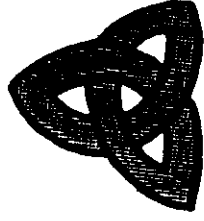


HIGHLAND
FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY

hìghland family history society



ISSN 0262-6659

comunn
slòinntearachd
na
Gaidhealtachd

Published by
The Highland Family History Society
Comunn Slòinntearachd na Gaidhealtach

JOURNAL

Vol. 25 No. 3

May 2007

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Membership Category	United Kingdom	Overseas
Ordinary	£10.00	£13.00
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EDITORIAL

Taking up the editorial pen gives me a chance to reflect on the quarter of a century of the Society's past, and to look forward to the twenty five years to come – the first three of which it will be my honour to lead as your new Chairman. When I joined the Highland Family History Society towards the end of 1988 Neil Murray was our Chairman (a role he's now fulfilling for SAFHS, the Scottish Association of Family History Societies) and John Durham was already in his second year as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. That makes this John's twentieth year in that office, which is an anniversary that I hope we won't miss marking some time over the next few months – since, as you all know, the Society's continuing good health owes more to John's endeavours than to any other individuals.

John succeeded Dorothy Booth, the Society's first Treasurer, and it's great to be able to report that Dorothy's not only still a member, but was very active at the recent SAFHS Conference where she and a number of other veterans helped the committee create a memorable occasion for nearly 150 delegates from all over Scotland. Our thanks go not only to all who helped run it, but also to all those HFHS members who attended (and we know how many of you abroad would love to have been there too).

Dorothy's fellow officials at the inaugural meeting of the Highland Family History Society on the 21st of September 1981 were: Duncan Ross, Chairman; David Evans, Secretary; Peter Reynolds, Librarian; Lorraine Maclean, John Gradon, and Douglas Stewart, Committee Members; and the turnout at the inaugural meeting was an astonishing 120 people. Unfortunately by the time of the first Journal in December 1981 only 74 of those had put their money down and actually joined. However, by the time John Durham joined the Committee in March 1984 the membership had risen to 235; and when he became Treasurer it was 342. The growth continued over the years, reaching 741 in 1997/8, and peaking at 822 in 2001/2. It's declined a little since then and in April of this year stood at 768 paid-up members, with a further 68 from the previous year still to renew (some of whom may since have done so).

Why the recent decline – and should we be worried about it? The answer to the first question is, we don't know; perhaps you can tell us. The answer to the second is, probably not, especially as it's not a story of steady decline – two years of net loss in 2002/3 (-18) and 2003/4 (-19) were followed by a net gain in 2004/5 (+23); and though we've had a further two years of slight decline we're still in a relatively flourishing position. It has to be said however that a large proportion of the membership live overseas, and the active participation of members in Scotland – and particularly locally here in Inverness – is perhaps a little disappointing; and that's something that your new committee will be actively addressing over the coming year.

To that end we hope to inaugurate a Social Evening at the beginning of each session – perhaps this time to take the form of a belated 25th Birthday Party, since organising the SAFHS Conference left us little time to consider celebrating our Society's anniversary too. We're also considering moving the venue for our ordinary meetings to a slightly more upmarket venue – though we're most grateful to the Methodist Church for making their hall available to us at short notice when we had to leave our previous venue, and for the rest of the last few seasons (and to David Williams who's served as our link-man in that respect). Above all we're determined to follow up the success of the SAFHS Conference – which was ultimately down to the brilliance of the lecturers (all highly erudite, but very entertaining too) – with a new season of equally attractive speakers. As ever, your ideas and recommendations about potential speakers, as on all other aspects of the Society and its activities, will be most welcome. And in that vein I have to close by saying a big thank you to all who took note of John's plea in the last Journal for articles; you responded magnificently – and we hope that you enjoy the fruits of each other's endeavours in the following pages.

Graeme Mackenzie

THE DROONINS AT AVOCH – 1871/72

by Willie S Stewart

The sun was shining that fateful summer morning in June. The tide was out at Avoch Bay and the sea was very calm. With such favourable conditions who would have predicted that so many people would lose their lives in the worst drowning accident to occur in the history of the village of Avoch. Over a period from March 1871 until May 1872 the village was to experience three accidents resulting in the loss of many lives and many children losing parents. The close family relationships in the village meant that there were few families in the village that were not directly affected by the tragedies. Some families suffered losses in all three accidents. My interest in the history of the accidents came about because of an Australian visitor. Our visitor had never been able to find out what was his family relationship with the Jack family in Avoch. His mother in Australia was also unsure about the link. His grandmother, surname Sutherland, had been born in Avoch and she had moved to Australia at an early age so this was the starting point to establish the links. By using the web-site www.scotlandpeople.it took me only a couple of hours to establish the facts about his family relationship. My wife and the visitor had a common great great grandfather and this dated back to 1871. Their common ancestor had lost his first wife in 1871 in one of the drowning accidents and he had remarried in 1872. The Australian was related to the first wife and my wife was related to the second wife.

So that was the end of the story or was it?

Trouble they say "comes in threes" and "lightning never strikes twice" but it happened in the village of Avoch in a period of May 1871 and March 1872. Three accidents occurred which cost the lives of twenty villagers. Avoch, in 1871, was a village with a population of approx. 1000. To compare the losses with present day populations this is the equivalent of Inverness losing seven hundred inhabitants. Being married to an "Auchie" I had heard the story of "The Droonings" indeed over the years I had heard several stories about the accident. In the village various stories have circulated as to the date, the cause of the accident, the prevailing weather conditions and to the numbers of people who were drowned that varied between 14 and 40. Some stories were that it was only unmarried women and all under the age of 25 years who were lost. David King Sutherland in his book "Fisherlore of Avoch" states that all were women under the age of 30 years. Sandy and Jennifer Patience in their book "Salt of the Earth" give the date as 1851. Another story was that the women folk had carried their men out to the boats and they were engulfed by a massive wave as they returned to the shore.

So what was the truth about the "Droonings" and were there any links with the other two accidents. Who was the unnamed lad in the first accident in 1871 who was dredging for oysters? There were common surnames in all three accidents, were there any family connections? Avoch had experienced losses at the fishing in the past. In the Great Storm of 25th Dec. 1806, the Stofield disaster, when several boats were lost on the Moray Firth, the Aberdeen Journal reported that seven men from Avoch had lost their lives. The accident of June 1871 would affect the life of the village for many years with the loss of so many women. The three fishing accidents had occurred a short distance from the beach.

It was against this background that I set out to try and find the stories behind the accidents.

Inverness Courier of June 15th 1871 had the following report -

"One of the most distressing calamities that we have ever had to record occurred yesterday within a stone's throw of the shore of the village of Avoch."

The accident had occurred on Wednesday 14th June 1871 at 6.15a.m 150 yards from the shore at Avoch on a calm summer morning. The men had returned to Avoch Bay in the evening after a very successful day. As usual before retiring for the night they sorted their creels. They then

transferred them to one of the largest of the village's fishing boats which was anchored about half a mile from the shore. The creels were ready to be carried next morning to the market at Inverness. According to the report in the "Courier" a sailing party of five men and sixteen women had been given the responsibility to get the fish to market. (Records show that there were 6 men and 15 women) The women had the duty to take several creels and sell them at the market. At 6.00am on that fateful June morning the party duly assembled on the shore. The sea was perfectly calm and there was not even a ripple on the surface. The party of 21 people boarded the small salmon fishing coble belonging to a father and son and pushed off.

The irony of this accident - is that if the sea had not been calm it is unlikely that they would have loaded as many people on the boat. The small boat had only gone a short way before it started to take on water and by this time they were in fairly deep water, - one foot beyond your depth is as fatal as one hundred feet -. The passengers became excited and alarmed. In a frenzy of panic one of the women passengers flung herself overboard as the boat began to sink. In the midst of all this agitation the overloaded boat overturned. Women clung to the few men on board and prevented them from saving themselves or saving others. The scene was fearful and the cries painful. The accident was observed from the beach and the alarm was immediately raised. Unfortunately the tide was out and the boats which could be used to rescue the stricken folks were high and dry on the beach. It took some time to launch a boat and reach the scene of the accident. Those who survived the accident did so by clinging to the upturned boat.

The report in the "Courier" stated that twelve people had been drowned and it named all of the deceased and the survivors. Two men (father and son) and five unmarried women were rescued. The owners of the boat, a father and son managed to swim to safety according to the paper.

Inverness Courier of 22nd June 1871 was headed

"The lamentable boat accident in the firth"

"Further details of the accident were released. Two of the people who had been brought ashore alive unfortunately had died of exhaustion raising the total number of deaths to fourteen."

The reporter said "No one who witnessed the melancholy procession that accompanied each corpse that was brought ashore will ever forget this tragic happening. Never have I witnessed so mournful and deeply distressing a scene."

The burials took place over two days Thursday and Friday.

The Victims and the Survivors

As you read the newspaper reports you can understand how the various versions of the accident have been formed down the years. The newspaper reports give us the facts regarding this terrible accident and the correct time and date, the numbers and the fact that men as well as women had been drowned but were the details of the victims accurate? I think that the reporter in 1871 had some difficulty with the Avoch dialect (he was not the first or indeed not the last to have difficulty understanding the words). By accident in my original search of the system I had found out that one of those who had drowned had been called Donald Patience but he was named Paterson in the "Courier" list. I soon discovered further inaccuracies in the names reported. The first name that I tried to find was James Ellison. Well even with my limited knowledge of the Avoch dialect I realised that this could be Alison. Sure enough it was James Alison, an unmarried man aged 20 years, and that was where I got another bit of luck. The death of Jane Patience, a 20 year old unmarried woman, was recorded on the same page of the parish register but this name was not in the original newspaper list. The name Patience had been recorded again as Paterson. Obviously the Courier reporter had not been in Avoch very often or he would have realised that every third person had Patience as a surname. Another who was recorded as Jessie MacLennan was in fact McLeman a 42 year old spinster?

One of the difficulties in trying to establish the identity of victims was the use of married women's maiden names. It could have been worse; they could have used the victim's bi-names which has been a feature of Avochies identifying each other. Through the scotlandpeople.gov.uk site, it

was possible to identify all the victims by their correct name, age and marital status. The oldest was a married woman of 55. William Jack, the 53 year old owner of the boat was the oldest male victim although according to the newspaper report he had managed to swim to the shore along with his unmarried son George (21). The Jacks appear to be the victims who died on the shore from exhaustion. One man lost his wife and his younger sister. Over twenty children lost one of their parents. Four married women (one woman (42) had 7 of a family), two married men, three bachelors and five spinsters (youngest 20 and oldest was 43). All of the victims had been born in and were residents of Avoch. The names of the victims included Patience, Skinner, Jack and MacLeman, all prominent family names in the village. One of the survivors was a man of 66 years (his occupation was a boat's carpenter and he was born in Petty) along with his married son.

Coming to terms with such a disaster must have taken the villagers many years and left many families shattered for years. When we hear about human losses in the fishing industry, we automatically think of fishermen working in terrible conditions. This accident on a calm summer morning in June saw ten women as well as four men pay the high 'price of fish' with the loss of their lives. The names of those who lost their lives are shown in Table A and the survivors are shown in Table B.

What about the other two accidents?

Oyster dredging was a way of life for many of the villagers and two of the accidents were caused by the dredging. The work was carried out from small open sail boats. In the 1800's oysters and other shellfish was part of the stable diet of many of the poor of Scotland. Several areas of Inverness Firth were dredged for oysters including Munloch Bay and there was obviously a plentiful supply as many large English boats sailed from the north east and south coast of England to dredge the area. How things have changed to-day with oysters very much a luxury food.

Report in the Inverness Courier of 25th May 1871

"One of the boats from Avoch employed on oyster dredging in the Firth was lost last week and its crew of three were drowned. The boat had gone out with others on Tuesday in stormy weather but failed to return. Wreckage was later found washed up on the shore. Two of the men Alexander Skinner and Alexander Allison were married with families. The third was a young lad of seventeen."

As I said earlier, another chance happening was to discover the May accident where three lives had been lost. Who was the unnamed young lad? A search through the records established that he was John Patience born 8th Dec. 1854 in Avoch. (16 not 17) In the 1871 census taken only a few weeks before the accident he had been working at Wester Raddery farm as a servant. His mother and father lived on the High St. along with his elder brother Alexander. Also in the 1871 census Alexander Allison (28), another victim, was listed as an agricultural labourer. He was married to Margaret MacLennan with three of a family, William (3), Helen Ann (2) and a step daughter Margaret (7) and they lived on Seashore Road. His body had not been recovered at the time his death was registered. The third victim was Alexander Skinner (27) (Fisherman) married to Ann Jack and they had three of a family, Alexander (2) Donald (1) and Margaret (4 months) and they lived on Burn Rd.

Report in the Inverness Courier - March 21 1872

Boat accident at Avoch- Three men drowned

"Another accident has occurred in the Firth within sight of Avoch, resulting in the loss of three young men from that unfortunate village. A good many boats were out as usual on Monday afternoon dredging for oysters. The day had been windy throughout but not the extent that prevented boats going to sea. In the afternoon the wind increased rising in unexpected gusts of violence"

The report in the "Courier" gives a full description of the accident and says that other boats were working close-by but did not observe the occurrence and it was claimed that it was people on the shore who were the first to raise the alarm. According to the death certificates the accident occurred 500 yards from the shore at Avoch. The exact area where the accident happened is difficult to determine. The accident of 16th May 1871 was reported to have happened in the Inverness Firth opposite to Avoch. Local legend however says that the major dredging area was the other side of the Firth from Avoch towards Nairn. According to the report in the "Courier" on the day of the accident, the much larger English smacks were tied up at the Thornbush because of the bad weather and were not active". They had arrived in the Firth several days earlier. No explanation is given as to why the large English boats had stayed in port that fateful day. The cause of the accident was said to be that when they were tacking they had left the dredger on the wrong side of the boat which was already tilted and when hit by a sudden squall the boat immediately capsized. The Courier report 21st March 1872 says

"We do not know if these fatalities were caused by a defect in the boat certainly the small open boat with a sail is much more liable to accidents than the larger smacks used by the English crews"

Are there any connections between the three accidents?

All three accidents occurred within sight of the village shore.

In the accidents some families lost two or more members. Mrs. Ann Jack had lost her husband, three sons and a nephew in two of the accidents and the Sutherland family lost a mother and an aunt. Particularly badly hit in the accidents were the Skinner family. Donald Skinner married Sarah William Brodie in Avoch on 29th Dec. 1814 and they had eight children. In the three accidents, four of their children were affected, Elspet, their daughter was drowned, and they lost four grandchildren, Margaret Brodie, Sarah Skinner, Alexander and James Allison. Fortunately another granddaughter, Betsy Brodie, survived.

In finishing let me return to my visitor from Australia. His ancestor had lost his first wife in the 'Droonins'. His second wife Jessie, whom he married in 1782, was one of the five women who clung to the overturned boat and were saved and she was the sister of John Patience the unnamed young lad.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the staff of Highland Reference Library for finding and copying the Inverness Courier reports. To Alister Jack in Holland for his information on family relationships. Finally to my wife, Betty (Patience) for answering my many questions about the village.

Table A - Those Drowned on 14th June 1871

NAME	AGE	PARENTS/SPOUSE	COMMENTS
JAMES ALLISON	20M	WILLIAM ALLISON CATHERINE ms Skinner	reported as Elison
JANE PATIENCE	20F	DONALD PATIENCE MARGARET ms Patience	reported as Paterson
SARAH SKINNER	20F	WILLIAM SKINNER JANE ms Jack	
MARGARET BRODIE	21F	LEWIS BRODIE SARAH ms Skinner	
WILLIAM JACK	53M	WILLIAM JACK CATHERINE ms McKeddle M - Ann Davidson	Owner of the boat

TABLE C - ACCIDENT OF MAY 16TH 1871

NAME	AGE	PARENTS/ SPOUSE	COMMENTS
ALEXANDER ALISON	27M	WILLIAM ALISON CATHERINE ms SKINNER M - MARGARET MacLENNAN	Marr. 28.06.1867 Family - 3
ALEXANDER SKINNER	28M	ALEXANDER SKINNER ELIZABETH ms BRODIE M - ANN JACK	Marr. 22.09.1864 Family - 3
JOHN PATIENCE	16M	JOHN PATIENCE MARGARET ms PATIENCE	The unnamed youth

TABLE D - ACCIDENT OF MARCH 21ST 1872

NAME / D of B / PLACE	AGE	PARENTS	COMMENTS
GEORGE REID B - 29.01.1844 AVOCH	28	JOHN REID JANET DAVIDSON	Cousin of (e) and (b)
DONALD JACK B - 01.01.1852 AVOCH	20	WILLIAM JACK (Deceased) ANN DAVIDSON	(e) - Father and brother lost in Droonins
ALEXANDER JACK B - 02.12.1864 AVOCH	17	WILLIAM JACK (Deceased) ANN DAVIDSON	(b) - Father and brother lost in Droonins

BITS & PIECES

Still a shortage of items for this section of the journal. Even a simple suggestion of a website that you think might be of interest to members could find its way into this page.

ARTICLES FOR THE JOURNAL

My appeal in the editorial in the previous journal has had a most encouraging response. I received a significant number of articles from members, five of which appear in this journal. I have retained some others for future journals and there are promises of more articles to come. We also hope to print some of the talks that were given at the SAFHS Conference that our society hosted in April as well, so the situation has vastly improved since my cry for help in February. Many thanks to those of who responded so swiftly to it.

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

Shaw Genealogy Report by Norma Ruth Sinclair. This is the latest family history book compiled by one of our members which has been donated to our library. It has charted the descendants of Robert Shaw of Muirton (born 1685) and his wife Helen Ross. Although the family originated in Inverness it seems that there is now more of the Shaw family in New Zealand than still remaining in the Inverness area.

The family lived on various farms throughout the area with Scorguie of Muirton, Milton of Leys, Dalneigh, Blackpark and Ballifeary in the Inverness area and Leidclune Gorthleck, Oldtown and Dirichurachan in Erroglie, Stratherrick all given a mention.

Family names include Fraser, McLennan, Ross, Macdonald, Boyd, Munro, Macrae, Patience,

NAME	AGE	PARENTS/SPOUSE	COMMENTS
GEORGE JACK	21M	WILLIAM JACK ANN ms Davidson	Son of the owner of boat
ANN SKINNER	41F	DONALD JACK FLORA ms Jack M - Donald Skinner	Family of 5
JANET SUTHERLAND	28F	DAVID SUTHERLAND JANE ms Patience	Reported as Jessie (1)
BETSY SUTHERLAND	27F	DONALD PATIENCE JANET ms Patience M - Donald Sutherland	Reported as Patience Family of 3 Sister-in-law of (1)
ANN MacLEMAN	27F	DONALD ROSS ANN ms Macintosh M - Hugh MacLeman	Reported as Ross Family of 1
DONALD PATIENCE	25M	ANDREW PATIENCE MARY ms Sutherland	Reported as Paterson
JESSIE McLEMAN	42F	ALEXANDER McLEMAN JANET ms Jack	Reported as MacLennan
ELSPET JACK	55F	DONALD SKINNER SARAH ms Brodie M - Donald Jack	Reported as Betsy Family of 5
MARGARET LEITCH	42F	ALEXANDER JACK MARGARET ms Jack M - Alexander Leitch	Reported as Jack Family of 7 all under age of 17

Col. 2 Age and sex Col. 3 Parents M - Spouse

TABLE B - The Survivors

NAME	AGE	PARENTS/SPOUSE	COMMENTS
JOHN RALPH Sen.	66	JOHN RALPH ANNE JACK M - ISABEL MacINTOSH	Born in Petty. Boats Carpenter
JOHN RALPH Jun.	36	JOHN RALPH ISABEL MacINTOSH M - ISABELLA PATIENCE	son of JOHN RALPH sen.
JESSIE PATIENCE	28	JOHN PATIENCE MARGARET ms PATIENCE	2 nd wife of Donald Sutherland Marr. 18.06.1872
BETSY BRODIE	19	LEWIS BRODIE SARAH ms SKINNER	Marr. 1879 William Macleman
SARAH SUTHERLAND	19	DONALD SUTHERLAND JANET ms MANSON	Marr. 29.10.1874 Daniel Hogg
JESSIE MacLEMAN	31	DONALD MacLEMAN CATHERINE ms PATIENCE	Marr. 15.02.1878 David Reid
ANN MacINTOSH	18	DONALD MacINTOSH ANN ms JACK	Marr. 26.09.1873 George Patience

Mann, Pollock, MacCillivray, McLean, Eddie, Macintosh, Livingstone, Pownell, Sinclair, Moffat, Rutherford, McQueen, Gillanders, Robertson, Mackenzie, Gallie and McBean to name but a few!

The book has lots of lovely family pictures and details and well worth having a look through whether you know you have any connection with the Shaws or not. You never know who you might find!

The society now has a number of books showing various family histories and more are always welcome! Now that we have our own premises you are welcome to come and have a browse among them to see what inspiration or relations you can find.

SOCIETY PREMISES

We keep a notebook in our office in Albyn House to record the times of arrival and departure of visitors. So far the numbers coming to visit us has not been encouraging. Part of the problem could be that the OPRs and census films are still located at Farraline Park. In two years time (hopefully) when the new archive building is up and running this problem will no longer apply. As the weather improves we would expect to get more visitors from outside the area and a few have already made advance bookings. Remember that as well as being able to look over the contents of our library in peaceful surroundings you can simply turn up to chat about your own family history researches and get advice on where to go next.

A committee meeting is to be held next week and ideas of how to encourage more use of these facilities will be discussed. Currently the office is open to visitors every Tuesday from 9.30am to 4.30pm. While Graham Tuley, who has been 'manning the fort' most weeks, was away we had other members helping out. Those of you who are unable to visit on a Tuesday should contact a committee member to arrange for someone to be there when it is more convenient to you.

SAFHS CONFERENCE

Graeme Mackenzie in his editorial commented on how successful the conference was. This was in spite of the fact that 24 hours before the conference was to open we were informed that the principal speaker, Professor Ted Cowan, was unable to attend due to an accident that meant he could not drive. However we hoped to recover the situation by asking the three other speakers to stay on and form a forum to answer questions from the audience. The fact that this session overran by 20 minutes was a fair indication of how successful we had been. Hopefully we have another 14 years before we have to go through that possible scenario again.

THE NICOL/BREMNER DESCENDANT'S GATHERING JULY 2007 **AND A MYSTERY**

By Jim Mackay

In July there is to be a rare gathering in the Black Isle. A group of descendants of a couple who lived in the Parish of Avoch in the 1760s are getting together from England, Canada, USA, Australia and more locally. On 15 July they set off to tour the Black Isle parishes to see the crofts, kirks and kirkyards where their forebears lived and worshipped and were buried.

There will also be get-togethers in the Fairways Function Centre on the evenings of 13 July and 14 July. The gathering will commence on the first evening with introductions and a dinner. The Saturday evening is a joint social gathering with the McKay-McBean/McBain reunion on the same weekend and includes a meal, piper and ceilidh. There will be an extensive family tree, memorabilia and photographs on display. Should anyone wish to know more about these events please contact wendy@iinet.net.au.

We in the HFHS should do more of this and actually shake hands with more of our relatives who otherwise remain merely annotations in a family tree.

The couple concerned were David Nicol and Janet Bremner, and the number of descendants, scattered across the globe is now in the hundreds, bearing names as diverse as Corbet, Nissen, McBain, Potts, Brindle and Mackay. I'll put some of the older family information on my Resolis website (<http://members.lycos.co.uk/ResolisBlackisle>) to assist researchers.

However, there is a mystery regarding the origins of David and Janet. This has been complicated by misleading material on the IGI. It would be a wonderful filip if the mystery could be solved by other members of the Society in time for the event itself.

The first child recorded in the Avoch baptism register to David Nicol, on 30 Sep 1767, was not named in the register. An IGI entry suggests this was the baptism of Alexander, and this is possible, although from the age on his 1855 death certificate, and his age in the 1851 Census, his birth date should have been around 1771. However, an error of four years in such documentation for an elderly gentleman is not uncommon.

The fact that the register did not name this first child as Alexander is frustrating enough, but to add insult to injury the register simply provides a blank for the location of the family, the only entry on the page to do so.

The second child, baptised 1 Oct 1770, is given as John and the entry is the first to give a clue as to David's location: "David Nicol in Killen had a son Baptised & named John." At this time, to what area of the parish of Avoch other than the hamlet of Killen itself would the name have applied?

All subsequent baptism entries have David at Gooseburn. Goose Burn flows west through the parish, just below Killen, to join the Killen Burn before passing through the village of Avoch to the sea. Could a helpful researcher identify the specific area known in the 1770s as Gooseburn? The other children in the register were James (27 Aug 1774), Jannet (19 Oct 1777), Isobel (31 Jan 1782), and all went on to establish families some of which are well-documented.

Alexander farmed in Auchterflow with his wife, Margaret Forsyth, spending the last years of his life with his daughter Cursy (Christian) at Toberchurn, the farm of her husband, John Jack (my gggrandfather). As an aside, those familiar with civil registration in Scotland will have noted the 1855 year of death of Alexander Nicol with interest. In the first year of civil registration, so much information was recorded by the Registrar that there were protests and it was subsequently much cut back. To give an idea as to how useful an 1855 death certificate can be, look at the information to be gleaned from Alexander's:

Alexander Nicol Farmer died Toberchurn 10 Feb 1855 aged 84. Married to Margaret Forsyth deceased. Children: William 60, Christina 57, Alexander 54, John 50, James 47, Margaret 44, Isabella 41, Charles 39. Lived in Parish of Resolis 5 years. Born in Parish of Avoch. Parents David Nicol Farmer deceased Janet Nicol maiden name Bremner deceased. Informant John Nicol son. Burial ground of Avoch.

John married Ann Bain and was a tenant at Auchterflow before becoming a tenant farmer in Templand.

James married Christian Forsyth, the sister of Alexander's wife Margaret, and was a tenant farmer in Auchterflow. Another myth is that the Forsyth sisters' father was the famous William Forsyth, the Cromarty merchant, a short biography of whom was written by Hugh Miller. In fact, William was another Auchterflow tenant, and his son, Donald, the local dyker.

JUST WILLIAM By Stuart Logan

In Fodderty cemetery near Strathpeffer in the county of Ross and Cromarty there is a monument in the shape of the Tay Bridge. The grave's inscription reads: *'Men of vision, courage and integrity. A pioneer of hydro-electric construction and a wise master-builder who contributed much to his native land. He left monuments to his skill in many parts.'* It is the last resting place of Willie Logan.

More than 4 decades ago William Logan was killed in a plane crash near Inverness airport but his family had been living and dying in the Black Isle for at least 200 years before that. My great-great grandfather and William's grandfather were the same man. Although I was born in England and live there now, my Scottish ancestry has always been an evocative life force.

Within the past 5 or 6 years several factors have combined to allow me to research my father's family in Scotland. Firstly I had the inclination, and having just retired from a 35 year career in civil aviation I also had the time. Then internet broadband allowed me access to the excellent Scotland's People website (SPW) and hey-presto I was straight back into the mists of time.

At first it seemed easy enough to flesh out the information gleaned from my family. I remember my paternal grandfather, who was alive into my early twenties, but we never talked about his boyhood in the Highlands or his early manhood; serving with the Seaforth Highlanders in the trenches on the Western Front. In common with many grandsons, it's a missed opportunity that I regret. Nevertheless I soon found information about his father, grandfather and great grandfather. These men and their families lived at Teandaloch (Tigh an dalach = house of the date) a couple of miles SE of Muir of Ord.

After just a few months of research, the available statutory records were revealing only the deaths of a generation born before the beginning of the 19th century. However those records did point the way to the births of the previous generation but they would only feature on the old parish records (OPRs). Teandaloch is situated in the parish of Urray but parts of the neighbouring Inverness-shire parish of Klimorack dovetailed into it. Boundary changes during the century complicated my searches on SPW because if one instructs their computer to search in Ross-shire it's not going to look at records in the neighbouring county, however close that is geographically. For some reason my personal fate has decreased that everywhere I've ever lived, and many places I've tried to get to, have all been on folds in the map!

Over the years, firstly the 1851 and then the 1841 census were released on line but by now I knew who the protagonists were. What I lacked was detail on the grand-daddy – William. He was a weaver and shows up on the death certificates of his children. He must have been born before 1760-65. The old parish records for Urray are not extensive; they record births back to the late 1750's but marriage records don't begin until 50 or 60 years after that date. Recently SPW have released images of all of the OPR's online and I have been able to download images recording the births, baptisms and marriages of my ancestors. But – and it's a big one – whoever wrote out the Urray records didn't believe in wasting ink on unnecessary detail. So along with: the child's name; date of birth and/or baptism; one gleams parental names; fathers occupation and place of residence but there's precious little there to link a man back to his father and grandfather.

Furthermore the patronymic naming system can cause a nightmarish jumble of identities in a district when one has so little written evidence to go on. I decided to cast my net wider and joined the HFHS, bought the admirable books on monumental inscriptions and looked for

Janet married a farmer, William Taylor. Their son John farmed at Woodhead in Resolis, and died in a strange manner in 1892, of "supposed suffocation while drinking water from a well" by the roadside at Killen.

Isobel married an Alexander Corbet, a weaver. Their marriage entry indicates that her father, David, was established in Gooseburn (abbreviations expanded by me): "25 Jul 1807, Alexander Corbet Weaver married Isabel Nicol [legitimate] [Daughter] of late Dav^d Nicol. Tenjan^t in Gooseburn, future residence Cattanaack's Croft." By the way, can a researcher identify the present location of this croft?

The big question, though, is where did David Nicol and Janet Bremner originally hail from and where and when were they married?

The Avoch marriage register contains a yawning chasm for 1746-1767. A note written by the minister Reverend Jas. Smith on his incumbency after this period explains apologetically that this was the condition of the register when he received it from the Elders.

It would seem eminently possible that David Nicol and Janet Bremner married in the parish of Avoch prior to 1767; probably not much earlier than 1767 as there is no evidence yet found in death certificates, census records or other documentation of other, earlier children to the couple.

Has any HFHS member any information to supplement this? From my researches on the parish of Resolis, I am well aware of the plethora of documents (militia records, kirk session records, legal proceedings, estate records etc.) which can help in this kind of situation, but which ones for the parish of Avoch would be most fruitful? Progress can be reported to the gathering in July and to readers in a follow-up to this item.

What other clues are there? Well, there was another Nicol procreating in the parish of Avoch at this time, and given there are so few Nicols historically in the Black Isle, this suggests a relative. But despite all this, his origins may lie in a neighbouring parish.

And as for the IGI? Well, lo and behold there is in an ancestral file, and linked to the children above mentioned, the records: David Nicol born abt 1724 Balblair Resolis, Janet Bremner born abt 1728 Ferrytown Black Isle, married 10 April 1749 Resolis. The "abt" in each case indicates that the IGI contributor obtained the information from a source other than the original register.

The Resolis registers do not contain any of this information. While Nicol descendants spread out the short distance from the agricultural centres of the parish of Avoch to Culbo, Toberchurn and Woodhead in the adjacent parish of Resolis, there is no relevant Nicol entry in Resolis registers at this time.

Interestingly, though, there is an entry of 10 Mar 1750 for the following marriage: "David Nicol meller in Balblair & Jannet Aird daughter to John Aird tenant in Ferritown." I think I see how the actual information in the register could have become squeezed into the information in this IGI ancestral file.

Of course, the IGI entry may have some truth to it, but I would need to see supporting documentary evidence. And while it is just conceivable for Janet born about 1728 to still be bearing children in 1782, it is not very likely. These are the dangers of information finding its way onto the IGI and being spread unquestioningly thereafter.

Can the real origins of David and Janet be found in time for the event? Let me know of any relevant information, by e-mail to JimMackay11@hotmail.com or by post to Firichrean House, Cullicudden, Dingwall IV7 8LL, and a later Journal will reveal all.

Logans. Unfortunately not much that was new came to light. Wider still then! – On the internet is a Google group termed 'Pre-1800 Logans'. I signed up only to find that it was American based and sometimes continentally-insular. Nevertheless the organisers are very good and I've registered my family with them. Almost nobody in the direct line emigrated to the Americas so I don't anticipate much info coming from that source. Probably the next step forward is to submit to a DNA test and find out what the genes have to say.

It's obvious that genetic testing is not going to identify William the weaver's father by name but it might provide a pointer to where he originated. The Old Statistical Account (1791-1799) mentions: "All of the tradesmen in the parishes are included among the mailers. They confit of 20 weavers, etc." It also talks of mailers consisting of 248 families of whom 148 have settled in the last 40 years. In an effort to put his family into a social context I began to buy and read books on contemporary Scottish history and social structure but as a semi-Sassenach I've much to learn.

One of the books was by Major George Logan Home of Edrom. It is titled History of the Logan family, and was published in 1934. Unfortunately it's a rare book and I've had to visit the British Library to see a copy. Major Logan makes reference to a Logan family in the Black Isle at Drumduff (ridge-of-tears). He too seems to have been confused by the patronymic system and has telescoped one or two generations. Despite the proximity of Drumduff and Teandalloch I am unable to find a link between the two families. Incidentally, if any reader knows the whereabouts of a saleable copy of this book I could gladly consider its purchase.

The mention of Drumduff raises the issue of Logan folklore because, as Professor W. J. Watson mentions in his invaluable 'Place Names of Ross and Cromarty', the area of the farm may have been named 'Druim dubh' or black ridge. I confess to not having the Gaelic but I quote from Watson's text "Bu druim dubh an de thu, ach 's druim daid an diugh". Black ridge wert thou yesterday, but ridge of tears today: this in reference to a particularly sanguine battle that left only one of the defeated Logans alive. The incident and its aftermath are well covered in "The Clans of The Scottish Highlands" by James Logan and R.R. McLan, a book published in the mid 19th Century. Mentioned in the above is an explanation of the derivation of the MacLennan surname and readers may well know that the Logan and MacLennan clans are linked, sharing a common tartan.

However, none of this got my research any closer to William the weaver, but it did point out one avenue of exploration that I had hitherto overlooked. When I subsequently searched SPW for 'Loban' I discovered that William was recorded in the OPR's as the father of a son baptised on 7th February 1782 (GROS 85/0010 0106) Urray frame 113. This was thrilling news because previously he had only been documented incidentally. It's possible to search the SPW using an asterisk as a wild card (e.g. Lo*an) this will return the following variations on the surname: Logan; Loban; Loggan; Lobban; Louban Lougan; Lougan and Lowban. The last occurs infrequently in Dingwall during the 17th Century, whilst Louban and Lougan seem to be products of the parish of Logie Easter (no relation!) NB one of the supposed derivations of the Logan surname is from the Gaelic for hollow = Lag.

Because I have found Loban and Logan in successive generations of the same family I have reasoned that they were phonetic spellings of the same surname. I've also noticed both spellings of the name in different documents concerning the same person. Obviously if the surname owner was illiterate (a reasonable assumption for a 'mailier') he wouldn't know how the parish clerk was spelling his name. This may be evidenced by later records which show a much greater preponderance of Logans.

Gradually the realisation came to me that I might not be able to find other documentary evidence of William, although I haven't yet explored the Miilita Lists (HFHS Vol. 25 No. 2 p

21) – incidentally the fold-in-the-map-syndrome occurs again here Graeme Mackenzie writes:- 26. Urray (only carts and horses). Nor have I looked at private papers of the Fraser/Lovats and Chisholms and the latter were almost certainly William's landlords; whilst the second Lord Lovat, Hugh, is implicated in the Drumduff battle.

Eventually I began to download details of all the Logan families in Ross and Cromarty in the hope of finding antecedents of William in another parish. This has resulted in a file containing 2200 individuals and 31,000 records. Thwarted by not finding a direct documentary link, even in that number of individuals, I've compiled a database of progenitors. That is, the oldest male member of a family that I've been able to record. In the database is his Christian name; estimated DoB; residence (if known); wife's maiden name (where known) and parish of origin. I've then sorted the database by parish and residence then date and name. It's thrown together individuals, who might be fathers and sons, and one could reinforce the link using the patronymic principals but I'm reluctant to sully my family tree with speculative data.

So it occurs to me the database might be of some use to other HFHS members and I attach it for information. I've used the OPR spelling as far as I can decipher the handwriting and in conjunction with Prof. Watson's book I believe one can make certain assumptions using this source (e.g. Allandigeatir, Aultadacater, Aulteanichadar are all the same All-an-digeatir = Dyker's burn and latterly Whitewells in Killearnan - p144.). I've also included a list of surnames of spouses of the Logans and the number of times they occur, in case they tie in with research being done on other families.

Finally I would welcome ideas, comments or suggestions on this article. I've tried to keep the brief as wide as possible in the hope it might be of some help to other researchers who, like me, are only a little way down the road to understanding Highland history.

Numbers	Name	Numbers	Name
2	Archie	12	MacLean
2	Bailey	2	MacPherson
5	Bain	11	MacRae
20	Bisset	12	Matheson
3	Calbraith	4	McFarquhar
32	Cameron	5	McGrigor
10	Campbell	1	McIntyre
19	Chisholm	2	McLeay
5	Davidson	35	McLennan
12	Duncan	6	McLeod
4	Ferguson	5	Moir
14	Forbes	1	Monro
2	Forsyth	9	Morrison
2	Fowler	5	Morton
30	Fraser	21	Munro
3	Galbraith	3	Murray
1	Glass	4	Noble
16	Gollan	12	Patterson
5	Graham	1	Patience
5	Gray	2	Ramsay
2	Greive	2	Reid
6	Grigor	16	Robertson
13	Henderson	28	Ross

3	Jack	2	Shaw
2	Junor	4	Stewart
64	MacDonald	4	Sutherland
6	MacGregor	4	Taylor
13	MacIntosh	15	Urquhart
4	MacIvor	2	Watt
49	MacKay	1	Walker
76	MacKenzie	4	Webster
5	MacKintosh	3	Wilson

MY CAMERON ANCESTORS

By Alistair M Cameron

Hoorah for Graeme Mackenzie, who has the dubious honour of being my biological cousin. I probably failed to tell him of the advice I had from Alistair McLeod of the Regional Library: "The Camerons in Ross-shire were as vassals to the Mackenzies". And taking Alistair at his word I soon joined Graeme as his junior in his Highlands Research business.

I give you now, historical notes of my earliest proven CAMERON ancestor - he was named John. First, consider how did early days CAMERONS get to Ross-shire, now called ROSS & CROMARTY?

A cadet? family of Clan Cameron, the Camerons in Hilton, [a hamlet] settled near the Inverness / Ross-shires border just north of Beaulieu. [Ardnagrask and Teandalloch are N of Beaulieu]. "It is said that a goodly number of Camerons in this area can be traced back to 1598, when one of the Cameron of Lochiel's daughters travelled north to marry Duncan Mackenzie of Hilton. It was customary for a daughter of a landed family to have a protective escort, in this instance a number of Camerons accompanied her. These men settled in the Beaulieu / Conan basin" [Clan Cameron On-line, quoted by Clan Cameron New Zealand Newsletter Sept 1998].

Mrs Jean Cameron at Allanghale N. Kessock wrote to me in 2002 indicating that Lochiel's own valet Donald Cameron was assigned to look after Lochiel's daughter on the trip. (I find no such daughter in the published histories of Clan Cameron so I suppose she was natural-born, that is, illegitimate.)

Donald Cameron later "married the housekeeper and was given the farm of Mulchaich" where Jean's "... brother is there now". "They had 7 daughters, and when his first wife died he married again and his 2nd wife had 7 sons". Jean continued, "All of the Camerons in the region are descended from this one family of Camerons. I know of only one, Professor Mackintosh, whose mother was a CAMERON, same as here, a cousin of my father-in-law"

Ancestor research provides so many traps and diversions. Here is an account which almost fits the preceding: A letter 1970 from Roderick Cameron, banker to Dr James Cameron says: 'John Cameron a native of Lochaber came to Muir of Ord to do business at the local trust. As things were not altogether to his liking at Lochaber,he obtained the lease of a bit of rough land from Mackenzie of Ord, and settled down at Easter Croft, married a 'Miss MacRea (sic) and had issue'.

Baronage of Scotland, p395, says Duncan Mackenzie was son of the 2nd marriage of Alexander 7th Baron of Kintail. This Duncan had one son, Alan Mackenzie of Hiltoun.

From Johnston's Gazetteer of SCT 1937: HILTON estate and cairn, Ross and Cromarty, 6 miles south of Dingwall P.O.

Scaling from a modern map, Muir of Ord is 6 miles south of Dingwall, near junction of A832 and A862. That's close to the Ord Arms Inn. My great-grandpa was Innkeeper there in the late 1800s, and at least two of my Cameron cousins were employed there as recently as 1990. I have CAMERON cousins living very close, still.

Here is the record of my great great grandparents marriage:

1799 Marriage entry Parish of Contin: Contin Jany 24th 1799 Said day compeared John Cameron & Christina McDonald in Strathgarve that they promise to Solemnize the honble bond of Matrimony within the space of Forty days hereafter under the penalty of Forty pound Scots to be paid by the partie failing in implementing his or her promise.

Cautioner: Donald McDonald parties (John D. G. Cameron & Christian McDonald)

The same cautioner name appears on the 1795 marriage of a Hugh Cameron of Strathgarve, to Janet McLennan, Feb 29. I suppose that Hugh was brother or cousin, to my John D. G. Cameron.

Comments from friend Margaret MacKenzie in Gorstan, Garve: "Possibly John was a seasonal worker, the conventional terms were 28 May to 28 November". Re the Strathgarve home of John, "the area would have been Farm Cottages....no sign of buildings now.....when we were children (abt 1920) (we saw) stones which Father said were remains of houses. Larch trees planted by the Canadian Forestry Corps during the war years.....at that time all the surrounding hillsides belonged to Strathgarve Estate, owned by Major Stirling, bordered on either side by Coul Estate and Castle Lead. When Major and Mrs Stirling died, the Estate was purchased by the Forestry Commission."

Told by Cathie Henderson in Teandalloch in 1990, Strathgarve was the estate of Sir John Stirling, his relative had Fairburn Estate, 1882 Gazetteer re Contin, says "hamlet and parish..... A chief object is Coul, the seat of Arthur G R Mackenzie, Bart". Strathgarve [same Gazetteer] described- "glen and vale traversed by Garve rivulet past west base of Ben Wyvis....."

For 1788 no 'hits' in Farm Horse Tax Schedule to Ross and Cromarty, the only persons with work horses in parish of Contin were the Minister and Sir Geo. Mackenzie of Coull.

1799 in Urray. From Scottish Record Office a Plan dated 1754 [#RHP6586] is kept at West Search Room. I have a copy [black/white]. Original is coloured. There is a "paper book wherein are engrossed the measures of the several Farms with the particular Names and measures of each cornfield classed under....."

J.D.G. Cameron and Christina his spouse were apparently buried at Gilchrist, Muir of Ord: their initials only, are the first inscriptions on the memorial of some of their children. GARVE has these burial grounds, not searched: 1. on a hill above Achanauld on main road thru Garve-Achanauld-Strathbran, a closed old church there since become a tea rooms; 2. by Contin Parish Church, and 3. "ask Jean/ Pete Hollingdale" at B&B "Old Manse in Garve"

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John and Christina moved from Strathgarve to Upper Ardnagrask. As Mackenzie of Ord was proprietor of both, I suppose they may have made that a cordial switch. The property, a cottage on 30 acres is occupied today by my cousin who also descends from John/Christina.

In 1990 several of us Scots and Australians planted an oak tree there, it remains in bonnie good health!

I think Christina McDonald lived at or close to Ardnagrask in 1780s. She was probably daur of Alex McDonald and Christina Mackenzie who lived at the Croft c1774.

In 1678 a Deed [p302 W MacGill "Old Ross-shire and Scotland"] mentions ARDNAGAWACK"

From Plan at West Register House RHP6586- Ardnagrask is shaded yellow- Bad Land 51 acres, Grass Meadow and Good Pasture 12 ac, Moss and Moor 12 ac, Total 75 ac 3 rood 20 ?ails. Moor land common to the farms of Ardnagrask and Lettoch- 100 acres.

Close to the existing stone house, are the ruins of a two room croft house seen in 1991 at Upper Ardnagrask. Originally the larger room for family, the smaller for livestock. Willie Logan (then in Canada) said that in 1914, that building was quite dilapidated but was used to "house stirks" [cattle aged between one and two years].

1851 Census, North Kessoock shows a John Cameron 72 Merchant HM bn Contin, but the others in his house don't fit my tree: eg wife name Catherine 56 bn INV INV, dau Mary 23 dressmaker Unmarr, Christy 21 unmarried shopwoman, both bn INV INV. I have never found John nor his wife Christina in any census, nor do I have a record of deaths.

Unless he emigrated, my John probably died between 1820 [birth of last child] and 1841 [Census shows his son Roderick, Margaret and 6 ch as the occupants of croft].

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Summary of possible responsibility for Ardnagrask Croft:

1796 - c1840 Assumed to be John/Christina: births of their children.

1841 - 1880 son Roderick/Margaret

1881 - 1907 son James Evan Fowler Cameron [censuses and Val Rolls]. For at least 2 years c1877, my grandfather Roderick was joint tenant [prop. Mackenzie of Ord]. What a fulsome name! James Evan Fowler Cameron!

1907 - grandson Angus who died in 1960s

pre 1960 thru 2007 Margaret Logan [Mrs McLean] in residence

2005 Search of Militia Lists at Ft George - no hits for John Cameron or other Camerons at Strathgarve.

Newspaper Index to explore- Law & Order > Excise Ardnagrask, parish of Urray, Ross-shire - Murdo Mackay & John Cameron (or Buie), sentenced to 14 years' transportation for shooting at excise officers.

Inverness Journal Friday, February 25, 1831 Page/Col Ref:2E

My dear old John a convict it seems. To which colony did he go???

HFHS PROJECTS

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

One of the first decisions of your new committee was that the completion of the task of transcribing and checking the MIs at Old Kilmore at Drumadrocht be made a priority. It is some time since one of our members, John Ball, did his initial transcription of over 500 burial stones. To help with this graveyard, and others, like Moy, where Angus Bethune has completed his initial transcriptions of 156 stones, it was felt that we need more volunteers. To that end it is proposed that a Saturday be set aside to show potential volunteers what they can do to help. The date selected is Saturday 28th July. There will be a committee meeting on 29th May when the schedule for the day will be drawn up.

Anyone who would like to be there on the 28th July should contact me, John Durham, from 1st June onwards. Details will also appear on the Society's website on the "What's On" page.

INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

GRO in Edinburgh have informed all family history societies that the firm that produced copy microfilms on their behalf are no longer prepared to do so. Unless other arrangements are made to continue this service it is important that the films that are at present in the reference room at Inverness Library are made secure. This surprising decision will obviously have an effect on the checking of both Abernethy & Kincardine and Croy & Dalcross, problems with which were highlighted in the previous journal.

The summer period each year is a time when this project winds down for a bit and perhaps when the bowling season is over Billy & Margaret Mackay will be able to get back to their transcription of Loth Parish. The current position with this project is as shown below.

Parish	Transcribed	In Progress	To Start	Outstanding
Inverness-shire				
Abernethy & Kincardine	J. P-D			X
Boleskine & Abertarf				X
Cromdale & Inverallan				
Croy & Dalcross	J. P-D			X
Daviot & Dunichity				
Dores		RS		
Duthill & Rothiemurchus				X
Inverness Parish				X
Kilmonivaig				X
Moy & Dalarossie				X
Urquhart & Glenmoriston				X
Sutherland				
Loth		B & M Mck		X
Rogart				X
Tongue				X

HFHS STRAYS INDEX
By Alan Ross

Since I started as Stray's Co-ordinator in the summer of 1998 the database has grown rather slowly and currently stands at just short of 8000 entries. Data comes to me from a variety of sources and just a few members that, over the years, have painstakingly copied entries from various documents and registers have supplied the bulk of entries. Sadly we all get older and these members are no exception and time comes when they have to take things easy. They have done a sterling effort for the Society to which I am most grateful indeed. As time moves on I would ask that if any of you can supply lists in some form or other would you please contact me. If you are able to become a regular supplier, that is even better. I would like to break the 10,000 entry barrier by the end of the year if at all possible. With your help it can easily be achieved.

Should you have anything in particular that you would like listed, again, please contact me.

In this issue I list those Highlanders that can be found in Edinburgh in 1851. These entries were recorded on the night of Sunday 30th March 1851 and are listed by parish.

Surname	Forename	City	Birth Parish	Age	Source
CUMMINGS	Francis	MOR	Suldian?	66	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
FRAZER	Christina*	ROC	Kilmuir	44	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
McDONALD	Henry	OKI	Birsay	55	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
McSWEDE	Charlotte	CAI	Thurso	25	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
McSWEDE	John	INV	Harris	58	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
ROSS	Margaret	ROC	Tain	57	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
WALKER	Janet	ROC	Kilmuir	34	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
WILLIAMSON	Alexander	INV		56	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN
WILLIAMSON	Neil	CAI		72	Census / Edinburgh Cannongate / MLN

Surname	Forename	City	Birth Parish	Age	Source
AITKEN	Alexander	INV	Dores	72	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
BROWN	Robert	ARL	Craighish	53	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
CAMERON	Alexander M.	INV	Inverness	19	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
CAMERON	John	ARL	Ardnamurchan	16	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
CAMPBELL	Alexander	CAI	Bower	30	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
CAMPBELL	Thos.	CAI	Thurso	23	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
CAMPBELL	William	CAI	Reay	27	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
COWIE	Hugh	INV	Inverness	20	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
DENHOLM	Catherine	CAI	Wick	37	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
FISHER	Mary	INV	Kilmorery?	40	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
FORBES	William	ROC	Ross	57	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
FOUBISTER?	Catherine	ROC	Tain	35	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
FRASER	Murdoch	ROC	Eddertoun	74	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
GAY	Isabella	CAI	Watten	53	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
GREENSHIELD	James	AYR	Dalmellington	36	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
GUTHRIE	Hugh	INV	Kingussie	42	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
HARRISON	Jane	BAN	Portsoy	68	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
HARRISON	John	BAN	Forglen	37	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
HORNE	Catherine	CAI	Halkirk	25	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
HORNE	Isabella	CAI	Halkirk	70	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacCAULY	Murdo	ROC	Lochbroom	46	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN

MacKAY	Benjamin	CAI	Halkirk		64	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacKAY	Elesabeth	CAI	Wick		44	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacKIE	John W.	BAN	Banf		28	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacLEOD	Elesabeth	CAI	Wick		32	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacLEOD	Hugh	SUT	Clyne		36	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacLEOD	Janet	CAI	Wick		12	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacLEOD	John	CAI	Wick		7	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MacLEOD	Peter	CAI	Wick		10	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McCALL	Margaret	ARL	Strachur		48	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McCULLOCH	Janet	CAI	Hautuck?		63	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McDONALD	Kenneth	ROC	Applecross		19	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McDONALD	William	BAN	Mortlack		31	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McFARLANE	Donald	INV	Ardnamurchan		21	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McGILLVRAY	John	INV	Dores		25	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McKAY	George	SUT	Farr		36	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McKENZIE	Anne	INV	Inverness		51	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McKENZIE	Catherine	INV			37	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McKENZIE	Finlay	ROC	Knocksan		43	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McLAUCHLIN	Elizabeth	CAI	Reay		74	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McLEOD	Anne	CAI	Halkirk		81	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McLEOD	Janet	CAI	Halkirk		53	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McPHERSON	Duncan	INV	Hous of Hill?		18	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McPHERSON	William	ROC	Dingwall		40	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McRAE	Donald	ROC	Lochcarron		18	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
McENZIES	Alexander	ARL	Ardnamurchan		16	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MILLAR	Catherine	CAI	Hastigreen?		45	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MILLAR	Janet	CAI	Reay		70	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MILLAR	Margaret	CAI	Hastigreen?		47	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MUNRO	Alexander	ROC	Roskeean		22	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MUNRO	William	ROC	Roskeean		30	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MURRAY	Alexander	SUT	Dornoch		54	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
MURRAY	Margaret	SUT	Helmsdale		53	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
NORIE	James R.	ROC	Tain		33	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
PENDRITH	John	SUT	Golspie		24	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
ROSS	Christina	ROC	Tain		50	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SCOTT	Mary	CAI	Hautuck?		17	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SMITH	Euphemia	ARL	Mull		25	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SMITH	John Peter G.	INV	Rothiemurchus		33	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
STABLES	John	BAN	Rothiemay		19	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SUTHERLAND	Anne	CAI	Halkirk		44	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SUTHERLAND	John	CAI	Latheron		31	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SUTHERLAND	John	CAI	Halkirk		31	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SWANSTON	Catherine	CAI	Watten		40	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SWANSTON	Diana	CAI			16	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SWANSTON	James	CAI	Bower		20	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
SYMONS	Mary A	INV	Inverness		20	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN
TAIT	Margaret	ARL	Kilfinn?		56	Census / Edinburgh St. Cuthberts / MLN

Surname	Forename	City	Birth Parish	Age	Source
CAMPBELL	Robert	SUT	Clyne	31	Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN
CLERK	Heleen	INV		25	Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN

SHIPS AHOY!
By Laurel Lahay

After years of scanning pages of faintly scrawled names, some illegible, I have finally discovered my grandfather's name on a ship's passenger list which revealed that he embarked at the Canadian port of Quebec after sailing from Glasgow, Scotland. I spent many long hours scrutinizing films for the wrong year and port; however it was an easy search in the end, thanks to the internet.

My grandfather Allan Beaton, was born at Mid Coull, Petty, Inverness-shire in 1893. Not knowing the date that he emigrated from Scotland, I ordered a copy of the 1940 Dominion of Canada National Registration from Statistics Canada. This was a required registration during World War II for all Canadians 16 years of age or older except for those who were with the armed forces, a religious order or confined to an institution. On the 1940 document, the date of emigration is listed and my grandfather stated that he entered Canada in 1908. Having nothing else to go by, I started searching manifests for that year. Not knowing the port or the time of year was a huge stumbling block. I randomly chose various 1908 ship passenger films for different ports. Each film was for a particular month and on that film, there were many ships and thousands of passengers. The task was monumental! Knowing that my grandfather was most likely in Canada in 1911, I anxiously awaited the transcription of the 1911 Canadian census to check for an immigration date.

Thanks to hard working volunteers, the 1911 Canadian Automated Census Project has been steaming ahead with new census details being continually added to their website. I had been checking this website sporadically but had not found my grandfather listed. I was not sure of the province he had initially settled in so I would enter the surname 'Beaton' for each province. One evening, I checked the updated site again and to my surprise, I found Allan Beaton in Winnipeg, Manitoba on the 1911 census. Since it gave his date of birth, and country of origin, I knew for certain that this was my grandfather. The 1911 Census is very detailed and gives quite a bit of information. Allan Beaton's date of immigration was given as 1908, not 1908! I had been searching passenger lists for the wrong year. Knowing the probable date of immigration was a huge bonus! My next step was to check the Nanaimo Family History Society's website.

The Nanaimo F.H.S. has transcriptions of some passenger lists online. The index now covers Quebec Ports (including Montreal) for the periods 2 July 1908 to 4 Aug 1910 and 17 Sept 1910 to 13 Oct 1910. When entering the surname 'Beaton' into their database, I was able to find my grandfather, the date of emigration (June 15, 1909), the name of the ship (Pretorian) and the corresponding film number and page number. Armed with this new information, I phoned our local Campbell River Genealogy Society's Library and checked to see if the film in question was in our ships' passenger film drawer. "Yes," I was told, "the film is there." Thankfully, the end was in sight! Upon visiting the library, armed with a bottle of bubbly, it only took a few minutes to find the entry and my quest was over. This was worthy of a celebration..... As more and more information is added to internet databases, it's unbelievable that years of painstaking research can now be narrowed down in a matter of minutes.

When one mystery is solved, however, there are usually more questions left unanswered. According to the manifest, Allan Beaton traveled to Canada with James (age 31.) Colin (age 24) and Hugh (age 21) Paterson. Their destination was Rosendale, Manitoba. Now I just have to figure out the Paterson connection. The quest continues....

HAZ	John	MOR	Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
KENNEDY	Elizabeth	BAN Boharm	27 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
MATHESON	William	INV	48 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McFIE	John	INV Isle of Skye	33 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McKAY	Donald	ROC Tain	18 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McKENZIE	John	SUT Farr	22 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McLEOD	Roderick	ROC	36 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McPHERSON	Alexander	INV Inverness	57 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McPHERSON	Angus	SUT Creich	26 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
McPHERSON	John	INV Inverness	44 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
MUNRO	Williamia	SUT Helmsdale	45 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
MUNRO	Jane	ROC Tain	46 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
ROSS	Joseph	SUT Dornoch	72 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
SOMMERVILLE	Elizabeth	MOR Elgin	37 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
TULLOCH	John	ROC Killeaman	50 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
		CAI Dunnet	24 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
		MOR Elgin	34 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
			39 Census / Edinburgh St. George / MLN		
Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Age	Source
EASSAN	John	SUT Wick	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	21	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
FINDLATER	Kenneth	SUT Durness	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	20	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
JNNE	Alexander Taylor	ROC Tain	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	17	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
McDONALD	Christian	INV Inch	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	12	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
McDONALD	Donald	ROC Dingwall	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	32	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
McDONALD	Jannet	ROC Dingwall	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	31	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
McELLAR	Margret	SUT Golspie	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	71	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
McKINZIE	Kenneth	ROC Lochbroom	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	51	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
MILNE	John	BAN Rothiemay	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	27	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
MUNRO	Jean	MOR Elgin	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	44	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
MUNRO	John	ROC Logie	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	60	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
PETRIE	James	MOR Elgin	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	64	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
ROSS	George	ROC Lochbroom	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	17	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
ROSS	Patrick Campbell	ROC Lochbroom	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	18	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
SCOTT	Mary	INV Laggan	Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN	48	Census / Edinburgh St. Mary / MLN
Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Age	Source
McKENZIE	Duncan	ROC	Edinburgh Old Chu? / MLN	35	Census / Edinburgh Old Chu? / MLN
McKENZIE	Isabella	ROC	Edinburgh Old Chu? / MLN	44	Census / Edinburgh Old Chu? / MLN
McKAY	Malcolm	ROC Contin	Edinburgh Old Gre? / MLN	41	Census / Edinburgh Old Gre? / MLN

The last three entries are as they are listed and I cannot offer a guess as to what area they are supposed to be but they complete the Edinburgh entries for 1851.

If you wish to send a list for inclusion, please email where possible first, so that we can agree a format that may save me a lot of time retyping. For my address see rear cover of journal.



Allan Mitchell Beaton with his wife Ada Martha Hall c. 1918 – Folkestone, England

Sources:

1940 National Canadian Registration: www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-907_006-e.html

1911 Automated Census Project: www.automatedgenealogy.com/census11/Test4.jsp

Nanaimo Family History Society – Passenger List Indexing Project:
<http://members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs>

*Another useful site for passenger lists is: www.findmypast.com

On the site there is a free database index of passengers leaving the UK for the years 1890-1919. More departure years will be added in the coming months.

[Index entry consists of - name / age / sex / year of departure / port of departure / country of destination / port of arrival. To look at a transcription of the original entry for an individual will cost 5 units (roughly 50p). The actual image will require 30 units. Ed]

MEMBERS' RESEARCH INTERESTS

New Members:

2222. Mr Morton Bartlett, 16 Benmore Street, Timaru 7910, New Zealand. Researching **BARTLETT, BURTEENSHAW & GARDYNE**, areas and dates not specified.
2223. Mr Ian D. Colvin, 104 Borstal Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3BD. Researching **BAILIE** in Inverness 1850-date; **COLLIE, COLVAJIN** in Essich and Torbrech, Inverness-shire 1750-date; **STROTHER** in Inverness and Petty, Inverness-shire 1800-1900; **TOLMIE** in Ardersier and Balsparan, Inverness-shire 1750-1900.
2224. Ms Irene Robertson, 50 Errol Place, Aberdeen AB24 5PQ. Researching **CAMPBELL** and **HENDERSON** in Kilmorack, Inverness-shire 1750-1850.
2225. Mr John Ker, 351 Governor Lane, Fredricton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 7L3. Researching **CLEGHORN** in Edinburgh, Midlothian 1850-date; **GRANT** in Inverness pre-1800; **KER** in the Borders pre-1850.
2226. Mrs A. J. Mitchell, 18b/1 Mortonhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HW. Researching **MITCHELL** in Inverness-shire and Moray 1780-1880.
2227. Mr Peter D. Donnelly, 26 Gosforth Road, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 7SQ. Researching **CAMERON** and **FRASER**, any Highland 1750+; **McDONALD** in Inverness 1750-1850.
2228. Ms Robina Athavale, 12658 Horwood Crescent, Tecumseh, Ontario, Canada N8N 4T8. Researching **McARTHUR** and **McRAE** in Cawdor, Nairnshire 1780-1840.
2229. Mr David A. Harrold, 3 The Birches, Benfleet, Essex SS7 4NT. Researching **CHISHOLM, FORBES, FRASER, MATHESON, McKay, MACKENZIE**, and **TAYLOR** in Inverness-shire and Ross & Cromarty, 1850-1900.
2230. Mrs Frances Kerrone, 5825 Brier Avenue, Duncan, B. C. Canada V9L 3E1. Researching **McKENZIE** in Inverness 1819-1860.
2231. Ms Lorraine Pike, 37 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 3W2. Researching **MILLER** in Wick, Caithness 1780-1881.
2232. Mrs Jennifer Gowland, 31 Wandoo Court, Mulwala, N.S.W. 2647, Australia. Researching **MATHESON** in Inverness-shire and Sutherland 1850+.
2233. Ms Linda North, 35 Keiso Gardens, Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7DB. Researching **MUNRO** and **McKENZIE** in Urquhart, Inverness-shire 1750-1800; **ROBERTSON** in Assynt, Sutherland 1860-1890; Ferintosh 1790-1820 and Lochbroom 1815-1870 – all in Ross-shire; **ROSS** in Lochbroom 1830-1860.
2234. Mrs Georgina Dowson, Farndale House, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3DT. Researching **STEWART** in Inverness and Nairn, 1750-1870; **WATSON** in Nairn 1750-1870.
2235. Mrs Phyllis Clements, The Drift, 18 Grange Walk, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8RS. Researching **JACK** in Avoch, Black Isle – 1794-date.

2236. Mr John E. McClendon, 4951 State Route 60, Wakeman, Ohio 44889, U. S. A. Researching **McCLENDON**, **MACLENNAN** and **MACLENNAN** in Scotland 1610-1690 (in particular John **McCLENDON** born c. 1625 and his son Dennis born c. 1660).

2237. Mrs C. S. Woods, "Ferintosh", 3 Clayton Road, Amberley 7410, New Zealand. Researching **FRASER**, **McDONALD**, **McKENZIE** and **URQUHART** in the Black Isle, Logie Wester and Urquhart - all Ross & Cromarty, 1700+.

Changes to address etc

0663. Mr D. R. Macdonald, 11 Arnhall Drive, Dundee DD2 1LU.

1094. Capt. Donald Scott Macdonald Macphie, The Crest, 3 Darlaston Grange Cottage, Yarnfield Lane, Stone, Staffs ST15 0NE.

1163. Mr Jim Bailey, 'Silver Birches', Cahenweesheen, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Eire.

1419. Mrs Nichola Mackenzie, Camhoid, Muir of Tarradale, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7QZ.

1562. Mr Alistair MacDonald, Delegation Manila Philippines, European Commission, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium.

2213. Mr David Geddes, 10 Parkside, Highdown Avenue, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 3WW.

Resignations

2109. Ms Anna Verner, 11 Hastings Drive, #121, Brockville, Ontario, Canada K6V 2N9.

Deaths

0330. Mr Alexander Gillies, 3 Oakleigh Road, North Kessock, Inverness IV1 3XW.

0503. Mrs Margaret Campbell Harris, Flat 9, 31 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AA.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Amendments highlighted by **

Name & Member No.	E-mail address
Ms Ann Archibald - 2030	ann.archibald@ntlworld.com
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Ian Fordyce - 1743	rosian@btinternet.com
Rod Gair - 1956	rod@hrgair.f9.co.uk
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Peter Gow - 1717 **	peter@gows.go-plus.net

Mrs Jennifer Gowland - 2232
 David Harrold - 2229
 Mrs Patricia Johnson - 2065 **
 Kilmorack Heritage Association - 9825 **
 John E McClendon - 2236
 Mr & Mrs William Mackay - 970 **
 Alan Mackenzie - 2104
 Mrs Nichola Mackenzie - 1419
 Ms Lorraine Pike - 2231
 Brian Webster - 1038

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QUERIES

Members' Queries are published free of charge; non-members will be charged £1 per item. Queries should be as clear, concise and specific as possible. Readers who reply to an enquirer directly are asked to send a copy of their answer to the editor, for possible publication.

Those queries which include an e-mail address will also be uploaded to the Society's website. This will have the effect of increasing the chance of getting a response to the query and, at the same time, should encourage more surfers to find our website.

1076. **BEATON / ROSS**: Looking for links and/or contacts. Allan Beaton, Insurance Superintendent, born 1847 in Inverness (son of Allan Beaton and Elizabeth McKilloan) married Georgina ROSS, born 1842 in Petty. They married in Nairn in 1871 and known children were: 1. George Alexander BEATON, born 1872 in Rosskeen, Ross-Shire - died 1950 in Fort William, Inverness-shire - married Beatrice MAIR, in Glasgow. George and Beatrice had a son by the name of James BEATON, who was living at 15 Traquair Park East, Corstorphine, Edinburgh in 1948. 2. Allan James BEATON, born 1874 in Ardersier - died 1895. 3. Elizabeth Ann BEATON, born 1876 in Campbelltown, Ardersier - died 1928 in Kinlochleven, Inverness-shire. Elizabeth married William ROSS in 1904 in Brrdalg, Dingwall. 4. Alexander Ross BEATON, born 1880 in Stuartown Petty, died in 1900 in Inverness. - Laurel Lahay, 1060 Springbok Rd., Campbell River, B.C., Canada V9W 7K7. {e-mail} laurellahay@hotmail.com

1077. **McLEAN / ROSS / FERGUSON**: Looking for links and/or contacts. Hector McLEAN, Captain of the 42nd Highlanders, married Catherine ROSS in Inverness in 1806. Known children: 1. Margaret McLEAN, born 1808. 2. Daniel Ross McLEAN, born 1811 in Inverness (merchant in Tain - later resided in Dublin, Ireland) 3. Walter McLEAN, born 1813 in Inverness. 4. Elizabeth McLEAN, born 1816 in Inverness - emigrated to Canada c1848 and married Archibald FERGUSON in 1849. They settled in Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada. Archibald FERGUSON had been a builder in Glasgow but originated from Perthshire. 5. Ann McLEAN, born 1819 in Inverness, married ??? ROSSON. Ann later resided in Hartlepool, England. - Marilyn Hilsden, 634 Cooper St., (Ross Laire) Campbell River, B.C., Canada V9H 1S9 (e-mail) skyline@telus.net

1078. **CHISHOLM**: I am looking for Alpin CHISHOLM connections. All Alpin CHISHOLMS seem to belong to our branch of the CLAN CHISHOLM and any family contacts would be appreciated. Our family name is CHISHOLM - long story! - Ian McGregor, 242 Newton Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2V 1N4, Canada.

