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EDITORIAL

Christmas over! Spring approaching! New editorial to create! I trust you all had a happy festive season and have stuck to all of those New Year resolutions? Mine was to prepare better for the Journal and, true to my own word, I have started even before January has disappeared from the calendar.

For the regular reader of this column (yes, there is probably just the one!), you will know that I struggle to fill the starting blank page, and this is proving to be no exception. Usually it is a bit of a personal ramble about what has been happening in my own little world regarding heritage/family history – and I don't expect this will be any different! However, I'll begin by being a bit topical and discuss the second series of a family history programme entitled 'Who Do You Think You Are' which is currently running on our main BBC channel here in the UK.

Domestic readers will probably be familiar with the format, where a 'celebrity' (am I the only person who dislikes our new 'celebrity culture'?), usually fairly high-brow and middle-aged or mature, is aided in tracing their family history and we viewers share the journey. They have it very easy: all the footwork is done behind the scenes by the programme's researchers and then they are handed the evidence and results. The celebrity is then whisked off to an area of interest (even to locations abroad) which has been pinpointed from this research.

I have to say that I find the programme quite fascinating, not just from the family history aspect (although I would like them to have to work a bit harder for their rewards!), but from the human angle too. The second programme of this current series featured Jeremy Paxman, the hard-hitting interviewing front man for the late evening BBC current affairs programme 'Newsnight' and also the strict and pushy quizmaster in 'University Challenge'.

At the start of the programme he presented his brash, apparently unfeeling and emotionless exterior, with phrases to the effect of 'why would I want to delve into my past?' By the end of the programme, he had been reduced to tears with what he had discovered, or rather, had been discovered for him on his personal and very eye-opening odyssey! He even discovered that he had Scottish (and, likely, Highland MacKay) roots, of which at first he was not particularly pleased! Being archetypally English, this was a bit of a shock to his system, but he gradually warmed to this revolutionary discovery and eventually was quite proud.

What is common to almost every single programme of the series is the way the chosen celebrity invariably begins 'his' (or 'her') research by a visit to elderly Mum or Great-Aunt. They browse through old rustic photograph albums and unearth important documents or other evidence and this is the source of many of the leads followed in the programme and the whole crux of this enjoyable and oh so time-consuming family history game.

Returning to the regular reader of this column and my usual personal rambings, you will be familiar with my parental predicament, in that my Mother (who has just celebrated her 80th birthday) lives alone 600 miles away in South Wales. The Paxman programme moved me so much that it stimulated me to bring up the old chestnut of attempting to get her up to Brora to spend her twilight years close to her only child (yes – that explains a lot, I know!). Last weekend, I actually succeeded in persuading her that it would, after all, be a good idea, after having tried on several occasions over the previous decade.

So, once her house is sold and her new Sheltered Housing can be organised, then up she comes, to do battle with the cold and all the other disadvantages she perceives is associated with living in the Highlands. I am sure I can allay her fears (and my fears of her fears!) when she arrives and she sees the *advantages* of, not only being closer to her next of kin, but also of living in the Highlands itself. From a purely selfish, but practical point of view, it is definitely in the right thing. There will be drawbacks for her, and it may take some time to adjust, but I will have the satisfaction of being able to keep an eye on her and, of course, the family history bonus is that I can get an awful lot more information from her over time in much more relaxed circumstances! That's not too selfish, is it???

WILLIAM CHISHOLM BURGH OFFICER, INVERNESS

By Peter Zentler Munro

My grandmother, Jessie Mary Munro, born in Moy, in 1890, had a fund of stories about her family. One of her favourite great grandparents was a William Chisholm, who she said had been a soldier, a sailor, and the first policeman in Inverness, though like most stories, I've since found out that not everything is true.

One of the difficulties is that William Chisholm was quite a common name, so some of the following may be wrong.

My 4 great grandparents William CHISHOLM and Isabel NAIRN had 4 children; Alexander James (who I assume died in infancy) and William both born 19th January 1792^{Note 1}, at Kildrummie (a farm?), near Nairn; John, baptised 1797; Alexander, baptised 1798; and Isabel, baptised 1805.

I know nothing more of William Chisholm and Isabel Nairn, however at some point, William (the son) moved to Inverness, where he married Elizabeth (later known as Eliza) Mackay on 30th May 1820. I think she was born in Strathglass on 30th December 1798^{Note 1}, in one census; her birthplace is recorded as Erchless; however in the 1871 census, her birth place was given as Kilmorack. My grandmother said that Eliza walked to Inverness to find a husband, there being no men she liked in Strathglass.

He was a sawyer from 1820 to 1828, and by substitution he joined the Inverness Militia as a drummer in 1824 (though he might have been in the Militia before this), promoted to corporal in 1826, and discharged on 24th June 1829. In 1836 he became one of the Burgh Officers (police constables) of Inverness, then in the 1841 Census, he's a labourer living at 14 Rose St., Inverness.

Their children were John, born 1st April 1821; Ann, born 10th September 1822; Isabella, born 6th September 1824; Margaret, born 14th August 1826; Robert, born 20th October 1828; Elizabeth, born 21st August 1830; Wilson^{Note 1} (a female), and Willina (according to the 1841 census, her name was Williamina) born 30th December 1834; Janet (later known as Jessie), born 3rd October 1838. Their address was the Glebe, for all the children except Jessie, who was born at 14 Rose St, Inverness.

On 7th July 1844 he was appointed Serjeant of the Disembodied Militia until discharged on 17th January 1855. Oddly, the next day he joined 76th Highland Light Infantry as Serjeant, was admitted on 13th February 1855 as an Out-Pensioner, Chelsea Hospital, with a good pension of 1/- per day, and a few days later, discharged from 76th Highland Light Infantry. There was another Serjeant discharged at the same time, James Grant, who had also been in the Militia, and this might be the same James Grant that was a police constable at the same time as William Chisholm.

William Chisholm is recorded in the Annual Account Pay List and Returns of the Disembodied Militia, 76th of Inverness Shire from 1st April 1852 to 31st March 1854, in the Non-Training Pay List as a Serjeant (not having been a Colour Serjeant in a Provisional Battalion) and paid for 365 days at 1/6 per day, a total of £27-7s-6d, this is the "at HQ" rate, (the "on leave" rate was 1/- per day). James Grant was also a Serjeant with the same pay. The Quarterly Estimate for 1st January 1854 to 31st March 1854 shows additionally: 2 Serjeants - allowance for clothing at 1/3d each per month.

From 1st April 1854 to 17th January 1855, the Militia increased in size by 9 more Serjeants, and others. In this return William Chisholm is recorded as 292 days charged for in the Pay List (42 weeks), the rate of pay is the same as above, but he was paid £21-18-0.

On a return titled *Payments to NCOs Employed in Raising Volunteers* for the period 20th November 1854 to 17th January 1855, William Chisholm was employed away from HQ from 19th December to 25th December (ie, for 7 days). For each day, Beer Money was paid at 1½d (seven farthings), Marching paid at ½d, and Billet Money paid at ½d.

This is very odd: Is the week before Christmas a sensible time to be recruiting away from Inverness, not only is the weather likely to be bad, but men will be looking forward to the festivities? 1½d seems like a lot for Beer Money, possibly enough for 7 pints!

There is a list of men enrolled showing names, ages, and height but for William Chisholm and James Grant, the list says "From the Old Disembodied Staff. At the end of this list, there is a heading Rejected, for William Chisholm and James Grant, it says "Two Staff Serjeants inspect for discharge". The discharge paper says in respect of William Chisholm, "....after 25 years 5 months service, height 5' 9 1/2", complexion fresh, hair dark brown, eyes hazel, trade sawyer, double hernia, varicose veins, character very fine".

In the Pay List of the 76th Highland Light Infantry of Militia from the 18th January to 31st March 1855, William Chisholm is recorded for the period 18th January to 16th February - 30 days at 1/10d per day.

In the Valuation Roll for 1859, there's a Wm Chisholm, Policeman, who is the proprietor of two apartments at 60 King Street, one with an annual rent of £4 10s where he lives, and the other with a rent of £2 where he has a tenant.

In 1866 he became the Gate-Keeper at Raigmore Gate (a railway crossing), Millburn, Inverness. On his death on 20th October 1879 he's described as a railway labourer. Eliza signed the death certificate with an X, suggesting she couldn't write. Eliza died on 1st March 1890^{Note 1} at Culcabock, and on her death certificate her occupation is described as Widow, formerly Railway Gate-Keeper.

When William Chisholm died in October 1879 there was an interesting obituary in the Inverness Advertiser. One piece of information stood out

During the Peninsular War a detachment of the regiment was employed on board the prison ship "Suffolk" guarding French prisoners ..."

William Chisholm was balloted for the Inverness Militia and it is unlikely that that occurred much before 1810 when he turned 18 years old. His period of service on board the **Suffolk** is thought to have been sometime between 1810 and 1814; in 1814, the Militia "came back from Portsmouth".

At the same time as William Chisholm's residence in Portsmouth, a Frenchman called Louis Garneray became a prisoner on one of the hulks. He kept a diary throughout the time he was aboard. This was published in France on his release. It was later translated into English and republished in 2004. It is a most comprehensive and compelling account.

The **Suffolk** was originally named **Sultan**. It was built in Harwich in 1775; a third rate seventy four gun ship commissioned for service following the American Declaration of Independence. The ship served for nearly thirty years. It became a prison ship in 1805, was renamed **Suffolk** and moored at Portsmouth.

The **Suffolk** was one of about thirty hulks – three groups of about ten ships ... each group moored along a separate channel within the Harbour ... and separated from the other groups by about a mile and a half of mud and water.

It is known that the **Suffolk** was one of ships in the same group as those named by Garneray, so William Chisholm will have been witness to many incidents similar to those described by Garneray. Louis Garneray came of an artistic family but in 1796 at the age of 13 he became a privateer. His ship the **Belle Poule** was captured ten years later and Garneray was transported to Portsmouth.

He arrived in May 1806 and was interned on the **Prothee** "... destined to be buried alive for the rest of my youth..." He describes the appalling conditions of life on the hulks in vivid detail.

He escaped twice during his first six months. Both times he was returned to the **Prothee** but on the later escape his companion evaded capture only to die on the mudflats. In 1807 he began painting and works attributed to him are still held by Portsmouth museum.

In 1809 he was transferred to the **Crown**. An escape suggested by one of his fellow prisoners, who then denounced all involved to the guards, resulted in the traitor being branded across the forehead by those implicated. The brand read "I denounced my brothers to the English on board the Crown 10 March 1809".

A month later Garneray was transferred to the **Vengeance** "... where I was to remain for five years". Half of that time the Captain was a person called Edwards, who was aged 22 when he took command. "I have said that my life on the **Vengeance** was as happy as a prisoner's life could be but alas! Towards the end of 1811 Captain Edwards was given command of a *convette* and left the hulk. It was a day of mourning for us all".

Shortly afterwards Garneray became ill and was transferred to the hospital ship **Pegasus**. When he was well he returned to **Vengeance**. He escaped for the last time in April 1813 and was captured again only a few miles off the coast of France. He was returned to the **Vengeance** but French defeats on the continent were making the English more arrogant and the conditions in the hulks worse.

By April 1814, conditions and attitudes were intolerable and in an argument Garneray hit a sailor. He was thrown into a cell. On the fifth day he was released because peace had been signed. "I set sail for France. On the twentieth (of April) I saw Paris again for the first time for twenty years".

The only information available that relates directly to the Suffolk is that between 1809 and 1812 the Captain was a Lt Gilmour who was succeeded in 1813 by Lt Harley.

Wm Branch Johnson in his book "The English Prison Hulks" makes a comment as follows:

"It is difficult not to accept the word of these prisoners who asserted that every officer had been drawn from the dregs of the Navy, the fact does seem undeniable that all but the pick of them seem to have been tainted with the idea that any treatment was good enough for the enemy. They ranged from martinets to arrogant rogues."

In 1813 Commissioner Boyle writes "Lt Harley of the **Suffolk** I found extremely drunk at 10 o'clock in the morning and I understand that is generally the case with him. Lt Peding, 2nd of the same ship is also a most Drunken Character. Lt Voller, of the **Guilford** [within the group with **Suffolk** and others] who is absent on leave, I should recommend to the board to be

immediately discharged for reasons unnecessary to point out in a Public Letter, but which I will communicate on my return".

By way of comparison an article was published in Inverness Journal in 1813:

"An act of great intrepidity was performed at Portsmouth on Monday se'night, which we have peculiar gratification in noticing. Three officers of the Inverness Militia were in a pleasure boat, and when sailing between the prison ships, a sudden current of wind upset the boat which, having heavy ballast, immediately sank. Two of the officers could swim, and they kept themselves upon the surface until boats took them up; but the other was in the most imminent danger of drowning. A French prisoner on board the Crown, named Morand, the moment he saw the officer struggling, jumped off the gangway into the water, and by putting his feet under the officer's body as he was sinking, raised him to the surface, and then held him fast until further assistance was obtained. A proper representation has been made to the Government, and no doubt one part of the brave fellows reward will be a release from his present situation".

Against this background the rest of William Chisholm's later obituary can be understood.

"During the Peninsular War a detachment of the regiment was employed on board the prison ship "Suffolk" guarding French prisoners. On one occasion four of the prisoners were permitted to fish from a small boat, guarded only by Chisholm, but taking advantage of their numbers they sprang upon and bound him, afterwards making for the shore, and for a time escaping.

Chisholm, however, with characteristic energy, managed to bite through the cords which bound him, and after a long and exciting chase recaptured his prisoners. For this he was specially mentioned in a dispatch by the captain of the vessel!

Descendants:

Of the children, Allan Lannon is descended from William's daughter, Isabella, who married John Melville (born 25th February 1821 in Golspie, Sutherland) on 22nd November 1844 in Inverness. There's a lot more about this line on his website, www.lannon-connections.co.uk

I am descended from Janet (later known as Jessie) who married John Munro (born 6th July 1834 in Inverness) on 28th December 1860 in Inverness. Unfortunately I know nothing of the other children.

Inverness Militia:

The Inverness, Banff, Elgin & Nairn Militia (1802-1804) was established by the Scotch Militia Act of 1802. Each county required to run a ballot in every parish to select men for 3 year periods of service. Ballots were only of men who owned property, if a man selected did not wish to join the Militia he was permitted to find a substitute, and the newspapers had several adverts by men looking for substitutes, offering, in some cases, a very substantial sum of money.

I suspect that William Chisholm, would have taken the premium, been paid by the Militia, and when he wasn't on duty, earned money as a sawyer. After the Napoleonic Wars ended, the Militia were seldom called out. They were known as the Inverness Militia, were enrolled in 1802, and first embodied in February 1803. They were renumbered the 10th Militia in March 1804.

During the Napoleonic Wars they served throughout Britain on garrison duty. In 1814, they returned from Portsmouth to Inverness to be disembodied. They were called out for training periodically afterwards. In 1833, the Inverness Militia were renumbered the 76th. During the Crimean War they were embodied at Inverness. I think this regiment eventually became the 3rd Cameron's, and I've been told that there are records in the museum at Cameron Barracks, Inverness.

Police Records:

I found a manuscript receipt for pay:

Manuscript receipt for pay:

William Grant and Duncan Mackintosh the Sum of Ten Pounds Sterling being their quarter salary as Burgh Officers from the 1st of October last up to the 31st of Dec Current. Back days included.

Ditto to William Chisholm as a Burgh Officer from the 21st November last to the 31st of Dec Current being 41 days at 1s 1/2d per day, Two pounds Four Shillings and Two pence Sterling. [Total] £12 4s 2d.

Inverness, 2nd January 1837

Received the above sum of Twelve Pounds Four Shillings and Two pence Sterling from A Smith Esquire Town Chamberlain being their Quarter Salary from 1st of Oct last up to 31st Dec 1836.

[Signatures]

I think William got cheated; by my calculations, 41 days at 1s 1/2d per day should be £2 6s 1/2d, however if his rate of pay were the same as the others, 1s 1/2d per day is an approximation, and his pay should have been 41/91 1/4 X £5, ie £2 5s 1/4d.

The police pay records are surprising, Burgh Officers got £20 a year (£5 a quarter) in 1836, in 1847 police officers are applying for a job paying £28, yet in 1856, sergeants are being paid £17 10s (£17.50) per year! Why was this?

By way of comparison, in 1843, male farm servants earned £19, agricultural day labourers earned between £15.60 and £21.84, artisans (masons, wrights, shoemakers, and smiths) earned (in a 5 day week) between £19.50 and £39. Did William accept a lower salary than he could have earned as a sawyer?

William Chisholm's police uniform, bought from Robert Smith (4 High St, Inverness) on 5th April 1837, comprised:

	£	S	D
1 Fine Proof Hat		18	-
2 Pair Gray L Wool Hose		5	-
1 Black Silk H....?		7	-
2 3/8 yds of fine Blue Cloth	2	2	9
3 1/8 yds of N(ankeen?) Cloth	1	1	10 1/2
5 yds White Flannel		9	2
1/4 yd Scarlet Casumire ?		2	9
16 Large Livery Buttons		4	-
12 Small Livery Buttons		1	6
3/8 yds Yellow Cotton	2	5	5
1/4 yd Black Linen		3	3
1/2 yd Blue Flannel		1	
3/4 yd Padding, 3/4 yd Canvas		2	3
3/4 yd Dark Fur trim		6	6
Silk Finest Thread Tape		3	9
Sailor and Spat buttons		1	
7 yd White Cotton Shirting		5	10
3/4 yd Large Lu....?		2	1 1/2
1 1/2 P....? Buttons			4 1/2
2 reels White Cotton			5
Paid for making 2 Shirts	6	13	11 1/2
Total			

Note that William's signature is nearest the bottom right corner.

Alexander Grant, and Duncan MacIntosh, two other Burgh Officers, had the identical uniform. The Police Commissioners felt that £6/13/11½d per officer was extravagant and noted that the officers had not spared any expense, but took no action.

In the minute book for 24th November 1847 there's a list of 15 police officers applying for a job that does not include William Chisholm. The salary was £28 per year paid monthly. The first detailed accounts are for the year to 10th September 1849 (folio 92) and show William Chisholm as one of the Sergeants.

The Half-Yearly report of the Superintendent on 12th February 1855 says "....there are only two Officers for day duty, Namely Sergeants Chisholm and Tulloch, who are both advanced in years, and in consequence of Chisholm having had to go in his Regiment a few weeks after I took charge (12th August 1854), I have only had one man (a night Constable) to assist me, as I consider Tulloch quite useless and totally incapable to act as a Police officer. The few weeks I had Chisholm, I found him considering his advanced age [he was 62] useful and willing to be so. Should he [who ?] resume his duties and remedy these defects, the Superintendent considers himself justified in recommending the appointment of two active able bodied officers to do duty along with Chisholm (as Tulloch might be of some use as a Burgh Officer)....."

In the minute book (folio 104) for 23rd May 1855, the meeting instructed the Superintendent to procure Estimates for the following clothing for Sergeants Chisholm and Tulloch Viz a Blue uniform coat, a pair of Blue trousers, and a Hat for each.

On folio 334, there's mention of the pay:

Thomas Tulloch for year to 1 st Sept 1856	17	10	-
William Chisholm from 1 st Sept 1855 to 18 th Feb 1856 at 17.10.0 per annum	8	2	2
John Mackintosh from 18 th February to 1 st Sept at same rate	9	7	10

Presumably William Chisholm retired on 18th February 1856 - there's no other mention of his discharge from the Police.

Notes

- 1 The monumental inscription (Chapel Yard, Inverness) states that William Chisholm was born 29th January 1792, and that Elizabeth, his wife, died on 1st March 18[55], and that one of the children was Catherine Wilson.

Questions:

- 1 In the 1841 Census at 14 Rose St, Inverness, there are also Grace MACDONALD, age 60; Sarah MACDONALD, age 20 a dressmaker; Isabella MACDONALD, age 11, a maidservant under William's roof. Are these MACDONALDs tenants and/or relatives?
- 2 Why was William appointed to the HLI so soon after being discharged from the Militia, and then discharged a few weeks later? Was it a (common practice) ruse to give him a good pension?
- 3 Where was Eliza Mackay born?
- 4 Was the Eliza that died in 1890, the one that was born in 1798? The date of Eliza's death was guessed as 1855 on William's tombstone in the Chapel Yard MI (see note 1 above), and 91 seems a very old age to me, did William marry another Eliza as a second wife?
- 5 Do you know who were the parents of Isabel NAIRN or of her husband, William CHISHOLM? I'd be delighted to hear from descendants of these two.
- 6 Did police pay really go down between 1820 and 1856?

I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who is descended from William Chisholm, or whose ancestors have connections with this line, as well as comments on or answers to the questions above

I can be contacted at Glenside Stables, St Boswells, Roxburghshire, TD6 0AD, Scotland.
Email: pmunro@highlandfhs.org.uk

BITS & PIECES

Many thanks to those members who continue to contribute comments on previous articles, snippets of information or general queries which help to fill this section of the journal. As usual they vary considerably in length so, if you have something of interest to say, please send it in and we will include it.

SPEAKER FOR APRIL MEETING

Jonathan McColl who, in a previous existence, was the editor of this journal for a number of years, has come to the rescue of the syllabus secretary by volunteering to be the speaker at the last monthly meeting of the season on 25th April. The title of his illustrated talk is "Dingwall History Through Its Maps" and I am sure that, as he has done in the past, he will have a number of interesting anecdotes to both inform and entertain us.

WILLIAM MACKENZIE, DEER-STALKER

Hugh Barron (member no. 449) wrote in as follows: - Regarding the recent article on William Mackenzie, the noted deer-stalker, I am able to offer you some information on some compositions by him. In Rev Dr Thomas Sinton's 'The Poetry of Badenoch', there is a piece which states that it was "composed by William Mackenzie on coming off victorious in a hill race with a Sassenach champion, upon whose success a wager had been laid". There are 6 verses of 4 lines and there is an English translation. It is stated a Mr Fyne was the lessee of Gaick at that time.

In 'An Duanaire', by Donald MacPherson, there is a poem by William Mackenzie, 'A' Chaim'. There are 7 verses of 8 lines and it takes the form of a dialogue between a hunter and a stag. There is no English translation. MacPherson was a native of Glenroy and would have known William Mackenzie.

In 'Lays of the Deer Forest', there is a poem 'Cumha nam Fiadh', by an Angus Mackenzie, also descended from the family of Fairburn and the head forester of Lord Lovat. It is stated that he composed it while recovering from an illness. There is an English translation in 'The Book of Highland Verse', edited by Dugald Mitchell. Angus could have been a relation of William.

I do not recollect having seen either of the poems by William Mackenzie.

ROSS & MUNRO IN KINCARDINE PARISH

Marion Miles (nee Ross) e-mailed Sheila Munro to say that she had been doing research on the names Ross and Munro in Kincardine Parish in Ross-shire. She is looking for family trees in which these two names are prominent and she is happy to send copies of her family tree in exchange. Address is PO Box 182, Cecil Lake, BC, V0C 1G0, Canada with e-mail fmiles@telus.net.

KILMORACK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Sue Thomson has reminded me that, although I have given out her home address to potential purchasers of the numerous publications that KHA have produced, she would like her e-mail address included. So, before I get my ear bent once more, here it is - john@northlodge.freeserve.co.uk.

UNUSUAL PLACE-NAME

Ken Jones e-mailed our Secretary, Angus Bethune, wondering if anyone in the society could identify the birthplace in 1840 of someone on his family tree. The place in question is Fisher Kew, Inverness. Does that ring a bell with anyone?

RECORDING AND MAINTAINING YOUR SURNAME INTERESTS ON THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

By Peter Munro

231 people have registered to record their interests on our website, though only 185 people have actually recorded interests; 642 names between them.

The process enabling people to record their interests, has several steps.

1. New registrants need to enter their name and email address on the Interests Registration page.
2. A confirmation email is immediately sent from webmaster@highlandfhs.org.uk to the email address entered.
3. People who have received a confirmation email can logon using the Logon Form page. The confirmation email contains a password, so if one isn't received, registrants can't successfully logon.
4. After a successful logon, interests can be added, changed, and deleted.

What are the reasons that only 185 people have actually recorded interests, although 231 people have registered?

One common reason is that every month, there are a few registrants who, for whatever reason, enter an incorrect email address. The confirmation email containing the registrant's initial password is sent to the email address entered. If it is an invalid email address this is never delivered, and the registrant is thus prevented from recording their interests.

Another reason is that some people have a mail checking filter that blocks email from addresses that aren't on their trusted or approved senders list, thus they never receive a confirmation email. This seems to apply particularly to people who use AOL, BTInternet, Earthlink, or the MailWasher email filter.

I suspect some people forget their password, and although there's a question (Forgotten Password?) which links to a reminder (sent by email) on the Logon Form page, perhaps visitors don't think of using it, or perhaps they entered the wrong email address in the first place, and never receive the reminder email.

One person in the last year was using an incompatible browser (like Internet Explorer version 5) with a Macintosh computer, which produces unexpected results, and prevents them from using the website.

In summary:

1. If you use AOL, BTInternet, Earthlink, or any other ISP which provides you with an approved or trusted senders list, please add webmaster@highlandfhs.org.uk to the list before you register.
2. Please be careful to enter your correct email address.
3. If you use a Macintosh computer and the Internet Explorer browser version 5.5 or lower, change to a different browser, for example, Firefox, or Netscape Navigator version 7.
4. If this doesn't work, try registering again.
5. If all else fails, please send an email to webmaster@highlandfhs.org.uk, and advise me of your problems, or use the form on the Contacts page.

If you're one of the people who registered, and haven't recorded your interests for the reasons above, I hope that the above points may help to solve your problem.

One more point, if you've already registered and recorded some interests and you change your email address, please send me an email to advise me of the new address. You need to do this before you abandon the old email address so that I can check, by sending an email to the old address, that it is a legitimate request.

When recording interests, please enter the **Surname and nothing else** in the Surname field of the Maintain Interests form. Some people have entered a first name or other details in the field. Unfortunately, this means that a search for the surname will never find that interest.

Fuller details on the function are to be found on the Help page on the website.

YET MORE SUTHERLAND LETTERS

Transcribed by Joan Leggett

Joan is a descendant of Captain James Sutherland (1726-1789), Factor to the 17th Earl of Sutherland. In the National Library in Edinburgh she found a number of letters written by her ancestor to John McKenzie Esq of Delvin, Horse Wynd, Edinburgh. They cover the period 1762-1778 and are to be found in the Delvin Papers (Ref MS 1485). Although of special interest to her, some fascinating historical events are referred to in some of them. [NB: all spelling copied as found!]

The earlier letters which covered the period up to April 1769 appeared in the journals of February, May and August 2005. The final group of letters will appear in the May 2006 journal.

Continued:

Dunrobin 15 August 1769 MS.1485 f.151 ...The Salmon ffishings at Brora and Helmsdale are greater this year than ever was gone before....

Dunrobin 14 Sept. 1769 MS.1485 f.153... Ffarm goes on very well.... Sold fat Cattle at a very little profit.... One of the best Ploughmen that Murray could afford and I have had him with the Englishman that Mr Ross of London sent to Cromarty to learn to Plough and as this

