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EDITORIAL

It is with some sadness that I write this quarter's waffle. A work colleague died suddenly and very prematurely at the age of 48 at her home one morning last week and this, naturally, caused the office to be really flat and sombre. She was such a lynchpin in the office and a really nice person too; she will be greatly missed. I apologise for beginning with this solemn tale but, when an event such as this suddenly hits, it really focuses the mind on life and its one certain accomplice – death.

It is therefore somewhat paradoxical, that this final occurrence in life, which is tinged with great grief at the time, provides one of the building blocks of this family history game that we treasure and engage in so much. I'm not sure we reflect a great deal about this sorrowful aspect when we gain another date statistic for our own personal research. The lows felt by family and friends at the departure of a loved one in the past, contrasts to the joys of adding another date to our collection in the present. A similar, but converse, logic can be applied to the happier events of ancestral births and marriages, which are greeted by us with similar joy, but probably with less genuine feeling and celebration.

Although family peerages have existed as a limited past time of the gentry throughout history, I don't imagine that these events troubled the minds of the masses in terms of genealogy. Having said that, it was not uncommon for family bibles to be handed down the generations which were sometimes used to record families lineages.

Nowadays, as we all know, genealogy plays a large part in, certainly, our lives. It is ironic then, that we can rest safely in the knowledge that our passing, while contributing to short term sorrow for our loved ones which we leave behind, will provide gems of statistical delight to our future generations, who will probably think not a jot about the manner of our demise. We will just be one more piece in their great genealogical patchwork, as our forebears are to ours.

This peeking into the future leads me nicely onto the Highland Year of Culture in 2007. For those of you who are unaware (probably the majority), Highland Council presented a bid to become the European Capital of Culture for the same year, however, this failed. The Council decided subsequently to celebrate its own cultural achievements in its own unique way, by dedicating that year for the purpose. One very positive and very welcome spin-off of this event is the commitment of the Council to providing a state of the art, purpose-built Archive Centre, to replace the archaic and extremely cramped current premises at the rear of the Inverness Library.

The recently retired Senior Archivist, Bob Steward, who had been campaigning for new premises for what probably amounted to be most of his tenure in the Archive Service, must be both extremely delighted and frustrated at the same time. His delight will come from the fact that his dream now has a promise to be finally realised, but this will have been severely tempered by the fact that he, personally, will have metaphorically missed the archival boat. The overwhelming good news for all, however, and one with which to leave you all drooling, is Highland Council's apparent new-found commitment to its own boundless cultural heritage and its pledge from the Edinburgh archives to return some of the Highland gems back to their rightful home. Let's hope it all comes to fruition and people, like my dear work colleague, might be remembered in new and salubrious surroundings.

EMIGRANTS ON THE SHIP "GLASGOW" IN 1775

By Graeme M. Mackenzie

In 2004 Alastair Grant in Toronto sent a query to the Journal (published as No. 1008) about a Peter and an Alpin Grant, to which I responded in the following issue (Vol. 23, No. 1). Since then Alastair and I have corresponded at some length about the first generations of his family in Nova Scotia, and their possible ancestors amongst the Grants in Urquhart & Glen Moriston. In the course of these exchanges Alastair indicated that he thought Alpin Grant may have emigrated in 1775 on the ship "Glasgow" – but that he didn't think he'd ever be able to confirm this belief because, though much was known about the ship and many of the emigrant families on it, there was no surviving list of its passengers. Well in fact there is a list – though only a partial one – and this reminded me that it's about time it was published, since the story of the "Glasgow" and its passengers is a particularly interesting one. My knowledge of this list and of the fate of the families on the ship stems from research I did some years ago for Doug Macmillan and his brothers in California, whose ancestor Finlay Macmillan was also an emigrant on the "Glasgow" – and I'm grateful to Doug for sending me the copy of the passenger list, and of related documents, which were found in the Public Record Office in London by English genealogist Dennis Bateman.

The simplest way to start the story is to quote a report to their superiors written on the 3rd September 1775 by the Customs Officers at Fort William:

Honorable Sirs,

We wrote your honors on the 19th of June last that a Clyde vessel was expected here to ship off emigrants for North America. We now beg leave to acquaint you that the above vessel arrived at this port some time ago called the Glasgow, Solomon Townshend master, for New York, North America, John and George Buchanan at Greenock owners, that they shipt here on board the above vessel for New York sixty five men above twenty years of age, seventeen youths from ten to twenty years, forty boys under ten years, being one hundred and twenty two males. Seventy women above twenty years, twenty four girls from ten to twenty years, and thirty five female children under ten years of age, being one hundred and twenty nine females - in all two hundred and fifty one souls.

These poor people were mostly all from the northern parts of the shire of Strathglass on the land of Chisolms country - none of them had the appearance of gentlemen but a Mr Fraser and a Mr Chisholm. The rest seemed to be very poor people at least they had that appearance - they however all made shift to pay (as we were told) for their passage, but about twenty of them that indented with the owners of the vessel and Mr Fraser and Chisholm who freighted the vessel for them. They would give us no proper cause for leaving their country but the racked rents exacted by the proprietors of lands, that they found themselves poor and were determined to go abroad while they had any remains of their subject to carry them, and though they were repeated times told of the rebellion in some of the colonies in North America they did not seem to be moved by that, saying they were assured New York and the parts they were bound to were not in rebellion and that they did not think themselves in any danger of being forced to serve either in His Majesty's troops, or the provincials - and this morning they sailed with a fair wind in very good spirits - these are all the circumstances we know of these people which we think it our duty to give your honors the earliest intelligence thereof, and we are with much respect

Honorable Sirs,

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Your Very Obedient

Humble Servants
Colin Campbell

Duncan McPhaile

The emigrants' confidence about sailing into the midst of the American War of Independence was sadly misplaced and upon arrival off New York on the 3rd of October the "Glasgow" was boarded and detained by seamen from "HMS Asia" (64 guns) whose commander, Captain Vandeput, was acting on orders recently received from Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, who wrote in early December "...it surely can never be right to continue to people a country in absolute rebellion against us. Most of the men will, I believe, enlist in the army".¹

Most of the men did indeed go on to serve in the British army, though the circumstances of their recruitment remains controversial. The pro-Revolutionary "Constitutional Gazette" in New York reported that those inclined not to serve were forced to undergo "...the greatest tortures, such as their being chained down on their backs to the ring bolts, and fed with bread and water. Several of them suffered this torture for three days before they could be brought to yield and sign the paper of their enlistment". Official British accounts on the other hand tell of an offer warmly accepted by the men to serve as a body in the recently formed Royal Highland Emigrants regiment – as an alternative to being pressed separately into other (and probably English) units – while their families were kept together and provided with the regular subsistence for dependents; one half ration for wives, and one quarter ration for children. They were further told that upon demobilisation they would be granted 200 acres of land for each man, and a further 50 acres for each member of their families. Whichever spin is to be believed, all served and after eight years in the RHE (later the 84th Regiment) the survivors – including Finlay Macmillan and Alpin Grant² – were settled as promised on government land in Pictou County in Nova Scotia.

This background is important in order to understand the nature of the list which follows. It comes from the Muster Roll of "HMS Asia" for November 1775, which lists amongst its "Supernumeraries" a total of 74 men – called "Emigrants" – who came onto the roll on 1st November and who were discharged in Boston (then the HQ of the British forces in North America) on the 7th of December. As such it is assumed to be all the males of military age (i.e. 15 and above) who were amongst the emigrants – and who presumably were separated from their families on the "Glasgow", which was provisioned and sent off on the 5th of November to Boston. On the 2nd of January 1776 the men eventually arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to start training with the rest of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Highland Emigrants. Presumably their families went with them, but sadly we have no official record at this time of the names of the wives and children – though many of them can be identified from later Canadian records and from local and family histories such as those I refer to below.

The men's names on this list are as spell in the original Admiralty document and are given in the same order as on it, though the initial numbers are my addition – so as to be able to refer to individuals in the comments that follow. The numbers in round brackets after some names are those that appear in the original to indicate separate individuals bearing the same names, but those in square brackets I've added as the navy clerks seem to have missed some of the recurring names.

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MEN FROM THE SHIP "GLASGOW" ON MUSTER ROLL OF HMS "ASIA"

[PRO: ADM.36/8080]

1.	Hugh Frazier	27.	Alex ^r . MacDonald (2)	52.	Ewan McDonald [2]
2.	Jn ^o . McPhearson	28.	Jn ^o . Ferguson [1]	53.	Sam ^s . Cameron
3.	Don ^d . MacDonald (1)	29.	Dun ⁿ . McDougal	54.	Don ^d . Grant
4.	Alpine Grant	30.	Alex ^r . McDougal (1)	55.	Jam ^s . McPhee
5.	Don ^s . Cameron (1)	31.	Farquhar McDonald	56.	Alex. Frazier
6.	Jn ^o . McDougal	32.	Jn ^o . Chisholm (1)	57.	Don ^d . Frazier (2)
7.	Pe ^r . McDonald	33.	Jn ^o . Ferguson [2]	58.	Alex ^r . McIntosh
8.	Ang ^s . McDonald	34.	W ^m . Chisholm (1)	59.	Don ^d . McDonald (4)
9.	Dun ⁿ . Grant	35.	W ^m . McDonald	60.	Alex. McDougal (2)
10.	Alex ^r . Grant (1)	36.	Alex ^r . Grant (2)	61.	Alex. McDougal (3)
11.	Jn ^o . Grant	37.	Jn ^o . McDonald (3)	62.	Jn ^o . Chisholm (2)
12.	Jn ^o . McDonald (1)	38.	Don ^d . McDonald (2)	63.	W ^m . Chisholm (2)
13.	Finlay McMillan	39.	Don ^d . Frazier (1)	64.	Dun ⁿ . Chisholm (1)
14.	W ^m . McMillan (1)	40.	Doug ^l . McDougal	65.	Jam ^s . Frazier (2)
15.	Alex ^r . Chisholm	41.	Ewan McDougal	66.	Thos ^s . McDonald
16.	Don ^s . Cameron (2)	42.	Finlay Cameron	67.	Don ^d . Chisholm
17.	Jam ^s . McGregor	43.	Dun ⁿ . McDonald (3)	68.	Hugh McDonald
18.	Jn ^o . McDonald (2)	44.	[should be Don ^d ?]	69.	Jn ^o . Chisholm (3)
19.	Jn ^o . McFee	45.	W ^m . McMillan (2)	70.	Don ^d . McDonald (5)
20.	Jam ^s . Frazier (1)	46.	Don ^d . McMillan	71.	Jn ^o . Cameron (1)
21.	W ^m . Frazier	47.	Jn ^o . McDonald (4)	72.	Petr. Grant
22.	Alex ^r . McDonald (1)	48.	Jn ^o . Cumming	73.	Jn ^o . Cameron (2)
23.	Don ^d . Paterson	49.	Jam ^s . Cumming	74.	Don ^d . McDougal
24.	Rod ^k . McDonald	50.	Jn ^o . Frazier		
25.	Alex ^r . Barclay		Alex ^r . Cumming		
26.	Ewan McDonald [1]		Ewan McPhee		

Unfortunately there are very few surviving records for the Royal Highland Emigrants regiment so it's difficult to follow the fortunes of many of these men in the early years of the war – unless they ended up in Captain Murdoch Maclean's company which is relatively well documented in the Maclean of Lochbuie papers in the National Archives of Scotland (GD 174). There are however some papers in the War Office records in London relating to the RHE after it was fully incorporated into the regular army as the 84th Regiment of Foot. There are Muster Rolls from June 1782 to the end of 1783 (when the battalion was disbanded) which can be found in the Public Record Office at Kew – now confusingly calling itself "The National Archives" – as WO.12/8806. The "Roll of Men Mustered Out" (i.e. paid off at the end of the war) has been published in "Scottish Highlanders and the American Revolution" by G. Murray Logan, who's ancestor James Fraser (*Seamus Mor*) had served with the 84th and having been discharged earlier is said to have been one of the first of the original "Glasgow" emigrants to survey and settle the East Branch in Pictou (there's no way of knowing whether *Seamus Mor* is "James Frazier" No. 20 or No. 65 in the list above).³

Though the Custom House report says that most of the emigrants on the "Glasgow" came from Strathglass, we know many in fact belonged to families from neighbouring Glen Urquhart, part of which (Buntait) was owned by The Chisholm. This was the case with the Macmillans appearing in the list, though like many of their name in The Glen their ancestors can be traced back to Lochaber and/or Argyll. Finlay Macmillan (No. 13 on the list), was probably born in about 1730, and his father is thought to have been one of three brothers of

the clan chieftain in Lochaber (Macmillan of Murlagan) who came from Loch Arkaiside to settle in Glen Urquhart prior to the rebellion of 1745. Finlay himself is reported to have lived in Fort Augustus before settling at Balmacaan in Glen Urquhart, from where he was married in 1758. He died in about 1806 on the East River of Pictou, having had at least four sons – three of whom are known to have emigrated with him: Donald – presumably No. 45 above – who served in the 3rd Company of the 84th Regiment and who died in Pictou in 1784; William – either No. 14 or No. 44 above – who is said to have been wounded whilst serving with a cavalry regiment in America, and who returned to Scotland to recuperate before re-emigrating to Pictou on the "Aurora" in 1802; and John – whose birth in 1772 at Escard of Balmacaan made him too young to be included in the above list – who died at Churchville, Pictou, in 1840 (being the great-great-grandfather of Doug Macmillan in California).⁴

A number of the "Glasgow" emigrants are referred to in a letter sent to the Glen Urquhart historian William Mackay in 1889 by the Rev. Dr. A. Maclean Sinclair in Belfast, Prince Edward Island, who had previously been the minister in Springville, Pictou. Amongst these are the family of John Macdonald (*Iain Mac Eoghainn Oig*), a descendant of a refugee from the Massacre of Glencoe, who fought at Culloden when 16 years old, and who sailed on the "Glasgow" with his wife, four sons and four daughters. He settled at Bridgeville on the East River in Pictou, along with three of his sons: Hugh Macdonald (*Eoghann Mor*), James Macdonald (the grandfather of a future Chief Justice of Nova Scotia), and Duncan "Speich" Macdonald who was another ancestor (great-great-grandfather) of G. Murray Logan. Since there are four John Macdonalds on the list it's impossible to say which of them is *Iain Mac Eoghainn Oig*; and while there is a Duncan Macdonald (No. 43), the fact that he is noted as the third of that name though there are no previous Duncan Macdonalds on the list would suggest that this "Duncan" was in fact another Donald Macdonald – which would make sense in terms of the numbering for recurring names. There is only one Hugh Macdonald on the list (No. 68) so one might assume that he is to be equated with John's son of that name, but since there are also two Ewen Macdonalds (Nos. 26 & 52), *Eoghann Mor* may well have been one of them – which problem serves as a cautionary tale for descendants searching for ancestors bearing Gaelic given names which often had more than one English equivalent.⁵

A further complicating factor comes with the possibility that not all surnames are what they appear – and in relation to this list, and the men on it about whom we have further information, it has to be possible that some of the "Camerons" on it may in fact have been Macmillans. This particular confusion of surnames – a result of the Lochaber Macmillans' close connections with Cameron of Lochiel – resulted in one family in Glen Urquhart in the late 18th century having children baptised alternately as "Macmillan" and "Cameron". The father of these children was another Finlay Macmillan, and the appearance amongst the "Glasgow" emigrants of a Cameron bearing the same given name (No. 42), which whilst quite common amongst Macmillans was rare indeed amongst Camerons, suggests this could be the case here too. The fact that this family of "Camerons" lived in The Glen at Clunemore, which was also home to a family of Macmillans related to the emigrant Finlay (No. 13 above) further reinforces this possibility. The "Camerons" in question are well-documented in Canada, with a family history by James M. Cameron showing Finlay to be one of three brothers who all served in the RHE/84th – the others being *Domhnall Ruadh* (Donald Cameron himself – nicknamed "Red" – presumably No. 5 or No. 16 above) and *Somhairle Ruadh*. One might suppose that Samuel the Red was No. 53 above, but the family history tells us that *Somhairle Ruadh* was three years in Albany, New York, before enlisting in the 84th, and that he had a son called Samuel who was also in the army and who also received a land grant on the East River. The passenger on the "Glasgow" therefore may have been the

HFHS PROJECTS

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

By John Durham

The first stage in producing a comprehensive index to all burial grounds in Scotland is complete and each family history society has been allocated the areas they are responsible for. A database has been designed to store all the information to be collected and the plan is that the CD for the whole of Scotland will be ready in time for the SAFHS Annual Conference in April 2007.

The first stage is to produce a full list of all burial grounds in our area. Caithness FHS have agreed to be responsible for those within their county and Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS are looking after all Argyll parishes south of Loch Linhe. As we are still left with a large area to cover I am going to need help from members who live in the more far-flung areas in the Highlands. Local council lists have given me a start with several names but I need people on the ground to go and visit cemeteries close to where they live and report back to me. What I need initially is the name of the burial ground and its location. Once the database is loaded with that information the next stage is to find out if any transcriptions have been made and in particular if have any been published and where can they be viewed.

The work on the completely new publication for Fortrose is continuing and it should be available by the end of May. In the original publication there were transcriptions recorded for only thirty stones found scattered around the ruined Cathedral. The new publication has no fewer than 164 inscriptions, including 65 recorded inside the area cordoned off from the public at large. These include those in the Mackenzie mausoleum which we transcribed once we were given access to the inner sanctum.

Once Fortrose is finished we will turn our attention to completing the checking of Urquhart on the Black Isle (quite a task as I note that many stones are under the turf) and possibly Old Kilmore in Drumdrochit.

INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

By John Durham

Elizabeth Nicholls has volunteered to transcribe Glenelg Parish and with Margaret and Billy Mackay continuing to work through the microfilm for Sutherland, we are now left with Applecross in Ross-shire and a large number of parishes in Inverness-shire needing volunteers to transcribe in advance of indexing. The outstanding parishes are: -

Abermethy	Alvie	Ardersier
Boleskine & Abertarf	Cromdale & Inverallan	Croy & Dalcross
Daviot & Dumlichity	Dores	Duthil & Rothiemurchus
Inverness Parish	Kilmornaig	Kingussie & Insh
Laggan	Moy & Dalarossie	Urquhart & Glenmoriston

son on his way in 1775, with his uncles, to join his father in upstate New York, before being so rudely diverted to Nova Scotia. Finlay Cameron is said to have drowned soon after settling on the East River in 1784, while his brothers both farmed nearby at Bridgeville.⁶

Another settler in 1784 at Bridgeville was John Chisholm. Though he doesn't appear amongst those mentioned in his letter to William Mackay, the Rev. Maclean Sinclair wrote separately about "The Chisholms of Bridgeville" in the *Eastern Chronicle* of 19th September 1895, in an article on "East River People" which also features "The Grants of Millstream". The latter family are descended from a James Grant who emigrated to Pictou in 1773 on the "Hector", and the article mentions the fact that this James Grant had a brother called Alpin who also came to Canada, and who lived "near Pictou". Nothing is said here by Maclean Sinclair about when and how this Alpin emigrated, so it's impossible to say if he can be equated with the "Alpine Grant" who appears in the above list as No. 4. It's not possible either for Alastair Grant to say for sure at the moment that the emigrant on the "Glasgow" was his ancestor, but the existence of this hitherto unpublished record does add another intriguing piece to his particular ancestral jigsaw.⁷

Considering all the travails that the "Glasgow" emigrants had to endure before finally reaching their promised land, it may be as well to end by quoting what the Rev. Maclean Sinclair has to say in his letter to William Mackay about the place the survivors were finally fortunate enough to find themselves settled in:

*The East River of Pictou, known in Gaelic as An Abhainn Mhor, is about thirty-five miles in length. It has its source about two miles from the Church at Blue Mountain. It enters the sea at New Glasgow. The distance from New Glasgow to Churchville is six miles, from Churchville to Springville four miles, from Springville to Bridgeville two miles, from Bridgeville to Sunny Brae six miles, from Sunny Brae to Kerrowgarr four miles and from Kerrowgarr (following the river) to the source of the river about thirteen miles. The valley of the river from Springville to Sunny Brae is very beautiful. There is not a lovelier spot in Nova Scotia.*⁸

NOTES

¹ PRO: CO 5/122

² G. Murray Logan, "Scottish Highlanders and the American Revolution" (1976), 48-9.

³ Logan, *op. cit.*

⁴ Trees of this family can be found on Sheet 33 of my "Glen Urquhart M'millans" in the HFHS Library. The second William M'Millan on the "Glasgow" could have been the man of the same name who's death on 24th September 1782 is mentioned in the Muster Rolls for Captain Alexander McDonald's company of the 84th (PRO: WO 12/8806).

⁵ A transcript of Maclean Sinclair's letter to William Mackay was published by Hugh Barron in TGS1, Vol. 53, pages 454-463. It had been written in response to an appeal from Mackay for information to go in his pioneering parish history, "Urquhart and Glenmoriston" which, when it was published in 1893 (2nd edition 1914), included as Appendix U (pages 570-2) "The Urquhart Settlement in Nova Scotia". This was largely based on Maclean Sinclair's letter, along with information from his fellow minister in Pictou, Rev. Dr. D. B. Blair (who's letter is also published in full in the above mentioned TGS1 article).

⁶ The question of Macmillans being called Cameron is discussed in Graeme M. Mackenzie, "Origins of the Lochaber Macmillans" which forms Chapter 3 of "The Lochaber Emigrants to Glengarry", ed. Rae Fleming (Toronto, 1994). James M. Cameron, "Descendants of Donald Cameron" (1927) - copies in NLS and the Clan Cameron Museum at Achmacarry.

⁷ Maclean Sinclair's article in the *Eastern Chronicle* appears to have been one of a series since I have a copy of a cutting dated 22 March 1894 apparently from the same source (to judge by the type face etc.) about "MacMillans, Campbells and Cummings", which is the source for much of our detailed information about the emigrant Finlay Macmillan and his family.

⁸ TGS1, Vol. 53, 454.

As mentioned in the previous journal we have loaded 128,155 index entries onto our website. Each parish has been edited to get rid of duplicate entries where the name and age are the same. To use the index on the website simply enter the surname you are interested in to get a full list showing Forename, Age and Parish in which the entry is to be found. This is a very useful facility as the person or persons you are looking for may not have been in the parish you thought when the census was taken in 1851.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX (SNBI)

By Sandra Norton

There is no report this time.

HFHS STRAYS INDEX

By Alan Ross

Thanks to everyone who contributed 'Strays' over the past three months. Some of our recent new members have asked for an explanation of how the Strays database works. So, for everyone's benefit, I hope that the following clears up any queries.

One recent query came from Trish Jerman of Columbia, South Carolina, USA. It reads: (Both letters are reproduced with kind permission of Trish).

Before I send you information you don't want, please clarify "strays list". Is it what happened to folks who left the area some time ago? If so, I can report on **John McLean and children who left Kiltarlity around 1870** for Buffalo, NY, USA. If this is of interest, let me know how much information you want.

After receiving my reply, Trish sent back the following very detailed information, including a very clear family photograph (circa 1900), about her stray and his family. She was also kind enough to include other information from her own research, showing where her family tied in. All this information will be stored for future reference.

John McLean, blacksmith, born in Kiltarlity Parish, Invernesshire in late 1824 or early 1825. Married Anne McGregor, daughter of James McGregor and Lizzie/Eliza Gordon, Nov. 21, 1851 in "Free church of Kiltarlity. Lived in Bruiach (?) per parish registers. Ann died March 16, 1866, in Bruiach. John and children emigrated in 1872 or 1873 (as reported variously by children and John in 1900 U.S. Census-Buffalo, NY).

I do not know whether they went to Canada first, then crossed over to New York via Toronto, or came straight to Buffalo, but they were in Buffalo by the time of the 1880 census. John died between June and December of 1900 (he appears in 1900 census-Olean, NY, living with daughter Eliza and her husband). He is buried with the MacEacherns in Mt. View cemetery, Olean, NY (Catarragus County).

Children of John McLean and Anne McGregor, all born in Bruiach, were: Jessie, 1856 (single, dressmaker, per 1880 US census-Buffalo, NY). Eliza, May 13, 1858 (single, homemaker, per 1880 US census-Buffalo, NY). John, May 9, 1860 (shopkeeper, dry goods store, per 1900 US Census-Buffalo, NY. 1890 Buffalo city directory lists John McLean Jr. associated with McLean Bros. store, although this could be another family). Daughters: Helen and Elsie. Simon, May 20, 1862 (worked in a store, per 1880 census: "dictation investigator" per 1920 US census-Buffalo, NY). Children: Anna, Margaret, James, John, Dorothy. Helen, July 17, 1864.

(I wonder if one or more children preceded Jessie, given the gap between marriage and her birth, and either died young or decided to remain in Scotland when the family moved. It seems strange that there was no James, given that Anne's father was James).

[The fact that the marriage took place in the Free Church would be the most likely explanation for any missing baptisms between 1851 and 1855, when the official recording of Births, Marriages and deaths started in Scotland. Ed.]

Eliza (my great-grandmother) married John McEachern, (born in Canada, presume Creignish, Nova Scotia), in 1885, probably in Buffalo, but I can't find proof. They had 4 children and moved to Olean, NY, where John McEachern worked in some capacity related to lumber and railroads. City directory and census list him variously as "lumberman" and "railroad tie inspector", so we suppose he was involved in securing timbers for railroad ties. When John was naturalized in 1896, spelling of name was changed to MacEachern. Eliza died in Olean, NY in 1911. She is buried in Mt. View Cemetery in Olean.

Children were:

Duncan, July 1887 (father of Betty who married Clint Wheeling, parents of Marilyn Wheeling, children's book author and illustrator. Has been to "ancestral homeland" and pronounced it very beautiful but very cold!)

Annie B, July 1887 (twin of Duncan). One son, William Foss. Annie died in 1918, presumably in flu epidemic, although some stories suggest lung ailment.

John Jr., September 14, 1888.

Archie, December, 1895 (Died shortly after service in WWI; some suggestion he was gassed, but more likely had TB or some other lung ailment prior to entering service. Spent much of his time in army hospitals).

John married Charlotte Alice Bonnar, parents of Jean Bonnar MacEachern. He was what would later be called a cost accountant for the Pennsylvania RR in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Served in France and Army of Occupation in Germany during WWI. A fine man who loved children and animals, deacon in the Presbyterian church, sang in church choir.

His daughter Jean attended what is now Carnegie Mellon University—in which there is a certain poetic justice, as her grandfather Bonnar came from Dunfermline and was apparently first cousin once removed of Andrew Carnegie. She married Daniel Jerman, engineer specializing in railroads, and produced three children, of which I am the eldest. Jean and Dan currently live near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Patricia Lee Jerman, 1952, environmental professional, married Mark Tompkins, university professor, parents of Daniel Jerman Tompkins. Live in South Carolina.

Robert Edward Jerman, 1955, chemical engineer, father of Lydia Claire and Elias Scott Jerman, live in Chalfont, Pennsylvania.

Douglas Jerman, 1959, mechanical engineer, married Dorianne Goldi, engineer and artist, father of Alice Elizabeth and John Carl Jerman. Live in Long Valley, New Jersey.

The reference to all this information will appear as the following first two columns when one searches the database for a John McLean. Similar entries will appear for each of his children who emigrated to the USA with him, as they are all strays. The third column is just an explanation and does not appear on the database.

Ref.No.	xxxx.xx	eg 1234.00.
Surname	McLEAN	Stray persons surname
Forename	John	Stray persons forename
County	Inv	County of stray person's birth
Birth Parish	Kiltarlity	Parish of stray person's birth
Year	1870	Year at which event was recorded
Age	46	Individual's approximate age at year of event
Event	Emigration	Event reason i.e. marriage, death, census entry etc.
Source	Family Letter	Where the information came from
Entry	2005	Year information entered onto database
Submitter	Trish Jerman	Person who submitted the information
Xtra Info	Yes.	Is other information not shown available?

Note on Ref No. To explain this more thoroughly, for example, in this instance John may be allocated the number 1234.00. His children would be numbered 1234.01 to 1234.05 respectively. This shows that all are linked one way or another. The next unrelated entry in the database would be numbered 1235.00.

Note on Xtra Info. This may be in the form of a newspaper obituary or article, a photograph or a letter such as that submitted by Trish.

BITS & PIECES

We are still receiving e-mails with comments on items that appeared in previous journals. Please continue to send them in and we will publish them.

National Library of Scotland

On this subject Ed McKinnon e-mailed as follows: - "Thank you for the most recent (February) issue [23, 2] of the HFHS journal, which arrived several days ago. Well done, there is always something of interest. This time it was Joan Leggett's 'Some Sutherland Letters' that caught my eye. I have found umpteen letters in the NLS concerning the MacKinnons of Strath, addressed to Mackenzie of Delvine who, as a senior lawyer in Edinburgh, seems to have acted for a great number of the Highland landowners at one stage or another. The MacKenzie papers are an extremely valuable source of information for Highland legal issues of the early/mid 18th century generally. I could, perhaps, do a brief note on the gentleman if you would be interested. [Yes, we would!] I think I may have some pretty extensive notes around somewhere."

Eilean Donan & the Macraes

Ann Henderson, another member e-mailed as follows: - "I noticed on the Syllabus that Marigold Macrae gave a talk on *Eilean Donan & the Macraes* on Jan. 25th. My late uncle, Alexander Macleod, was both a piper and later Pipe Major of the Clan Macrae Pipe Band. His youngest brother, James was also a member of the band before it was disbanded. Uncle Alex was one of the members who went to Eilean Donan Castle to play at the funeral of the (then) late Head of the Clan Macrae. He was Pipe Major when the band won the Triple Crown. All the trophies were at my grandmother's house (for cleaning) when Uncle Alex's house was burgled. Most of his medals from previous contests were stolen, but it was fortunate that the cups and shields from the contests that year were not in his house.

Highland FHS Website

One or two members contacted me to point out that having exhorted members to visit the Society's new website in the last journal; I had omitted to remind them what the address was! Sorry about that. It is www.highlandfhs.org.uk. Those of you who would like to know more about the various facilities available on the website should look at the article by the webmaster, Peter Munro, describing the contents of each page on the website and which was printed in the November 2004 Journal.

What's On

The last of our monthly meetings are over and the Committee has the task of selecting speakers for the next session. If any members know of someone they feel would be worth approaching, please contact our secretary Angus Bethune as soon as possible. The Society will have a table in the Clan tent at the Inverness Highland Games in July

What's On Elsewhere

Either through the post or handed out at the recent SAFHS Conference we have acquired a number of flyers highlighting family history events that will be taking place later on this year in various parts of the UK.

1. Lanarkshire FHS is holding a Scottish Family History Fair on Sunday 22nd May at the Visitors Centre, New Lanark Village. This will be the venue for the next SAFHS Conference in April 2006. Admission is free to the general public and there were about 600 people through the doors last year.
2. Anglo-Scottish Family History Society invites you to 'Born Scotland! What Next', a conference on Scottish research at St Andrew & St George Centre, Bolton on Saturday 17th September. Presentations are on 'Starting Scottish Research', 'Tracking the Dead pre-1855', 'The SCAN Project at NAS' and 'Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland'.
3. Fife Family History Fair with the theme '1855 - that was the year that was' will be held on Saturday 22nd October between 9.30am and 5pm in the Rothies Hall, Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes. There will be lectures, workshops, exhibitions, local & family history stalls, publications, census returns, IGI, OPRs and much more. -

THE FALL AND RISE OF THE COMET II STEAM-PACKET

By Joan M. Leggett

I first learnt of the *Comet II* accident from a note book kept by Jean MacKay Sutherland (1772-1858) in which she listed the movements of her children, e.g. her son Robert (1805-83), my great great grandfather, left the family home in Rhives, Easter Ross for St. Vincent, West Indies, on 25 January 1821. About her youngest son Charles Baillie Sutherland, baptised in Kilmuir Easter in January 1808 who, like his brothers and sisters had attended Tain Royal Academy, she wrote that he left home on 21 October 1823 for Aberdeen, came home on 29 March 1824 and left again on 28 April 1824 for Edinburgh. The following year Jean noted: "Charles Baillie Sutherland drowned on the *Comet* steam-packet, 21 October 1825."

I thought it likely that Charles was on the ill-fated boat on his way to Glasgow to board ship for St. Vincent where three of his brothers and one sister had settled but I later found that he was on his way to Edinburgh to continue his medical studies and that 'CBS' sewn on linen and surgical instruments found in his pocket identified him when his body was found. "He was a most promising, genteel, young man only in his 18th year and was on his way to attend his 3rd course of medical study at Edinburgh where he was apprenticed to an eminent surgeon." (Dr J.J. Galbraith's papers, Ref.1/1200 NAS, Edinburgh) Charles was probably travelling under the watchful eye of Wemyss Erskine Sutherland, a relative and Captain in the 2nd West India Regiment, who was on board with Sarah Duff, his bride of 7 weeks.

The *Comet II*, built of wood in Dumbarton by James Lang and launched in 1821, was named after Henry Bell's *Comet*, "the first European steam passenger ship" built 1811-12 by John Wood of Port Glasgow. Bell's ship was named after the 'Great Comet' which was seen low in the evening sky of 25 March 1811; it was visible for a record 17 months and observed from Glasgow by the famous astronomer William Herschel. Bell's *Comet* was destroyed in December 1820 when it was lifted on to rocks and wrecked at Craignish Point, Argyll.

Early on 18 October 1825, under command of Capt. Duncan MacInnes, the *Comet II* left Inverness and, on arrival at the western end of the Caledonian Canal, the passengers disembarked to over-night at Fort William. The next day the ship stopped at the Crinan Canal and again the passengers spent the night ashore. The following morning it took 4 hours for the ship to travel the 9 miles to Lochgiphead arriving there at 10 am and, as there was insufficient water to float the packet out of the basin into the open loch, the Captain waited for the tide and sailed away at 6 pm; he hoped to make Greenock by midnight and stay there till daybreak to run up to Glasgow early the next morning.

Mr Glover, an English artist, persuaded Capt. MacInnes to call at Rothesay and 4 people left the boat there. The *Comet II* proceeded up the Clyde with the passengers dancing on deck to keep warm. At 2am the boat was off Kempock Point, a headland on the south of the Clyde between the Cloch Lighthouse and Gourrock Village. Most of the passengers had retired and the Captain ordered a light to be placed prominently on the ship – later it was claimed that this had not been done due to a lack of candles.

Capt. MacInnes was on the cabin-deck talking with passengers when the ship received a tremendous knock on her bow, followed by a second terrible blow near the port paddle-box. The *Comet II* was struck by the *Ayr*, a paddle steamer luggage-boat whose Master was Mr MacClelland. The two boats were going round the point at the same time; one *Ayr* passenger

on hearing the crash rushed to the deck and saw that the vessels had recoiled from each other by the impact; the *Comet II* was about 100 yards away, her deck crowded with people. Within 3 minutes the ship went down, bow foremost, in 17½ fathoms of water about 165 yards from shore.

The *Ayr* master, engineers and crew were panic-stricken. The engine had been stopped and it was suggested to the Captain that it should be started so as to head for the nearest land, and that lights should be put out as signals of distress. This went unheeded. There were 13 people in the steerage and 7 cabin passengers on board the *Ayr* – no one was lost. One passenger shouted loudly hoping he would be heard on shore: this brought out the *Harmony* which saved 7 people from the *Comet II*.

The *Ayr* drifted towards the Cloch Light and when the crew recovered sufficiently the engine was started and the Captain decided to proceed to Greenock making no attempt to render assistance or save anyone from the stricken *Comet II*. The sea had rushed into the *Comet II* with great speed and quickly stopped the engine; the scene, described by survivors, was truly heart-rending.

Capt. MacInnes, suspecting that most of the damage was foreships, called to the passengers to come aft, trusting the packet would right itself. He ordered the engine to be started and the boat to be run ashore – unsuccessfully. An attempt was made to get out the yawl, hung astern, but the tacking could not be loosened. The ropes were then cut and about 30 people in the yawl fell into the water with the yawl landing keel uppermost.

Charles Baillie Sutherland's body was 'found by trawling' on Friday 22 October 1825 and *The Glasgow Herald* of 28 October 1825 reported: "Gourrock, Tuesday ... The body of the young man whose linens were marked "C.B.S." has been claimed. His name is Charles Baillie Sutherland." His death was also reported in the *Inverness Journal* on 4 November 1825. A memorial tablet near the south wall of Gourrock Chapel Street Cemetery reads:

In front of this stone is interred the body of Charles Baillie Sutherland of Ross-shire, youngest son of the late Captain George Sackville Sutherland of Rhives, aged 17, who was drowned with many other passengers in the Comet Steam-boat from Inverness in the dreadful catastrophe by which that vessel was sunk off Kempock on the morning of 21st October 1825.

Capt. W.E. Sutherland could have saved himself by swimming ashore but refused to leave his wife; on 28 October her body was taken to Glasgow where her husband's had been carried. A beautiful scarf, thought to have been hers, was picked up and a purse containing 5 sovereigns and a half, some silver and 2 gold watches were found on Capt. Sutherland.

Janet Munro of Tain saved herself by clinging to a large black dog. When she was safely ashore and put to bed, the faithful animal lay down at her feet. Two pointer dogs also swam ashore, staying outside a house in Gourrock for a while and another dog lay beside some luggage that had washed ashore.

The Sheriff-substitute, Claude Marshall of Renfrewshire, arrived at Gourrock and with Mr Rankin and Mr Leitch, Magistrate of Greenock, took charge of the search for bodies, examining them when they came ashore, taking descriptions of their clothes and property. Over the next few days Gourrock filled with people anxious to learn about the accident and the names of those who were drowned. Relatives "with hope that keeps alive despair",

