

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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Cover: Former Free Church at Nigg.

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Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd
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EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Society is always looking for new articles from members, however small so please contribute what you can.

New Publications. The Society is pleased to announce a number of new publications:

Firstly – Septs, Septnames and Surnames of the Highland Clans by Graeme Mackenzie this follows on from his book Genealogy in the Gaidhealtachd published by the Highland Family History Society in 2013 and is £8.

Secondly – Monumental Inscriptions from Kiltearn Churchyard, Ross-shire with over 800 stones, including extension to the North.

Thirdly – Monumental Inscriptions from Ullapool, Ross-shire to include the Old Burial Ground, Former Church of Scotland in West Argyle Street, Free Church and Morefield Cemetery with over 550 stones recorded, this work compliments that of Clachan Churchyard also in the Parish of Lochbroom which was published by the Society in 2017.

At the time of going to press both M.I. books are about to go to the printers and the Society welcome's any advance orders to allow us to get enough printed. All three books should be ready by the end of November, so just in time for Xmas!

Stuart Farrell

MEMBERS' DETAILS

New Members:

- 2794. Mrs Jane Harris, Muir of Ord.
- 2795. Mrs Ellen Powers, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.
- 2796. Mr Andrew Smith, Old Kilpatrick, Glasgow.
- 2797. Mr Murdo John Macleod, Galston, East Ayrshire.
- 2798. Mr Geoffrey Burns, Inverness.
- 2799. Mrs Donna Holmes, Bongaree, Australia.

Changes of Address:

- 2189. Mr Geoff Dixon, Chester.

Resignations:

- 2317. Mr M D Robinson.

Deaths:

- 276. Mr Ian Aitchison
- 1594. Mr Kenneth Mackay.
[His wife Mrs Rita V Mackay taken over his membership]

Nigg United Free Church Roll of Honour April 1918 Part 2

By Stuart Farrell

Private JAMES FORBES - Date of death – 4 November 1916, 1376 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Place of burial – Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, section IV, row A, grave 12. Noted by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as aged 25, son of Hugh and Jemima Forbes, of Ankerville Farm, Nigg. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded 1914 Star, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 7 November 1914. Noted as died of wounds. Commemorated on the Nigg War Memorial. Recorded in Ross-shire Roll of Honour (1915) as '4th Seaforth Highlanders, A Company, 1376, Pte. J Forbes, farm servant, Ankerville Farm, Nigg.'

Reported in *The North Star* and in *The Highland Leader and Northern Weekly* of 16 November 1916 of the following: 'Highland Casualties. A Nigg Seaforth. Pte. James Forbes. "A Brave Boy." Deep sympathy is felt for Mrs Forbes, Ankerville, Nigg, who has just received official information of the death (from gunshot wounds) of her son, Pte. James Forbes, of the Seaforths, the death taking place at a Casualty Clearing Station on 4th November. Pte. Forbes and his brother (still with the regiment) had been members of the 1/4th Seaforths, and they have both seen much active service in the war and have been ever foremost in gallant deeds. The death of James will be learned with regret by his many former friends in the army and at home, and the friends of the family unite in sympathy for his widowed mother who is a sister of Mrs Malcolm Ross, Hill Street, Dingwall, whose son-in-law, Lieut. D. Munro, is the popular Quartermaster of one of the Seaforth battalions and who, by the way, is home in Dingwall on a few days furlough.

One of the late Pte. Forbes's officers, Lieut. C. J. G. Griffith, with whom he was attached to a battery of Royal Artillery, writes to Mrs Forbes:- I very much regret to have to tell you of your son's death on the 4th from wounds received on the 3rd I am very sorry as I was hoping so much for his recovery. However it is a big consolation to me, and no doubt a happy one to you, to know he had one his duty as a man. He was a fine fellow and was liked very much by me and every man in my battery. He will be missed very much by every one of us. Kindly accept my heartfelt sympathy in this your hour of trouble."

In a touching letter, Chaplain G. M. Rise writes to Mrs Forbes:- "My heart is very sore for you, for I bear ill news unwillingly. Your dear boy came to this hospital badly wounded and died last night from the shock. Everything that could be done was done by both doctors and nurses. I saw him several times and was sending you his affectionate messages when this happened. There are so many mothers like you just now. But he was a brave boy and he has died for God, honour, and Britain, nor will either God or Britain forget the supreme sacrifice he has made. May God guide and comfort you in this dark and cheerless house. This afternoon I buried him in a little graveyard close to this hospital where many another brave man sleeps."

Private JAMES ALEXANDER FRASER - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being 27464 Highland Light Infantry awarded Silver War Badge 158254 discharged 1 June 1916. Service Papers in the National Archives note he enlisted at Tain on 11 December 1915 aged 20, giving address as Red House, Nigg with occupation as Postman; Gave his mother Mrs Jessie Fraser as next-of-kin. Mobilised 26 January 1916 when posted to the 1st Garrison Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. Discharged 1 June 1916 under King's Regulations Para 392 (iii) 'not being likely to become an efficient soldier' due to having heart disease. Re-enlisted 10 January 1918 into Labour Corps at Nairn where he stated occupation as Professional Golfer, was 462165 of the 359th Reserve Employment Company stationed at Blairgowrie and was discharged 21 February 1918 under King's Regulations Para 392 (iv) as unfit. Noted that he had had scarlet fever 4 years before he enlisted and was 'tall and thin and poorly nourished short of breadth especially of exertion'. Was awarded pension from 12 April 1918 for 22 weeks.

Private DONALD MACLEOD IRVINE - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as 27561 15th Battalion Royal Scots formerly 13th Battalion Royal Scots being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Reported in *The North Star* of 8 June 1916 of the following: 'Notes on Officers and Men. Two Nigg Men. Donald Irvine, of Balnabuach, Nigg, who for a time was in charge of the electric power house there, and who joined the 13th Royal Scots in November last, has been made a prisoner of war and is interned at Dulmen, Wesphalla. Like other prisoners he would welcome a parcel of plain food and cigarettes.' Reported in *The North Star* of 10 November 1917 of the following: 'Our Prisoners of War. 27561 Pte. D. Irvine, 13th Royal Scots, Kriegsgefangenenlager (2 K 95), Munster I/W., Germany. Wife's address – Lower Pitcalzean, Nigg.'

Lance-Corporal ANDREW KELLY - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as 2541 Drummer 1st Battalion Black Watch latterly of the 8th Battalion Black Watch being awarded 1914 Star with Clasp & Roses, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 13 August 1914.

Private ALLAN MACBEAN - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as S/17539 of the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders formerly 2979 of the 6th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders being awarded 1914-15 Star, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 1 May 1915. Noted as demobilized. Reported in *The North Star* of 8 June 1916 of the following: 'Notes on Officers and Men. Two Nigg Men. Mr Allan MacBean, son of F. MacBean, Culnaha, an ex-student of the Sutherland Technical School, and who is in the Seaforths, has been wounded and is now in a Red Cross hospital in France.'

Lance-Corporal GILLIES MACBEAN - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as S/9936 of the 8th Battalion Black Watch and latterly of the 2nd Battalion Black Watch being awarded 1914-15 Star, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 18 December 1915, discharged Class Z 21 April 1919.

Lance-Corporal KENNETH MACBEAN - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as Corporal 265714 6th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war.

ROBERT MACBEAN - Water Metropolitan Police, Invergordon. Robert McBean, warrant number 102291. Joined Metropolitan Police on 3 February 1913, and left on 19 March 1939. Last posted to T Division as a PC, Certificate Very Good, reason for leaving Pension. (National Archives Reference – MEPO 4/350/129)

Lance-Sergeant ALEXANDER MACKENZIE - Date of death – 11th March 1915, 607 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Place of burial – Estaires Communal Cemetery, section III, row B, grave 15. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded 1914 Star, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 7 November 1914. Noted as died of wounds. Recorded in Ross-shire Roll of Honour (1915) as '4th Seaforth Highlanders, A Company, 607, Lance-Corpl. trapper, Lower Pitcalzean, Fearn. Noted as Casualty List Neuve Chapelle – Died of Wounds - 607 Lance-Sergt. A Mackenzie, A Co.' Reported in *The Ross-shire Journal* of 9 April 1915 of the following: '607 Lance-Sergeant A. Mackenzie. Lance-Sergeant Alex. Mackenzie, a member of A (Tain) Company, has died of wounds received at Neuve Chapelle. Deceased was a brother of Mr Mackenzie, grieve at Mouteagle, the property of the late Major W. J. Robertson. He was in his 26th year, and, previous to the war, was employed as a trapper at Nigg.' Commemorated on the Nigg War Memorial.

Sergeant ANDREW MACKENZIE - 150147, 79th Battalion Canadian Infantry. His Attestation Paper in the Canadian National Archives (Ref: RG150/Accession 1992-93/166/Box 6962-38, Item 157048) indicates that he was born 3rd November 1883 at Nigg, gave George Mackenzie, Cromarty Ferry, Nigg as next of kin, occupation stated as Policeman. Formerly Policeman in Glasgow for 4 years. Enlisted 21 July 1915 at Brandon, Manitoba, arrived in England 5 October 1915, transferred to 12th Battalion prior to leaving Canada, transferred to 8th Battalion 29 February 1916. Sailed to France 24 April 1916. Wounded at Ypres on 14 June 1916 with gunshot wound and shrapnel to right forearm and foot, admitted to County of London Hospital, Epsom on 19 June 1916, 4 October 1916 admitted to Woodcote Park, Epsom, 10 October 1916 admitted to Moore Building Shorecliffe, 22 October 1916 admitted to Military Hospital Shorecliffe, discharged 9 November 1916. Had 3 operations and had impaired use of his right forearm. Upon discharge served in London, 15 May promoted to Lance-Corporal, 9 October 1917 promoted to Lance-Sergeant, 2 January 1918 promoted to Sergeant, 12 July 1918 reverted to private to General Depot, discharged to Canada 3 August 1918. Embarked for Canada from Liverpool on 22 September 1918, discharged 18 November 1918 as medically unfit. Pay sheet indicates he sent \$15 monthly to his sister Miss M Mackenzie, Cromarty Ferry, Nigg. Last address of 672 Langside Street, Winnipeg formerly Central Police Station, Rupert Street, Winnipeg. Died 12 June 1956.

CHRISTOPHER MACKENZIE - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with rank as Deck Hand R.N. Service Papers in the National Archives (BT377/7/56787) indicate that he was born 22 December 1894 service no. DA10333 son of George and Mary Mackenzie, address given as Cromarty Ferry, Nigg. Enlisted 22 January 1916 serving on H.M.S. "Thalia", H.M.S. "Balmoral Castle", H.M.S. "Victory", H.M.S. "Research" and H.M.S. "Kosmos" being demobilised on 4 February 1919. Was awarded Naval Prize money in 1922 and 1923.

DONALD MACKENZIE - 859454 79th Canadian Cameron Highlanders. His Attestation Paper in the Canadian National Archives (Ref: RG150/Accession 1992-93/166/Box 6966-47, Item 159947) indicates that he was born Caithness 15 February 1891, gave his father John Mackenzie of Bayfield Farm, Nigg as next of kin. Enlisted 3 December 1915 at Winnipeg. Occupation stated as Farmer, served in the 79th Cameron Highlanders of Canada at time of enlistment and formerly served 2 years in the 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders (T.F.). Address given as Craik, Saskatchewan. In hospital 13 to 18 April 1916, sailed from Canada 3 October 1916 via S.S. "Saxonia" arrived in England 13 October 1916, 21 October 1916 transferred to 17th Battalion, 28 October 1916 admitted Moore Barr Hospital Shorncliffe with hydrocele, 12 November 1916 transferred to 43rd Battalion, 17 November 1916 admitted Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Epsom, 27 November 1916 discharged. Went to France 7 April 1917, 20 April 1917 transferred to 16th Battalion, 6 August 1917 reported from base ill, 12 September 1917 discharged, 4 November 1917 admitted 26th General Hospital Etaples with appendicitis (serious), 4 November 1917 admitted No.13 General Hospital Boulogne, 4 January 1918 admitted 1st Canadian Field Ambulance with strangulated hernia, 6 January 1918 admitted 13th USA General Hospital Boulogne, 9 January 1918 admitted Whipp Cross Leytonstone Colchester, 30 January 1918 admitted Military Hospital Epsom, 5 February 1918 admitted 16th Canadian General Hospital Orphington, 20 March 1918 admitted Canadian Convalescent Bromley, 4 June 1918 discharged. Left for Canada from Liverpool via H.M.T. 'Royal George', discharged at Winnipeg 17 May 1919 from 16th Battalion to 18th Reserve Battalion, final discharge on 27 August 1919, issued War Service Badge (No.A185308). Last address of Primrose Farm, Aylesbury, Saskatchewan. Died 15 September 1975 at Deer Lodge Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

DONALD MACKENZIE - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being Corporal 73577 Royal Engineers awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Service Papers in the National Archives indicate he enlisted 1 October 1915 at Glasgow, aged 34, with

address of 745 Dumbarton Road, Partick, Glasgow, occupation stated as Painter. Formerly served in South African Constabulary from May 1901 to June 1906. Born Nigg. Next of kin – Roderick Mackenzie (father) Uig Lodge, Miavaig, Stornoway. Wife – Mrs Jessie Mackenzie nee Macrae, Quarry Cottage, Glenelg, Kyle of Lochalsh, Inverness-shire, they married at West Lodge, Balfinning Lodge, Drymer 11 December 1918. (Marriage cert gives his occupation at Cynading for gold extraction, Corporal L. Signal Batt. R.E. with Jessie at Domestic Servant – Son of Roderick Mackenzie, Gamekeeper and Christina Fraser (deceased); daughter of Donald Macrae, Ploughman (deceased) and Catherine Macrae). Promoted to Corporal on 2 October 1915, served as Motor Cyclist. Embarked with Mediterranean Expeditionary Force 15 January 1916, admitted to 43 General Hospital 20 September 1916, at St. Andrews Hospital, Malta with Malaria 26 September 1916, invalided to UK 11 November 1916, admitted Maryflatts War Hospital, Govan with malaria 3 December 1916 until 17 March 1917. Discharged 5 June 1919. Went to South Africa sailing on S.S. 'Edinburgh Castle' 18 July 1919, with address of Box.103, Crown Mine, Johannesburg.

Corporal FINLAY MACKENZIE, M.M. - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as Sergeant 372512 8th (City of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles) being awarded British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 4 February 1917. Noted as served in France until 11 November 1918. Award of Military Medal was published in the *Supplement to the London Gazette* of 12 December 1917 page 13017. Reported in *The North Star* of 1 December 1917 of the following: 'District News. Nigg. Nigg Boy Honourer. The many friends of Lance-Corpl. Findlay Mackenzie, of Golf Course Cottage, Nigg, are delighted to hear of his having been awarded the Military Medal for valour displayed on 20th September last. He was not yet informed his friends what he did to win this distinction, but that is characteristic of Findlay. He was educated at Nigg School and then acted as postman here for a time, during which he became a favourite with the public because of his obliging cheering manners. He joined the 8th London Regiment of Post Office Rifles and has seen much fighting in France.'

Private WILLIAM MACKENZIE - 1st Seaforths; Discharged; Wounded twice. Recorded in Ross-shire Roll of Honour (1915) as 'Bayfield, 1st Seaforths.'

Private ALEXANDER JOHN MACLEOD - Seaforths; Discharged. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as 202519 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war.

Deck Hand DAVID MACLEOD (Big) - Date of death – 28 April 1916, 10338DA Royal Naval Reserve H.M.S. "Thalia", Place of burial –Nigg Parish Churchyard, grave 37B. Noted by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as aged 54, son of Hugh McLeod, of Blanambuach. Commemorated on the Nigg War Memorial. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British War Medal. Service Papers in the National Archives (BT377/7/56792) indicate that he was born 12 August 1864 son of Hugh and Christine MacLeod, address of Primrose Cottage, Nigg. Enlisted 23 January 1916. Noted as died on Hospital Ship "Garth Castle" from tuberculosis ex H.M.S. "Thalia". Next of kin noted as his sister Isabella McLeod.

DONALD MACLEOD - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded 1914-15 Star, British and Victory Medals with rank of Cooper. Service Papers in the National Archives (BT377/7/56787) indicate that he was born 17 October 1869 at Nigg, service no.175969 Petty Officer, Cooper 1st Class, H.M.S. "Royal Arthur." Enlisted 27 September 1893, first serving H.M.S. "Pembroke" and served on numerous ships, ending service on H.M.S "Lavatera" on 5 November 1919.

Private FINLAY MACLEOD (Vass) - Fife and Forfar Yeomanry. 1911 Census shows him aged 12 son of Hugh Vass MacLeod & Catherine Vass MacLeod at Balnabruach with George 14, Jessie 9, William 7, Bella 5, Catherine Ann 3, Hugh 5m and Alexander Mackenzie, 23, boarder. Fathers occupation given as General Labourer.

Private GEORGE MACLEOD (Vass) - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with rank of Engineer R.N.R.T. Service Papers in the National Archives (BT377/7/133897) indicate that he was born 1 September 1893 service no. ES 4493 son of Hugh and Kitty McLeod of Lower Pitcalzean, Nigg. Enlisted 22 January 1916, serving on numerous ships being discharged from H.M.S "Zaria" at Kirkwall on 12 February 1919. Was awarded Naval Prize money in 1922 and 1923. Brother of above.

Sergeant JAMES MACLEOD - 16195 Cameron Highlanders, latterly 198975 of the Royal Engineers. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war.

Private WILLIAM DONALD MUIR - Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being 87810 R.A.M.C. awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Service Papers in the National Archives indicate he enlisted 10 May 1916 at Invergordon, resident of Firthview Cottage, Nigg, aged 39 and gave his occupation as ship plumber (Engineer Drifter). Next of kin – Mrs Euphemia Muir (wife) nee McLeod, married at Leith 30 August 1908. Children – Robert David Muir born Leith 29 September 1903, Isabella Sutherland Muir born Leith 1 May 1906 and Donald McLeod Muir born Leith 2 November 1909. Attested 25 September 1916, trained with 8th Company R.A.M.C. at Blackpool from 28 February 1917, 27 May 1917 posted to Hospital Ship "Aberdonian" with 48th Company R.A.M.C. Discharged 18 February 1919. Noted as born at Leith in 1875.

Corporal DAVID MUNRO - 5th Cameron Highlanders; Wounded Twice. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being S/12922 awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with date of entry into a theatre of war as 9 July 1915, discharged Class Z 27 March 1919.

ANDREW ROSS - Recorded in Ross-shire Roll of Honour (1915) as 'Shandwick, R.N.R.' Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with rank of Deck Hand. Service Papers in the National Archives (BT377/7/56789) indicate that he was born 1883 at Nigg, service no. DA10335, son of Duncan and Annie Ross of Danskeith Cottage, Nigg. Enlisted 22 January 1916, served on H.M.S. "Thalia" and H.M.S. "Ganges" being demobilised at Harwich 15 May 1919. Was awarded Naval Prize money in 1922 and 1923.

Private ALEXANDER SKINNER - 859443 Driver, 4th Canadian Train Division. His Attestation Paper in the Canadian National Archives (Ref: RG150/Accession 1992-93/166/Box 8962-34, Item 232654) indicates that he was born 12 August 1887 at Tain, gave his father John Skinner as next of kin, of Cullisse Farm, Nigg. Enlisted 2nd December 1915 at Winnipeg. Occupation stated as Farmer, formerly in the 79th Cameron Highlanders of Canada and formerly served 2 years in the Seaforth Highlanders (Volunteers). Address given as King George Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Sailed from Halifax via S.S. "Saxon" on 4 October 1916 arrived Liverpool 13 October 1916, 21 October 1916 transferred to 17th Battalion at Sandling, 13th November 1916 transferred to 179th Battalion at East Sandling, 4 January 1917 transferred to 14th Reserve Battalion, 10 February 1917 transferred to Canadian A.S.C., 11 July 1917 disembarked for France, 14 September 1917 admitted to 11th Field Ambulance with contusion to leg, discharged next day, 12 December 1917 awarded Good Conduct Badge, 24 July 1918 admitted to 12th Canadian Field Ambulance with phlebitis of veins and abdomen, 27 Jul 1918 admitted to 53rd General Hospital Boulogne, 19 August 1918 discharged to Base Depot Boulogne, 5 June 1919 admitted to Canadian Service

Hospital Witley, 9 July 1919 discharged. Separation allowance paid to Alexander Skinner at Cullisse Farm, Nigg. Final discharge from Canadian Army of 20 August 1919. Canadian Archives notes him being awarded Medals on 20 February 1922 with last address being Cullisse Farm, Nigg.

Private JOHN SKINNER - Date of death – 24 March 1918, 199563 78th Field Company Royal Engineers, Place of burial – Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, section VII, row A, grave 34. Noted by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Sapper with date of death 25 March 1918. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him as Driver being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Recorded as 1235 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, awarded 1914 Star, noted as discharged 6 March 1916 as time-expired. Service Papers in the National Archives indicate he enlisted in the 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders on 16 March 1911, occupation given as Farm Servant, employed by John Gordon, Cullisse, aged 17 years and 6 months. Stated born Portmahomack, Tarbat, joined at Tain. Embodied 5 August 1914, served in France from 5 November 1914 to 13 March 1916, discharged 16 March 1916. Next of kin – Mrs Skinner (mother), Cullisse, Nigg Station. Recorded in Ross-shire Roll of Honour (1915) as '4th Seaforth Highlanders, A Company, Tain, 1235, Pte. J. Skinner, farm servant, Cullisse, Fearn, Nigg.'

Reported in the *North Star* of 4 May 1918 of the following: 'Nigg News. Another Falls. His parents at Cullisse, Nigg, have received notice of the death of Driver John Skinner, of the R.E., by a bomb from an aeroplane. He was with the 4th Seaforths in 1914, and went with them to France. He was discharged in 1915, but was called up again and was attached to the R.E. He was on 1st April last, to have been presented with the Mons Star, but fell a few days before then.'

Reported in *The Ross-shire Journal* of 17 May 1918 of the following: 'A photograph appears to-day of 199563 Driver John Skinner, Royal Engineers, who, as reported last week, was killed in action on 24 March, 1918. The son of Mr and Mrs John Skinner, Cullisse, Nigg, deceased mobilised with the 1/4th Seaforths in August, 1914, and proceeded to France with his unit in November following, in time to earn the 1914 Star. Time expired, in 1916 he transferred to the Royal Engineers, and after three months training at home returned to France, where first to last he spent over three years, having entered his fourth year some time ago. Driver Skinner will be regretted by his many comrades, and his loss will be keenly felt by the diminished band of young soldiers who, under the strain of a terrible war, were taught the trade of a soldier.'

Ane by ane they gang awa',
The Gaitherer gathers great and sma',
Ane by ane makes ane an a'.

Mr and Mrs Skinner have two other sons who served with the Colours in France. One, a 1/4th Seaforth, is now on a Government farm in Scotland, after nearly four years in the line; the other is in France with the Canadians. There is much public sympathy with the family in their bereavement.' Commemorated on the Nigg War Memorial.

Private WILLIAM SKINNER - 811453 47th Canadian Infantry, Base Depot, France. His Attestation Paper in the Canadian National Archives (Ref: RG150/Accession 1992-93/166/Box 8966-15, Item 232834) indicates that he was born 16 August 1893 at Balintore, gave his father Alexander Skinner of 2 Ross Street, Balintore as next of kin. Enlisted 20 December 1915 at Edmonton. Occupation stated as Labourer. Address given as 11318 94th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Sailed from Halifax via S.S. "Olympic" 22 August 1916, arrived in England 30 August 1916, 26 October 1916 transferred to 138th Battalion, 10 January 1917 transferred to 21st Reserve Battalion, and to 175th Battalion on same day, 19 January 1917 transferred to 50th Battalion, 20 January 1917 in the Field in France, 31 January 1917 admitted No.7 Canadian Stationary Hospital at Harve with sprained ankle, 4 February 1917 transferred to No.4 Convalescent Depot, 6 February 1917 to Base Depot, 2 April 1917 admitted No.11 General Hospital with gunshot wounds to left hand and left leg, 12 April 1917 transferred to No.6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples, 14 April

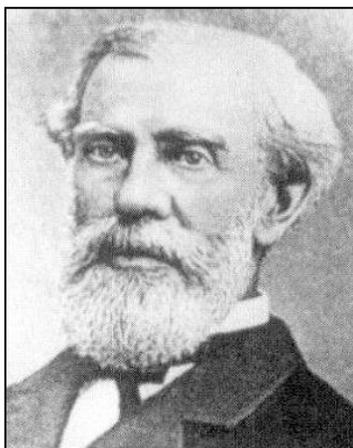
transferred to No.5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux, 22 May 1917 transferred to Base Depot Harve, 2 September 1918 admitted to 26th General Hospital Etaples with gunshot wounds to arms, 27 September 1918 transferred to 2nd West General Hospital Manchester, 10 October 1918 transferred to Military Convalescent Hospital at Epsom, 11 October 1918 transferred to Military Convalescent Hospital at Horton, London, 29 November 1918 transferred to Military Convalescent Manor War Hospital at Epsom, 10 January 1919 transferred to No.16 Canadian General Hospital at Orpington. 2 June 1919 discharged from Army with rank of Lance-Corporal as being unfit with poor eyesight noted as 'this condition existed prior to enlistment'. Last address of Balintore, Fearn.

The Shaw Brothers: Bakers in London

By Graeme Mackenzie

Sometime around the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, three brothers from the Inverness area set up as bakers in the west of London, where all three raised large families that prospered in various fields of endeavour in England and abroad.

The eldest brother was Angus Shaw, who was born in about 1771 and who, by the time of his death in 1821, owned and leased a number of properties in London. His eldest son by his first wife Ann Brodie – whose family came from the Nairn area - was John Farquhar Shaw (1806-1892) who became a successful printer and publisher in the St. Paul's area of London. John Farquhar Shaw's indenture as an apprentice printer is shown below.



Angus's first son by his second wife, Sarah Manley, was Dr James Barron Shaw (1813-1902), who is said to have spent some time studying medicine in Inverness. He became a surgeon in the British Army in India, and served in China during the Opium Wars, before becoming a sheep farmer in California, where the last of his descendants died in 1980. Dr Shaw is pictured to the left.

The second of the brothers who came to London was John Shaw, who was born in about 1774 and who died in 1819, having had ten children by his wife Susannah Jones. The youngest of his children, Duncan Shaw (1819-1895) became a Civil Engineer and settled in Andalucia in Spain, where he had gone in 1845 to make technical studies for a

railway line between Cordoba and Belmel/Espiel. In 1847 he discovered that the old silver mines of Guadalcanal, Seville, could be drained and further exploited using recent technology, and in addition to founding the gasworks in Cordoba, he is widely credited with introducing condensed milk to Andalucía in response to local shortages of fresh milk. He was an advocate for minority (Protestant) religious rights, established the first Protestant cemetery in the Cordoba area and was made British Vice-Consul for Andalucia. He is pictured below.



Coincidentally – and one suspects it is not just a coincidence – there had been another Duncan Shaw in Andalucia with Inverness connections, as revealed by this death notice which appeared in the *Caledonian Mercury* on the 2nd March 1816:

In the prime of life, at Brompton, near London, on the 13th of January last, DUNCAN SHAW, Esq. merchant in Cadiz, son of the late Angus Shaw, Esq. merchant, Inverness.

Angus and John Shaw's brother in London was also called Duncan. He was born about 1788 and died in 1846 having been married twice, though he only had children by his second wife, Ann Harvey. His eldest son, Duncan Harvey Shaw (1819-1839) became an artillery officer in the army of the East India Company, and his third son, John Jones Shaw (1821-1879) took over his Uncle John's bakery. The second son, Thomas Angus Shaw (1819-1905) also worked for a while in the family business, before becoming a clerk and a poet.

Though the brothers' connection with Inverness was well known in the family, their exact descent from the Shaws of Tordarroch – who they claimed as their ancestors – was lost by the time that John Farquhar Shaw took an interest in the 1840s. He wrote to the well-known clan historian, Simon Fraser Mackintosh, in an attempt to discover more, but Mackintosh died before he was able to do anything for him (and there is nothing in the Shaw genealogies that form part of S. F. Mackintosh's "Farr MS" that appears to connect with the brothers in London). One of Angus Shaw's grand-daughters, Emily Shaw (1844-1928) travelled to Inverness and Tordarroch to pursue the matter, and her great-niece Margaret Langford Jones (1911-2003) later wrote down what was known as a result of their researches.

The father of the three brothers in London was a Farquhar Shaw who was said to have been born in about 1740 in "the village of Troy situated in Ross-shire". This is presumably a mistranscription for Croy in the parish of Croy & Dalcross; the Gaelic for Dalcross being *Dal aig ceann Rois* and Ross-shire in Gaelic being *Siorrachd Rois*. Farquhar was married twice. His first wife was a Jenny Mackintosh, the mother of Angus and John. She was one of the two youngest of five sisters (the other was married to a Fraser) whose family is said to have lived at Dalvourn on the estate of Farr in Strathnairn. After Jenny died, Farquhar Shaw married his housekeeper – apparently much to the annoyance of Jenny's sister Mrs Fraser – who was the mother of Duncan and a number of daughters.

There is no record in the OPRs of the marriage of a Farquhar Shaw to a Jenny Mackintosh, or of the births or baptisms of their sons Angus and Duncan; nor is there any record of the birth or baptism in the 1780s of a Duncan to a Farquhar Shaw and anybody else. The Croy OPR starts as early as 1708 – though the register for Dalcross only commences in 1747 – but there is no record in it of the birth or baptism of a Farquhar Shaw in that parish in the 1730s, '40s, or '50s. The family tradition says he was born in about 1740 to a John Shaw, who was also born in “Troy” and who’s supposed to have carried off his future wife, Christina Shaw, from her wealthy family in Badenoch, who he later compensated with a bull and twenty head of cattle. There is reference in Emily Shaw’s account to a family bible inscribed “6th March 1763. JS”, which is believed to refer to this John Shaw. He is said to have been the son of an Angus, who was a younger son of an un-named Shaw of Tordarroch.

Though there does not appear to be any record of the brothers or their father in the OPRs, it has been possible to trace the family of the other Duncan Shaw in Spain. He was baptised in Inverness on the 12th of August 1770 as the son of Angus Shaw, merchant of Inverness, and his wife Janet Forbes – the baptism being witnessed by William Mackintosh, the late Provost, and Duncan Forbes, merchant (who is assumed to have been Janet’s father). Duncan was the eldest of the recorded children of Angus Shaw and Janet Forbes, the others being George (baptised 1771), Sophea (1778), Donald (1780) and Sibella (1782). One would expect there to have been other children born to this couple in the years between the baptisms of George and Sophea, and the existence of two other sons (John and James) is revealed in the proceedings following the sequestration of Angus Shaw in 1787 – these two sons, along with Duncan, were accused of removing goods from Angus’s shop after all his merchandise had been impounded. The sequestration papers (held in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh) reveal that Angus had also traded in London, and that his financial troubles were in part brought on by his having to assume responsibility for the debts of his deceased brother, Donald Shaw.

It is clear from the marriage he made that Angus Shaw belonged to a well-connected family, and it’s unlikely that any of the three Donald Shaws whose burials are recorded in the Inverness OPR in the years preceding 1787 were likely to have been his heavily indebted brother (they were a tailor, a weaver, and a labourer). A search of the Indexes to the Services of Heirs for this period reveals however a much more likely Donald Shaw: A “Messenger in Inverness” – whose heir was his nephew, one Farquhar Shaw in Coignascallan of Strathearn.

A “Messenger” (properly, “A Messenger at Arms”) was an official of the Court of Session responsible for serving documents and enforcing court orders, and the testament of this Donald Shaw shows that at his death he was owed multiple sums of money resulting from his work. Though he died in 1780, the testament was not registered until 1790; probably because his brother Angus had previously been his executor. Angus however had died in 1789 (his burial on the 24th of July is recorded in the Inverness OPR) so Donald’s executors then became his brother Farquhar Shaw in Upper Lairgs, Strathnairn, and his sister Ann, spouse to Donald Maclean in Cognascallan.

It’s possible that Donald’s nephew and heir was the Farquhar Shaw born in 1776 to John Shaw and Ann MacBean in Inverarnie in the parish of Daviot (they also had daughters Marjory in 1775 and Ann in 1779). Inverarnie was near Dalvourn, the township in Strathnairn from which Ann Shaw was married in 1776 to Donald Maclean.

A Farquhar Shaw in Dalvourn is also mentioned by James Fraser in a paper given to the Gaelic Society of Inverness in 1883 (“Strathnairn in the Olden Times”) as a bard who composed silly songs (according to his more religious fellow bard, William Mackenzie). Unfortunately no date is

given for this Farquhar Shaw, but since Ann Shaw was married from Dalvourn he must have belonged to the same family. He may indeed have been Ann's brother, who in 1790 was living in Upper Lairgs, which is assumed to be the later Wester Lairgs – a township in the hills above Inverarnie and Dalvourn.

It is hoped that further research in the Mackintosh Muniments and various registers of deeds (national, county and burgh) may shed further light on this family, and perhaps identify the John Shaw who is said to have been Farquhar's father. If in the meantime HFHS members have any information about these Shaws, they are asked to contact graeme@highlandroots.net.

Thanks to Arun Konanur, a great-great-great-grandson of John Shaw (c.1774-1819), for permission to use pictures and quotes from "Our Shaw Family" (privately published 2017).

WW2 Deaths in Nairn

By Stuart Farrell

During World War 2 two employees of Nairn Town Council, John Chisholm and Walter Smith were killed on the 20th September 1941 when a German conical float exploded in the Council Stables. John Chisholm, husband of Sarah Ann Chisholm, is listed on the Nairn War Memorial under ARP Civil Defence and was buried in Cawdor Churchyard. Walter Smith was buried in Nairn Cemetery. The following newspaper articles tell of the tragedy and the aftermath:

Reported in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 23rd September 1941 of the following: "Harmless" Mine Explodes Kills Two Burgh Workmen – Stables Tragedy Casts Gloom Over Town – Six-Year Old Boy has Providential Escape – Gloom settled over the town of Nairn at the weekend following the accidental death of two burgh workmen well-known and widely respected. An explosion which killed them was caused by a German mine, believed to have been rendered harmless, which they got for disposal following its exhibition in a High Street shop window during Nairnshire War Weapons Week.

The victims were Mr Walter Smith, 21 Merryton Crescent, Nairn, foreman of the Cleansing Department, and Mr John Chisholm, of 21 Wilson Street, Nairn, and the explosion occurred in the Department stables near the river shortly after midday on Saturday.

It is surmised that the men, with a view to separating the brass and iron portions for salvage purposes, had been examining the mine in the harness room which is, or rather was, a portion of the substantial stone stables, separated from the horse stalls by a wooden partition.

The wooden partition was shattered, the glass and frames of all windows were blown out – debris was found more than 100 yards from the scene of the explosion – and the stonework of the gable end of the building next to the harness room was cracked from foundation to roof, the latter also being damaged.

Horses Escape – Two burgh horses were in the stables at the time but they had a miraculous escape, one only being slightly injured.

No one else was in the building at the time of the accident but a six-year-old boy – A Reid, Simpson Street – had been with the men a few minutes before the explosion and had just left the premises. A burgh roadman, Mr Donald MacPherson, was working only a short distance from the building and he and others from Messrs Cummings' Garage ran to render assistance but it was at once evident that the unfortunate men were past any human aid.

People in houses a considerable distance from the stables heard the sound of the explosion and many say they also felt the vibration. A large crowd gathered at the scene and the police, assisted by soldiers who happened to be in the vicinity, took charge.

The mine, it is said, was originally found on the beach at Nairn some time ago, and experts attended here at the time to render it harmless.

Mr Smith was 47 years of age and a native of Inverurie, Aberdeen-shire. After a spell in Canada as a young man he came to this district, first to work as a wood-cutter near Brodie. He later came to Nairn and joined the Burgh Cleansing Department about 24 years ago becoming foreman after about four years. He is survived by his wife, one daughter and three sons, the eldest of whom was wounded in France in 1940 and was taken prisoner by the Germans.

Held in High Esteem – Mr Chisholm was in his 63rd year and is survived by his wife, three daughters and one son, Alick, who is in America. Mr Chisholm was a native of Nairn and as a young man served with Inverness police for a short time but returned to farm service at Merryton, where he remained till 1917. He was then for a time employed with Messrs Wyllie, Ardersier, then at Newton of Cawdor, coming back to Nairn about the year 1928, and eventually being employed by the Burgh Cleansing Department.

Both men were held in high esteem in the district and were of a happy disposition, obliging, courteous and popular. They were active members of the Civil Defence Service, and Mr Smith was in charge of the Burgh Rescue Squad. To their families is extended the deep sympathy of the whole community in the bereavement which, with such tragic suddenness, has befallen them.

Mr Chisholm will be buried at Cawdor to-day, while Mr Smith's funeral, also today at 2pm, will be to Nairn Cemetery.

At the forenoon service in the Congregational Church on Sunday the Rev A Anderson gave expression to the sorrow which filled the hearts of the whole community at the thought of the tragedy which had occurred on Saturday when two of the town's servants had lost their lives. Both of them, he said, were most highly respected by us all. They were men of an unusually kind and obliging nature, most thorough and faithful in the performance of their duties and they will be greatly missed. "We as a congregation" he went on to say, "feel particularly the loss of Mr Smith. He worshipped here at one service or other and often twice on most Sundays. We knew of his quiet friendliness and the reliability of his character. Our sympathy with his widow and family is very deep and sincere. We cannot help remembering his oldest son, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. Our prayer is that God may be gracious to them in their sore bereavement".

Reported in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 30th September 1941 of the following: 'Funerals of Explosion Victims – The funerals of the two burgh workmen who were killed on September 20 by the explosion of a mine at the Town Council stables, took place on Tuesday, and were attended by a large and representative companies of mourners. The late Mr John Chisholm, 21 Wilson Street, was laid to rest at Cawdor Churchyard, where the Rev J Rose, Cawdor, officiated, while in the afternoon the remains of the late Mr Walter Smith, 21 Merryton Crescent, Nairn, were interred in Nairn Cemetery, the Rev Aeneas, Nairn, Congregational Church, officiating.'

Reported in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 18th November 1941 of the following: 'Private Enquiry into Death of Burgh Workmen – Crown Coroner's Request – On instructions from the Crown Counsel, Edinburgh the public enquiry into the death by an explosion on September 20 of two Nairn Burgh workmen was held *in camera* at Nairn on Tuesday.

This it was stated, was desirable under the Emergency Powers Act. The inquiry was in respect of John Chisholm (63), 21 Wilson Street, Nairn and Walter Graham Smith (47), 21 Merryton Crescent, Nairn, employees of Nairn Burgh Cleansing Department.

On Saturday, 20th September last, about 12.30pm; while the deceased were engaged in the harness room of the stables at Nairn dismantling a quantity of brass from a piece of salvage metal, which had been received in the course of collection of burgh refuse, an explosion occurred whereby two men were instantaneously killed.

Represented Admiralty – Sheriff-Substitute P F Hamilton-Grierson presided, and Mr W K McFadyean, Procurator Fiscal, appeared in the public interest.

Mr J R Hamilton, solicitor, Elgin appeared for the Admiralty; Mr D Michael, solicitor, Nairn, for Mrs Chisholm, widow of John Chisholm, and Mr W D Laing, Town Clerk, for the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Nairn.

At the outset the Fiscal said he had been instructed by the Crown Counsel in Edinburgh that it was desirable that the Inquiry should be held *in camera* in terms of the Emergency Powers Act.

The Sherriff agreed, and the Inquiry which ended at 4.30pm; was held in private.

At the time of the accident it was understood that the explosion was caused by a German mine, previously thought to have been rendered harmless, which had been on exhibition in a Nairn High Street shop window during Nairn's War Weapons Week, and had been collected for disposal by the burgh scavengers.

On enquiry at the Sherriff Clerk's office the next day, the *Telegraph* was informed that no instructions had been received to permit even the publication of the finding of the Inquiry.'

Reported in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 9th December 1941 of the following: 'Naval Ratings Failed to Render "Mine" Harmless – Court Finding on Nairn Explosion Tragedy – Workmen Met Death While at Industrial Employment – That no sufficient instructions were given to the Chief Petty Officer as to how to carry out the destruction of an enemy conical float which caused the death of two Nairn burgh workmen on September 20 was part of the finding at the Public Inquiry held at Nairn on November 11. The float had been exploded by Naval ratings acting on instructions, but the explosion did not succeed in rendering the float harmless.

Sherriff-Substitute Hamilton Grierson found that about 12.20pm on Saturday, 20th September, 1941, in the harness room of the stables at Nairn occupied by the Burgh of Nairn Cleansing Department, John Chisholm and Walter Graham Smith, while engaged in their industrial employment as scavengers with the Burgh, were dismantling a quantity of brass from a piece of salvaged metal which had been received in the course of collection of burgh refuse by Walter Graham Smith earlier that day, an explosion occurred whereby both men were instantaneously killed.

The cause of death in each case was shock resulting from severe injuries caused by a powerful explosive. The piece of salvaged metal consisted of parts of an enemy conical float which had been washed ashore on the North-East coast. The float had been exploded by Naval ratings acting on instructions but the explosion did not succeed in rendering the float harmless.

Thereafter the float had been exhibited to the public in Nairn during the War Weapons Week of 23rd to 30th August last. On the 20th of September the float was given to Walter Graham Smith as scrap metal, and was then in a highly dangerous condition if handled or touched. The float was being handled by John Chisholm and Walter Graham Smith when it exploded, thereby causing their deaths.

The Sherriff further found that no sufficient full and elaborate instructions had been given to the Chief Petty Officer as to how to carry out the destruction of the conical float.

It will be remembered that the Inquiry was held *in camera*, and that on enquiry next day the *Telegraph* was informed at the Sherriff Clerk's office that no instructions had been received to permit even the publication of the finding. Feeling that the suppression of the finding of a Court was unusual, the *Telegraph* caused enquiries to be made from which it now appears that there is no objection to publication.'

Reported in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 20th October 1942 of the following: 'Admiralty Pay Cost of Repair to Burgh Stable – Sequel to Mine Explosion 13 Months ago – News that the Admiralty had forwarded £174 in payment of the cost of repairing the Burgh Stable, which was damaged a year last September when a German conical float exploded in the premises was given at Nairn Town Council meeting last week.

It was stated that this payment was probably the outcome of an interview which Council representatives had with the Hon James Stuart, M.P; when he visited Nairn recently. The council

expressed the hope that the claims on behalf of the widows of the two burgh workmen, who lost their lives as a result of the explosion, would also be settled soon.

It will be recalled that at an public inquiry into the reason for the explosion the Sherriff stated that no sufficient instructions had been given to the Chief Petty Officer as how to carry out the destruction of the conical float. The float had been exploded by Naval ratings acting on instructions, but the explosion, did not succeed in rendering it harmless.'

Durness and the Poor in 1843

By Stuart Farrell

As part of the Commission of the Poor conducted in 1843 a statement was taken which provides a unique insight into the state of the poor in the Parish of Durness. Statement was provided by the former Minister of the Established Church before he resigned in favour of the newly formed Free Church.

The Parish of Durness in 1841 had a population of 1109, of which in 1842 57 were Paupers to which £12.14.9 was disbursed. The Rev William Findlater (1784-1869) made the following statement on the 25 August 1843:

I was minister of Durness for the last thirty-one years. I was missionary in the same parish for five years previous. I have now resigned my charge. There is no assessment for the poor in the parish of Durness. The funds for the poor are managed exclusively by the kirk-session. The Duke of Sutherland is sole proprietor of the parish, and non-resident. He makes an annual allowance of £5 to the poor funds. Occasionally in seasons of distress his factor is authorised to give in addition supplies of meal to the poor of the parish, with the advice and concurrence of the kirk-session. But these supplies are not confined to paupers on the roll, but given to indigent families generally, sometimes even to smaller tenants who pay rent. I may state that about two years ago, there was an extra allowance given in money, of from £12 to £14. This money was chiefly but not exclusively distributed among the paupers on the roll. I may state further, that about two years ago the arrears of all the smaller tenants were struck off. I believe one-half of the tenants (exclusive of the tacksmen, who are not here called tenants) might be in arrears at that time. The sums in which they were indebted varied from £5 to £16., or perhaps in some cases a higher sum. Our usual allowance for the paupers is from 5s. to 6s. a year. In some cases of peculiar distress we give 10s., or even 20s. a year, but such cases are of very rare occurrence. We have, as far as I remember, only one case of a bed-ridden person on the roll at present. That is the case of a woman who has been confined to bed for the last eight or ten years. She is from forty to fifty years of age. She lives with her sister and an aged mother, who is also a pauper. She is attended to by her sister, and she has an illegitimate son, from twelve to fourteen years of age, who goes about and begs for her. She is principally supported by the charity collected by this boy, and by contributions from time to time sent to her by shepherds and other poor in the neighbourhood. The allowance from the kirk-session is about 10s. a year. We have only one case of a widow with young children on the roll at the present time. She is a woman of about thirty-three or thirty-four years of age, and she has five children between the ages of twelve and three years. She retains the lot of land previously possessed by her husband, which may be about two acres arable, with pasture upon the common. She has two cows, with perhaps one or two sheep, but I cannot be certain as to the sheep. She pays £1.10s. of yearly rent. She is supported principally from the produce of her land. I am not aware that she receives charity from her neighbours. The eldest boy is employed as a herd, and sometimes in doing light jobs, and thus contributes to his own maintenance. Her allowance is 4s. a year. We have a case of a woman deserted by her husband upon the roll. Her husband left her about twelve months ago, and has not since been heard of.

She has three children, all under eight years of age. She is located upon a small lot of land, which she occupies in conjunction with a brother-in-law. She keeps a cow for herself, and two or three sheep. She contrives to raise a few potatoes, and some forage for her cow, on the land which she occupies. She sits rent free, unless that she may do some work occasionally for her brother-in-law. I am not aware that she begs about. I believe she may be assisted to some extent by other charitable neighbour. She lives upon this charity and what she makes by her cow and sheep. The allowance is 3s. a year. We have a case of two orphans belonging to the same family on the roll. Their ages are eight and three years respectively. They lives with an aunt, who is a tenant's wife, and by whom they are mostly supported. They may occasionally get some clothes from other relations. Their allowance between them is 6s. a year. We have three cases of fatuous persons on the roll. The one is that of a young lad about twenty years of age, an orphan. He is under the charge of a woman about fifty years of age, who received £8 a year for taking care of him. The sum is paid by the Duke of Sutherland. She has a further allowance of meal and potatoes from the wealthier tenants in the neighbourhood for the maintenance of the lunatic, to the value perhaps of £2 a year on an average. He is supported in this way. His allowance formerly was 7s. a year, but this allowance was discontinued about three years ago, when the Duke of Sutherland agreed to make the annual payment which I have already stated. This lunatic is likewise dumb. The worst case is that of a young lad about fifteen years of age. He too is both lunatic and dumb. He is supported chiefly by his father, with whom he lives, and who is a small tenant. The father's family are grown up. The lunatic is his youngest child. His allowance is 5s. or 6s. a year. He does not beg. The third case is that of an old man of about seventy years of age. He was formerly in the army. He lives in a small hut by himself. He is sometimes visited by a nephew, but is not fond of allowing any person to come into his house. He is supported by begging. His allowance is 7s. or 8s. a year, which is not given in money, but expended generally in the purchase of a blanket or some article of clothing. Except the cases already mentioned, we have no deaf or dumb persons on the roll. There are five blind persons on the roll, who are all women. Four of them live with relatives, by whom they are supported. They do not beg; but occasionally the relatives who take charge of them get a little meal from their wealthier neighbours. Each of these four has an allowance of from 7s. to 8s. a year. The fifth blind woman lives in a bothy by herself. She is supported by begging, being led from house to house through the parish. She contrives to keep her bothy clean and neat. When not going about she can earn something by spinning hemp, or knitting. Her allowance is also 7s. or 8s. a year. We do not provide medical relief for the poor when sick from the poor's funds. The Duke of Sutherland, however, allows an annual salary for a medical gentleman in the district, on the understanding that he shall prescribe for the poor gratis. They are attended by this gentleman when he is called in by them. In cases where the parties are very destitute, the medical practitioner also supplies them medicines gratis. But I may state that the paupers are very seldom in the way of applying for medical relief. They require for the most part, meat more than medicine. We do not provide extra diet for the sick poor from the poor funds. In extreme cases, however, we usually make an additional allowance of from two to three shillings. When the poor require extra diet or wine, in consequence of sickness, they are generally supplied with it, either from the manse, or any respectable sheep-farmer in their neighbourhood. They are occasionally supplied in this way also with simple medicines, when they require such things. I do not keep a medicine chest, but I keep a small supply of the more common medicines. I do not prescribe for the poor, not having received a medical education. We do not pay for midwifery cases from the poor funds. We have no regularly educated midwives in the parish. In cases of extremity the surgeon of the district is called in. We pay for coffins to deceased paupers. Our allowance for a coffin is generally 8s., and when wood is dear, perhaps 10s. We seldom pay for the digging of graves of paupers. The relations generally dig the grave with the assistance of the grave-digger, which, in such cases, is commonly given gratis. I believe the children in my parish are all vaccinated. We had about three years ago some cases of smallpox, and one of them proved fatal. We have no daily beggars among our own paupers; but of late years, since the roads have been opened up, we have a great many of this description of beggars from the south. They

are still on the increase. Our own paupers generally go round among their neighbours once or twice a year, and get a supply of meal, potatoes, etc. But this practice is not confined to the paupers on the roll. Many persons who are not on the roll have cottages with small patches of potatoe ground attached to them. They put down their cottages on the common without the dykes of the township. They pay no rent, and derive a great part of their living from the charity of the township, in the neighbourhood of which they reside. These cottagers consist for the most part of unmarried women, widows and day labourers, employed in ditching or draining. This class is felt to be a great burden on the small tenants. We have a considerable portion of day labourers, who lives on the commons, as I have already stated. They are employed in ditching, dyking, and occasionally in driving sheep or black cattle to the south. They are seldom employed during winter, and in this season particularly, are burdensome to their neighbours. Some of them, however, engage in fishing, and earn what is sufficient for their own maintenance. The majority of the small tenants also engage in fishing, and repair annually to Caithness during the herring season. Their food consists, for the most part, of fish, potatoes, barley bread and milk, and a few who have sheep have occasionally animal food. The class of the labouring population who are best fed and best clad is the class of shepherds. From the sources of employment which have been opened up by the recent improvements in road making, handicrafts, &c., some of the people who are fully employed may be more comfortable than when they occupied small farms in the interior. But I am inclined to think that in a majority of cases the comforts of the labouring classes have been diminished by their removal to the coast. This is chiefly owing, I think, to the small extents of the allotments made to them, and partly also to the inferiority of the land, which is, in many cases, pure moss. I may also add, as indication the effects of the change which has taken place, that while the population of the parish continues much the same as formerly, the number of paupers on the roll is just about doubled. While the population were settled in the interior, though they were no doubt more liable to be affected by unfavourable seasons than they now are, yet from the numbers of sheep and cattle which they kept, they could generally, by the disposal of part of their stock, purchase the meal requisite for their families. And though they have the additional resource of fishing, yet from the nature of the coast, and the boisterous character of the western ocean, this occupation, particularly during the winter season is very precarious. There is little difference between the diet of the working classes and that of the paupers. The former have meal and milk in greater abundance, and their supply of provisions generally is of course more regular, and perhaps of a rather superior description in point of quality. The people are generally sober and temperate in their habits. The exceptions to this rule are very few. They are active and industrious while engaged in the herring fishing, and if they had such encouragement as would enable them to taste the sweets of profit, I know no reason why they might not be equally active at other times. I cannot say that the land is at present in the highest state of cultivation, or that additional labour might not be profitably expended on it; and I have often thought that if the proprietors were to allow small premiums for the best cultivated lots in each district, a powerful stimulus to improvement might be given in this way. The people are prevented from prosecuting the white fishing to any great extent by their absolute poverty. They can afford to purchase neither the requisite boats nor drift of lines. I have understood that a white fishing has commenced at Port Reay, but I have not learned to what extent it is likely to be attended with success. I question also whether the professions of fishermen and farmers are not in some degree incompatible. I think each would require undivided attention. When both professions are prosecuted, the one destroys the other. A part of the best season for the prosecution of the cod fishing is that during which the tenants are necessarily occupied with the laying down of their crops. No capital has been expended for the encouragement of the white fishing in my parish; and I cannot say, therefore, how far the complaint may be well founded which has been sometimes made, viz., that the return for capital so expended on this coast is extremely low in consequence of the want of industry and enterprise among our fishermen. The state of education in my parish is very imperfect. We have a parochial school and an assembly school; and these would be sufficient, except for the shepherds' families, which are so sparsely planted, that it would be impracticable to bring schools within their

reach. The Assembly school, however, is but of recent introduction; and the parish school, for the last twenty years, has been inefficiently taught. It still continues in the same state of inefficiency. The pauper's, in general, show some anxiety to have their children educated. The children, however, are not kept regularly at school. In the Assembly's school during the present year there has been some improvement in this respect. Most of the young people are taught to read and write a little, but very few have made much progress in arithmetic, or any of the higher branches of education. I think that in respect of education, a great stimulus is wanting to parents of the labouring classes, from the circumstances that we have, properly speaking no middle class of society. If there were children belonging to parents of this class receiving a good school education, I am of opinion that it would call forth greater exertions on the part of the small tenants and cottars for the instruction of their families. I have observed the effects of an improved education in fostering habits of industry and enterprise, in preventing parties from making low marriages, and generally in stirring them up to make greater and better sustained exertions for securing themselves a decent independence. I have to add, however, that persons so educated, can easily leave this part of the country and push their fortune either in southern parts of the kingdom, or abroad. There is no smuggling in my parish. It never prevailed with us to any great extent. A good many persons have emigrated from my parish during the period of my incumbency; and a disposition in favour of emigration still prevails among a certain class. It is not, however, the poorest part of the population in whom this disposition is manifested. It is more common among the better class of the small tenantry. The effects of the last secession from the established church, in my parish, will be very considerable in diminishing the amount of church door collections. The great body of the people have, at least, for the present adhered to the free church. I have not been able to make up my mind as to whether it would be expedient to introduce an assessment for the aged and infirm poor. I fear the tendency of such a system of providing for the poor would be to break up, to some extent at least, the ties of affection that now bind children to their parents. At the same time, I am not satisfied with the provision now made to the poor; but I would have it enlarged by more frequent and liberal contributions from the heritors. I think that voluntary contributions by the heritors, made when requisite, would tend less than an assessment, either to weaken the ties of natural affection, or to injure the spirit of independence among our labouring classes. With regard to an assessment for the able-bodied, when out of employment, I should much prefer the opening up of new sources of industry for them, to the introduction of an assessment for their support. I think much also might be done for this class were greater encouragement and facilities given to education. I have never had an application from a kirk-session in the south of Scotland for the repayment of money advanced by them to any of our paupers. I do not recollect a case in which application has been made to our kirk-session for relief, by parties who had not previously obtained a legal settlement in the parish. I have not considered the questions as to what might be the best constitution of a board of administration, in the event of an assessment being imposed. I should think on first thoughts, that the elders of the establishment and free church, from their character and position in society, with the assistance of the heritors or their factors, are as likely as any others to administer such funds in a satisfactory manner, and at much less expense. I have no further suggestion to make on the subject of the poor laws.

The following addition to his evidence was subsequently forwarded by Mr Findlater: In addition to the evidence I gave at Tongue, if you deem it of any importance, I have to state, which did not occur to me at the time, that there is a woman past eighty, bed-ridden, who is twice a day looked after for the last two years by an aged poor woman, also on the poor's list, and who receives the charity of neighbours for said old woman. There is also an idiot young woman of about eighteen years of age, who is dumb and unable to walk, being kept through the day in a kind of close chair. She is on the poor roll also, and her parents are in very indigent circumstances. There are also a few old men, and several indigent women, who are confined to their houses or bed-ridden, during the winter and spring. The weekly collections will not be very materially decreased by the late secession, as those who contribute more frequently, and who occasionally put in silver, have not

adhered to the free church. About ten years ago, all on the poor roll were furnished with flannel, blanket or coverlet, given by the late Duchess-Countess. In the years 1837 and 1842, supplies of meal were also given to the poor on the roll, and a few poor tenants not on the roll.

The Rev. Findlater's statement includes comments on clearances made in the Parish by the Estate, the lack of fishing opportunities and problems of education (the latter a dominant part of the Free Church which formed its own schools in many parishes in the Highlands).

Kirk Session Records for 1843 do not survive, but those that do indicate that on the 30 October 1845 the Session held a Bond to the value of £60 in the British Linen Company's office in Tain the interest of which was put in the Poor Fund and had been given by Lord Reay.

Poor Law Records for Durness, the Register of Poor from 1845 is not extant but the Minute Book does note that a list of paupers was made on the 31 October 1845 but unfortunately no names are given. It did however note that the Rental value of the Parish stood at £2165.4/- with £108.5/- for the poor. A further meeting on 11 Feb 1846 noted the deaths of the following Paupers:

Sibla McBeath, Durine

John Morrison, Laid

Margaret Morrison, Rhuvoalt.

My Brick Wall...

By Kathy Elam

When I started my research into the Forbeses in the late 1980s, I knew that my great grandfather was born and lived in Strath, one of the communities that made up the Parish of Gairloch in Wester Ross. I found that he Robert Forbes, his brothers and his father, uncles and grandfather were all meal millers. The late Donald Macintyre at the Gairloch Heritage Museum had discovered that the Laird's Mill at Strath [Gairloch] had "been recently built in 1639" and remained there and working until the 1920s and a few of the foundation stones could still be seen in the 1990s. Going back from "my" Robert, I found that the "first" Robert Forbes was born in the parish of Kilmorack, Inverness-shire c 1780 – a bad decade for records!

I also found, in the Forfeited Estate Papers in Edinburgh, that the Factor after Culloden, in the Strathglass area (parish of Kilmorack), was a Captain John Forbes from Newe in Aberdeenshire and he leased himself a mill. What I did not find was that he passed it on to his son/nephew etc so I could establish how "my" Forbes ancestors became millers (if they were not already millers). Nor could I find if their move to Inverness-shire was anything to do with the aftermath of Culloden which seems a likely scenario. It is a relatively uncommon occupation and there do not seem to be many Forbes called Robert.

Robert Forbes in Kilmorack, as well as having daughters, had three sons, George, Alexander and James who all apparently re-located to Wester Ross and worked as millers in Laide, Second Coast and Gairloch. In the 1841 Census, Robert and George were working as millers in the parishes of Ullapool and Lochbroom but by 1851, Alexander was at Second Coast, George was at Boor where he remained till after 1861 but by 1871 was at Strath. By 1881 George's son John was shown as the miller at Strath, George having died in 1873.

At the National Archives at Kew I researched the Treasury Solicitor Papers (TS series) and found in TS 20/102/2 the names of 67 prisoners tried in Southwark, all on a general charge of High

Treason and gives dates and outcomes of their trials, 52 of them being found guilty and sentenced to death.

One of those acquitted was Robert Forbes, who explains in TS 20/118 that he was a tenant of the Duke of Gordon and had to give personal attendance with his servants whenever called upon to do so. (This was normal for tenants.) Gordon of Glenbucket, who managed the Duke's affairs, commanded all tenants to come to Huntley in Aberdeenshire to support Prince Charles Edward Stuart. Forbes said he had a wife and children and offered money instead but he was threatened with death or the burning of his home if he refused to go.

He was then forced to go with the rebels and had a commission imposed on him. He ended up in Carlisle where he was later seized by the Government soldiers and taken to Southwark for his trial. He said that his character witnesses were a long way from Southwark as they were in Aberdeenshire or on the high seas with the Fleet on their way to Cape Breton Isle.

Also in TS 20/102, a witness, Samuel Maddock, gave evidence for the prosecution against a number of prisoners. For example, [I have left original spellings] he "saw Robert Forbes in the Garrison at Carlisle, that he was a Captain but did not know of what regiment, that during the siege he saw him frequently mount guard at the head of partys of Scotch men ... he was armed with a side Pistol and a broadsword, wore a Blue Bonnett and white Cockade and sometimes a Plad." He also said he did not know him before but would know him when he saw him again.

In the same file we are told that this witness, aged under 18, about two years earlier had been placed as apprentice to William Pennington, Apothecary, of Manchester where he remained till the day the rebels arrived on their route into the South and gave evidence that he was importuned by James Bradshaw of Manchester to go with him and others into the Bulls' Head to drink and he was made insensible from the drink and forced to go with them to Carlisle. Maddock subsequently became a key Prosecution Witness against more than 20 of the rebels, many of whom were condemned by being armed and for wearing of blue coats or bonnets and white cockades.

In TS 20/49/6, a "List of the Rebel Prisoners who appear to be really Gentlemen" gives short descriptions of the individuals. For example, we are told that Robert Forbes is a younger son of Forbes of Heugh in the county of Aberdeen who has an estate of about £250 a year. He bears a very good character and has no estate of any kind. At his trial his evidence appears to have been accepted as he was acquitted of High Treason.

So, in 1746, Robert Forbes, from Aberdeenshire presumably returned to Scotland and kept a low profile. My problem is: Can I connect him to my Robert Forbes who was born c35 years later in Strathglass? My efforts so far have failed to do this. If anyone can help - kathy.elam18@gmail.com.

DNA REQUEST

Seeking Mr Scott. Scott unknown but your DNA result from Oxford ancestry sometime between 2000 and 2018 is very similar to that of my family. However we have had no response from your contact address (perhaps not updated). Open mind to various scenarios. Would appreciate contact.

Thanks, David Murray
Member 138. dmur18@hotmail.com

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

FREE CHURCH REGISTERS

Title	Weight	Price
Alness - Baptisms 1843-1929 + Marriages 1847-1912	370g	£9.00
Bruan – Births & Baptisms 1847-1906	420g	£9.00
Lybster - Marriages 1844-1852, Births & Baptisms 1876-1900		
Creich – Births & Baptisms 1843-1897 + Marriages 1843-1896	400g	£9.00
Dunnet – Births & Baptisms 1843-1867 & 1872-1897 + Marriages 1845-1847 also Canisbay - Births & Baptisms 1843-1875	300g	£9.00
Fearn - Births 1844-1855 + Baptisms 1844-1890	480g	£9.00
Free Church Miscellanea – Kingussie / Moy / Dores / Stratherrick / Cromdale & Advie	195g	£8.00
Inverness East – Baptisms 1843-1858	275g	£9.00
Inverness Methodist Church – Baptisms 1836-1914	415g	£8.00
Glenurquhart – Births & Baptisms 1866-1892 + Marriages 1866-1891		
Inverness Queen St. – Baptisms & Marriages 1839-1854 & 1860-1871 Inverness Union St. – Baptisms 1863-1910 [both United Presbyterian]	325g	£9.00
Kirkhill – Births & Baptisms 1843-1854	300g	£9.00
Kiltarlity – Births & Baptisms 1843-1854 + Marriages 1844-1854		
Knockbain – Births & Baptisms 1843-1854 & 1880-1920 + Marriages 1843-1850 also Killearnan – Baptisms 1843-1851	325g	£9.00
Lybster – Births & Baptisms 1843-1875	450g	£9.00
Nigg – Baptisms 1843-1922, Marriages 1898-1899, Deaths 1895-1900 Cromarty – Baptisms 1875-1918, Marriages 1843-1847	325g	£9.00
Nigg Associate Presbyterian Church – Births & Baptisms 1765-1867, Marriages c1800-1866	480g	£10.00
Resolis – Baptisms 1843-1868	370g	£9.00
Fortrose – Baptisms 1844-1855 & 1874-1929		
Rogart – Births & Baptisms 1843-1854 & 1873-1896, Marriages 1874-1886 also Lairg – Births & Baptisms 1844-1854 & 1886-1907, Marriages 1844-1854 & 1886- 1907, Deaths 1844-1852	310g	£9.00
Tain – Baptisms 1843-1866	340g	£9.00
Edderton – Baptisms 1847-1865		
Fearn – Marriages 1843-1880		
Thurso – Baptisms 1843-1854	225g	£8.00
Thurso West – Communion Rolls 1841-1859; Marriages 1841-1854		
Tongue – Baptisms 1843-1887	440g	£9.00
Durness – Baptisms 1843-1919, Marriages 1843-1854 & 1863-1886		
Watten – Births & Baptisms 1844-1873 + Marriages 1844-1865	310g	£8.00
Pulteneytown – Births & Baptisms 1845-1854 & 1872-1887		
Wick – Births & Baptisms 1845-1860	365g	£8.00
Wick – Baptisms 1861-1871	305g	£8.00
Berriedale – Baptisms 1876-1923, Marriages 1877-1923, Burials 1921-1949		
Loth – Marriages 1843-1855		

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

County	Burial Ground	Memorials	Weight	Price	
Ross-shire	Alness	659	80g	£3.00	
	Avoch [A4]	452	180g	£4.00	
	Badenscallie [A4]	270	140g	£6.00	
	Clachan Churchyard, Lochbroom [A4]	298	165g	£6.00	
	Contin Churchyard [A4]	410	180g	£8.00	
	Easter Suddie	454	50g	£3.00	
	Fortrose	450	90g	£3.00	
	Killearnan	286	60g	£3.00	
	Kilmuir (Black Isle)	241	60g	£3.00	
	Rosemarkie [A4]	575	220g	£5.00	
	St Clements, Dingwall [A4]	689	240g	£7.00	
	Urquhart Old Churchyard, Black Isle [A4]	937	245g	£5.00	
	Urray Old & West Churchyard [A4]	495	245g	£6.00	
	Inverness-shire	Abernethy Churchyard [A4]	437	260g	£7.00
		Advie Churchyard & War Memorial [A4]	213	165g	£6.00
Alvie Churchyard [A4]		203	155g	£6.00	
Ardersier Cemetery		371	85g	£3.00	
Brachlich Cemetery, Gollanfield		200	60g	£3.00	
Chapel Yard, Inverness [A4]		2,802	550g	£12.00	
Cromdale Churchyard [A4]		368	240g	£6.00	
Croy Churchyard		367	85g	£3.00	
Dalarossie Churchyard [A4]		221	140g	£3.00	
Daviot Churchyard		246	70g	£3.00	
Dores Churchyard [A4]		427	110g	£6.00	
Dunlichity Churchyard		315	85g	£3.00	
Greyfriars Cemetery, Inverness [A4]		132	90g	£3.00	
Invermoriston Churchyard [A4]		195	150g	£6.00	
Old Kilmore Churchyard [A4]		496	190g	£4.00	
Kirkton of Ardersier Cemetery		393	85g	£3.00	
Lochend Burial Ground [A4]		129	105g	£3.00	
Moy Churchyard [A4]		174	105g	£3.00	
Old High, Inverness [A4]		572	220g	£5.00	
Old Churchyard, Petty		476	100g	£4.00	
Nairnshire	Geddes	124	40g	£3.00	
	Nairn Cemetery (Victorian Section)	516	300g	£9.00	

OTHER FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

Title	Weight	Price
Genealogy in the Gaidhealtachd - Clan and Family History in the Highlands of Scotland (New Edition)	390g	£12.50
Highland Clan and Family Histories – A Guide to Published Histories, Genealogies, Family Trees, and some Manuscript Sources	165g	£6.00
Septs, Septnames, and Surnames of the Highland Clans	180g	£8.00



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