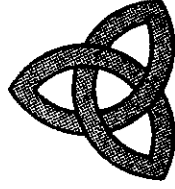


# highland family history society

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## EDITORIAL

Since we're a society whose membership is predominantly overseas most of you will have missed the recent controversy surrounding the formal opening of the new Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre. If you have internet access you can catch up on it by going to [www.theherald.co.uk/search/display.var.2203054.0.exclusions\\_from\\_opening\\_of\\_culloden\\_centre.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/search/display.var.2203054.0.exclusions_from_opening_of_culloden_centre.php). As you'll see from the text of this letter, which was also published in "The Scotsman" and followed up by a feature in the "Inverness Courier", one of my main problems with the exclusion of Highland family historians from the dignitaries-only event was the ignoring of the greatest genealogical asset in Inverness, Alasdair Macleod (and I hope he'll forgive me objectifying him thus!). Alasdair must have been employed as Highland Council's resident genealogist now for – and I can hardly believe this myself – at least twenty years. Many of you who've visited Inverness will have enjoyed his help, his humour, and his fund of wonderful tales about the Gaidehealtachd. The point being of course that Alasdair is a Gaelic speaker (from Ullapool) so has built-in knowledge denied to most of us English-only highland genealogists, and is the repository of a vital tradition of Gaelic oral history.

Coming back to Culloden, what's the new visitor centre like? Well it can hardly be called an adornment to the battlefield; but what modern building would be? To be fair to NTS they have gone for a design which attempts in effect to sink as much as possible of this large edifice under turf (if not exactly underground) so it doesn't intrude too much on the moor. Since not all the landscaping is yet complete, let alone mature, it's difficult to say how successful this approach will ultimately be; but the way they've done it does effectively hide the huge car-park that goes with it from the actual battlefield, which as far as possible is being returned to the state it's thought to have been in on that fateful day in April 1746.

The size of the car-park reflects the sort of visitor numbers that NTS need to justify the vast sums spent on the project. Its main selling point is as the site of the last military battle on mainland Britain; and perhaps the best thing about the information provided is the way in which "The 45" is set in the context of the European – indeed, the worldwide – conflict then taking place between the British and French Empires. This shows just how much Bonnie Prince Charlie was regarded simply as a pawn by the government of Louis XV, and how dangerous a rising in Britain was when George II's armies were already stretched by campaigns in North America and India, as well as on the European mainland. Another admirable feature is the attempt to track the fortunes of the two sides throughout the rebellion with separate displays showing the movements of armies and fleets day by day – and on the battle-day itself, hour by hour. Having these displays on opposite walls of corridor rooms does however mean one is constantly having to cross from one side to the other to follow the train of events, and on busy days this may well cause considerable problems with people bumping into each other. The audio-visual technology used to show the dispositions of the forces in the campaign leading up to Culloden, and during the battle itself, is great; but again the way the displays are set up restricts the numbers of visitors who can see them at any one time, and I can see more frustrations building around them on crowded days. Too much daylight shining in on the battle display also makes it difficult to see properly – which is a shame since it's a wonderful climax to the show.

The modern technology is only a part of the experience however. A lot of 18<sup>th</sup> century military hardware has been found, or even made, to exhibit in the huge hall at the end of the show. Seeing the size of the standard musket of that era makes one appreciate how hard life must have been on the march for the average soldier of the day – be he redcoat or killed rebel – and leads me to wonder whether my 6xgreat-grandfather Iain Ban Macmillan, who was certainly at the battle, had previously carried one of them all the way to Derby and back.

If I'm one of the few who knows for certain he had an ancestor at Culloden that's down to 19<sup>th</sup> century local historian William Mackay who noted the memories of Glen Urquhart people who in their youth had known survivors of the battle. Mackay was the founding Secretary of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and they mark Culloden every year with a service of remembrance – which is, of course, open to all Highland family historians.

Graeme Mackenzie

## THE MACKENZIES OF REDCASTLE

Talk given to the Society on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008

By Graham Clark

There is evidence of human habitation in the area now known as Redcastle from circa 3000 BC. Neolithic chambered cairns at Kilcoy South and North, bronze-age cairns at Carn Glas and Carn Irenan, an iron-age crannog in Redcastle bay and several Pictish sites all point to early occupation prior to the advent of written documents.

The earliest known record of the castle that would become Redcastle is in 1179. William I of Scotland (the Lion) had entered Rose-shire with a large army to subdue insurrections led by Harald Maddadson and Duncan MacHeth. To ensure that Ross and Moray remained firmly under royal control William ordered two royal castles to be built, one of which was at "Dunscailth" on the north Sutor overlooking the Cromarty Firth and the other at "Etherdover" on the north shore of the Beaulieu Firth, where there was probably already a rudimentary motte. [Redcastle has been subjected to several name changes with numerous spelling variations over the centuries. The variations used in this article include Etherdover, Edirdowyr, Eddyrdor, Eddirdule, and Reidcastell].

The building works at Etherdover were supervised by William's brother David, the Earl of Huntingdon, but they proved to be insufficient because various sons and grandsons of MacHeth and Maddadson, particularly Donald Bane MacWilliam (a grandson of MacHeth), led further rebellions during which the castle was captured in 1211. However it was recaptured and strengthened in 1212 by Sir John Bysset, who held the Lordship of the Aird and was married to Agnes, William's sister. As his reward, Sir John was granted the custodianship of Etherdover. His predecessors as Lords of the Aird were almost certainly descendants of "Gilleoin of the Aird", who lived around 830-880 AD and is thought to be the progenitor of the Mackenzie clan. Although the connection is nebulous, the Mackenzie link to Redcastle had been made.



Sir John Bysset was also the founding patron of Beaulieu Priory circa 1230 and, after his death in circa 1259, a Beaulieu Charter of 1278 granted occupation of Etherdover to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Andro de Bosco, for 2 marks per annum. Then in 1294 their daughter Mary and her husband Hugh of Kirravock, were granted the permanent tenancy (or "tenement").

How long the castle remained in the ownership of the "de la Ard" family does not seem to be recorded but it was at least until 1296, when it is possible that the forces of Edward I captured it during the "pacification" of Scotland. Several medieval and late-medieval finds have been retrieved from the fields around Redcastle, the earliest of which is a shield-shaped heraldic horse pendant measuring ~3cm high and ~2cm wide with three white lions (the Arms of England) on a red enamelled background. It has been dated to the 13-14<sup>th</sup> century and close-by was also found an Edward I long-cross hammered penny, minted in London in 1281-2.

The proprietorship of Etherdover during the 14<sup>th</sup> century is vague. After Edward's death, Robert the Bruce's forces re-captured the Highland castles for the Scottish Crown in 1308 and by 1367 Etherdover had passed into the possession of the Frasers of Lovat. In reality these were probably the descendants of the Byssets "de la Ard" who had become "Frisealich

am boll a mine [Frasers of the boll of meaff]. The earliest reference in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland is in 1426 when James I confirmed to James of Douglas the "lands and barony of Eddirdule" within the earldom of Ross and the lordship of the "Ardmeanach [the Black Isle]". During the 15<sup>th</sup> century, "Eddirdule" probably referred to the area administered by the barony, whilst the castle itself gradually became known as the "Reidcastell".

The proprietorship of the Douglases came to an abrupt end in 1455 when Hugh Douglas, the Earl of Ormond, was executed by James II along with the Black Douglases and their allies. In consequence, the castle and its lands were forfeited to the Crown and formally annexed in perpetuity by an Act of Annexation dated 4 August 1455. After the annexation, James II gave custodianship of the Ardmeanach to his ally Sir Andrew Moray, the Earl of Moray. Andrew appointed his half-brother Celestine (otherwise known as "Gillespie of the Isles") as the keeper of the castle, the rent being £26-13-4d Scots. However in 1481 James III granted the "fortalice of the Ruberum Casstrum [Red Castle]" to his second son, James Stewart the Marquis of Ormond, thus commencing a period of 87 years in which the title of Earl of Ross, together with the custodianship of Redcastle, was assigned to members of the Royal House of Stewart, or their sub-tenants.

In the summer of 1564, Mary Queen of Scots visited Redcastle during her tour of the northern Highlands, having granted the title of Earl of Ross and Ardmeanach to her second husband Lord Henry Darnley earlier that year. Henry Darnley was murdered in February 1567 and Mary Queen of Scots was forced to abdicate in July 1567. Her infant son, James VI, fell heir to the Scottish crown with the Earl of Moray as his Regent. Changes in the custodianship of the Redcastle were imminent.

The modern estate of Redcastle originates in the granting of the fortalice of Redcastle in 1568 by James VI to Kenneth Mackenzie (known as Coinneach "Na Cuirc"), the 10<sup>th</sup> Baron of Kintail and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Stewart (the daughter of the Earl of Atholl), as a reward for his part in the arrest of Mackay of Farr who had been pillaging and plundering parts of Sutherland. Kenneth died that same year and was buried in Beaulieu Priory. His eldest son, Murdoch, had died in childhood, hence his second son, Colin "Cam", fell heir to the Barony of Kintail and his third son Rorie (known as "Ruairidh Mor") inherited Redcastle.

Ruairidh Mor, who already owned land at Ardafallie, then successively acquired charters of the "Lands of Killearnan" in 1578, the "Milns of Redcastle" in 1584, and of "Gargiestown, Newton of Redcastle and Easter Kessock" in 1589. Thus the estate of Redcastle had been created by 1589 and was in the ownership of Ruairidh Mor Mackenzie (1<sup>st</sup> of Redcastle). The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland for 1595 record that the lands of Gargastoun and the Reidcastell within the Lordship of Ardmannoch had been set in "few-ferme to Rorie Maikenze" for £100 Scots per year.

The staunchly royalist Ruairidh Mor of Redcastle and his brother, Colin "Cam" of Kintail, were rebels who successfully commanded the Mackenzies in many of their clan skirmishes but who at times acted somewhat lawlessly. For example, the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland records that in December 1577 they attacked the Bishop's house in Fortrose, seized all the servants and imprisoned them in Redcastle. Failing to appear at the subsequent court hearing, they were denounced as rebels and put to escheat [ie made to forfeit their property to the Crown]. In theory, this judgement ended the Mackenzie's ownership of Redcastle but the court's decision was never implemented, presumably because of the brothers' royal connections. Several years later the brothers were detained in 1586 in Edinburgh to answer charges laid by Macdonald of Glengary accusing them of the murder of several of his clansmen during various ambushes. On 5 October 1586, before a trial could be held, they were given a royal pardon for these and "all other past crimes" and, thereby, Ruairidh Mor Mackenzie regained the legal ownership of Redcastle.

On 2 December 1603 James VI of Scotland (who was also James I of England by the Union of the Crowns in 1603) under his Great Seal gifted the charter of Redcastle and its lands to Ruaridh Mor and his son and heir, Murdoch, thus ensuring the male succession of the estate. The charter also refers to the holding of an annual fair in Redcastle on 7 July, called St Andrew's Day. This fair is also mentioned in the Great Charter of Inverness of 1591 which refers to the "boya-fair" held at the "Rudecastell". Various artifacts that have been found in the fields around Redcastle indicate that fairs and markets have been held in the area from at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century. These include a 14<sup>th</sup> century annular ring brooch, an Edward III silver groat and a James VI silver sixpence, dated 1624.

As a consequence of the hereditary charter of 1608, the Redcastle estate was inherited in 1615 by Murdoch Mackenzie (2<sup>nd</sup> of Redcastle) thus establishing a dynasty of nine generations of Mackenzies who were destined to own Redcastle for almost another 200 years. Not much is known of Murdoch other than that he married Margaret, the daughter of William Rose, Baron of Kilravock, in June 1599 and they had five sons and seven daughters. However the eldest son, Kenneth, died as a young child in 1607 and Redcastle was inherited on Murdoch's death in 1638 by his second son, Rorie (3<sup>rd</sup> of Redcastle). Rorie, who had been born in 1608, married Isobel, the eldest daughter of Alexander Mackenzie 1<sup>st</sup> of Kilcoy, in 1629, and they had four sons and a daughter. In common with his ancestors, Rorie was strongly royalist, a loyalty that was to have far-reaching consequences.

Charles I was executed by Cromwell on 30 January 1649 and Charles II was proclaimed King of Scotland on 5 February 1649. However Inverness Burgh declared loyalty to the Parliamentarians on 9 February 1649 and this precipitated an attack by the royalist Mackenzie and Mackay clans (many of which came from Easter Ross and the Black Isle, including Rorie Mackenzie of Redcastle). The clans took control of the town and destroyed the fort on Castle Hill. Parliamentary Covenanters under Col David Leslie soon retaliated and re-captured the town. The clans fled back to Ross-shire, pursued by the Covenanters and, in May 1649, Rorie was captured near Fortrose and taken to Edinburgh where he was imprisoned. In his absence, Redcastle held out as the last castle in Scotland loyal to the Crown. However it was laid siege and ultimately captured, looted and set on fire by the troops of Col Gilbert Ker (or Carr). It is said that during the skirmish Rorie's younger son, Kenneth, was shot and died after falling from the ramparts. Rorie was later released on payment of 7000 marks Scots (paid by Ross of Bridly, his maternal uncle) but died soon afterwards in 1650 from 'grief and melancholy' after seeing the ruins of his castle.

Colin Mackenzie (4<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle), Rorie's eldest son, was born in 1630. He was known as Colin "Nag" and was a Collector of Customs in Inverness when he inherited the remains of Redcastle in 1650. In 1661 he was awarded £21,777 in damages for its burning by the Covenanters and ordered it to be rebuilt on its 12<sup>th</sup> century foundations in the form of the L-plan tower house that remains today. An engraved stone that is still set into the northern elevation of the castle displays the initials R.M.K. and is dated 1641. The significance of the date is not clear but the initials probably refer to Rorie Mackenzie (3<sup>rd</sup> of Redcastle), Colin's father. The stone had perhaps survived the sacking of the old castle and may have been incorporated into the rebuilt castle either in memory of his father or as a mark of allegiance after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.



One of the key events in Redcastle history occurred on 2 January 1680 when Charles II issued a "Charter of Resignation, Confirmation and Novodamus and New Erectior" to Colin Mackenzie. This "erected" Redcastle as a Scottish Burgh of Barony. The charter reads: "By this Charter the said whole estate is erected into a Barony, called the Barony of Redcastle, and the village of Milintown of Redcastle is erected into a Burgh of Barony, called the Burgh of Barony of Redcastle with all the usual privileges, a weekly market to be held every Wednesday in the said Burgh. Another free fair to be held on 24 February yearly, besides that formerly granted to be held the 7 July yearly. With tolls and customs of said weekly market and two yearly free fairs with favour to the Proprietor, to elect and chuse (sic) bailies of said Burgh of Barony, deputies, clerks, dempsters, officers and other members of court and to change the same yearly. To erect and build a market cross, a tobacco and prison, with liberty to build a sea port or harbour at said Burgh for the reception of ships and vessels and to impose and exact anchorage, shore dues and others at said port and harbour which is declared to be a free sea port or harbour in all time coming". The existence of a market cross is recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland but unfortunately the supporting bibliographic documentation, as well as the cross itself has been lost.

Colin Mackenzie (4<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) amassed a substantial fortune from his business interests and was described as a very opulent man who in 1661-8 was the elected MP for Inverness-shire. He was married twice, firstly to Isobel, the eldest daughter of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie (1<sup>st</sup> of Coull) by whom he had three sons and four daughters, and secondly to Marjory, the daughter of John Robertson of Inches, who was a widow. To ensure that the succession of Redcastle followed the children of his first marriage, Colin made an entail of the Redcastle estate (also known as a "tailzie"). Several records state that Colin was killed at Killearnan in 1704, although neither the circumstances of his death nor any corroborating evidence is given. He is said to be buried in Killearnan parish church.

Colin Mackenzie's eldest son Roderick (5<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) was known as "Ruairi Dearg". He married Margaret, the daughter of James Grant 16<sup>th</sup> of Freuchie, and had four sons and three daughters. The eldest was Roderick (6<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) known as "Ruairi Mor". There are different accounts of Ruairi Mor's marital history. He was first married in 1707 to Margaret, the daughter of Sir James Calder of Muirtoun and secondly to Katherine, daughter of Charles Mackenzie of Cullen, in 1727. Various accounts report that he had been up to 30 children but other accounts record only two sons (Roderick and Colin) and one daughter (Florence).

A disposition of Redcastle in 1718 by Ruairi Dearg to Ruairi Mor was to prove the turning point in the fortunes of the Mackenzies of Redcastle. Ruairi Mor immediately began to sell parts of the estate. The proceeds were probably intended to pay off his father's debts but a sale of some land in Easter and Wester Kessoock to Capt Hugh Fraser proved to be disastrous and commenced a long-standing legal dispute that extended for over 20 years and precipitated the eventual bankruptcy of the Mackenzies of Redcastle.

In May 1729 Capt Fraser successfully sued Ruairi Mor for 17,000 marks. It seems that Ruairi Mor was unable to produce any legal documentation proving his title to the disputed land and therefore his right to sell it. However, Ruairi Mor failed to pay and further actions taken in the High Court in Edinburgh in November 1730, October 1733 and April 1736 led to further fines and penalties (£2000 Scots) relating to Capt Fraser's damages, interest and expenses. The outcome was sequestration of the Redcastle estate. Unfortunately, Ruairi Mor's response seems to have been a less than sensible act of desperation. He arranged, apparently in collaboration with his son Roderick, for a set of counterfeit title deeds to be drawn up. They are first recorded in 1739 but it was not until 1745 that Ruairi Mor finally admitted the fraud. In the subsequent court proceedings he was described as a man who was "universally reputed and known to be by the whole country a weak and facile man easily

imposed upon" and who was impecunious due to issuing bonds without securities, taking out "groundless law suits before inferior courts" and borrowing (against bonds) "such sums as £250 when no person in the country would credit Redcastle a shilling". He is also recorded as "a man of no expense tho' posses of an estate of about five hundred pounds of yearly rent ... did involve himself in upwards of forty thousand merks of debts".

Ruairi Mor Mackenzie died in April 1751 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Roderick (7<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) and known as "Ruairi Ban". He had married Hannah (or Anna), daughter of Thomas Murdoch of Camboadden, in 1730 and they had four sons and five daughters. Hannah died at the age of 39 in April 1755. Despite Ruairi Ban's financial plight, he was determined to make the funeral of "Lady Redcastle" a lavish event. The bill amounted to £64-11-2½d which included £16-16/- for 16 dozen bottles of claret!

Whilst Ruairi Mor's management of the estate's financial affairs had been incompetent, Ruairi Ban's was hapless. In the period 1756-61 he became embroiled in at least two complex legal cases, one involving his refusal to pay for the purchase of grain, the other involving money owed to a trust fund. In 1768, in a valiant attempt to keep the estate solvent, Ruairi Ban and his motherless young family relocated from Redcastle to Inverness where he was appointed as Collector of Customs at Inverness harbour. In later life he became blind and when he died in May 1785 his (second) son, Kenneth, succeeded him (the eldest son, Murdoch, having died in childhood in 1746). By this time the estate was, once again, in sequestration and the castle had become seriously dilapidated.

Ruairi Ban's son Kenneth (8<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) was born on 21 February 1748. His youth is described as "opprobrious ... the terror of Inverness mothers ... the aversion of Inverness tradesmen" and it was the general belief that he would come to a bad end. On 17 August 1767 he married Jean Thomson, the daughter of the Accountant-General of Excise in Scotland, and immediately afterwards (28<sup>th</sup> August) he joined the Armed Forces, initially being appointed as an Ensign in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant in February 1771. Thereafter, his army records are scanty but his regiment was ordered to embark for America in 1775 and it is probable that he fought in the American War of Independence.

Kenneth had returned by January 1778 when he joined the newly created 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Highland Foot (or the Seaforth Highlanders) as a Captain. In this capacity he was in command at the Tolbooth in Edinburgh when a minor mutiny, known as the "Revolt of the Macraas", took place. The Macraas were a sept of the Mackenzies of Kintail and around 400 of them had enlisted in the Seaforths as "fencible infantry" (ie to serve only within the British Isles). However, it was rumoured that they had been "sold" to the East India Company and were to sail to India, a rumour that turned out to be true. When ordered to march to Leith to board ship, the Macraas revolted and a party of the mutineers went to the Tolbooth to demand the release of some comrades who were held there. Captain Kenneth Mackenzie is said to have "bared his breast and told the mutineers to strike if they dared, but he would not release a man", an action that gained him a reputation for bravery and resolve.

Jean Thomson and Kenneth had three sons and three daughters, of whom only two sons (Roderick and Hector) and two daughters (Boyd and Hannah) survived childhood. However, in 1780, Jean brought a successful divorce action against Kenneth, the grounds being that he "casting off the fear of God and disregarding his matrimonial vows and engagements, has for several years past totally alienated his affections from his legal wife and given up himself to adulterous practices, fellowship and correspondence with lewd and wicked women ... and to having carnal and adulterous conversation, intercourse and dealings with them". It transpired that one of these women had given birth to a child and Kenneth had become infected with venereal disease. At the conclusion of the hearing the court awarded Jean a life annuity of £160 and the sum of £200 in lieu of her share of furniture.

After the divorce, in what was probably an attempt to earn his fortune and pay off the mounting Redcastle debts, Kenneth offered to raise an Independent Company of Foot. By 1 February 1781 he had enlisted the required 100 men but his Company was assigned a somewhat unattractive mission, attached to the HM Leander to sail to the west coast of Africa to attack and capture Dutch trading settlements. Survival rates in West Africa were low due to tropical diseases and there were few opportunities for officers to make money. Kenneth's disappointment is expressed in a letter to Lord Amherst, Commander-in-Chief of HM Forces. "*Pardon me my Lord, for letting a syllable escape from my lips or pen, that has the least appearance of reluctance to the service I am going on. Assure yourself my Lord, of the contrary, I have youth, inclination and a good Highland stamina that I firmly believe equal to any climate or fatigue. Tho Africa does not promise so many diamonds as Asia, yet the former may afford as many laurels. Your Lordship has been pleased to intrust me with a field to operate on, and I trust in God I shall be enabled to do my duty to the satisfaction of my gracious Master. It does not become a soldier to promise much. I shall only beg leave to add, my Lord, that Mackenzie shall never shrink from any service or his duty, but with a cheerful heart lose the last drop of his blood when the cause of his good and gracious King demands it*".

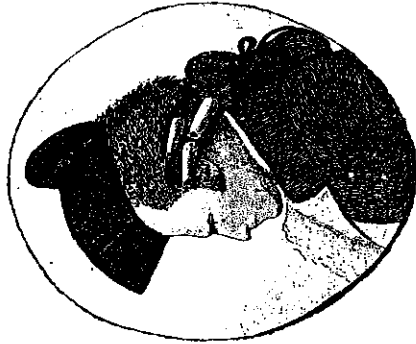
HM Leander, in convoy with the transport ship Mackarel and HM sloops Alligator and Zepher, reached the Gold Coast (now Ghana) on 2 March 1782 where they captured the Fort of Mouree. After the operation Capt Kenneth remained there to command the garrison attached to the fort. With little else to do, he turned his attention to enriching himself by pirating passing ships and employing his soldiers on a plantation which he claimed as his own. He also quarrelled with his officers and gained a reputation as a cruel leader who had his men savagely flogged for trivial offences. His Adjutant was Kenith Murray Mackenzie (said to be his cousin) but they quarrelled and Kenith hid in the neighbouring "Black Town" to escape a flogging. When Capt Kenneth threatened to fire his cannons on the town, the natives returned Kenneth to the fort whereupon he was tied to a handspike and placed in front of a 9lb cannon. A soldier by the name of John Plunkett was then ordered by Capt Kenneth at pistol point to light the fuse of the cannon. Kenith was fired into the air and "the body was found in a very mangled state at some distance from the fort".

Reports reached London some months later and Commander John Wickey was sent to arrest him. In Kenneth's possession was gold dust valued at up to £10,000 which he denied had been gained through piracy. A preliminary hearing was held on 23 October 1783 at which Kenneth was committed for trial. Due to the time needed to bring witnesses from Africa to London, the trial did not take place until 10 December 1784. In his defence, Kenneth asserted that his garrison was mostly composed of mutinous convicts and that Kenneth Murray Mackenzie had been their ringleader. However, the jury found Kenneth guilty of wilful murder but "in consideration of the desperate crew the Captain had to command" they recommended him to His Majesty's mercy. The judge, nevertheless, sentenced him to be "hanged by the neck until you are dead, and afterwards your body be dissected and anatomized, according to the statute, and the Lord have mercy upon your soul".

Despite the judgement, Kenneth did not hang. Accounts of his trial had appeared in several newspapers and his case was sympathetically taken up by several interested parties, including The Times in which several articles and letters argued that normal civil law could not fairly apply to officers who had to command convicted prisoners who had enlisted as soldiers. Kenneth was held in Newgate prison whilst he was granted several respites and postponements of his execution. He finally received notification of a free pardon from George III on 6 December 1785. It states that "whereas some circumstances have been humbly represented unto us on his behalf, inducing us to extend our grace and mercy unto him and to grant him our free pardon for his said crime, our will and pleasure therefore is that our cause him, the said Kenneth Mackenzie, to be forthwith discharged out of custody, and

that he be inserted for his said crime in our first and next General Pardon that shall come out for the poor convicts in Newgate without any condition whatsoever".

On his release, Kenneth returned to Edinburgh and in 1786 featured as one of four "Bucks of the City" in a caricature by John Kay, the famous Edinburgh portrait artist. In April 1778, with the consent of his ex-wife, he placed the Redcastle estate in trust. The trustees were Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch and John Tait WS. From that point onward Kenneth's life is shrouded in mystery. It is said that he fled to Russia as the result of a duel that he fought in Edinburgh and that he served in the Russian army in the war against the Turks and later became an Assistant Consul in Constantinople. It is thought that he was himself killed in another duel with a merchant ship's captain by the name of Smith in Constantinople in March 1789. Allegedly, Kenneth had entrusted Smith with all his possessions six years earlier, when he had been arrested at Fort Mouree.



When Kenneth Mackenzie died in 1789 the sequestered Redcastle estate was technically inherited by his eldest son, Roderick (9<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle). However, Roderick "renounced to be heir in general to his deceased father and grandfather" and Redcastle was subjected to judicial sale. It was purchased by James Grant of Shugley for £25,450 and the sale was completed by the issue of a Crown charter of the Barony of Redcastle on 5 July 1790. It has been suggested that the Mackenzies were cheated out of the real value of the estate but whether that is true or not, the purchase turned out either to be an inspired act of entrepreneurship or a case of insider knowledge on the part of James Grant. Redcastle would earn its new owner (and his heirs) a very substantial return on his investment.

The judicial sale and its aftermath precipitated a flurry of complex legal activity as the large numbers of Redcastle creditors used the Session Court to win warrants in favour of their respective claims. Others obtained inhibitions and adjudications against Kenneth Mackenzie (and his son Roderick) to establish the ranking of their respective claims and prevent any prior disposals of assets. The situation was further exacerbated when it emerged that Kenneth Mackenzie had never truly inherited Redcastle. This is because the imprisoned Kenneth had failed after his father's death in 1785 to obtain a charter of confirmation of accession to the "superiority" from the Crown. Thus the superiority remained legally vested in the deceased Ruairi Ban whilst the assets of the estate were vested in Kenneth, and then his son Roderick, as the heirs.

The extensive list of creditors included:

- Kenneth's children (Roderick, Hector, Boyd and Hannah) who each claimed alimony of £30 per year together with a settlement of £2000 plus interest for the younger children (arising from a clause in the marriage contract between Kenneth Mackenzie and Jean Thomson in 1767);
- Jean Thomson, Capt Kenneth Mackenzie's divorced and re-married wife, who claimed £1790 unpaid alimony and £316 liquidate penalty;
- other family members, several of whom were bondholders, for example: John Mackenzie (Capt Kenneth's younger brother) who had inherited the Kincaird estate on Ruairi Ban's death in 1785; and Alexander Mackenzie (Ruairi Mor's younger

brother) who was a customs official at Strontian and held a bond for 4000 Scots merks issued in 1710 by Ruairi Dearg;

- merchants, for example: David Sheppard & Sons, Nicol Summerville and James Dewar, all of Edinburgh; John Du Roveray of London; and Phineas & William Macintosh of Inverness, who were owed £3120 (Phineas Macintosh also held a bond for 20,000 merks Scots);
- solicitors, for example: John Dingwall WS, who had also acted for Ruairi Ban in the 1756-61 legal case; Kenneth Mackenzie WS and William Lockhart WS, who had represented several creditors; and John Tait WS, who was a trustee of the estate;
- bondholders, for example: George Ross and John Ogilvie of London, who held a bond of £800 for the financing of Capt Kenneth Mackenzie's Independent Company of Foot; Robert Mackenzie of Kilcoy (£262); and John Grant (£800);
- the new owner of Redcastle (James Grant) who had been permitted to withhold as £31,154-13-1d from the purchase price to prepare a Bond of Caution enabling him to stand surety for various estate creditors and "for answering certain eventual annuities" from members of the Mackenzie family.

Given the complexity, it is not surprising that it took eight years to assess all of the creditors' claims and devise a scheme of division of the residual assets. The purchase price of the estate (£25,450) plus a small sum due for rentals from the "superiority" comprised the entire assets of the estate, amounting to £27,468-1-6d. The total debt of the estate was assessed as £31,154-13-1d and creditors were paid according to a scheme of division approved by Robert Queen, Justice Clerk, on 7 March 1798.

The demise of the Mackenzies of Redcastle and the loss of the estate was a great blow to the Mackenzie clan. Roderick (9<sup>th</sup> of Redcastle) emigrated to Jamaica where his uncle and cousins were in business. He died there, unmarried, in 1798. The Mackenzie of Redcastle dynasty died with him.



At Fortrose Cathedral there is an unusual carved stone mural above the entrance to the Mackenzie and Seaforth memorial vault in the South Aisle. It is thought to have been commissioned circa 1800 by Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul and to represent a member of the Mackenzie family as "Death holding on to his castle of Redcastle".

The next chapter in the history of Redcastle is another story. The Grants remained in ownership until 1825 when Patrick Grant sold the estate to Sir William Fettes. The purchase price was £135,000, a five-fold increase over that paid 35 years earlier in 1790 by James Grant. Sir William died heirless in 1836 and his trustees sold Redcastle to Col Hugh Baillie of Tarradale who commissioned William Burn to extend and renovate the castle in the Scots baronial style. On the death of Hugh's son, Henry Baillie, the estate passed to the Baillies of Dochfour in 1885 and remains in their ownership to this day. The castle was requisitioned by the military during WW2 as an ammunition store. Today the ancient Redcastle stands ruinous on its 12<sup>th</sup> century foundations; a sad relic of 800 turbulent years - none more so than those 222 years of the Mackenzies.

The author's research into the Mackenzies of Redcastle is on-going - corrections, suggestions and further information would be most welcome.

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## **BYNAMES and ALIASES**

By Richard McGregor

I'm responding to Jim Mackay's request for further thoughts on aliases and bynames in the Highlands, based on my own research into the surnames Callum and McGregor in the north of Scotland.

The surname Callum, which is now not very common, was once a patronymic McGillichallum (son of the servant of Malcolm – usually thought to denote a religious connection, but that may not always be the case). We can see from the rental documents in the Brodie of Lethen Papers (GD247) at the National Archives of Scotland the gradual change from McGillichallum to Callum in the rent record of what is clearly one individual. In Kirkhill parish during the 17<sup>th</sup> century McGillichallum was common and in the early records there is no sign of Callum. From the mid 1690s onwards the name begins to be written Callum. The same process happens in Ardsclach parish in the early 1700s.

I should add here that the surname McGillichallum (and Callum) occurs only in a relatively small area of the north Highlands bounded on the west by Kilmorack, the north by Dingwall, the east by Elgin or Keith and the south by Inverailen and Cromdale. Callum is also known in various other Scottish parishes such as Auchterarder and vicinity but I have never found a connection between any of the separate areas.

In Kirkhill parish the name Callum is universal during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and appears as such in, for example, the Records of the Forfeited Estates (SRO: *Statistics of the Forfeited Estates 1755-6*, Edinburgh: HMSO 1973). However change was taking place and it's clear that it was still considered a patronymic. So we find in Kirkhill churchyard a tombstone inscription for Alexander Fraser alias Callum who died in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and in the same parish Callum also became completely replaced as a surname by McCallum before 1850.

I have seen the same process happen with the MacGregor surname. This name was banned from 1603-60 and again from 1692 until 1774/5, although latterly only really in official documents (but it was used in parish registers in various forms including Gregorson and Gregorach during the whole of the latter part of the period of Proscription). The name Gregor wasn't banned and some families simply used that, reverting to MacGregor when it was safe to do so. However it does seem that some families who were actually Gregor assumed that they were MacGregor originally. I always suspected – and now DNA studies seem to confirm – that some of these were originally descended from a 'watcher' (sometimes 'the shepherd', as in Pope Gregory), that is there was the original 'son of the watcher' = MacGregor. Gregor or Gregory is known as a surname throughout Europe and not just in Scotland.

I have also observed this change of surname happening in the Western parishes of Argyllshire. There McVeil or McGheill (various spellings) becomes MacGregor or McGill in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A researcher friend also tells me that in two contiguous Perthshire parishes McAvra/McAvee (meaning 'son of the King') was used in one parish and when the family had children in the other parish, they were baptised under the surname 'King'.

Returning to McGillichallum: this is common as a 'surname' in the 17<sup>th</sup> century Nairnshire parishes but by 1750 it had almost totally disappeared to be replaced by Callum. However even Callum was undergoing change as this list derived from some Nairnshire parishes shows. In fact by 1800 the surname Callum had itself almost disappeared from these parishes and only remained in the coastal and urban parishes of Banff and Moray (such as

Elgin) where it seems to have become fixed as a surname proper – reflecting maybe a certain disassociation from Mac surnames in 'Lowland' parishes.

### **Cawdor**

1762 Alexander McGillichallum alias Callum and Isobel Clark a son John  
1788 John Callum alias McIntosh and Anne McIntosh, a son Donald Callum or  
McIntosh

Donald Callum alias McDonald and Jean Grant married 1795  
William McIntosh alias Callum and Ann Davidson married 1806

### **Auldearn**

Sweton Callum or McDonald and Margaret Cameron a a child 1811

### **Ardclach**

Janet Callum or McDonald baptised 1750 daughter of David Callum or McDonald and  
Janet Campbell

William Callum or McDonald married Henrette Callum 1768

Alexander McDonald or Callum and Margaret Alexander a daughter Isabel 1779

Donald Callum or McDonald and Anne McIntyre a son James 1780

Duncan Callum or McDonald married Jane Rose 1798

### **Kilmorack**

Alexander Callum or Fraser sons son Alexander 1776, Simon 1785, William 1788

### **Edinmillie**

Elizabeth Callum or Grant bapt 1750 daughter of Dougal

Patrick Callum or Grant bapt 1752 son of Peter (Patrick) [and Isobel Robertson]

1755 Donald Callum alias Grant, Culphern, witness

1784 John Callum alias Grant in Dunphail of Falkirk (Forres Record Office)

1799 Donald Grant alias Callum at Shandville, witness

### **Cromdale**

Malcolm Clerk married Anne Callum alias McDonald 1718 (in 1727 she is called Donaldson)  
John Grant alias McWillie married Elspet Callum alias McDonald 1717 (in 1719 she is given  
as Calumach)

### **Kirkhill**

A will of 1677 mentions Thomas McWilliam Vicgillchallum

In the list above it is easy to see why Grant became a surname given the influence of the landowners of that name in the region. However Callum alias McDonald is more difficult (even though McDonald was a very common surname by then it wasn't that common in Speyside in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century). I think this may be exactly what it might seem to be – the person is a child or descendant of Donald. Callum alias McIntosh is more difficult until we remember that it can mean 'son of the chief/leader' (as in 'son of the watcher' above). I'm not a Gaelic scholar but it does seem to me that this could also be an Anglicisation of McIntearlach (son of Charles). Certainly in the examples Jim provided Commachie is certainly from the Gaelic for Duncan and probably then a contraction of McConnachie – son of Duncan) I wonder then if Caundach is simply another version of the same without the final 'ie'.

I found the extract giving McKirdy as an alias of Cameron interesting in that it was stated to be a patronymic in the Session Records – but what patronymic I wonder?

It seems to me that what was happening here was simply the gradual process of replacement of patronymics derived from Christian names and/or from trade-based names by fixed surnames. It probably happened for surnames like this in lowland Scotland and England in the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> centuries but we simply don't have the physical evidence to see it happening – no old parish registers, in other words. Is there any other recent evidence of this happening in other cultural groups (i.e. outwith Scotland?) for which records exist (for example in Wales)?

## HFHS PROJECTS

### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

A quick check of the sales of publications so far this year confirms the point raised in the previous journal that we can justify reprinting publications of monumental inscriptions but not those of 1851 census indexes. Whereas we have sold 181 copies of 30 of the former items, we have only managed a total of 52 copies of 55 of the latter. The new publication for Old Kilmore Churchyard in Drumnadrochit has been very popular with 38 sales but, in spite of a previous run of 250 copies of Chapel Yard in Inverness, we have sold 16 so far of the 60 reprinted earlier this year.

It is only a short trip down the A9 to Moy Churchyard (OS 772342) where Angus Bethune has already recorded the inscriptions on 156 memorial stones located there and within the next month these will be checked ready for publication. Angus is currently working on Dalarossie (OS 767243) at the moment. It is hoped to also start on the small burial ground at Dunlichity (OS 660330). Any volunteers to help with the latter burial ground should contact John Durham.

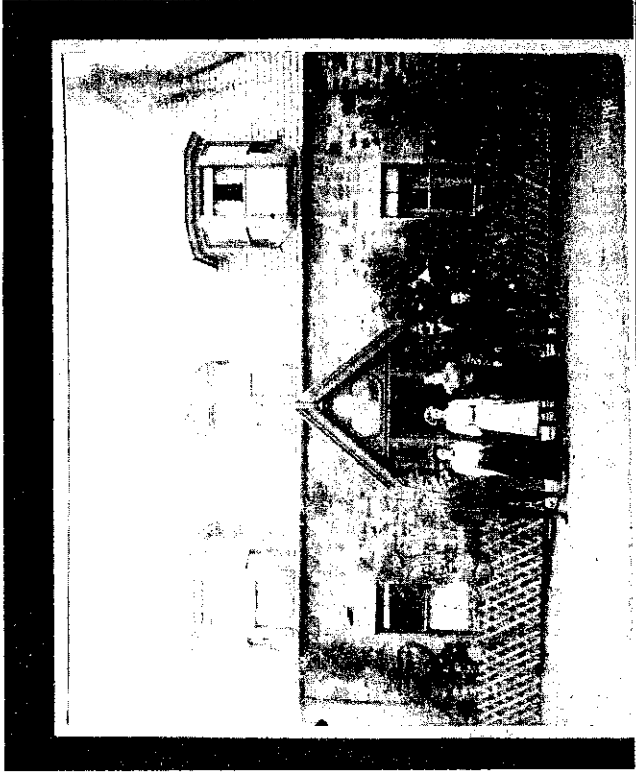
### INDEXES to 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

There has been no change in this project over the past three months. The current position in relation to the outstanding parishes is as shown below.

Parish	Transcribed	In Progress	To Start	Outstanding
Inverness-shire				
Abernethy & Kincardine	J. P-D			
Boleskine & Abertarff				X
Cromdale & Inverallan				X
Groy & Dalaross	J. P-D		R S	
Davlot & Dunlichity				
Duthil & Rothermurchus				X
Inverness Parish				X
Kilmorivailg				X
Moy & Dalarossie				X
Urquhart & Glenmorriston				X
<b>Sutherland</b>				
Rogart			B & M McK	
Tongue				X

## THE MACKENZIES OF THE BLACK ISLE & ROSE COTTAGE

By Jane Fraser-Hall



Donald Mackenzie and his family outside Rose Cottage in the 1900s

While clearing my Great Aunt Janet's house, Rose Cottage in Avoch on the Black Isle, I discovered in the front parlour a photograph of a Victorian family group. On the back of the photograph the names of the people were listed. David Mackenzie, his wife Janet Junor, and their three children, Donald, my great grandfather, and his brothers, Hector and David. From that moment on I was determined to find out as much as I could about the family and embarked on a hobby that has lasted for nearly forty years!

My branch of the Mackenzie family can be traced back to the Mackenzie's of Findon.

In 1688 Kenneth Mackenzie married Lilius Mackenzie, the eldest daughter of Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Findon, and Kenneth and Lilius built the mansion house of Findon in 1696. The estate of Findon, which comprised much of the area extending from Durcanston in the west to Culbokie in the east, and southwards to the foot of Mount Eagle, remained in the Mackenzie family until at least 1849. Though there is no established direct connection with these Mackenzies, it is possible that the family were distant relations, as it was common practice for estate owners to give preference to relatives when allocating the lease of their lands. In this way, the landowner could maintain a tight control over the activities of their tenants.

A search through the records of Findon shows that my Mackenzie ancestors were Gaelic speakers, earning their living by working on the land. The earliest ancestor I can trace is Donald, born about 1700. Donald was known as McAvort and not Mackenzie! The reason for



this was that there were many families working on the estate bearing the Mackenzie name, as well as many having the same Christian name so, to identify different people of the same name, aliases were adopted. Donald married a Maty Fowler and they had three known children - Donald born 1736/7, Katherine and Christian. Donald married Margaret Munro January 1766 at Urquhart and Wester Logie. Donald and Margaret had four children and it is from the second son, William, that my family is descended. William married Nelly Fowler in March 1797. William's eldest son, Donald, was a stone mason and he lived in a house called the Craggan at Balblair. Donald and his wife Elizabeth had seven children, of whom David, my gt. grandfather, is in my family picture (see below) with his wife Janet, nee Junor.



David Mackenzie was born 14 November 1826 and he married Janet Junor, of Hill of Fortrose farm, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1857. David and Janet moved to Avoch, where David had a house and grocer's shop. The marriage of David and Janet produced five children - Donald, my great grandfather, born 1858; Hector, born 1860; David, born 1862; Barbara; born and died 1864 and William, born 1866 and died the same year. In 1867 their mother died. Janet had been suffering from T.B, which was endemic in the Highlands at that time, and it is possible that she had passed on the infection to her two youngest children, thus leading to their early deaths. Janet is buried in Avoch with her two infant children. David never remarried and he is found on the 1861 census still living in Avoch with his three sons. Later David had a hardware shop in Brick Street, Cromarty and it is there that he died in 1888. It was while in the shop, leaning on the counter, that he wrote in 1886 to his son Donald, who was living in Avoch with his young family. David mentions the cold and his son Hector, who worked in the shop. More of Hector later! What made the letter so interesting for me is the mention of David, the youngest of the three surviving children, who had emigrated to Canada. David was to leave many descendants, but again that's another story!

My great grandfather, Donald, was a master carpenter and he married Isabella Fraser 15

September 1882 at Fortrose. In the 1891 census Donald and his family are living in Avoch. Hector is also living with Donald and his family and is described as a lunatic on the census return! I have yet to find what exactly was wrong with him. At about this time Donald and a cousin built Rose Cottage in Rose Street, Avoch, which was to be the Mackenzie family home for the next hundred years. The house was to be the backdrop to joyful and tragic family events, in Rose Cottage the six children of Donald and Isabella grew up.

David was the eldest, born in 1883. David met Anne Wiseman, who was working as a maid at Rosehaugh House. In 1912 they married and shortly afterwards emigrated to South Africa. Why South Africa? It may have been the fact that James Fletcher, the owner of Rosehaugh, had brought an estate in the Eastern Transvaal and, as well as exploring new business opportunities, he was generous to young people of the Black Isle, giving many of them the chance of working abroad. David and his wife settled in Johannesburg when the city was just a collection of huts. However, gold was discovered and men became wealthy overnight. David was such a man as he had invested in the new gold mines. David never lost touch with his Scottish roots and was able to make a generous donation to the infirmary in Inverness in 1947. Donald Mackenzie presented the cheque, accompanied by his daughter Margaret. He said what pleased him most was that his son "had it in his heart to give".

David and Anne had three children - Christine, Donald and Helen. Sadly Donald was brain damaged at birth. Both daughters married, making their homes in South Africa. David and his family kept in touch with their roots. In 1961 David died in South Africa, and some years later, Anne died. South Africa underwent political changes, some good, some not. Although David and Anne had grandchildren born in South Africa in the 1980s, their grandchildren emigrated to Canada, thus ending the Mackenzie association with that continent.

James Mackenzie, Donald and Isabella's second son, also emigrated to South Africa. James brought a farm near Johannesburg and, on New Years Day 1914, he visited his brother David. In the evening he and a friend, who was with him, got ready to leave for home. The weather was bad with a storm brewing and David and Anne asked him to stay the night. He declined and set off in the storm for home. James was struck by lightning and killed, his friend seriously injured. In Avoch, Isabella never recovered from the death of her favourite son. I found several pictures of his grave in Rose Cottage.

Janet was the next child. She went to teacher's training college in Aberdeen and taught for several years. In the 1920s, still unmarried, Janet used to travel and it was on one of her holidays that she met a Walter Crabtree, a widowed doctor. In 1926 Janet married Walter and they moved to Todmorton, Lancashire, where he had his medical practice. Janet and Walter's honeymoon was a holiday touring Europe by car. Janet kept a diary of this holiday which I now have. Janet describes Germany, mentioning the Blackshirts and Hitler's road building. Walter Crabtree died in 1956 and Janet moved back to Rose Cottage, where she died in 1968.

William, my grandfather, was the third son of Donald and Isabella. Isabella wanted at least one of her sons to do medicine. Isabella had an uncle, Roderick, who was a doctor. In fact Roderick Fraser did very well and was doctor at the Italian Court in Florence. Family stories state that, when the Mackenzie Laird was gravely ill, he sent for Roderick Mackenzie! However, that is yet another story. William did become a doctor, studying at Edinburgh University, where he excelled as a student. Not long after qualifying, the First World War started and William enlisted in the R.A.M.C. In 1915 William was billeted in Folkestone, Kent. The family next door to where he was staying was that of Harry Reeve, Chief Constable of Folkestone. Harry had a daughter Henrietta, who fell ill and the young doctor was asked if he wouldn't mind visiting her. William diagnosed the unpatriotic illness of German measles! Needless to say Henrietta recovered, the young couple fell in love, married and in 1917 their

first son James Fraser Mackenzie, my father, was born. Another son, William, followed.

The war ended in 1918, in which William was awarded the DSO for treating the wounded under fire. The family emigrated to Maclear, South Africa in 1919 and a year later they had a daughter Jean. The life in South Africa seemed idyllic but William became seriously ill with Hodgkin's disease. The family decided that it would be best if the children returned home while Henrietta nursed her dying husband. The two boys, James and William, were sent to Avoch to live with their grandfather in Rose Cottage and Jean went to live with Janet and Walter Crabtree in Lancashire. The boys lived for two years in Avoch, attending the village school. In 1929 a cable arrived from South Africa telling them their father had died. William was to say, even in old age, he will never forget the dreadful news arriving at Rose Cottage. James and William left Rose Cottage when their mother returned and went to boarding school in England. Every year their mother used to rent a house in Rosemarkie and the three children used to visit their grandfather and aunt in Rose Cottage.

Margaret, or Meg as she was known in the family, was the youngest daughter. In 1921 Isabella died and Meg stayed at home to look after her father Donald. When her nephews arrived to live in Rose Cottage Meg looked after them. James always remembered her as being very kind, a contrast to the rather dour grandfather Donald! Meg was very artistic and used to paint but a career was out of the question, father came first. When Donald Mackenzie died in 1948, aged 90, Meg was devastated. Her widowed sister Janet was going to join her to live in Rose Cottage. Fate intervened and Meg sadly died before her sister arrived, and Janet Crabtree moved in - the last, but one, of the six Mackenzie children.

The youngest, Donald, or Tom as he was known in the family, was born in 1891. He is mentioned in the Avoch school records as always being late. Tom was clever and he too wanted to be a doctor. Donald was not pleased as not one of his sons had wanted to become a master carpenter like himself and take over the family business. However Tom was insistent on going to Edinburgh University like his brother, William, and Donald was prepared to pay for the course, provided he was paid back. The interview at the university was interesting. One of the panel said to Tom "I see your father is a carpenter". "And so was Jesus Christ's!" was the reply. Needless to say Tom got in and qualified as a doctor. South Africa beckoned and Tom emigrated as well, working in public health for many years. He never married and lived in Durban. Tom outlived all his siblings dying in 1989, aged 90. He is buried in Durban along with his brother William Mackenzie.

Tom's death and the emigration of David Mackenzie's grand children ended the association of the family with South Africa. The link with Rose Cottage and Avoch was not quite over. When Janet Mackenzie died in 1968 she left Rose Cottage to my father as a holiday home. Distance was a problem as we lived in Bromley, Kent and in the 60s there were no cheap air flights to Scotland. Jean, my father's sister, had married a farmer from the Black Isle, but she was now a widow. She asked my father if he was prepared to sell Rose Cottage to her, which he did, so it was still in the family! Jean died in 1995 and the cottage was sold.

In 2001 I was on holiday with my husband in Scotland and we visited Avoch. There in Rose Street was the cottage and standing outside it a young couple. I stopped and explaining who I was, asked if I could take a picture, which I did. The couple also showed me around. It was very different from what I remembered in the 1960s, went I visited my great aunt Janet at the time she lived there. I told the young couple about the Mackenzie family who had lived there previously and they asked if I could write down a short history of the house, which I did. Apparently they wanted it passed on to anybody that brought the house after them. I believe it has since been sold again.

So there ends my story of the Mackenzies of Rose Cottage. However, that is not the end of the my stories! Isabella and her uncle Roderick Fraser are of great interest, as well as Aunt

Janet's honeymoon in pre-war Europe, to say nothing of David Mackenzie, son of David and Janet Junor Mackenzie. David emigrated to Canada with two Junor cousins. He married there and left a large number of descendants stretching from Toronto to Vancouver and that is another very long story for next time.



Rose Cottage 1988

## HIGHLAND ARCHIVES

Just before going to press with this journal your chairman and treasurer attended an initial meeting with the Highland Council archivist and genealogist as well as the Registrar of BMD to discuss the move to the new archive building due to be opened to the public in September/October 2009. At long last all the various facilities one needs to help in researching one's family history are going to be brought together in one building. Regular meetings will be held over the coming months and we will keep you informed with progress both in the journal and on the website. On the same theme, we received this letter recently.

*This letter is to let you know that the new Lochaber Archive Centre is now open for business at Lochaber College, Fort William. The centre is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm.*

*At the moment we have council records relating to the area and the estate papers of Cameron of Lochiel and Cameron-Head of Lochailort, ordnance survey maps. We will soon have parish and census records on microfilm available for the public.*

*You would be very welcome to come in to see the new archive, or contact us if you would like any more information.*

*Zoe Watson, Lochaber Archivist [Zoe.Watson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Zoe.Watson@highland.gov.uk)  
Geoff Martin, Archives Assistant [Geoff.Martin@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Geoff.Martin@highland.gov.uk)*

## HFHS STRAYS INDEX

By Alan Ross

### 1881 CENSUS

This edition sees the concluding part of the marathon census listing of those highland persons found on board ships on the night of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881. Some of the vessels are small coastal or fishing vessels whilst the larger ones such as the 'Berlin' were ocean going passenger-carrying vessels plying between Europe and the Americas. Although there were many souls on board the 'Berlin', only those with a highland birth are listed.

Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth Parish	Age	Occupation	Vessel
SCOTT	William	SHI	Tingwall	52	Master	Matchless
SCOTT	James	SHI	Tingwall	39	Mate	Matchless
HERCULESON	John	SHI	Tingwall	24	Cook / Steward	Matchless
THOMPSON	William	SHI	Lenwick	26	Able Seaman	Matchless
NISBET	Thomas	SHI	Unst	45	Able Seaman	Matchless
GONDIE	Laurence	SHI	Dunrossness	35	Able Seaman	Matchless
MONATT	Robert	SHI	Northmavine	18	Apprentice	Matchless ?
GRAY	James	SHI	Aithsting	45	Master	Matchless ?
ROBERTSON	Magnus	SHI	Whalsay	56	Mate	Matchless ?
GRAY	James	SHI	Aithsting	21	Ordinary Seaman	Matchless ?
LAING	James	SHI	Lenwick	25	Able Seaman	Matchless ?
JAMESON	Gilbert	SHI	Whiteness	41	Able Seaman	Matchless ?
LEITCH	John	ARL	Strachur	37	Master	Norman
ROBERTSON	Robert	SHI	Bressay	37	Mate	Norman
NELSON	Thomas	SHI	Bressay	27	Seaman	Norman
GOODLAD	George	SHI	Lenwick	40	Seaman	Norman
MUIR	George	ORK	Kirkwall	59	Master	Berlin
JOHNSON	Andrew	SHI	Lenwick	45	Able Seaman	Berlin
LEASK	Peter	SHI	Scalloway	28	Able Seaman	Berlin
LEASK	Gilbert	SHI	Lenwick	52	Able Seaman	Berlin
TAIT	Magnus	SHI	Lenwick	27	Able Seaman	Berlin
BROWN	George	ORK	Westray	34	Printer Compositor	Berlin
MCDONALD	Donald	ROC	Stornoway	30	Able Seaman	William Connal
SIMPSON	William	CAI	Dunnet	45	Master	Caithness-Shire
WILSON	William	CAI	Dunnet	38	Mate	Caithness-Shire
ALLAN	William	CAI	Dunnet	19	Able Seaman	Caithness-Shire
MAWAT	Donald	CAI	Dunnet	19	Able Seaman	Caithness-Shire
DUNNET	Donald	CAI	Dunnet	17	Ordinary Seaman	Caithness-Shire
SINCLAIR	David	CAI	Dunnet	33	Master	Sunbeam
DUNNET	Alexander	CAI	Dunnet	22	Mate	Sunbeam
McLEOD	Alexander	CAI	Dunnet	22	Able Seaman	Sunbeam
McLEAN	Lauchlan	CAI	Dunnet	21	Ordinary Seaman	Sunbeam
SUTHERLAND	Alexander	CAI	Dunnet	18	Ordinary Seaman	Sunbeam
PATERSPN	John	ROC		58	Master	Queen
YOUNG	William	ROC		42	Mate	Queen
McLAREN	William	ROC	Avoch	30	Seaman	Queen
JACK	Simon	ROC	Avoch	28	Seaman	Queen
BRANDER	William	MOR	Lossiemouth	38	Captain	Lord Clyde
McKENZIE	John	ROC		60	Mate	Lord Clyde
McTAVISH	Charles	INV	Inverness	25	Able Seaman	Lord Clyde
FALCONER	John	INV	Inverness	18	Ordinary Seaman	Lord Clyde

### NEWSPAPER REPORTS

I am indebted to member Malcolm McIvor and his wife for the following information they passed on to me that they came across whilst researching in the library of the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogy Group (UOVGG) in Pembroke, Ontario recently. These obituaries are of Highland people that emigrated to Canada in the late 1700's to early 1800's.

#### The Bathurst Courier:

13th February 1835

Obit: **McDonnell**

At Cornwall on the 13th inst. after a lingering illness which he bore with Christian fortitude and resignation, Mr Donald McDonnell aged 81 years. He was a native of Fort Augustus, Scotland.

#### The Bathurst Courier:

January 8th. 1841

Obit: **Ross.**

Melancholy accident -- We regret to learn that Mr David Ross, late of this town, lost his life on Friday evening last, while crossing on the ice between Belleville and North Port in the Bay of Quinte under the following circumstances. He and a person of the name of Meyers were travelling in a sleigh and the horses, having plunged into a crack in the ice, which they had not previously observed; they were suddenly immersed in water. Meyers, having gained the ice, though much exhausted, succeeded after a severe struggle, in rescuing his friend also from the water. The night was bitterly cold, at this time they were both speechless and Ross being unable to walk, Meyers proceeded to the nearest dwelling house, whose inmates, when they understood what he wanted, proceeded to the scene of the disaster, when they discovered poor Ross a lifeless corpse. He was a native of Tain in Ross-shire, Scotland. His parents now reside in the parish of Edderton in that county.

#### Ottawa Citizen:

3rd December 1853

Obit: **Ross.**

At his residence in Port Hope on the 25th ultima, after 3 days illness, Mr. Crawford Ross, merchant, a native of Invergordon, Ross-shire, Scotland, aged 35 years. The deceased was a brother of Mrs Roderick Stewart of Nepean and resided for a number of years in Bytown and was deservedly respected and esteemed by all who were acquainted with him.

#### Ottawa Citizen:

21st January 1854

Obit: **McLachlin.**

On the 13th inst at his residence at Rigand, Canada East, Hugh McLachlin Esq, in the 84th year of his age during 52 of which he had been a resident of Lower Canada, whither he had emigrated from Inverness in Scotland. The deceased leaves behind him a large circle of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to mourn his death, for whom he has left the inheritance of an irreproachable example through life.

I would also like to thank member Diana Burns for the following information.

#### Norman MacLeod McIver.

Born 7th September 1792, Glenelg, Inverness-shire.

He was a lieutenant in the 8th West Indian Regiment but I have discovered from the National Archives service records that joined the Royal West India Rangers in 1817, the year of his death. The death toll of British Officers from disease was very high so Norman is likely to have died in

the West Indies.

#### INTERNET SITES

One of the recent databases added to the 'Ancestry' website covers Navy personnel that died between 1914 and 1924. This is yet another source of finding an elusive **Stray** and two examples of Highlanders found on this database are included below.

**Name:** Donald McKenzie

**Service:** Royal Naval Reserve

**Branch:** Hawke Bn.

**Unit:** Seaman

**Rank:** 25 Jun 1925

**Death:** Died in Avonmouth Infirmary from internal injuries following an accident whilst serving

**Date:** in SS "Honorata" (ON132757).

**Cause of Death:** Enlisted as A/5361 Seaman RNR 15/12/13 ; Hawke Bn. 16/9/14-9/10/14 Interned in

**Service:** Holland ; On leave from Holland 31/10/18 & Repatriated whilst in UK ; Demob.

**History:** 21/1/19 ; Re-enrolled as C/5227 Seaman RNR 13/12/23.

**Service:** C/5227

**Number:** b. Balintore, Ross 19/8/1895 ; Next-of-Kin: Parents, William & Elizabeth, 15 Bank St.,

**Notes:** Balintore by Fearn, Ross-shire ; 1914 Star issued to Party 26/1/19, clasp & V.B. not

claimed.

**Name:** John McKenzie

**Service:** Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

**Branch:** HMS "Viknor"

**Unit:** Able Seaman

**Rank:** 13 Jan 1915

**Death Date:** Drowned (Vessel lost off Irish Coast)

**Cause of Death:** Portsmouth Naval Memorial (MR 3)

**Burial:** Enlisted 9/9/1912 ; Anson Bn. A/85 22/8/14-31/10/14 to RN Barracks Portsmouth

**Service:** Clyde 2/2/183

**History:** An Apprentice Carpenter ; b.28/8/1894 ; Home address: c/o Mrs. Craig, 14 Inch

**Number:** Green St., Greenock ; Father, John, 124 High St., Fort William, Scotland ; 1914 Star

issued to father 17/6/19.

**Notes:** issued to father 17/6/19.

#### STRAYS INDEX - MARRIAGES

To close these pages I include a listing of some of the marriages of highlanders that are recorded on the Index. The event took place in the year indicated and the source will indicate the location

Surname	Forename	Cty	Birth	Parish	Year	Age	Source
McPHEE	Dugald	INV	Fort William		1874	25	Marriage/ Ballarat / VIC / Aus
FRAZER	Daniel	INV	Inverness		1770		Son's Mar / PR / St Helens / YKS
MacCLOUD	Flora	INV	Inverness		1757		PR / Pottern / WIL
RADLEY	Flora*	INV	Inverness		1757		PR / Pottern / WIL
McDONALD	Alexander	INV	Laggan		1856		PR / Nowra / NSW / Aus

LAMOND	Christina	ARL	Tyree	1856	PR / Nowra / NSW / Aus
McDONALD	Christina*	ARL	Tyree	1856	PR / Nowra / NSW / Aus
HAILES	Thomas	INV	Inverness?	1833	PR / Berwick-on-Tweed / BEW
MackENZIE	Sir Francis Alex	ROC	Gairloch	1836	Marriage Index / Coggleshall / ESS
JACK	Donald	ROC	Avoch	1906	PR / St Peters / S Shields / DUR
PORTER	William	CAI	Thurso	1761	Mar Index / St Alphege / Greenwich / KEN
TULLY	Walter	SUT	Kildonan	1821	PR / Ilderton / NBL
LAMOND	Christina	ARL	Tyree	1856	PR / Nowra / NSW / Aus
HAY	Alexander	ARL	Rothesay	1829	PR / Penrith / CUL
McRONALDS	Norman	ROC	Lewis	1836	PR / Mylor / CON
ARMOUR	Robert	ARL	Campbellton	1834	PR / St Andrews, Newcastle / DUR
McNEILL	Archibald	ARL	Kilmichael	1837	PR / St Gluivias Church / CON
NORWAY	John	ARL	Appin	1827	PR / St Miabyn / CON
CAMPBELL	Angus	SUT	Durness	1941	PR / Leafield / OXF
TOLMER	William	INV	Inverness	1743	PR / Fleet / HAM
TULACH	Thomas	INV	Inverness	1745	PR / Arreton / Isle of Wight / HAM
GIBBONS	Arthur	ROC	Nigg	1745	PR / Fleet / HAM
DUNCAN	John	CAI	Pulteneytown	1877	40 Nat Strays / Tabragalba / QLD / Aus
CAMPBELL	Mary	ARL	Campbellton	1872	PR / Bishopwear / DUR
BEATSON	John Mack	ROC	Kincardine	1945	45 Midland / Aus?
CAMERON	Robert	INV	Inverness	1925	31 PR / Perth / W Aus
FRASER	Phillip G.S.	INV	Inverness	1954	25 Kelgoorie / Aus?
HEWISON	Robert	INV	Grantown	1943	47 Bridgetown / Jamaica
McDONALD	James	INV		1943	37 Inglewood / Aus?
McBAIN	Wendy Margaret	INV	Inverness	1968	21 PR / Perth / W Aus
McKay	Sandra	SUT	Helmsdale	1966	19 PR / Perth / W Aus
MORRISON	Elizabeth	CAI	Thurso	1913	25 West Perth / Aus
ROSS	Jean	ROC	Tain	1957	37 Subiaco / Aus?
SINCLAIR	Charles Bruce	CAI	Thurso	1958	21 Albany / NY / USA
WALKER	Marion Isabella	CAI	Thurso	1941	24 PR / Perth / W Aus
CUMMING	Christina Maree	INV	Inverness	1787	PR / Falmouth / CON
MacINTEE	Peter	INV	Inverness	1777	PR / Stratton / CON
CUTTEN	Duncan	ARL		1777	PR / Stratton / CON
McDONALD	Charles Edward	INV	Glenroy	1856	News / Bendigo / VIC / Aus
	Annie	INV	Glenroy	1856	News / Bendigo / VIC / Aus
SUTHERLAND	Alexander	SUT	Tongue	1900	37 Police
TULACH	Thomas	INV	Inverness	1745	Isle of Wight
KING	Janet	ROC	Avoch	1910	28 Marriage / RGO / Queensland / Aus
MANN	John	ROC	Avoch	1910	41 Marriage / RGO / Queensland / Aus
MANN	John	ROC	Avoch	1937	68 Marriage / RGO / Queensland / Aus
MUNRO	Roderick		Dingwall?	1857	24 Family / New Zealand
DUFF	Margaret	SUT	Creich	1857	21 Family / New Zealand
MUNRO	Janet	SUT	Creich	1874	15 Family / New Zealand
MUNRO	Euphemia (Effie)	SUT	Creich	1898	36 Family / New Zealand
McDONALD	William	INV	Petty	1872	23 Marriage / RGO / Queensland / Aus
McDONALD	Angus	INV	Barra	1853	25 Family / Hawick / ROX

## MEMBERS' RESEARCH INTERESTS

### Additions/amendments:

2295. Mrs Ingvild Sigstad Begg, Storgata 156A, Lillehammer 2615, Norway. Researching **MACASKILL** in Inverness-shire 1820-date; **McPHERSON** in Moy & Dalarossie, Inverness-shire 1750-date. [This is a correction made from the last Journal].

2296. Mrs Lindy Pottinger, 625, Mabou Harbour Road, Mabou, N.S., B0E 1X0, Canada. Researching **HARROWER** in Boleskine and Fort Augustus, Inverness-shire and also in Perth; **McDONALD/McDONELL** in Glengarry, Inverness-shire - all pre-1840.

### New Members:

2298. Mr Greg Fraser, 18 Evadell Street, Gungahlin, ACT 2912, Australia. Researching **FERGUSON, FRASER & McDONALD** in Dunain or Lochend, Inverness.

2299. Mrs Christine Wood, "Croylo", Stuart Street, Ardersier, by Inverness IV2 7QH. Researching **ANDERSON** in Sleat, Isle of Skye 1800-date; **BEATON/BETHUNE** in Snizort, Isle of Skye 1800-1915; **CAMPBELL** in Duirnish, Isle of Skye all periods; **LOW** in Aberdeen & Echt, Aberdeenshire pre-1960; **MOIR** in Methlick all periods; **SIM** in Fraserburgh all periods; **SMITH** in Aberdeen all periods and **WOOD** in Portsoy all periods.

2300. Mrs Imelda M. J. MacDonald, 7 Shore Road, Garguston, Muir of Ord, IV6 7SH. Research not specified.

2301. Mrs Susan Weinmann, The Grange, Clachan Road, Ardersier, by Inverness IV2 7SS. Researching **MACKENZIE** any place and date.

2302. Mrs E. Alice Mombourquette, P. O. Box 435, 175 Main Street East, Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, B0N 2J0, Canada. Researching **McPHEE** in Bunloit, Kilmuir and surrounding areas, Inverness-shire pre-1775.

2303. Mrs Phyllis Collins, 3240 Lake Pointe Blvd., #339, Sarasota, Florida 34231-6960, U.S.A. Researching **BEATON** and **NICHOLSON** in Scorreybrech, near Portree, Isle of Skye, Inverness-shire - 1770-1850.

2304. Mr Ronnie Finlayson, 3 Pitheavlis Terrace, Perth PH2 0JZ. Researching **FINLAYSON** in Cromarty, Ross & Cromarty 1750-1840; also in Fearn, Ross-shire 1845-1875 and Inverness 1850-1900; **FRASER** in Nairn 1750-1800; **GRAY** in Avoch, Ross & Cromarty 1770-1810; **McDONALD** in Creich, Sutherland 1840-1900; **McRAE** in Tain, Ross-shire 1770-1800.

2305. Mr John M. Mackenzie, 24 Kerse Park, Ayr KA7 4UD. Researching **BETHUNE** in Fodderty, Ross-shire 1780-1866; **DEWAR/MACDEWAR** in the Black Isle, Ross & Cromarty 1830-1915; **MACKENZIE** in Killearnan and Redcastle, Ross & Cromarty 1780-1920.

2306. Mr Reginald Brown, 29 Green Drive, Inverness IV2 4EU. Researching **BEATON** and **BETHUNE** in the Black Isle, Ross & Cromarty 1700-1800; **OGILVIE** in Longside, Aberdeenshire 1800+.

2307. Mrs A. Eleanor Stanton, Apt. 807, 199 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1R5, Canada. Researching **McNABB** in Ross-shire 1813-1831.

2308. Mrs Andrea Skinner, 43 Fairfield Road, Inverness IV3 5QP. Researching **ALISON, JACK** and **PATIENCE** in Avoch 1800+; also **McLEMAN, REID** and **SKINNER** 1750+. **GRANT** in Fodderty c1835; also in Mulbuie c1750, Killearnan 1850+ and in Strathconan 1819+. **McBAIN/McBEAN** in Killearnan 1750+; **McIVER** in Strathconan 1819+ - all in Ross & Cromarty.

2309. Mr Ian Mackintosh, 48 Waimington Fold, Woodside Park, London N12 7LL. Research not specified.

2310. Mrs Helen Wuerth, 551 Catherine Street, Port Elgin, Ontario, N0H 2C1, Canada. Researching **McVICAR** in Inverness pre-1854.

2311. Mrs Angela Kelly, 68 Woodmere Avenue, Watford, Herts WD24 7LW. Researching **DICKSON, GRANT** and **McCULLOCH** 1800-1900; **KENNEDY** in Duthil 1800-900 and Inverness 1900-date - all Inverness-shire.

2312. Mr Ross McKay, 2 White Row, Powfoot, Annan, Dumfries & Galloway DG12 5PL. Researching **MATHESON** in Ross-shire pre-1850; **ROSS** in the Black Isle, Ross & Cromarty pre-1900 and in Inverness, Inverness-shire 1850+.

2313. Miss C. A. Urquhart, 8 Argyle Court, Inverness IV2 3DR. Research not specified.

2314. Mr Stewart Henderson Holder, 1 Sunninghill Close, West Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 6LS. Researching **GRANT** in the Black Isle, Ross & Cromarty 1826+.

### Changes to address etc

0096. Mr John Walford, 12 Ardgowan, Croy, Inverness IV2 5PA.

0176. Mrs Pam Cook, 70 Lancewood Drive, Halswell, Christchurch 8025, New Zealand.

1878. Mrs Laurel Lahay, 3403 Worthing Place, Campbell River, B. C., V9W 8G2 Canada.

### Deaths

1214. Mr Donald P. Fraser.

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES Amendments highlighted by \*\*

<u>Name &amp; Member No.</u>	<u>E-mail address</u>
Geoffrey Doherty - 2288 **	reneken105@bigpond.com
Mrs Patsi Erikson - 1745 **	patsi97@verizon.net
Ronnie Finlayson - 2304	ronfinlayson@hotmail.com
Greg Fraser - 2298	gfraser@netspeed.com.au
Mrs Angela Kelly - 2311	angela.kelly06@gmail.com
Ian Mackay - 1769	kim@amhuileann.fsnet.co.uk
Ross McKay - 2312	ros848@btinternet.com
John M Mackenzie - 2305	snowyrabbit1@btinternet.com
Ian Mackintosh - 2309	ian.mackintosh2@btinternet.com
Mrs Alice Mombourquette - 2302	acomombo@ns.sympatico.ca

Mrs Andrea Skinner - 2308  
Mrs Eleanor Stanton - 2307  
Mrs Christine Wood - 2299

adgss@tesco.net  
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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.

1097. **McDONELL/McDONALD/HARROWER:** Please help! My 3 x great-grandfather John McDONELL born 1792/3 (RC?) Glen Garry?, Inverness-shire married Margaret Elphinstone HARROWER (born 1797) 1818 at Fort Augustus. Her parents were Sgt. James HARROWER (42<sup>nd</sup> Rgt) and Anne TULLOCH. John and Margaret emigrated c1819 to Lochiel Twp. Ontario, Canada then to North Sherbrooke Twp. Ontario. Any info. re: John's parent's names and place of birth greatly appreciated. Naming pattern may indicate possibilities of Donald, Daniel, John and Elizabeth. Lindy Pottinger, 625 Mabou Harbour Road, NS, Canada B0E 1X0. {e-mail} lpmarshyhope@gmail.com

1098. **MACKENZIE:** I would like to obtain more information about Murdo MACKENZIE, gamekeeper at Redcastle and then at Tarradale, near Muir-of-Ord from 1840 to 1900. He is listed in the 1891 census at Tarradale Lodge, aged 65, retired gamekeeper, born Knockbain. - John M. Mackenzie, 24 Kerse Park, Ayr KA7 4UD {e-mail} snowyrabbit1@btinternet.com

1099. **McLEOD:** Looking for links and/or contacts with the descendants and relations of the McLEOD family that lived at "Reiskmore", Delny, Ross-shire. Hector & Isobel moved there about 1809 from Newton. Their son Alexander married Ann ROSS in 1851 and their son Alexander (Lovat Scout) married Elsie Rebecca PAGE, from Southampton, in December 1904. They were my grandparents. Allyssum P. Ross, 17 Green Drive, Inverness IV2 4EX. {e-mail} aly.ross1@hotmail.com

1100. **FRASER:** I am seeking information about: (Q1) Catherine FRASER (1832-1922), who married William MILTON of Deskford, Banffshire. Her parents were John FRASER and Catherine MACKENZIE. John was a sergeant in the 92nd Gordon Highlanders and died before his daughter Catherine was born in 1832 at Brown St. Inverness. The parents of Catherine MACKENZIE were Kenneth MACKENZIE and Catherine MACPHERSON. I am also interested in (Q2) Peter FRASER (1812/13 - 1864), who married Margaret LESLIE of Cairnie, Banffshire. Peter, who was born in Inverness according to the 1861 census, was the son of Alexander FRASER and Janet FRASER. They were married 28 March 1811 in Inverness. My grandfather, Alexander Geddes FRASER, who was born 26 Dec 1870 at Deskford, Banffshire, was the illegitimate son of John FRASER, born c1846 at Glen of Newmill, Keith, and Ann GEDDES. John was the son Peter FRASER (Q2). Alexander was adopted by Catherine FRASER (Q1) and her husband William MILTON. The co-incidence of two FRASER names in Banffshire is remarkable but I have been unable to establish any link between them. Any clues gratefully received! - Douglas Fraser, 17 Pitbauchle Bank, Dunfermline, Fife KY11 8DP. {e-mail} dougfraser@tiscali.co.uk.

1101. **ROSS/VASS:** My great great grandfather John ROSS, fisherman of Shandwick died in July 1862. His details at death state "formerly married to Ann VASS, latterly to Margaret VASS". It is about his first wife **Ann VASS** that I seek information and if any member can help me with identifying her, I shall be grateful. In the 1841 census she appears with John (35), her age shown as 32 and her birth place as Ross & Cromarty. There are three children, Andrew (17), William (5), and Donald (3). By elementary maths I calculate that she must have been 15 at Andrew's birth yet his (Andrew's) death certificate confirms that his mother was Ann VASS and his father John ROSS. The marriage of John ROSS and Ann VASS is found in the Nigg OPRs as being on 27th December 1821. If the census details are right, she would have been 12 at marriage! I conclude the census ages are wrong. On 4th June 1847 John married Margaret VASS (Nigg OPR), so Ann must have died between 1841 and 1847. I can find no record of this event. I have been quite unable to establish any details about Ann's birth, parentage or death. It may be that one of our members has done research into the Vass family and can help. - David Ross, "Old Lavenders", Cullfail, Lewes BN7 2BE. {e-mail} davidross@tiscali.co.uk.

## AMENDED CONSTITUTION

One very pertinent point raised during our AGM this year concerned the dangers of disenfranchising our overseas members by making constitutional amendments at meetings which only UK members - indeed only those living in or around Inverness - can usually attend. We're not sure there's any answer to that problem beyond a cumbersome process of ratification by written referendum, but if you are an overseas member and have views on this matter please do let us know them. In the next journal we will be printing a copy of the new version of the Constitution, as amended at the AGM, and we will also place a copy on the society's website.

## ADDITION TO LIBRARY

"The Old Chapel and Stones at Sand of Udrigle, Laide" by Ann Roots & William MacRobbie. This survey of a large old burial ground on the west coast - about three miles north of Aultbea - is particularly informative since it includes, alongside the record of the MIs themselves, details of relevant census entries and notes about individuals and families compiled by the authors from their researches and long personal connections with the area. 214 stones are listed, and good photos of them all are available on the CD that comes with the booklet. There are references too in many entries to further information about the families concerned to be found in Willie MacRobbie's "Achgarve - The History of a West Highland Crofting Community" (Achgarve by Laide, 1996) and his "Gruinard and Letterewe - The Lairds and the Clearances" (Achgarve by Laide, 2001). The latter contains accounts of some particularly brutal 18<sup>th</sup> century clearances carried out by Merrick Banks, the Lancashire coalmine owner who bought the Gruinard estate from Davidson of Tulloch in 1835 and the Letterewe estate from Hector Mackenzie in 1837. Though there are one or two typos in the earlier books, and none of these fascinating publications have an index (which is particularly unfortunate for the MIs), they do nonetheless add up to an invaluable resource for family historians interested in this area. Copies of all can be purchased from: William MacRobbie, 1 Achgarve, Laide, Ross-shire, IV22 2NS; Tel: 01445-731430 (best check with Willie for the current prices and the cost of postage & packing). Further information on the MIs booklet is also available from [AnnRoots@aol.com](mailto:AnnRoots@aol.com) (Tel: 01737-769506).