine McRae on 10th December 1869 at Govan. She was aged 42, either from Carbost, Skye or Uist. Listed in press as having three children, boy aged 4 and girls 8 and 12 months. 1881 census identified following:- Angus (18); Donald (17); Hugh (10); Ronald (8); Catherine (6); May (3). Residing at 50 Hamilton Street, Govan.

His body was recovered 4th July. Buried 6th July at Craigton. Brother-in-law Donald McPherson, 5 Francis Street, Glasgow, registered his death.

Initially thought no provision for family but Prudential paid out £11. 2s. 0d while Caulker's Society paid £5 for funeral expenses. While his widow came from Carbost, [he] came to Glasgow 22 years previously to work with Glasgow & South Western Railway before moving to shipyards and worked with Stephens for 2 weeks. Aged father relied on his son and would have to leave the croft. Following a plea from minister, sent £1 by Relief Fund.

Malcolm MORRISON

A shipwright, aged 44, he was possibly a native of Stornoway. His father was Kenneth Morrison, shoemaker of 12 Newton Street, Stornoway and his mother was Annabella McAulay. He married Agnes Campbell on 10th July 1866 at Anderston. They had 2 children,

