

# highland

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**WILLIAM CAMERON  
THE KEEPER OF INVERNESS CASTLE**

**THE GELLIONS INN**

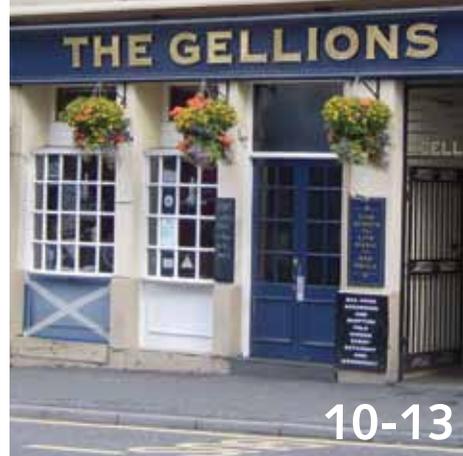
**SCOTTISH EMIGRATION TO CANADA**

**... AND MUCH MORE!**



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Front cover: Dornoch Cathedral

## The Committee

**CHAIRMAN:** Graeme MACKENZIE  
E-mail: [graeme@highlandroots.org](mailto:graeme@highlandroots.org)

**SECRETARY:** Anne MACIVER  
E-mail: [anne.maciver@tesco.net](mailto:anne.maciver@tesco.net)

**TREASURER:** John DURHAM  
E-Mail: [john.durham5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.durham5@btinternet.com)

**JOURNAL EDITOR:** John DURHAM  
E-Mail: [john.durham5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.durham5@btinternet.com)

**LIBRARIAN:** Carole LOHOAR  
E-Mail: [info@highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org](mailto:info@highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org)

**SYLLABUS SECRETARY:** Hamish JOHNSTON  
E-Mail: [hamishhj@hotmail.com](mailto:hamishhj@hotmail.com)

**RESEARCH ENQUIRIES:** Sheila MUNRO  
E-Mail: [MunroSIM@aol.com](mailto:MunroSIM@aol.com)

**SAFHS REPRESENTATIVE:** Angus BETHUNE  
E-Mail: [angus.bethune@tesco.net](mailto:angus.bethune@tesco.net)

## The Chairman's Column

The most pleasing aspect so far of a busy summer was returning from America in mid-July and not having to put the shorts away. Having been told that the sun had come out as soon as I departed these shores, it was gratifying that it stayed out for at least two weeks after my return, thus providing a lovely day for the Inverness Highland Games, at which John represented the Society in the clans' big tent in the Northern Meeting Park.

The previous weekend I had been lucky to enjoy the only sunny day at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. The views on the journey up into the mountains on Wednesday had been obscured by perpetual rain, and we were glad that the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations had arranged for Thursday's "Clan Caucus" to be held in a local college campus rather than on the games field. One of the highlights of the caucus was the presentation on Ancestral Tourism by Bruce Durie, who's best known for teaching genealogy at the University of Strathclyde, though he's now the Chair of Genealogy and Palaeography at the American School of Genealogy, Heraldry and Documentary Sciences in Como, Mississippi. Bruce has been conducting a survey for VisitScotland of Family History resources in the country, with a view to helping attract more tourists interested in tracing their roots whilst here, and had some interesting results and recommendations to report to the Caucus (a sound recording of the proceedings can be accessed through [www.cosca.net](http://www.cosca.net)).

My sunny Friday at the games was followed by a Saturday with the mountains cloaked in cloud and rain, and then by an even wetter day on the bus between Charlotte NC and Savannah, Georgia. However, just as we were crossing the giant river bridge leading into the historic heart of Savannah the rain stopped, and by the time I was off the bus and walking to my hotel the sun was coming out. There followed a wonderful evening wandering around what is probably the most picturesque city I've yet visited in the States, with its profusion of beautifully restored 19th century houses, and wide streets all lined with huge live oaks and other lovely shady trees. Designed by the man who went on to found the neighbouring settlement of New Inverness (now Darien) – about which I'll be talking to the Society in March next year – Savannah is almost a total delight; though a very hot and humid one at this time of the year. The one thing it lacks however, for the pedestrian visitor interested in making up a picnic, is any sort of grocery shop in the historic centre. Even peaches, for which the state

of Georgia is justly famous (they really are delicious), cannot be bought downtown; not in Savannah, nor in downtown Darien either.

Without giving too much away in advance of my talk about New Inverness, what really strikes a resident of Old Inverness on arrival there is the totally alien nature of the countryside and the climate. It sits amidst extensive marshes with summertime temperatures in the 90s F; and having been established as a military outpost to guard the infant British colony of Georgia from the Spanish in Florida, it must have been hell for its Highland defenders as we're told they fought with broadsword and musket in full feileadh-mor.

At the height of its prosperity in the late 19th and early 20th century, Darien was a thriving port dealing particularly in timber products from up-country. Today it's a sleepy little fishing town, specialising in "shrimp" (what we would call prawns) during the summer, and "jellyballs" in the winter (round jellyfish that are, apparently, a much sought-after delicacy in China).

Descendants of the original settlers from Strathnairn are still to be found in the seat of McIntosh County, and the local historical society has done a great job in preserving and restoring some of the surviving historical artifacts; including Fort King George, which had been established in the area by the English some years before the warriors from Inverness were sent for. The path up to the fort is adorned with a sign warning visitors to beware of alligators, and my guide assured me they are often to be seen (though, sadly, they refused to appear for my camera).

Though New Inverness and Darien are mostly associated now with the Mackintoshes, a substantial number of the 176 Highlanders who created the city were Mackays and others from Sutherland, so it's highly appropriate that our new season of talks and activities is going to start in September with a visit to Dornoch. This day-trip will in part be subsidised by funds that were donated to the Society some years ago by the Sutherland local heritage group POSH, with a view to our spending it on projects connected with the history of the county. We hope therefore that it might stimulate one or two of you with Sutherland connections to suggest other things that we might do with the balance of the funds in fulfilling that objective. In the meantime, I do hope all who are interested in coming on the Dornoch trip will contact John about it as soon as possible, so we know what sort of numbers we'll be dealing with. Then we'll keep our fingers crossed that the weather gods will continue to favour us this year well into September.

*Graeme Mackenzie*

# William Cameron (1855-1902)

## Keeper of Inverness Castle – reconstructing a life and career

By Kenneth Cameron

For many years, biographical research for publication has been one of this author's addictions; subjects have invariably been neglected minor celebrities. Even the latter - whether famous or infamous - usually leave detectable footprints in the sand, but reconstructing an 'ordinary' life, of someone with no claim to fame, is more daunting, particularly if shrouded in a protective veil of silence. This article follows the author's attempts to reconstruct the life of his paternal grandfather, a public functionary, who undoubtedly fulfilled a highly visible role in Inverness, yet had no claim to celebrity status – positive or negative. Having died more than forty years before the author's birth, all information about him was second-hand. Curiously, family tradition appeared to winnow much and left puzzling voids. In attempting to fill these, one was conscious from the outset that the biographer or family historian faces additional challenges to loyalty, objectivity and discretion when the subject is a close relative, rather than a stranger.

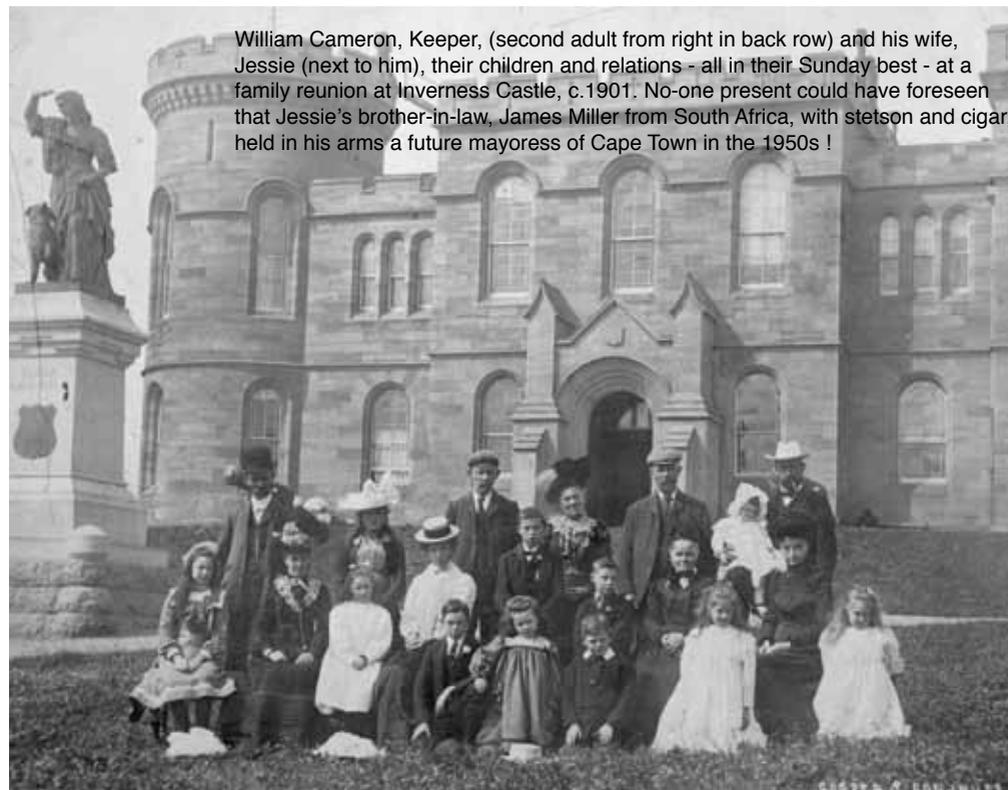
years later his future wife, Jessie Wilson, Angus-born daughter of the governor of Perth City and County Prison, and - by contrast - the third generation of her family to serve in the prison service, also joined the penal establishment at Inverness as sole female warder. Census returns again furnished information – skeletal, but essential, since no comprehensive directory of Scotland's nineteenth century prison staff has yet been compiled. Fortunately, annual reports by the prison inspectorate for the 'Northern District' of Great Britain exist, a source digitally accessible through House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Online in several major libraries, including the National Library of Scotland. Individual warders remain anonymous, but the reports comment on overall staff efficiency and



William Cameron, Keeper of Inverness Castle, 1882-1902, in a rare, possibly unique, photograph of the keeper in his official uniform in this period.

William Cameron, keeper or governor of Inverness Castle from 1882 – both terms were used - was born at Midton, Buntait, on 4 November 1855, into a family with deep roots in Glen Urquhart. Eldest child of William Cameron and Jane Macmillan, his first twenty years were spent growing up and working as a farm servant in Buntait, outline details readily obtained from statutory registration and census returns. At twenty-one he migrated to the expanding town of Inverness and into public service employment. His father had temporarily been a policeman in Portree for five years in the 1860s, so William's break with agricultural employment was not unprecedented within the family, but in his case it was permanent.

In February 1877 William was appointed as a warder at Inverness prison. Three



William Cameron, Keeper, (second adult from right in back row) and his wife, Jessie (next to him), their children and relations - all in their Sunday best - at a family reunion at Inverness Castle, c.1901. No-one present could have foreseen that Jessie's brother-in-law, James Miller from South Africa, with stetson and cigar, held in his arms a future mayoress of Cape Town in the 1950s !

enforcement of national prison commission rules in individual jails, as well as details of local accommodation, adequacy of diet, and statistics on occupancy, prisoner health, industrial employment, punishments, education, and religious instruction. Additionally, by citing staff vacancies, employment terms can also sometimes be identified. The inspectors, whose visits were surprisingly frequent, were generally satisfied with Inverness Prison during William's period.

In June 1882 the couple married in Inverness East Free Kirk. Jessie, already pregnant, had to resign her post, whilst William, though now Head Warder, faced augmented responsibilities as sole breadwinner, and urgently sought more lucrative employment. This prompted his bid, the same month, for the governorship of Muirfield Institution, the Inverness poorhouse. Despite support from influential local referees, even a Victorian management

committee was not persuaded that custodial experience with felons was necessarily the most appropriate experience for administration of the poor; at any rate, his application was unsuccessful. Undeterred, William immediately sought the vacant post of keeper of Inverness Castle, to which he was appointed from August 1882.

The responsibilities of his ambitious new role were demanding, since the holder was expected to administer the castle and maintain its grounds, and facilitate appropriate access to the sheriff court, whilst ensuring its security. These were reflected in a comparatively generous salary of £90 per annum, which initially exceeded that of a local police inspector. Moreover, William was appointed concurrently, with additional annual remuneration of £4, as the court's bar officer to serve, when required, as Gaelic interpreter at trials. A native speaker, this had been one of his strong claims to appointment (and became a sine

qua non in choosing his successor). With one-third of the population of Inverness town Gaelic speaking in the following 1891 census, and the language still predominant throughout the rural Highlands, the requirement was clear. Indeed, only three months before William filled his new post, whilst still a warder, the sheriff court had hosted the trial of the five Gaelic-speaking crofters arraigned for resisting eviction at the celebrated 'battle of the Braes' during the 'Skye Crofters' War.

Proud of his undoubted achievement in being appointed to such a responsible post, William wasted little time in being photographed in the keeper's official uniform. He also lost no time in joining the town's Gaelic Society, a fact that emerged from purely speculative perusal of the membership lists in its Transactions. No mere paper member, he attended its annual dinner on 13 January 1885 in the Station Hotel, Inverness. Founded in 1871, this prestigious body constituted a vehicle for Celtic scholarship, a social nexus for the town's more influential Highland émigrés, and – in the early 1880s – an active pressure group to promote crofters' interests; their lobbying contributed to the Napier Royal Commission and subsequent crofting legislation.

Although his membership lapsed after three years, William's hill sheep-farming and linguistic background generated a natural empathy with the society's activities. Moreover, rubbing shoulders socially and culturally with influential local Gaels could nurture useful contacts: several of the society's members were amongst sixteen prominent individuals – mainly from Inverness, and including the sheriff and chief constable of Inverness-shire – who provided highly supportive references to William between June 1882 and 1889. Giving substantial and flattering character and job performance references – 'both were officers in this Prison ... distinguished by activity and intelligence much above the average' (according to the prison governor in 1889) - these were reproduced in due course in a published booklet, entitled Testimonials in

favour of William Cameron and Mrs Cameron (Inverness; privately printed, [1889]). The fortuitous survival of this publication was the prime information source for William's career and performance in the prison service, and of his bid for the governorship of Muirfield (which would otherwise have remained concealed). Its prime *raison d'être* was however, to support an application by William and Jessie in 1889 for joint appointment as governor and matron of Stockport Industrial Schools. If successful, this application would have prematurely terminated William's keepership at the castle and probably his family's subsequent continuing residence in Scotland: potentially life-changing family outcomes can hinge on fortuitous circumstances.

As keeper, William was allocated residential accommodation in the Castle. On appointment this may have comprised only two rooms on the upper floor: a living room and a bedroom. Initially this could have sufficed, since William and Jessie had only one son, but between 1884 and 1893 six more children appeared at approximately two-yearly intervals: Tom, Maggie, John, Pat, Jean, and Jim. Their first-born, William Alpin (whose choice of name probably resonated his father's interest in Gaelic antiquity), died prematurely in 1888 at five years, but his siblings all survived the perils of Victorian infancy, leaving a permanent household of eight from 1893. At some point, perhaps in response to William's expanding household, a room at the entrance door on the ground floor was utilised as an additional, but entirely separate bedroom. Even with this addition, a later County Council architectural report noted that the keeper's accommodation was 'very limited'. Disconnected and divided over two floors, it had other drawbacks: situated in a public building with comparatively easy access during long hours, and which was located within easy walking distance of public houses. Sharing a bed with a younger brother in the separate ground floor room, John would later recall the boys' terror during recurring nocturnal visits by an intoxicated female intruder, who gained

access from the public corridor.

Glimpses into the family's domestic life at the Castle emanated from transmitted oral tradition. Unusual entertainment was generated by the Castle's penal functions: viewing prisoners closely as they exercised in the compound was one. Moreover, incoming correspondence filed in the sheriff's office offered a regularly replenished treasure trove of postage stamps. On one occasion, a mining expedition with a lit candle went awry. The resulting fire, though small in scale, betrayed the 'felony', particularly embarrassing for the keeper, since Sheriff Patrick Blair had been a consistently supportive referee. The situation and profile of Inverness Castle, 'picturesque' in contemporary language, made it moreover a significant tourist attraction, and provided commercial opportunities that could be literally breath-taking. John later recalled how pennies were earned, by accepting tourists' challenges to walk along the wall-head and towers of the castle and jump over the voids between the merlons. Health and safety preoccupations lay in the future: no formal risk assessments were undertaken! In July 1899, the erection of the Flora MacDonald statue in front of the building further augmented the castle's tourist attractions. As keeper, William had been involved in different aspects of the statue's erection and, according to family tradition, buried a time capsule in its foundations.

Though moving to Inverness, William, like many migrants, retained strong connections with his rural roots. As eldest son, he was the rock on whom remaining elderly relatives in Glen Urquhart depended, especially after his father's carrying business between the glen and Inverness, run in tandem with the family farm, led to bankruptcy. Embarrassingly for William, the bankruptcy proceedings and his father's inquisition by the sheriff took place at the castle, leading to a *cessio bonorum* judgement (newspaper coverage was identified courtesy of the Am Baile website). The proceedings indicated *inter alia* that William had also funded part of the farm's livestock. Unsurprisingly, given his father's debtor status, William's ongoing

connection with the glen also included administering the funeral accounts for his aged paternal grandmother, Catherine Cameron (nee Chisholm), buried at Corrimony cemetery in 1884. Happily these accounts, drawn up in William's handwriting at the Castle, have survived. Re-affirming Highland funereal hospitality - whisky for the mourners cost more than the coffin – they also confirm the continuing rural connections of an urban immigrant.

Following the death of William's father in 1890, his widowed mother, Jane, moved into Inverness, settling eventually in the separate castle lodge as lodge keeper. Prior to that move, for a few years, she lived with her own aged mother, who had likewise moved from Buntait into Inverness. A Gaelic monoglot, Ann McMillan (nee Fraser) had been born in Dores parish within two years of Nelson's death at Trafalgar and had spent her entire life in the countryside. Along with her daughter, she now found herself in the unfamiliar surroundings of the Victorian photographer's studio, to be included in a four-generation photograph of the keeper's family about 1894.

Surviving early photographs cast light on wider family dynamics. The Castle's 'tourists' were not all strangers; its location also made it a natural rendezvous for relatives. As one of Scotland's most iconic and photographed public buildings, the Castle provided a scenic backdrop for the photographer at family gatherings. A significant reunion occurred about 1901, when three of Jessie's numerous sisters, with husbands and children in tow, appeared in a group photograph, ranged appropriately beside the new MacDonald statue. Some relatives came from Perth and Broughty Ferry, but the photograph celebrated above all a return visit to Scotland of Jessie's sister and brother-in-law, Jane and James Miller, and their family, from Cape Town. Identifiable with trademark stetson and cigar, Cape-born James had returned to South Africa with his Scottish wife about 1890. No-one posing for the photographer outside the castle on this occasion could have foreseen that the small baby in their midst, Grace

Miller, would many years later (in the 1950s) become mayoress of Cape Town.

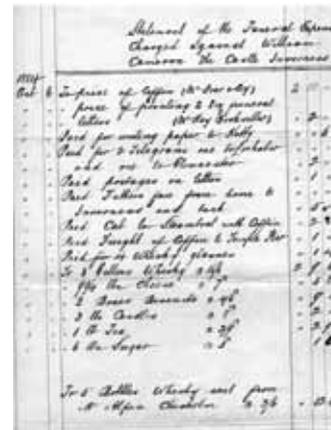
By the reunion, William Cameron and his family had lived in the Castle for nearly twenty years, but the new century proved turbulent. In November 1900, crossing the road at the junction of Castle Street and High Street, William and another pedestrian were knocked down by a horse-drawn cab, the wheels going over William's legs, before it careered into a crowd. The cabman was charged at Inverness burgh court with wanton and furious driving. Witnesses, including a policeman, confirmed that the careless driver had made no attempt to stop his horse, and truculently he quoted a local youth, who had blamed William (and the other pedestrian) for being 'too slow in shifting'. Unimpressed, the court fined the cabman 10/- with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment. No permanent physical injuries appear to have been sustained, and the incident might well have escaped notice, were it not for the Inverness Courier's 'From our files - 100 Years Ago' column in November 2000, summarising the original newspaper account of 1900, which was fortuitously noticed by one of William's grandsons in Kent. Family research often benefits from sheer luck!

Two years later, on 16 September 1902, William Cameron died, aged forty-six. Despite earlier published testimonials to his sobriety, family tradition had conceded a certain alcohol weakness. But it unequivocally attributed his sudden death to a self-sacrificing act, affirming that, on a fishing trip to the Ness, William had lent his waders to a guest, thus contracting pneumonia from wet feet himself. His death certificate betrayed a less flattering scenario: death from delirium tremens and acute nephritis, whilst resident in Inverness District Asylum. An enquiry to NHS Highland Archives elicited a very full, helpful response from the Archivist, providing a wealth of information extracted from William Cameron's case notes and the Asylum's admission register, as well as personal and circumstantial details. Although some symptoms could have been consistent with

pneumonia, the certified cause of death was sustained alcoholic poisoning over several years, followed by attempted total withdrawal when warned that he could face dismissal, generating in turn acute melancholia and 'lunacy'. The graphic detail in NHS records, though disturbing, were genealogically rich, and highlighted the perils of reliance on oral tradition, when family sensitivities are involved.

Whether any particular factors caused or exacerbated a slide into alcohol dependency are unclear. Possible elements might include frustrated ambition, after initial successes, or depression over frozen remuneration, which saw differentials with other public servants, including the police, reversed; but these are conjectural. What is clear is, that prior to the advent of social insurance, the loss of a breadwinner was catastrophic. Apart from his gold watch and seal, bequeathed to his eldest son, his undated and un-registered will left everything to his wife; however, he died effectively a pauper. Moreover, the family also forfeited their 'tied' home. For a few months, Jessie, aided by her eldest surviving son, Thomas, a lawyer's clerk, fulfilled her husband's custodial duties, retaining the keeper's house. Her energetic attempts, documented in Inverness County Council minutes, to become William's official successor and retain his emoluments and accommodation, though supported by some local clergy and nearly one-third of the Council, ultimately proved unavailing; Gaelic, which she lacked, was deemed essential for court duties. These efforts did succeed however in securing temporary alternative housing within the Castle complex before relocation to the castle lodge.

Meantime, after a postmortem, William Cameron's remains were buried in 'the New Cemetery', Tomnahurich. Paradoxically however, even William's burial sowed seeds of potential confusion. No memorial stone would mark his actual grave in Inverness until his widow's death in 1946, but in the intervening years his name was added to his parents' gravestone in Corrimony cemetery in Glen Urquhart, creating another trap for the unwary – memorials are just that, not



Funeral account for Catherine Cameron (nee Chisholm), William's grandmother, held at Corrimony, Glen Urquhart. In 1884. Drawn up by the keeper at the Castle, Inverness.

necessarily proof of interment.

How successful overall was the reconstruction of William Cameron's life and career? For a public functionary, who was neither celebrity nor villain, evidence for his life was more plentiful than initially expected. Some footprints were identifiable in public records; family traditions, photographs, newspapers, and the fortuitous survival of specific family documents augmented these significantly. Although leading an 'ordinary' life, his official position as keeper and residence in one of Scotland's most iconic public buildings undoubtedly were helpful factors. Whilst disturbing for his immediate kin, his health problems generated genealogical treasure for the biographer. That the Inverness asylum superintendent simultaneously registered two other deaths underlines that Victorian/Edwardian institutional medical records have wider relevance than sometimes realised. Where the reconstruction reached its limit was the absence of evidence of William's own thoughts and attitudes. Since no diaries or correspondence have survived, William's view of the world may only be inferred from his actions, but that same constraint also applies to some more celebrated biographical subjects.

What emerged was an energetic, ambitious individual, who successfully

made the transition from countryside to town, and from farm labour to white collar public servant. Responsibilities to his extended family were dutifully discharged. His manifest respect for his linguistic and Highland cultural heritage was also endearing; this extended to music, fiddles being made for all his sons, who he taught to play them. A phalanx of public figures in Inverness testified in writing to William's professional competence over many years. A growing dependence on alcohol, for reasons that remain obscure, appears to date only from the late 1890s, but this, together with his incarceration for his final two weeks in an asylum whilst in a delirious state, clearly devastated family sensitivities. Unlike their Edwardian predecessors however, twenty-first century society has a less harsh view of alcohol addiction, recognising a mental health issue, rather than a sin.

#### References

- i No reference to his application is made in the official records, but well-attested in supporting references from prominent Inverness figures, collated within a publication entitled Testimonials in favour of William Cameron and Mrs Cameron (Inverness; privately printed, [1889]).
- ii Eg. Highland Archives Centre. Inverness County Council, CI/3/1/1, minute book 1890/91, estimates of receipts & expenditure for the year 1890/91 [and subsequent annual estimates]. His predecessor, William Maciver, had received the same remuneration, as evinced in the annual estimates included in the records of the Inverness Commissioners of Supply, 1877/84, CI/1/1/17-19.
- iii Highland Archives Centre. Inverness County Council, CI/3/1/14, minute book 1903/04, report of the Special Committee on Old Prison Buildings, 2 Oct. 1903.
- iv His signed, witnessed, but undated will remains in the family's possession.
- v Highland Archives Centre. Inverness County Council, CI/3/1/13, minute book 1902/03, minutes of 16 Dec. 1902 et seq. The lodge was later demolished to improve the road junction at Culduthel Road and Castle Street.

# The Gellions Inn

## . . . and a family called Gellion

by John Durham



**T**he question I have been trying to answer over the past few weeks is this. Is there a connection between this pub, whose front entrance is to be found on Bridge Street, located on the other side of the road from the Town House in Inverness – and the large family depicted on these two gravestones in Chapel Yard Cemetery, which our Society transcribed several years ago?

The stimulus to undertake this research was an e-mail from a lady in Australia, whose husband was a direct descendant of John Gellion, who had emigrated to Australia c1840. Having traced the family as far back as Inverness she had found, on the OddQuine website, photographs of these two Gellion gravestones. Their inscriptions are as follows: -

*Sacred to the memory of **Skene MORRISON**, who died 25th Augt 1832, aged 29 years; and of his wife **Elizabeth GELLION**, who died 11th Augt 1879, aged 73 years; and of their infant son **Thomas**, who died 7th June 1832, aged 17 months.*



*In memory of **Thomas GELLION**, Inverness, who died on the 6th October 1840, aged 59 years; and of his wife **Helen MACKINNON**, who died on the 27th January 1829, aged 47 years; also of their sons:- **Arthur George**, who died in Dominica on the 25 April 1858, aged 39 years; **Thomas**, who died in Berbice on the 26th August 1837, aged 17 years; and **Duncan** and **Joseph**, who died in infancy; **John**, died in Melbourne, 7 March 1884, aged 73 years; **Agnes**, died in London, 8 April 1886; **Helen**, died in Inverness, 30 Decr 1898; **Duncan**, died in London, 23 Oct. 1904; **Mary**, died in Inverness, 15 July 1905.*

The John who died in Melbourne in 1884 is the 2xgreat grandfather of her husband. She also mentioned that there was a story that perhaps the family was connected to the Gellions pub. A search using GOOGLE led me to The Gellions website, in which they claim it is the oldest pub in Inverness and that it was founded in 1841. Now we had a date to work on, the next step was to build up the chronology of the Gellion family mentioned on the two gravestones. Were they living in Inverness in 1841 and, as that was the year of the first census, were members of the family in the property at that time?

A check of the IGI revealed that the baptisms of only two of the ten children born to Thomas Gellion (c1781-1840) and Helen MacKinnon (c1782-1829) between 1806 and 1825 had been recorded. As those were Elizabeth who married Skene Morrison, whose year of birth we already knew and Joseph, who died in infancy, this was not much help. To make matters worse the age at death for Agnes, Helen, Duncan and Mary was omitted from the gravestone, so placing the children in order of year of birth was not possible at this point. Both Thomas and his wife Helen had died prior to 1841, the year the Gellions website claimed the pub was founded. If the family was in fact connected with it, which of the siblings was running it? It was time to look at census returns, to me the most important area of family history research.

An entry for 1841 in Bridge Street has a Duncan Gellean, aged 15 (ie 15-19), described as vintner, along with Helen, aged 25 and Mary,

aged 20. This must be the Duncan, who died in London in 1904, and his two sisters, who died in Inverness in 1898 and 1905 respectively. So at first glance it looks as if Duncan set up the pub in 1841 following the death of his father in 1840, ran the business for a number of years and retired to London, where he died in 1904. When I looked at the 1851 census, this theory very quickly disappeared in a puff of smoke! I found Duncan in lodgings in Oxford, where he was a guard on the Great Western Railway (GWR). Subsequent census returns found him in London, where he had a very successful career with GWR and most probably no longer involved with the family business back in Inverness.

With Duncan in Oxford and his brother Arthur George living in Dominica in the West Indies, who was running the pub in 1851? In the 1841 census Duncan's sisters Helen and Mary were helping him, so perhaps they are still there? In 1851 there is Helen, unmarried and described as an innkeeper, along with two other sisters, the widow Elizabeth Morrison and Mrs Hannah Fraser. The property is now recorded for the first time as Gellions Inn. Moving forward to 1861 we find Helen Gellion, hotel keeper, living there along with her sister Elizabeth Morrison and niece Helen Morrison, who were helping her run the business. By 1871 Helen and her sister Elizabeth are no longer living in the pub, but have a property in Southside Road, Inverness, which was then, and is still today, a desirable area of the town in which to live.

It looks as if Helen and her sisters made a success of running the pub and have either sold it or put in a tenant to run it on their behalf. A look at the Valuation Rolls for Inverness is obviously our next port of call to check who owns the property, but first of all we need to go back to the two baptism entries mentioned previously, along with the marriage entry for Elizabeth Gellion. These give a clue to a possible date when the pub came into being and perhaps an explanation of how the Gellion family became involved with it. The first is the baptism of Elizabeth on 12th July 1806: -

Thos Gellion and his spouse Hellen

McKinnon had a child baptised by Mr Alex Fraser called Elizabeth. Witnesses: D G Forbes of Culloden & G Richardson.

That one of the witnesses is Duncan George Forbes of Culloden, a very important person in the Inverness establishment, is an indication that it was more than likely that Thomas Gellion worked for him. This is confirmed in the only other baptismal entry extant for what was probably the youngest child, Joseph, on 12th August 1825: -

Thomas Gellion, valet to Culloden and his spouse Helen McInnon had a child baptised by the Revd Thomas Fraser named Joseph. Witnesses: David Rose & Robert McInnon.

As valet to Culloden for some 20 years, Thomas must have been a favoured servant in the household of Duncan Forbes and the third entry, for the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Skene Morrison on 2nd August 1826, includes a very significant snippet of information: -

Skene Morrison, guard of the North Mail Coach and Elizabeth Gellion, daughter of Thomas Gellion, innkeeper by the Revd Thomas Fraser.

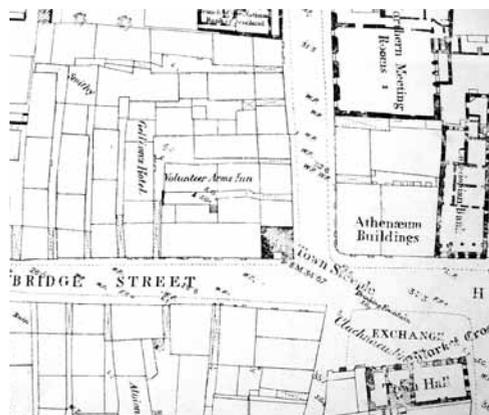
So in August 1825 Thomas Gellion is valet to Culloden, whereas one year later he is described as an innkeeper. It raises the possibility that the Gellions Inn came into being within this 12-month period, which is some 15 years earlier than the 1841 currently highlighted on The Gellions website. Thomas would have been about 45 in 1825 so perhaps he wished to retire and run an inn and, in appreciation of his long service as valet, Duncan Forbes of Culloden helped set him up as innkeeper.

Did Thomas own the business or was he simply the tenant? To find that out we need to look at the Valuation Rolls for Inverness I mentioned previously. These books were printed on an annual basis. All properties are listed with the names of the Proprietors, who owned the property, and Tenants, who lived in them and/or who placed sub-tenants, known as Inhabitant Occupiers, in them. What I was interested in was who owned the Gellions Inn and also its rental value, which is a fair indication of its size.

The first volume for Inverness Burgh found

in the archives covered the period 16th May 1859 -15th May 1860 and shows that the Inn was owned by the heirs of Murdo Macrae and the tenant was Miss Gellion, which must be Helen. Moving forward we find that in 1862/63 Helen Gellion is still the tenant of the Inn, which is valued at £2-10-0, but now has a house in Church Street valued at £28-0-0, where she is the proprietor and described as an innkeeper. I suspect both properties abutted one another.

In 1864/65, what was the original property is now owned by Simon Fraser, clothier, and Alexander Scott, vintner, is the tenant. It is valued at £18, whereas Helen's property in Church Street has risen in value to £40. It is in 1867/68 that the property in Church Street is called a hotel. There is another property close by, described as a house, valued at £30 and occupied by William Machin, hotelkeeper. This must be the Volunteer Arms Inn, as the 1868 map for Inverness Burgh below shows. It is at right-angles to the Gellions Hotel, although both can be accessed from Church Street.



The following year Helen Gellion is still the proprietor, but has moved out of the hotel and is living in Southside Road. Its value has risen again, this time to £70 and Miss Gellion has appointed James Campbell, innkeeper, as tenant to look after the day to day running of the business. This is confirmed by the entry in the census return for 1871.

In 1876/77 another change can be seen. In Bridge Street is a property described as

a cellar with William Burns as tenant. This may be part of the original Inn. Burns is also the new tenant of the hotel in Church Street, with rental value of £80. To find out what the situation was prior to and following the death of Helen Gellion in 1898, I moved forward 20 years and checked the valuation rolls covering the period 1896 to 1902. In 1896/97 the cellar is still being used by the tenant of Gellion's Hotel, John Macpherson, and there are still two hotels in Church Street – the Volunteer Arms Hotel at number 3 and Gellion's Hotel at number 7. Helen is still the proprietor of the Gellions.

The following year major structural changes must have occurred. The cellar is no longer in use by the hotel but the rental value of the hotel has risen significantly from £80 previously to £280. This compares very favourably with that of the Station Hotel at £350 and the Caledonian Hotel, further down Church Street, which was £830. The proprietors are the Trustees of the late Miss Helen Gellion, per her nephew Thomas Gellion Henderson, wine merchant of 39 High Street, Inverness. John Macpherson, innkeeper, is still the tenant, but he dies 21st April 1900 and his widow takes over the tenancy.

Soon after I started this research I visited The Gellions and told a member of staff that I was researching the connection between the pub and the Gellion family. I subsequently spoke to the current owner and he said that he had some papers relating to the pub which may be of interest and that someone had written a history of the pub. In attempting to follow up this new line of research I discovered that the pub was now claiming to have been in existence since 1801. This was hard to believe as my researches show that 1825/1826 is most likely the period the pub first started. I was shown a copy of a page from what must have been a street directory depicting an advert for the pub under the name of the proprietor John Robb.

That name rang a bell so I went back to the archives and asked to see all the valuation rolls covering the period 1900 to 1910. That was where I had seen the name John Robb. He was the tenant of the pub in the 1901/1902 period and also 1902/1903. The

proprietors were still the trustees of the late Helen Gellion. That made sense as an entry in the Am Baile website index referred to the Inverness Courier of 18th January 1901 when an offer to let the Gellions Hotel on lease appeared. I checked the 1901 census, taken on 7th April, to discover that John Macpherson's widow and family were still in the pub. The valuation roll came into effect on 16th May so the changeover to John Robb must have occurred in that 5 week period. Back to the valuation rolls to discover that in 1903/1904 John Robb is no longer the tenant of Gellions Hotel, but a Robert Ross has taken over and is still there in 1909/1910.

I wonder if John Robb was being economical with the truth. 1901 was the year he took over the tenancy and 1801 is exactly 100 years earlier. Was it a misprint or, wishing to entice more customers, did he pick the year 1801 as that looked impressive, ignoring the fact that the evidence seems to indicate that 1825/26 is a more reasonable date when Gellions Inn came into being. Eighteen months later he was no longer tenant, which could be an indication that the trustees of Helen's estate were not happy with the way he was running the hotel and asked him to leave.

In the next journal this story continues. I will be meeting with the present owner to see if the material he has in his possession is in agreement or at odds with my theory as to the year the Gellions Inn was founded. I will also relate some of the interesting stories I have uncovered about members of the original Gellion family and their descendants. For example, which branch of the family ran a large boarding school in Cumbria for teenage girls from Scotland? Who waited until he was 70 to become a father and where did I find his daughter in the 1911 census? Then there is Margaret Gellion, who married Alexander Ogilvy in the West Indies. Which of the three sons of Thomas Gellion that went to the West Indies was her father and, much more interesting, who was her mother? If that were not enough scandal, there is a third gravestone in Chapel Yard with the name Ann Gellion on it, situated well away from the two on the photograph. The parentage of this woman is yet another twist in this family saga.

# Scottish Emigration to Canada

By Donna Fraser

**Have some of your family disappeared from Scottish records? Perhaps they immigrated to Canada. One of the first websites to check for Canadian sources is Library and Archives Canada's *Moving Here, Staying Here, The Canadian Immigrant Experience*. [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/immigrants/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/immigrants/index-e.html). Amongst the useful information on the website you will find links to various records including passenger lists from 1865 to 1935. Before 1865 the best resource for records of passengers is a website called *The Ships List* <http://www.theshipslist.com/>.**

The following websites contain information specific to the Scots who came to Canada:

- *Crossing borders: Scottish emigration to Canada*, Marjory Harper, University of Aberdeen [www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Migration/articles/harper.html](http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Migration/articles/harper.html)
- *The Scots to Canada Web Site* [www.scotstocanada.com/](http://www.scotstocanada.com/)
- *Scotlands Family* [www.scotlandsfamily.com/ships-passengers.htm](http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/ships-passengers.htm)
- *The Canadian Encyclopedia – Scots* [www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/scots](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/scots)
- *Scots in New Scotland (Nova Scotia)* [www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/FSCNS/ScotsHome.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/FSCNS/ScotsHome.html)
- *A Land as Green as the Sea* [www.whitepinepictures.com/seeds/i/13/history1.html](http://www.whitepinepictures.com/seeds/i/13/history1.html)
- *The Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples – Scots* [www.multiculturalcanada.ca/Encyclopedia/A-Z/s2](http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/Encyclopedia/A-Z/s2)

## Settlement Schemes for British residents in the 1920s and 1930s

British residents were able to participate in a series of settlement schemes set in place by the British government between 1919 and 1931. The Overseas Settlement Office's project offered free passage between 1919 and 1922 for British ex-servicemen and women. By the conclusion of the program, Canada had received 26,905 British ex-servicemen and their families, assisted at £28

per head.

The successor to the scheme for ex-servicemen and women was the Empire Settlement Act of 1922. Farm workers were encouraged to come to Canada under the Empire Settlement Agreement. Another part of the agreement was a 3,000 Families Scheme to put experienced British farmers on the land. In that scheme Canada supplied farms and the British government lent money to buy stock and equipment. Farm families received assisted passage, training, credit to purchase a farm, and supervision. In the scheme, 20,000 young women were brought to Canada as domestic servants and 10,000 young people came as prospective farmers. Another assisted-passage project of 1929–31 recruited some 58,000 additional British immigrants to Canada.

In total, between 1922 and 1935, Empire settlement brought 107,084 assisted British immigrants to Canada including my Scots in-laws from Banffshire.

Collectively, the Empire Settlement Act and the schemes that flowed from it were designed to assist those who wished to start anew in the dominions and, at the same time, to strengthen the bonds of the British Empire. The Depression brought an end to Canadian cooperation in Empire settlement, and, although the act was renewed in 1937 for another fifteen years, World War II ended assisted emigration.

## Scottish emigrants from the Western Isles

On the Multicultural Canada website <http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/ubcScot> there is reference to an immigration scheme that involved the settlement of Scottish immigrants from the Western Isles, coordinated in the 1920s by Roderick Andrew MacDonell, an ordained Benedictine priest. After serving as a chaplain with the Canadian Corps in Europe in World War I, he became involved in the settlement of Scottish immigrants in Canada, at first in Ontario and then in Alberta after 1922. In 1923, he created and served as managing director of the Scottish Immigrant Aid Society, based in Edmonton's Canadian Pacific offices.

The Scottish Immigrant Aid Society assisted new settlers with housing and trained them in farming practices. MacDonell was responsible for bringing several hundred families from the Hebrides, and later from Northern Ireland and England, to settle in Alberta near Red Deer at St. Brides, Westlock, and Ohaton. In 1926, MacDonell had an integral part in establishing a colony of Hebridean settlers at Clandonald near Vermilion, Alberta. The Clandonald settlement scheme created a rural Catholic community with

Scottish, Irish, and English immigrants—the only one of its kind in Western Canada. Newspaper articles at the time described the scheme as encouraging the immigration of “the kind of settlers Canada wants”.

An interesting collection of Scottish Canadian original material is found at the University of B.C.'s Chung Collection – Scottish Canadian materials. It consists of textual material (correspondence,

diaries, notebooks, and scrapbooks) as well as 153 photographs and 22 maps that date from 1906 to 1986. All material is in English, except for a few items in Scots Gaelic.

Search the Chung Collection - Scottish Canadian material  
Browse the Chung Collection - Scottish Canadian material

## The real story of one Highland cottage

By Gordon Waddell

**When you come up Glen Lochay and over the bridge and first see the cottage, you know immediately that it is old. It is low and squat, deep-rooted in the hillside. The walls are thick and uneven because they are built of rough, uncut stone lifted from the land. The front of the building rests on an outcrop of rock that appears in the corner of the room inside. There is a narrow front door flanked by two small, old-fashioned windows. There is a shed on each end and a woodpile at the back, because country life is a working life. The chimney is smoking and the reek of wood and peat smoke greets you as you approach. Once smelt, never forgotten. There are sheep grazing on the grass around and a collie lies on the doorstep, head resting on her paws, keeping a watchful eye on them. The cottage feels part of the landscape in a way no modern building ever can. There are hints of 'back to Nature' and *The Good Life*. It is classic grannie's *Hielan hame*, straight out of a film set.**

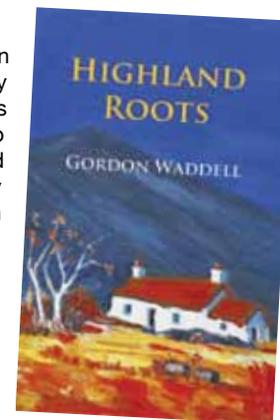
The cottage was built about 1780 and is a rare surviving example of that transitional period in rural housing. It is a stone-built but 'n ben, yet it still had the original thatched roof built of logs and branches, supported on crucks, and covered later by corrugated iron. But much more than that, Dalgirdy was a farm with roots back to the Iron Age. Two things make it a unique historical example of a Highland Perthshire farm. It was 'Improved' in the late eighteenth century but then became part of a hill sheep farm and most of the ground was never ploughed or developed any further. So it is an archaeological treasure trove with visible remains of the medieval farm, the *baile*, and the Improvement changes. It was also fortunate to be on the Breadalbane Estate, which has some of the best estate records in Scotland, with tens of thousands of original documents that are now in the National Archives in Edinburgh.

So we have written records of Dalgirdy back to 1476. It is truly awesome to hold a 240-year-old letter handwritten by one of the people in this story: that really does bring history alive.

I fell in love with Dalgirdy thirty years ago and today I am lucky enough to have it as a holiday home. So when I retired, I finally had the chance to devote my research and writing skills to this story. A three-year labour of love led to a recently published book: *Highland Roots*. The facts and the history are as accurate as I could make them, but I also wanted to get under the skin of history, to imagine how it would **feel** if we were transported back to these times. Sitting in the remains of the Iron Age homestead on a glorious summer evening, 2000-year-old ghosts can still send shivers down your spine.

My talk on 23rd October will tell the story of Dalgirdy. It is a Powerpoint presentation, so I will construct the talk around the physical evidence of the land, the farm, the cottage, and the field archaeology. But it will also be a flight of imagination. Can you imagine trying to scrape a living from this land? How did people live and raise a family here before roads or schools or health care? What was history really like for the ordinary people who had to live through it? I love Dalgirdy and I want the audience and the reader to love it too.

***Highland Roots*** by Gordon Waddell is available on Amazon and Kindle. See [www.highlandroots.net](http://www.highlandroots.net) for more.



## Responses to articles in previous journal

Society member Joan Leggett sent in the following comment on an article that appeared in the previous journal - "I very much enjoyed the article on the adventures of Flora MacDonald in the latest HFHS Journal. It was interesting to see mention of Flora's affiliation to WS John MacKenzie of Delvine. I was reminded of a letter written to John MacKenzie by Lieut. Col. James Sutherland, my ancestor, which is copied below. There is some thought the "fair traveler" referred to in the first paragraph was Flora herself!"

MS.1485 f.221

Dunrobin 8 April 1771

Dear Sir,

I arrived here on Wednesday last and parted that morning with my fair traveler in very good health and Spirits, and she is a most excellent person on the Road allways in good humour. I believe I now know more of what was Prince Charles motions in 1745 than any Officer in the King's Service. When I arrived at Inverness I told her that you had paid me her part of the Chaise hyre, she expressed the strongest sentiments of gratitude for your many friendships to her and her family.

=All the People of this Country expresst their greatest joy on the Countess success and they were drunk for two compleat days. The whisky operated with its usual happy consequences and occasioned a number of broken heads, which I assure you I rejoice at as it is the strongest proof that the remains of the old highland blood is still among the People. Three are five or six of the name of Gordon in this parish and the People obliged them to carry double the quantity of peats to the bonfire than any of the others did, there was a very large fire on the Top of Bhenevrgies [?] and as Sir Robt. Gordon might see it from the other side of the Ffirth, the People imagined he could hear the report of a Gun and for that purpose they carryd ffrom this house one of the brass Cannon to the top of the hill to fire a Gun of defiance.

I believe Mr Gilchrist is to write Sandy Mackenzie this day about the valuation of Skelbo in order to ascertain the several proportions for the repair of the Kirk of Dornoch, the sooner that this is don the better as you never can get that matter so easily done as at present.

Mrs Suthd. has put up in a box two Cheeses for Mrs Mackenzie and I have sent one to Mrs Robertson, and

in the same box there is one for Sandy Mackenzie's wife which has been laying here for six months past and I am with Compliments to Mrs Mackenzie and the Ladys, Dear Sir, your most obliged and obedient humble servt. James Sutherland.

Joan also mentioned that she had typed copies of James Sutherland's letters found in the Delvine Papers and deposited them with the Highland Archives in Inverness.

Hugh Barron, another of our members, sent in the following comments on Karin Thompson's article on Dalwhinnie.

The man in the photograph on page 19 is Malcolm Macpherson, Calum Piobair, who was piper to his chief, Cluny Macpherson. Calum was drowned in an accident while fishing on Loch Caoldair in 1897.

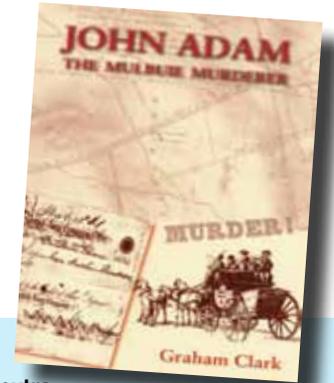
The wife of Donald Mackay was Isabella Macdonald who, along with her sister were daughters of David Macdonald, grieve at Newton, Kirkhill, who was prominent in the religious life of the parish.

A distinguished visitor to Dalwhinnie was Field Marshall Sir B. L. Montgomery who, in the weeks leading up to the invasion of Normandy on 6th June 1944, made frequent tours of inspection of troops all over the country, travelling in the C.I.C.'s special train, "Rapier". On one trip he was as far north as Badenoch and visited Dalwhinnie School.

On the death of his father, John's mother found employment in domestic service and he was sent to live with his mother's sister, who was the wife of Hugh Barron, master shoemaker at Rinduie, Lenran. This Hugh, who died in 1873, was a brother of James Barron, Gortan nan gobhar, Dochgarroch, Inverness, great grandfather of the present writer. John attended the school at Inchberry & Lenran and proceeded to Glasgow University. He became a minister in the Free Church in Cromarty and later in the United Free Church and was known throughout the Highlands as "MacAoidh Chromba". His second wife was a MacFie of Airds and grandsons were Robert Young, for many years a solicitor in Inverness and Ian M. Young, who was in business in Inverness and was an Olympic sprinter.

On several occasions Robert Young expressed regret at not being able to locate the manuscript by Rev. John Mackay which was given to Rev. A. Mackenzie and would have contained much information about Kirkhill in olden times.

# A good READ



## JOHN ADAM: The Mulbuie Murderer

In his new book, Black Isle author Graham Clark tells the extraordinary story of John Adam, whose wife, Jane Brechin, was discovered in 1835 murdered and dumped in the ruins of an old cottage high on the 'Mulbuie' moor of the Black Isle. John, who originated from Lintrathen in Angus, and Jane, who originated from St Cyrus in Kincardineshire, had married only three weeks earlier in Montrose.

Although the evidence was purely circumstantial, John Adam was found guilty and became infamous as the last person to be publicly hanged in Inverness – an event now commemorated on a plaque located in the car park of the Northern Constabulary Headquarters in Inverness.

Press reports at the time claimed ... *a more deliberate deed of atrocity perhaps has not been perpetrated in Scotland since the days of Burke and Hare; and ... few murders have ever been committed under circumstances of more cold-blooded determination and cruelty.*

But who were John Adam and Jane Brechin? What was John's motive? And was his secret lover involved? In seeking answers to these questions, the author has conducted extensive research on the family histories of the principal characters and has discovered that the post-mortem of the victim's corpse, the conduct of the trial, the hanging and its aftermath were riddled with administrative and medical ineptitude as well as bizarre practices – such as the medieval interrogation known as the ordeal of the bier, the 'science' of phrenology and the legal ramifications of misericordia.

It is for those associated features, not just the barbaric offence itself, that the Mulbuie murder has enduring interest and notoriety. The storyline itself is relatively simple – a classic deceitful love triangle. But this book throws significant new light on how John Adam's body parts have been lost, what happened to his lover, where Jane now lies at rest and, however implausible it may seem, why the Lord Advocate decreed that Jane's heirs should pay for John Adam's defence!

The author is a member of HFHS. John Adam: The Mulbuie Murderer is available directly from the author via [www.spanglefish.com/blackislemurder](http://www.spanglefish.com/blackislemurder) or from Amazon and Waterstones. £9.99 + postage.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned in the previous journal another three publications in the Free Church series have been published and are now available for purchase. Like all books in this series, they are priced at £9 each. **Inverness Queen Street United Presbyterian Church Baptisms & Marriages 1839-1854 & 1860-1871.** Also in the same volume is Inverness Union Street United Presbyterian Church Baptisms 1863-1910. **Rogart Free Church Births & Baptisms 1843-1854 & 1873-1896; Marriages 1874-1886.** Also Lairg Free Church Births & Baptisms 1844-1854 & 1886-1907; Marriages 1844-1854 & 1886-1907; Deaths 1844-1852. **Tongue Free Church Baptisms 1843-1887 plus Lairg Free Church Baptisms 1843-1919; Marriages 1843-1854 & 1863-1886.**



# Scotland's war

*Scotland's War* was launched on 28 June 2013. Since 2008, the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the Study of Modern Conflict has been working with Edinburgh, Leith and the Lothians' libraries, schools and community groups to ensure that the story of Scotland's contribution to the Great War is not forgotten. Furthermore, the partnership was strengthened when The Scottish Military Research Group became a partner in 2010, *History Fest* in 2011, and the National Library of Scotland in 2013. On 7 July, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) joined as a partner, and our details will appear on the CWGC Website. A number of other organisations have made initial contact indicating a wish to work with us. From our joint efforts over the past few years, it has become all too obvious that the history of this nation at war largely remains untold.

From the earliest days of the project, public engagement has been central to its success. We now have a very active programme working with libraries, carrying out WW1 archival and document searches, and the public and institutions have submitted family or institutional papers for inclusion in the WW1 public engagement initiative. Many of them can now be found on the new website ([www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk)). We have strict guidelines and an ethical policy on the submission and use of documents, photographs, artefacts and memorabilia. In October 2012, in collaboration with our partners, Edinburgh City Libraries, we launched The WW1 History Hub which is supporting people to tell family stories about their contribution to the Great War. The WW1 History Hub initiative is a first in the UK and is a product of years of work between Edinburgh City Libraries and the University of Edinburgh.

We have a unique opportunity to allow the present generation of Scots to trace the footsteps of their ancestors in order to tell the whole story of Scotland's people, their service, and their sacrifice in the Great War and to reflect on the consequences of a conflict that arguably changed our nation forever.

*Scotland's War* will continue to approach the commemorations in a sensitive and ethical manner over the period to 2019. We will ensure that the *Scotland's War* commemorative initiatives are relevant to all ethnic, religious and secular parts of Scottish society. A prime objective is to provide opportunities for people to learn about the war in meaningful ways, and to recognise the sacrifices made by Scotland's men, women and children on the Home and Fighting Fronts.

The Home Page of the new *Scotland's War* Website will include an interactive map of the country. This will enable visitors to click on any of the 'Wars', for example *Ayrshire's War* or *Shetland's War* and access that archive. Each 'War' will have the same menu of contents as *Edinburgh's War* ([www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk)). Those who join the Project will be able to upload material to the appropriate 'War'.

We hope you will find this an attractive project to engage with. Please contact us for more information or to discuss any aspect.

## Scotland's War Initiatives

**It should be noted that these are not one-off events. The majority will leave a legacy for future generations beyond the lifecycle of the Project.**

### Initiative 1 - The National Library of Scotland (WW1 Archive Collection and Rolls of Honour)

Discussions with the National Library of Scotland (NLS) have resulted in the Library starting the process of digitising the 60 plus Rolls of Honour in their Holdings. These will become available on the NLS and *Scotland's War* Websites, and the *Scotland's War* team have already started the process of transcribing Rolls for inclusion in the *Scotland's War* virtual archive. Where possible omissions will be rectified and inaccuracies corrected, all of which will add value to the Rolls. In addition, the NLS archives are being used to research aspects of the War on the Home and Fighting Fronts.

### Initiative 2 - The Italo-Scots Research Cluster, University of Edinburgh

No fewer than 8,500 Italian men returned to Italy from Scotland to take up arms and fight for their country between 1915 and 1918. In collaboration with Professor Federica Pedriali, we plan to research the Scottish-Italian Diaspora in WW1.

### Initiative 3 - Asian Communities

In line with our stated intent to ensure that the *Scotland's War* commemorative initiatives are relevant to all ethnic, religious and secular parts of Scottish society, we are working in partnership with the Asian communities in Scotland. Of the 1.2 million soldiers from undivided India who served with the Allies, 74,000 made the ultimate sacrifice.

We believe there must be living in Scotland many descendants of these men, and it is only right that they should be given the opportunity to tell their story and have it recorded for future generations. The Glasgow Gurdwara, The Muslim Women's Association and the Pakistan Association have joined the *Scotland's War* Project.

### Initiative 4 - The Call - A' Ghairm'

A week-long event that will examine the military and social impact of the Scottish Diaspora on Scotland's contribution to the war. From research currently being carried out at The Centre for the Study of Modern Conflict, The University of Edinburgh, it has become clear that many Scots returned to their homeland during this traumatic period. A programme of events examining the Scottish World War One Diaspora will be launched with an international conference and exhibition.

### Initiative 5 - The School of Music at Edinburgh University (The Tovey Concerts)

Professor Donald Francis Tovey began to teach music at the University of Edinburgh in 1914, succeeding Frederick Niecks as Reid Professor of Music. He founded the Reid Orchestra and as well as performing himself in a number of fundraising concerts for Prisoners of War and Belgian refugees, he arranged annual seasons of concerts by the Reid Orchestra. *Scotland's War* and the School of Music at Edinburgh University are discussing reprising some of the music played by Professor Tovey and the Reid Orchestra during the war years.

*Scotland's War* recently discovered a piece of music, "Europa", composed by Sergeant Gerald Walker Crawford, Royal Scots, at the Battle of the Somme. It is planned to have a public performance of this and other compositions by Sergeant Crawford in 1916.

### Initiative 6 - The Demarco European Foundation

After discussion with Richard Demarco, an Art and Warfare Exhibitions Programme and Public Engagement Programme will be launched in 2015. The theme will be art work by amateur artists in the British Expeditionary Force, Commonwealth and Dominions Forces, and Medical and Nursing Services. European countries are being invited to collaborate.

### Initiative 7 - West Lothian Local History Library (West Lothian's War)

A project on the Home Front in Linlithgow, based on local newspapers, in particular the *Linlithgow Gazette*. A group of local people will each take one aspect of the Home Front, e.g., recruitment and enlistment, tribunals, women's work, rationing, war wounded and military hospitals, industry and commerce etc., and research it in the papers and contemporary publications. Each group will write up their section, then all the various strands will be consolidated and the end product will be uploaded into the West Lothian's War section of the *Scotland's War* Virtual Archive (being moderated before final inclusion). Twelve volunteers have already got this initiative under way.

There will also be opportunities for looking at the Fighting Front. People will be invited to contribute artefact material and stories for inclusion in the virtual archive. From our four year long experience with Edinburgh's War, we know that this will provide a significant quantity of material of an unusual and unique nature. In association with this and following the very successful workshop for local people on First World War family history held by the Edinburgh's War team last year, a second workshop will be held on Saturday 2nd August 1914 within the new Bathgate Partnership Centre.

### Initiative 8 - Queensferry Community High School, South Queensferry Library and the South Queensferry Local History Group (South Queensferry's War)

A group of sixty S3 students will research the 180 casualties in South Queensferry Cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Many of the graves are fatalities from the Battle of Jutland, so the research will continue with a study of this battle and the broader story of the Forth Defences.

This could include visits to Inchkeith, Inchcolm and Rosyth and there is potential for working together with schools on both sides of the Forth, and the Royal Navy. South Queensferry Library and the South Queensferry Local History Group have joined to take part and work with the students in this unique project to create the story of *South Queensferry's War*, and Education Staff from the National Library of Scotland have indicated an interest in joining this and other local projects.

The research conducted by *South Queensferry's War* could develop into a "battlefield" tour of the town. In South Queensferry a visitor can see the history of the First World War in front of them - a naval base, a military hospital, a CWGC cemetery, war memorials and defensive sites. They can see the locations of air-raids and airfields; where great fleets sailed and surrendered; where convoys assembled and mine-layers and mine-sweepers berthed. To learn more about the significance of the war and its impact on Scotland there are examples on our doorstep.

### Initiative 9 - The Great War History Awards

We believe these awards which will make a significant contribution to the study and accumulation of knowledge of Scotland in the Great War. They will constitute:

- a) A School Winning Prize
- b) A Community History Winning Prize

### Initiative 10 - Scottish Poetry (with the Scottish Poetry Library)

For the past two years we have been working with the Scottish Poetry Library to produce a book on unpublished works from the Home and Fighting Fronts. It has been agreed with a publisher that the book will be launched in 2015 for the John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" Commemoration. The launch will be accompanied by an exhibition.

## Journals in Electronic Form

In the last journal our chairman in his column mentioned that we intend to offer all members a choice of continuing to receive the quarterly journal in paper form or electronically as a PDF. To date 18 members have indicated that they would like to receive their journal in electronic form. One member said it would allow him to load it onto his iPad and read it away from home. Another apparently on receiving the journal scans the pages into his computer and then throws away the journal!

Of the 18 members who have contacted me so far, only eight are overseas members. This is surprising, as I would have thought that our overseas members would be more likely to take up this option. Advantages are that you receive the journal immediately it is published, rather than up to 3 weeks later if posted and secondly from 1st September 2014 a reduction in overseas subscription rates, which currently have an airmail element added to them. The reason for the year's delay as that I have to get approval at the March 2013 AGM to amend subscription rates.

To avoid blocking up your mailbox the journal would be sent electronically in two e-mails, the first containing pages 1-12 and the second pages 13-24. If any member wishes to see what the journal will look like as a PDF please contact me at [john.durham5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.durham5@btinternet.com) and I will send you a sample PDF for you to view. Paper copies will still be produced for those that want them, but if a proportion of members are happy to receive the Journal electronically this will save the Society a lot of money both for printing and for postage; and if we're to keep producing the Journal as an all-colour publication, we do have to think about economising in any way we can.

## Members' Outing to Dornoch



As a novel way of starting the 2013/2014 Season the Committee has arranged an outing to Dornoch on Tuesday 24th September. Members will be able to discover the varied and fascinating history of the Dornoch area at the Historylinks museum, and also have a guided tour of Dornoch Cathedral.

If the weather is kind and/or members feel so inclined, they may choose to follow the Heritage Trail with the help of the leaflet guide that will be provided. A light lunch (soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee) will be provided at the Dornoch Castle Hotel. The locations are all close to each other.

**Museum capacity means that the visit is limited to 50 people.** Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. A bus has been hired, but some members may prefer to make their own travel arrangements. The inclusive cost (bus, admissions, lunch) will be £12 per head. The cost for those travelling independently will be £9. Tickets will be issued to participants for entry to the Museum, lunch in the hotel and (if appropriate) for the bus

### Programme

From 09.10	Rendezvous outside Vue cinema, Inverness Retail Park
09.30	Depart by hired Scotbus to Dornoch
10.40	Arrive in Dornoch. Split into two groups
11.00	Group A: visit to Historylinks Museum Group B: guided tour of Cathedral, and/or Dornoch Heritage Trail
12.30	Light buffet lunch at the Dornoch Castle Hotel
14.00	Group A: guided tour of Cathedral, and/or Dornoch Heritage Trail Group B: visit to Historylinks Museum
15.30	Depart by bus to Inverness arriving 16.40 approx.

Those members who live in Scotland will find a copy of the above details along with a booking form included in this journal. Those of you wishing to join us on the outing should cut off the booking form and send it as indicated to arrive no later than Friday 5th September.

# MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

## New Members:

2626. Mr Kenneth Wood – North Lakes, QLD 4509, Australia.  
 2627. Mrs Nancy Milne-Fowler – Bull Creek 6149, Australia.  
 2628. Mr Alexander A. M. Macrae – Arbroath, Angus DD11 4SP.  
 2629. Mr Roger Milne – Bridgend, Glam., Wales CF32 8PE.

## Changes to address etc

0487. Mrs E. Nicholls – Langdon Hills, Essex SS16 6SX.  
 2125. Mr Mark Bloomfield – Redhill, Surrey RH1 4AU.

## Resignations

1460. Mr Derek Anthony

## Deaths

2279. Mr James Simon Fraser

# RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The new financial year for the Society commences on the 1st September 2013 and this is my annual reminder to members that their membership subscriptions are now due. The action you need to take, if any, depends on the method you use to pay your annual subscription. Each member will fall into one of three categories.

- If you pay your subscription by Banker's Order, please make sure your bank sends the correct amount to the Clydesdale Bank plc [Bank Sort Code: 82-65-18 and Account Number: 20290121]. This is the only bank account the Society operates, now that we have closed the Santander account.**
- If you have paid your subscription in advance, a slip is enclosed acknowledging that fact.**
- If you fall into neither of the above categories, a pink reminder slip will have been enclosed with this journal. If you have received the reminder, please pay your subscription as soon as possible and preferably by the 15th October 2013. You will not receive any further journals until you have renewed your membership.**

The Society has a 'stand' on **GENfair, the Online Family History Fair and Genealogy Bookstore**. This has been very successful from our point of view as many members joined the Society for the first time using this method and it is a very easy way of renewing your membership. In addition several members and non-members have purchased publications using this very secure system of payment.

**If you have a credit or debit card, and have access to the Internet, you can use this facility to renew your membership.** This will be of particular benefit to overseas members who do not have a sterling bank account. At present they incur additional charges either in obtaining a sterling cheque or a bank draft. Using GENfair also saves postage and you will receive on-line conformation that your subscription has been paid. To use this service: -

- Go to [www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org](http://www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org)
- On Home page, click on **Membership**
- On Membership page, click on **GENFair**
- Click on either **Membership of Highland FHS - UK only** or **Membership of Highland FHS – Europe & Overseas**
- Select the appropriate category (**Individual** or **Senior**) and follow the instructions.

**If you still prefer to pay your subscription by cheque (Sterling cheques only), the pink reminder slip should accompany your payment. This will ensure that it is credited to your membership number.**

# PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

County	Burial Ground	Memorials	Weight	Price
Ross-shire	Alness	659	80g	£3.00
	Avoch [A4]	452	180g	£3.60
	Easter Suddie	454	50g	£1.80
	Fortrose	450	90g	£3.00
	Killearnan	286	60g	£3.00
	Kilmuir (Black Isle)	241	60g	£2.70
	Rosemarkie [A4]	575	220g	£4.50
	St Clements, Dingwall [A4]	689	240g	£4.50
	Urquhart Old Churchyard, Black Isle [A4]	937	245g	£4.50
	Inverness-shire	Abernethy Churchyard [A4]	437	260g
Advie Churchyard & War Memorial [A4]		213	165g	£6.00
Ardersier Cemetery		371	85g	£3.00
Brachlich Cemetery, Gollanfield		200	60g	£1.80
Chapel Yard, Inverness [A4]		2,802	550g	£12.00
Cromdale Churchyard [A4]		368	240g	£6.00
Croy Churchyard		367	85g	£2.70
Dalarossie Churchyard [A4]		221	140g	£3.00
Daviot Churchyard		246	70g	£3.00
Dores Churchyard		427	90g	£3.00
Dunlichity Churchyard		315	85g	£3.00
Greyfriars Cemetery, Inverness [A4]		132	90g	£2.40
Old Kilmore Churchyard [A4]		496	190g	£3.60
Kirkton of Ardersier Cemetery		393	85g	£2.70
Nairnshire	Lochend Burial Ground [A4]	129	105g	£2.40
	Moy Churchyard [A4]	174	105g	£2.40
	Old High, Inverness [A4]	572	220g	£4.50
	Old Churchyard, Petty	476	100g	£3.60
	Geddes	124	40g	£2.40
	Nairn Cemetery (Victorian Section)	516	300g	£9.00

## FREE CHURCH REGISTERS

Title	Weight	Price
Alness - Baptisms 1843-1929, Marriages 1847-1912	370g	£9.00
Creich – Births & Baptisms 1843-1897 & Marriages 1843-1896	400g	£9.00
Fearn - Births 1844-1855, Baptisms 1844-1890	480g	£9.00
Inverness East – Baptisms 1843-1858	275g	£9.00
Inverness Queen Street + Union Street United Presbyterian Churches	325g	£9.00
Kirkhill – Births & Baptisms 1843-1854 + Kiltarlity – Births etc, Marriages	300g	£9.00
Knockbain - Baptisms & Marriages + Killearnan - Baptisms	325g	£9.00
Nigg & Cromarty – Baptisms, Marriages & Deaths	325g	£9.00
Resolis – Baptisms 1843-1868 + Fortrose – Baptisms 1844 – 1855 etc	370g	£9.00
Rogart – Births & Marriages + Lairg – Births, Marriages and Deaths	310g	£9.00
Tain & Edderton – Baptisms + Fearn – Marriages 1843-1880	340g	£9.00
Tongue – Baptisms + Durness – Baptisms & Marriages	440g	£9.00

## OTHER PUBLICATION

Title	Weight	Price
Deaths as reported in the Inverness Advertiser Newspaper [1849-1855]	550g	£12.00



*Highland Archive & Registration Centre*  
*Tasglann agus Ionad-Clàraidh na Gàidhealtachd*

*The Family History Centre*  
*Ionad Eachdraidh Teaghlaich*

# Archives

COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

# Tasglann

Highland Family History Society  
c/o Highland Archive Centre  
Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SS.

[www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org](http://www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org)



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