

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I have recently been engaged in preparing a talk to my Rotary club about family history, and chose to base it round where I have come from. In doing so, I was reminded that one of the first steps to take in researching family history is to ask an older family member for their memories and any information they may have about the family. My mother was 98 when she died last year, and it is largely through her own interest that I got involved in researching my family history.

Since her death, I have been going through papers in the house, and have found many which I don't recall having seen before; this has merely added to my own extensive pile of family papers! She was good at writing down names, dates, places and so on, especially (most important!) on family photos, and I even have notes that my granny and others had written about aspects of the family.

The bare bones were there, and I, like most of us, have been able to go back through the generations using the resources at Register House, and now available to us through Scotland's People, to build up a fairly comprehensive database. The thrill of the search never stops, and even this weekend I was able to add further names to some of the older branches of the tree.

Yet again, I ask myself what good is all this research and knowledge if it isn't passed on to succeeding generations. My family papers and heirlooms would mean little to anyone outwith the immediate family, and I of course cannot consider disposing of them. How can we interest children of the 21st century in the names and places which formed them? I showed my pedigree chart as part of my Rotary talk, and this included all of my 32 x 3 great grandparents. What was equally impressive to the casual listener was the geographical range from whence they came - Dingwall, Paisley, Glasgow, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Ireland, Skye, Jura, Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire and so on. That is where I come from, and I'm proud of it. Thank you mum for your encouragement.

Angus Bethune

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, all now in stock: Firstly – Septs, Septnames and Surnames of the Highland Clans by Graeme Mackenzie. Secondly – Monumental Inscriptions from Kiltarn Churchyard, Ross-shire with over 800 stones. 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.

Stuart Farrell

Robert Gordon - Who was he?

By Raymond Gordon

On a visit to Scotland in 1997, I decided to try and trace my grandfather, William Gordon. I had his place and date of birth, so a copy of his birth certificate was easily obtained while visiting Edinburgh. It showed his parents as Robert Gordon and Barbara Fraser, married in Kirkhill in 1860. As luck would have it, our next stop was a chalet in Kirkhill!

A visit to the Registrar of BMD in Inverness gave me a copy of the Marriage Certificate. Robert was aged 24, shown as residing in Resolis, bachelor, no occupation given, parents, John Gordon and Mary McLennan, no father's occupation shown. After Barbara Fraser died in 1906, Robert married again in 1908, giving the same parents, but this time gives father's occupation as cattle dealer.

The marriage in Kirkhill is the earliest record of Robert that I am certain of, and I'm not sure if even he knew where he was born, as the various census returns show:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>
1861	Kirkhill	Kingussie
1871	Lochcarron	Laggan
1881	Lochcarron	Badenoch
1891	Lochcarron	Urquhart (Ross)
1901	Lochcarron	Abernethy
1911	Lochcarron	Inverness

There is no definite trace of Robert in either the 1841 or 1851 censuses, none that I found, anyway. The nearest match was in 1851, servant, aged 18, in Urquhart & Logie Wester, place of birth, Badenoch.

A search of the OPR didn't show a birth with the given parents. The nearest match was an entry in 1835, parish of Alvie: Robert, son to Mary McKenzie, formerly servant to James Bell, Pitcheren, was born and baptised 27 December 1835, she fathers him on John Gordon, Drover, Bridge of Feshie. Similarly, a search for a marriage between John Gordon and Mary McLennan didn't give any results; the nearest match was John Gordon and Margaret McLennan in Applecross, a different family.

Searches for a Robert McKenzie, mother Mary, in 1841 and 1851, were also fruitless. Another anomaly, his death entry gives his father as Joseph, shoemaker, same mother, informant daughter, Mary, who was married to a McLennan.

Was Mary McKenzie his mother, not Mary McLennan? Surely he knew his mother's name? Mary McLennan is probably the most consistent information he provided from 1861 to 1908. Robert worked on the Highland Railway and from c.1870 lived in a railway cottage at Attadale, retiring as Foreman Surfaceman. My grandfather gave his father's occupation as "Inspector of the Permanent Way of The Highland Railway".

A second cousin, living in Santa Barbara, told that her mother always said that Robert was the illegitimate son of some local lord! No proof, just a nod and a wink. I have done two different DNA tests, without any solid results, no nobility claiming me as a long-lost heir! Robert Gordon will have to remain a mystery!

The Parish of Kiltearn's 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 Kiltearn. Kiltearn in 1841 had a population of 1436; average number of paupers relieved in 1835-7 was 83⅔ with an average sum distributed of £20.4s. The Rev. Duncan Campbell (1796-1873) of the Parish Church was soon to leave and become the Minister of Kiltearn Free Church. He made the following statement on 23 June 1843:

I am minister of Kiltearn. I have been so fifteen months. I was before in Glenlyon I was there five years. There is an assessment in Kiltearn. The kirk-session administer the funds. The factor of one of the heritors attends the distribution. We have three classes of poor upon our roll. The most indigent individuals are in the first class, and they receive 4s. 6d. the half-year. They are about twelve in number. The second class are poor, but not so infirm as the first class. They receive 3s. the half-year, and are about forty in number. The third class consist of poor persons who are able occasionally to work. They receive 2s. half-yearly, and are about forty in number. Widows able to work with children, are in the third class. I have often been at a loss to know how the poor could possibly subsist on these allowance. They must be very badly off. They are generally allowed to plant a few potatoes, for which they give labour in harvest, and collect manure in part payment. This would only apply to the third class. I really could not say how the two former classes manage to subsist. I suppose their friends help them. I cannot speak from my own knowledge. The people are very charitable. None belonging to the parish beg as far as I know. We have many beggars from other parishes. I could not say whether the poor of my parish beg in other parishes. So far as I know they do not. We have no orphans on the roll. Orphans in the parish are maintained by their relations. We have one idiot in the parish, he gets nothing from the funds. The people subscribe for him. They give him a suit or two of clothes every year. The subscription list is kept at the post office. He lives about in the farm houses, and has no fixed home. We have no deaf and dumb on the roll. There is one blind. She receives the largest rate of allowance. She lives with her sisters. We provide no doctor for the poor. When the poor are sick, medical aid is very seldom applied for by them. We have no doctor nearer than Dingwall, which is six miles off. Dr Wishart visits the sick gratuitously. No case has occurred since I became minister of the parish, of a medical man stating that he thought a pauper on the roll ought to have more nutritious diet. The poor have no generally been vaccinated since I came to the parish. The poor generally live on potatoes, very seldom fish, no milk, and little oatmeal. I do not think the old people have tea. I think the poor on the roll are worse off that the lowest class of able-bodied labourers. The later have generally oatmeal and potatoes, they can very seldom get fish, but they send their children to collect cockles, &c., on the shore. My predecessor was twenty-five years minister of the parish. I have read a passage in the Statistical account of Kiltearn, written by him in 1839, in which he states that "the miserable pittance allowed to the poor on the roll is totally inadequate to the relief of their distress, and that the greatest misery and want prevails in consequence, to an extent that would seem incredible to those who have not actually witnessed them, and that it is no uncommon thing for an unmarried female or lonely widow, who has survived all her friends, to live in a wretched hovel without fire, or bed clothes, or food, in the depths of winter." I have seen a few instances of distress in the parish which correspond with that representation. I think it would be desirable to introduce an assessment for the relief of the aged and infirm. I really think the poor would be better off under such a system. There was no assessment in the parish where I was before. I consider that if something of that kind be not done immediately for them, they must starve. I know of no place in Scotland where the poor are so ill off. The

paupers are not in my parish at all sufficiently maintained by the charity of their neighbours. The people are charitable, but their charity is not sufficient. Were it not for the charity of some of their neighbours, many of the poor must have perished. I am sorry to say the richer part of the inhabitants of the parish are not the most charitable to the poor. There are five heritors, but only one resident. I believe that the principal cause of the poverty of the people is the enlargement of the farms. I believe the rental of the parish is above £5000 but I could not exactly say. The church door collections will be decidedly materially affected by the late secession from the established church. There will not be 2d. left for the poor. There are several able-bodied persons in my parish who get only occasional work. There are not very many day labourers, their wages are 1s. 3d. a day. I do not know how they manage to shift during the time of the year they have no employment. I could not say whether it would be desirable generally to relieve able-bodied persons out of employment by an assessment, some of them might require it. I have not thought much on that subject. The people in my parish are generally temperate. Many of them are not well educated. I am by no means satisfied with the means provided for education. There are many children who grow up without being able to read. There are three schools in the parish. The parish school is so situated that it is impossible for many of the children to attend. The two other schools are in a village close to the parish school. There is no desire or readiness among the people, so far as I know. One family has emigrated to America since I came to the parish. If there were an assessment I should be quite contented with leaving the administration of the funds in the hands of the heritors and kirk-session, according to the present law. This, I say, notwithstanding the secession. I must, however, remark, that it would be impossible in my parish as matters stand at present, to form a kirk-session, all the elders have seceded, and in fact all the parishioners. I have nothing further to suggest on the poor laws.

On the 28 of June 1843, the following 30 Paupers were visited by the Committee. Notes were as follows:

1. **Janet Munro**, about seventy, had been blind twenty years. Received 9s. a year. Paid no rent, her house being a wretched hovel, without a chimney, and dilapidated. The roof was of turf, thatched with broom, but not water-tight. The snow came in upon her last winter. She lived alone, and no one took charge of her. In a previous winter, her clothes had caught fire, and she had been very severely burned, so much so, that it was thought for some weeks that she could not recover. A small subscription, amounting to 20s., was raised to get her some clothes. The neighbours were in the habit of carrying water for her, and making the fire. She had nothing to depend on except casual charity. The daughter of a neighbouring farmer was in the house at the time of visit, and stated that she had come in the morning, and found the old woman's meal-chest literally empty. Janet Munro was very grateful for the least trifle. She had no relations but a brother, who was old and feeble like herself. Her only amusement was feeding chicken. The case was altogether one of extreme wretchedness, and inadequately provided for. [1841 Census has a Janet Cameron 65, living on her own in Camden Street, Evanton]

2. Mrs **Munro**, not on the roll, pointed out as a case of severe distress. She had five children, the eldest fourteen, the youngest four, the eldest a girl, a "delicate lassie," who had tried to work, but it proved too much for her. The two next, who were boys, aged thirteen and eleven, were able to earn something by field labour, 6d. a day, but work not constant. The rent was £2., but she was not able to pay it. Her husband had been dead about six months. Previous to her marriage, she had been in service in respectable families. Her husband was a cabinetmaker, and lived in the parish. Her house was poorly furnished. The roof was of turf, and thatched with broom, and not water-tight. She said, "I

was thrown into this house by my husband's death. The rain comes in in torrents. I used to have a comfortable home. I can now get nothing to do. There is no work to be had, and people find they have nothing to give." The children had been breakfasting on potatoes and milk.

3. & 4. **Janet Mackintosh**, near sixty, and **Christian Mackintosh**, her sister, aged -. They received 7s. a year. Christian had been fifteen years confined to bed. The house they lived in was their brother's, who allowed them to live rent free. They depend almost entirely on him. Their brother's grandson, a little boy of five years old, who was an orphan, lived with them, and for his support they were allowed something by his grandfather. House was small, tolerably furnished. The brother kept a public house. [Janet and Christian McIntosh recorded in 1841 Census as living at Drummond Cottage with a Hugh Munro aged 3. Both listed as Paupers (former Agricultural Labourers) in 1851 Census. Christian Macintosh Pauper died 24 Nov 1858 aged 91 daughter of Andrew Macintosh and Janet Munro].

5. **Janet Munro**, an old blind woman, aged eighty, in receipt of 5s. a year. She had two daughters, one able to work received 4s. a year; the other sickly, received 7s. a year. A nephew, aged sixteen, lived with them. They paid 30s. a year for rent, which was paid by keeping a pig. They had potato ground, on which, in a good season, they raised four bolls. There was but one bed in which they all four slept, because they had not more bedding. Room poorly furnished. Went about begging, collecting at different houses, and got presents of potatoes. [Janet Munro aged 80 recorded in 1841 Census living in Balcony Street, Evanton with daughters Margaret aged 40 and Christina aged 35 and John McRay aged 14]

6. Widow **Elsbeth Urquhart**, above fifty, received 6s. a year. She had been ill upwards of twenty years. Lived with her sister, a widow. Her mother, who was eighty-seven, and blind, was confined, and received 6s. a year. The widow sister had one child. The rent was 22s., which they managed to pay by keeping a pig. They were principally supported by neighbours, for the sister who was able to work could not leave Elspeth and her mother, No doctor at the time attended either of them; but many doctors had seen Elspeth, but could do her no good. The house consisted of one room and a bed-closet, in which the mother was lying.

7. Widow **Ross**, eight-nine. Bed-ridden, not on the roll. Her children kept her. She lived alone, but is looked after by her daughter. One of her sons, a farmer, was well of, and was her principal support. He wished to give her everything of which she was in want. He house was her own. [Possibly Isabella Ross aged 85 in 1841 Census as living alone in Lavera Street, Evanton]

8. Widow **Munro**, aged eighty, in receipt of 4s. a year. Rent, 25s. She kept a pig. Had a daughter thirty-two years of age, who lived with her, and worked out at field labour, or at whatever else she could get to do, who almost entirely maintained her. The mother collects meal. Two chairs, two chests, and a bed.

9. **Rebecca Munro**, about fifty, unmarried; a deformed dwarf and idiot from her birth, in the receipt of 5s. a year. The rent was 20s., but was not paid last year. She lived her sister, who was unmarried, and worked in the field. And sometimes knitted stockings. Her sister had potatoe ground on which she raised about a boll of potatoes, and kept a pig. The neighbours are kind, but do not send them things. The idiot was in the habit of going about the town, getting something by begging on Saturdays. The house was ruinous, and poorly furnished. The snow was said to come in during winter. [Rebecca Munro aged 40 recorded

in 1841 Census at Lavara Street, Evanton living with in house of James Urquhart, Tailor. In 1851 Census at 12 Lavara Street, Evanton as Pauper aged 48]

10. Widow **Anderson**, aged thirty-five, in receipt of 2s. 6d. a year. She had only one child of seven years old, and was able to work. She had pretty constant employment. The house was her own, and subject to a feu-duty of 22 s., but she had a tenant of a part, who helped to pay it. Three chairs, a table, cupboard, and two chests and crockery. [Christina Anderson aged 30 and Hector Anderson aged 5 recorded in 1841 Census at Lavera Street, Kiltarn. In 1851 Census at 8 Lavara Street, Evanton as Agricultural Labourer living with Father and Mother Robert & Christy Bain both Paupers and son Hector Anderson]

11. Widow **MacDonald**, aged seventy five, in the receipt of 5s. a year. Rent 30s., but was not paid. She was afflicted with asthma. A daughter lived with her who was of weak mind. Her son worked when in good health. He was a day labourer. Her daughter went about begging, and sometimes worked about harvest time. They had no potatoes last year, but had a few planted this year. They had a garden and a piece of garden. The house appeared pretty good, and some of the respectable families contributed to their support.

12. Widow **Macleod**, aged seventy-four, received 3s. 6d. a year. She paid a feu-duty of 20s. which her unmarried daughter who lived with her, worked to pay. She let one of her rooms; she said "The room which I let pays the rent, and I live in the garret." She depended entirely on her daughter. She was a decent person.

13. **Helen Ross**, aged thirty-two, in bad health, in receipt of 3s. 6d. a year. She had one daughter seven years old, illegitimate. Her rent was 20s. a year, which was paid by her sister, who was in service, and helped her otherwise. She depended chiefly on her sister. Mrs Sym, the wife of a neighbouring farmer, was kind to her, and she was able to sew a little.

14. Widow **Munro**, past sixty, in receipt of 7s. a year. Her rent was 25s. An unmarried son aged twenty-one, lived with her. He took her out of bed and put her in again. She has not been able to go out for seven years. The son said to be an excellent workman. The house was poor in appearance, and her son slept in the same bed as his mother.

15. Widow **Campbell**, nearly seventy, had been blind for six or seven years, in receipt of 9s. a year. She paid 10s. a year rent. Her blindness she said had been brought on by watching and weeping for her sick son who died. She had two unmarried daughters between thirty and forty, who lived with her and maintained her. They earned 6d. a day. [Mary Campbell aged 65 in 1841 Census at Assynt Street, Evanton with daughter Margaret aged 30 and Catherine aged 25]

16. **Janet Macpherson**, near seventy, unmarried, in receipt of 5s a year. The rent was 10s., paid by her brother, who was an army pensioner. Her room, which was a garret, was very poor, and wretchedly furnished. She went about begging. The furniture consisted of a bed and closet, a broken chair and a stool.

17. **Jessie Munro**, aged twenty-four, in the receipt of 7s. a year. She was lame, and had also a sore arm. She was employed in binding shoes, but had not much to do. She got 1½d. for each pair. She lived with her father and mother. The father was near seventy. And had been a sawyer, but was then mainly supported by the rent of £5 paid to him for his house. He had potatoes planted in a garden, and a few besides elsewhere. She had brothers and sisters, but they did not contribute to her support.

18. **Agnes MacDonald**, past sixty, unmarried, in the receipt of 3s. a year. She was confined to bed. Her half-sister who lived in the same house, whose husband was a weaver, looked after her. The house belonged to her sister's husband. He permitted her to occupy a room rent free. The weaver and his wife were respectable people, and a family of their own to support.

19. Widow **Mackenzie**, near sixty, in the receipt of 4s. a year. The house was her own, with a feu-duty of 22s., which she was enabled to pay by keeping a pig. She had a daughter who lived with her, and earned 6d. a day, but she was going out to service. She had a son in Glasgow who was a tailor. He did not assist her. She had one room and a bed-closet, with a garden attached. She had hitherto planed her own potatoes. House was clean and pretty comfortable.

20. Widow **Munro**, upwards of forty, in receipt of 4s. a year. Her rent was 25s. She had three children, a son eighteen years old, and two daughters, one twenty-three, and the other fourteen. The boy was a farms servant. The eldest daughter was in service, and the youngest lived with her mother. She paid her rent by what she earned at harvest. She kept a pig and planted potatoes.

21. **Janet Munro**, about sixty, in the receipt of 4s. 6d. a year. She lived by herself in a garret. Her rent was 10s., paid by her brother, a mason. She had had erysipelas in her right hand for five years. She planted potatoes, and could knit stockings. She said that well-wishers gave her something, to whose houses she went. They told her to call, Her brother maintained a blind sister-in-law besides, and had a large family. The room was decently furnished.

22. **Donald Munro**, aged seventy-one, and his wife seventy. They were in the receipt of 4s. 6d. a year, and paid 30s. a rent. They had potatoes, planted, as many as would yield three bolls. They had three sons, who paid the rent; by they all had large families: one was a farm servant, one a carter at Beaully, another a tailor. The old people were wholly maintained by their sons; the house was poor, and furniture bad. They kept a pid; they once had a cow, but were obliged to sell it.

23. Widow **Macnab**, aged fifty, in receipt of 4s. a year. She paid 8s. rent. She was not very strong, and could not plant potatoes herself; but she had a daughter, aged seventeen, who lived with her and assisted her. Her potatoes yielded two bolls last year. She could work for a few days at harvest. She got meal and potatoes at her neighbour's houses when she sent to them.

24. Widow **Smith**, aged eighty, in receipt of 5s. 6d. a year. Her house was her own, subject to feu-duty of £2; 28s. of which was paid by a tenant who occupied one of her rooms. She had an idiot brother living with her, for whom she got six bolls of meal a year from the wife of another brother. She planted potatoes, and managed to get tea for breakfast. She had a daughter, who, with her husband, lived with her, and occupied a second room in the house. The daughter's husband was a road-contractor. Mrs Smith had also another daughter, who was in service, and helped her.

25. Widow **Gordon**, aged sixty, in the receipt of 3s. 6d. a year. She lived in a garret, and paid 16s. rent. She had five children, all grown up. Two daughters lived with her; they worked and maintained themselves and their mother. She carried wood, and worked a little, but was no able for much. She planted potatoes. The room was very barely

furnished, a bed, three stools, one chair, and two or three chests. [Possibly Bella Gordon aged 55 in 1841 Census at Camdon Street, Evanton]

26. Widow **Munro**, past eighty, in the receipt of 6s. a year, and lived in a good house of her own, subject to feu-duty of 20s. She occupied the whole herself. It had been built by her husband, who had been gardener to Sir H. Munro for forty-four years, and she now received a pension of £4 a years from the family. The house was furnished in a comparatively superior manner, a clock, barometer, and book-case, with such books as might form a gardener's library. Her husband had saved a little money.

27. Widow **Mackenzie**, aged sixty-five, in receipt of 7s. a year. She paid 23s. a year rent. Her nephew, a clerk to a wood merchant, paid her rent, and helped her otherwise with a peck of meal occasionally. She worked at harvest, and had potatoe ground; was well known in the parish, and many friends helped to support her. Her appearance was respectable, and her room pretty well furnished.

28. Widow **Cameron**, near ninety, in the receipt of 6s. a year. She lived in a garret, for which she paid 16s. a year rent. Another woman lived with her. Her grandchildren helped her, and principally maintained her; three of them were gentlemen's servants. The rent was paid by her and the other woman jointly.

29. Widow **Macintosh**, aged seventy, in the receipt of 5s. a year. She paid 12s. rent, and lived by herself. She had a daughter married, but not able to assist her. She had a son in Edinburgh, a mason, but "very unmindful of me." She planted a few potatoes, and sometimes knitted stockings, for which she got 8d. or 9d. a week. She had hitherto been able to work at harvest, by which means she had paid her rent.

30. Widow **Macleod**, upwards of seventy, in the receipt of 4s. 6d. a year. Her rent was 30s. She had a daughter, who lived with her, and maintained herself and her mother by working. The daughter had an illegitimate child, three months old. Mrs Macleod had a son, who was a farm servant, and unmarried, His mother said, "He is too kind to me, and that is making him poor." She had some potatoes planted. The house was not well kept, and the furniture old and dirty.

Kiltearn Kirk Session List of Poor (CH2/569/3) on 23 August 1843:

1st Class receiving 4/-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Janet Ross Roy Milltown | 6) Elspet Munro or McLauchlan Evanton |
| 2) Christian Bain Evanton | 7) Mary Munro Fowlis |
| 3) Widow Munro Grassick Evanton | 8) Widow Mary Campbell Evanton |
| 4) Catherine Munro Drummond | 9) George McKenzie Clyne |
| 5) Widow Campbell Drummond | 10) Widow Urquhart Evanton |

2nd Class receiving 2/-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Helen Munro Evanton | 21) Widow Alexr McKenzie Evanton |
| 2) Widow Malcolm McLeod Evanton | 22) Widow Colin Fraser Swordale |
| 3) Janet McPherson Evanton | 23) Catherine Chisholm Katwell |
| 4) Elspat Urquhart Evanton | 24) Janet Gregor Culcairn |
| 5) Widow McKenzie Teamour | 25) Ramsay McFarther Evanton |
| 6) Elspat Munro Culcairn | 26) Barbara Munro Evanton |
| 7) Widow Alexander Bain Evanton | 27) Janet Callum Evanton |
| 8) Widow Fraser Kiltearn | 28) Isabella Gordon Evanton |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9) James McMichael Swordale | 29) Widow McAula Evanton |
| 10) Widow George Munro Gardner | 30) Widow McKenzie Lemlair |
| 11) Janet McIntosh Drummond | 31) Widow George Munro Culcairn |
| 12) Widow McKeddie Evanton | 32) Widow William Roy Evanton |
| 13) Barbara Ross Evanton | 33) Helen Sutherland Evanton |
| 14) Donald Cameron Katwell | 34) Ann Innes Mountgerald |
| 15) John Munro Downie Evanton | 35) Widow Smith Evanton |
| 16) Widow Simon Ross Drimore | 36) Barbara McKenzie Fowlis |
| 17) Donald Ross daughter Drimore | 37) Widow Jane McKenzie Evanton |
| 18) Catherine McDonald Clyne | 38) Widow McKenzie Dingwall |
| 19) Widow McKadie Lemlair | 39) Widow Ballach Drummond |
| 20) Christian Taylor Bogriach | |

Donations 1/6

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Christy McIntosh Drummond | 23) Mary McKenzie Clyne |
| 2) Donald Ross Drimore | 24) George McDonald Knockanchirn |
| 3) Jane R Munro Katwell | 25) Ann Davidson Evanton |
| 4) Widow Bain Fleuchlady | 26) Widow McLennan Katwell |
| 5) Widow Margaret McKenzie Evanton | 27) Widow David Kemp Clair |
| 6) Widow Ann Kemp Miltown | 28) Widow Ann McKenzie Evanton |
| 7) Ann Glass Evanton | 29) Widow Alexr Roy Evanton |
| 8) Donald Munro Buie Evanton | 30) Widow Alexr McKaind Swordale |
| 9) Roderick McKenzie Clyne | 31) Widow Rdk McAullia Druimore |
| 10) Ann Cameron Drumore | 32) Widow Robert White Balcony |
| 11) Catherine Munro Evanton | 33) Widow Anderson Evanton |
| 12) Bell Ross Evanton | 34) George Callum's Daughter Evanton |
| 13) Widow McIntosh Evanton | 35) Jane McKenzie Evanton |
| 14) William McKenzie Clyne | 36) Lilius Calder Evanton |
| 15) Isabella Munro Evanton | 37) Widow Ann Ross Evanton |
| 16) Widow Hector Munro Evanton | 38) Christian McKenzie Culcairn |
| 17) Christy Brebbar Drummond | 39) Widow Hugh Munro Miltown |
| 18) Widow Alexr McDonald Mountgerald | 40) Widow Christie McFarther Evanton |
| 19) Margaret Bain Evanton | 41) Christie Munro Michael Evanton |
| 20) Widow Mary Gordon Evanton | 42) Catherine McDond Michael Evanton |
| 21) Widow George McLeod Evanton | 43) Widow George Ross Evanton |
| 22) Catherine Robertson Culcairn | |

In the following year on 15 January 1844 11 1st Class Poor persons received 8/-, 35 2nd Class Poor persons received 3/- and 45 Poor persons on Donations received 3/-. On 15 January 1845 9 1st Class Poor persons received 9/-, 34 2nd Class Poor persons received 4/- and 46 Poor persons on Donations received 4/-.

The Mysteries of History

By Philip Paris

The 500 Italian POWs who landed in Orkney spent two years building a beautiful chapel. This incorporated a rood screen by the blacksmith Giuseppe Palumbo, who used metal rods from a sunken ship's boiler. When the Italians left Camp 60 in 1945 to return to Italy the artist Domenico Chiocchetti stayed behind for many weeks to finish the building, which is now owned by the Catholic Church.

So, there you go ... Almost everything I've said in the first paragraph is either incorrect or misleading, but these were commonly held 'facts' when, in 2005, I began my research into the events surrounding the creation of Orkney's Italian chapel. My quest to tell the story was inspired by my first visit. I was on honeymoon with my wife Catherine and we were both moved to tears by the experience (the chapel visit that is, not the honeymoon). Indeed, before even walking back out of the door I had decided I was going to find out all I could about this extraordinary building.

I spent every spare minute for the next four years immersed in these events of WW2 and during this time I wrote the historical fiction, *The Italian Chapel*. The manuscript was picked up by one of the big Scottish book publishers, so this became my debut novel, setting me on the road to writing books.

One of the initial problems I faced, although I didn't realise in the beginning, was that the plethora of related magazine and newspapers articles usually repeated the same fairly basic information and often this was wrong. As the years went by these details were subsequently copied into items published on websites and on the Internet generally.

Approximately 1,200 Italians were transported from a POW camp in Egypt to Orkney where they were split between two camps, with around 550 ending up in Camp 60 on the previously uninhabited island of Lamb Holm, site of the famous chapel. They arrived at the beginning of 1942 and didn't start work on the chapel until the end of 1943, so took about eight months to complete the building, which has never been owned by the Catholic Church.

The journey to the incorrect spelling of the blacksmith's name is much more defined. In a feature about the chapel published in 1959 in the *Orkney Herald* this is correctly given as Palumbi. In an article in the same newspaper a few weeks later this is written as Palumbo and almost every writer afterwards used the second version. According to his son, Renato, the rods used for the rood screen were donated by the construction company Balfour Beatty.

Most accounts gave the leaving date of the men in Camp 60 as the spring of 1945 (this is the date when the Italians in the other Orkney POW camp did leave, although none of them returned to Italy until 1946). However, there were a couple of references by ex POWs that disagreed.

An interview with 101-year-old Alison Sutherland Graeme, whose father owned Lamb Holm during the war, allowed her diary for that period to be examined. The leaving date given was 9th September 1944. Was this sufficient proof to dispute the weight of so many other accounts? From the granddaughter of Major Buckland, who was in charge of Camp 60, I was able to obtain copies of the officer's army service records and these confirmed the date in the diary. Chiocchetti stayed behind for ten days, while camp equipment was dismantled by the army, to complete the holy water stoup.

The above are just a few examples of the many 'facts' that turned out to be not quite right. But there is another aspect that writers of historical fiction have to consider – what happens when they discover something potentially 'explosive' about the subject being researched? In my case it was unearthing the closely guarded family secret that the blacksmith had fallen in love with a local woman and that he left behind a permanent token of his love in the chapel.

Giuseppe Palumbi was dead by the time I began my quest, but he had often spoken to Renato about his time as a POW. My correspondence with Renato went on for many months via his son Pino, who was translating the Italian answers for me. It transpired that even Pino did not know of this love story. Of course, this was gold dust to an aspiring novelist, yet I was acutely aware that this woman could still be alive. What could, or should, I do? In the end I changed her name and clearly stated this in the novel.

The publication of *The Italian Chapel* in 2009 resulted in a huge surge of interest throughout Scotland, particularly from the media. Everyone wanted to know the woman's identity. In truth, I only ever knew her first name, which I stubbornly refused to disclose. It wasn't until 2014, when the Palumbi family made its first visit to Orkney, that the real name of Barbara was revealed (Giuseppe's granddaughter is named after the woman in Orkney, which is another tale in itself).

Yet there is even more to this decision concerning what to include when writing about historical events. During our regular holidays in Orkney Catherine and I sometimes sit in the chapel and listen to the guides who come with the tour groups visiting the islands. So often I hear them relate how it was the artist Chiocchetti, or even the stonemason Buttapasta, who fell in love with the local woman. Oh dear. I cringe on these occasions and want to shout out:

'No, no ... it's not these men. It's the blacksmith ... the BLACKSMITH!'

I can't help thinking back to my decision to include this 'gold dust' revelation. The information that I fretted about, double checked and rechecked has been ... mislaid. One day a tour group came in without a guide. Instead, the very cheery bus driver accompanied the mainly elderly tourists and as they stood around the rood screen, apparently hanging on to his every word, he recounted with great authority that Giuseppe had left this woman pregnant! There was a great deal of tut-tutting, muttering and shaking of heads. I was horrified. I couldn't ignore my part in these attacks on the reputations of men long dead.

Shortly afterwards I managed to speak to the driver on his own and, politely, question where he had obtained such startling information. He quite happily admitted that he had made this up because ... he explained with a smile ... 'it makes for a much better story.'

Following the successful publication of The Italian Chapel Philip Paris wrote a non-fiction book - Orkney's Italian Chapel: The True Story of an Icon - which is recognised as the main body of research into the building's history. This title is also available in Italian as La Chiesetta Della Pace. Further information can be found at www.philipparis.co.uk.

Death of A Soldier's Wife

By Stuart Farrell

The above title was the headline in *The Highland Leader and Northern Weekly* newspaper of the 17 March 1917, the article of which was as follows:

'Charge of Culpable Homicide at Portree. On Thursday, 22nd inst., in the Portree Sheriff Court, before Sheriff Boswell and a Jury, at the instance of the Right Hon. James A. Clyde, K.C., His Majesty's Advocate for Scotland, Mary Matheson or Urquhart, wife of Donald Urquhart, lately residing in Quay Street, Portree, Isle of Skye, now of Kyle of Lochalsh, in the County of Ross, was tried on the following charge:- "That, she, between 1st December, 1915, and 20th October, 1916, in the dwelling-house in Quay Street, aforesaid, occupied by her and her said husband, did, while in charge as nurse or custodier of Kate Macdiarmid or Stewart, a bed-ridden invalid, wife of No.195 Private Hugh Stewart, 2/4th

Battalion Cameron Highlanders, neglect the said Kate Macdiarmid or Stewart by failing to provide her with necessary food, accommodation, light, air, medicine, medical attendance, and nursing, and in particular between said dates, or for a period immediately prior to 20th October, 1916, the length of which period is to prosecutor unknown, she did withhold sufficient food and other necessaries of life from the said Kate Macdiarmid or Stewart, and did keep her in a filthy condition in filthy surroundings, and did thus kill her.”

Mr A. M. MacRobert, Advocate Depute, conducted the case for the Crown, and Mr T. S. H. Burns, solicitor, Dingwall, acted for the accused.

Questioned by Mr MacRobert, Mrs Janet Mackenzie or Macdonald, wife of Hugh Macdonald, stated that she resided in same tenement as deceased, and knew her. Mrs Stewart was very thin and poor; was able to walk; did not see her do anything for herself. She saw her in the summer of 1916. Could not tell when she stopped going about. Saw her sitting at the kitchen fire sometimes. Witness was not going to the house very often. Deceased's bed was in the back room. It had no window, and it opened out of the kitchen. There was a partition between the scullery and the place where Mrs Stewart slept. There was no ventilation except the door. She saw Mrs Stewart the week before she died. She was once in Mrs Stewart's little room. It did not have a fresh smell when she was in it. She just stood in to look at deceased. Witness saw her on the Sunday a week before she died sitting at the fire. She was called down suddenly. Deceased was as she used to be – poor and sickly. She noticed a change before she died. Accused did not say to witness that she and her husband helped deceased to the fire. She remembered accused leaving Portree for Kyle on Thursday, 12th October. She went into the house which accused occupied and Mrs Mackenzie (accused's mother-in-law) and her husband. They had a house of their own, but they stayed in the Urquhart's house while they were away. Witness helped Mrs Mackenzie to give accused a cup of tea. Mrs Mackenzie was not able to lift Mrs Stewart, who was not able to do anything for herself. Witness did not examine the clothes that day. There was a bad smell from the bed-clothes. Accused did not ask her to look after Mrs Stewart, but she helped to put dry clothes under her. The bed-clothes were filthy and smelt badly. Mrs Mackenzie came to her house and asked her to go down and see the woman, as she was dying. Deceased could not speak to them, and she suggested to Mrs Mackenzie that they should get a nurse. Mrs Mackenzie replied that she was not told to get a nurse and that she would be afraid to get one. I sent my daughter for the nurse, however. The nurse came and caused deceased to be lifted and shifted into the kitchen bed and cleaned. When she was lifted out of the bed the state of the bed-clothes made witness sick. She noticed bed sores on deceased's back and on her side. She was washed by the nurse. Mrs Urquhart returned on Tuesday, 17th October, about two or three in the morning, by steamer. Nurse Mackinnon continued to attend the case till 20th October.

Cross-examined by Mr Burns – Mrs Stewart was going about before the Urquharts left for Kyle. Witness did not see any indications of starving about Mrs Stewart. She was out of the bed the day before the Urquharts left. Witness saw her sitting at the fire many times long before then. Mrs Urquhart was doing all she could. Witness helped Mrs Mackenzie to look after Mrs Stewart. It was not the case that Mrs Stewart was not getting food and she was not neglected. Witness saw a great change in Mrs Stewart before she died. Accused got Mrs Mackenzie, her mother-in-law, and her step-father to leave their own house to look after Mrs Stewart while they were away. Mrs Stewart never complained to witness. She had no room in Quay Street without a window. There was ventilation from the door when the outside was open.

By Mr MacRobert – Witness would not like to live in the same room as Mrs Stewart occupied. She would have sent for a nurse or a doctor if she had had to do with Mrs Stewart. There was bread, tea, and butter in the house. Mrs Stewart did not speak to the nurse or witness, but when they were shifting her she groaned like a person in pain.

By the Sheriff – Witness told Mrs Mackenzie before the Sunday that she should send for the nurse. She could not remember the day, but it was either Thursday or Friday. Mrs Stewart was trying to speak, but witness could not make out if she was trying to complain of the condition of her bed. She did not at any time complain about sores.

Answering Mr MacRobert, Nurse Dolina Mackinnon stated that on Sunday morning, 15th October, 1916, she was called to the house of the accused to see deceased. She went at once to the house, and found Mrs Macdonald there. Mrs Mackenzie was in another room. Deceased was in a small room at the back. She did not notice any window. Deceased was in a very collapsed state and very thin-looking. Witness bathed and washed her in the little room and put her to bed in another room. Her clothes were very dirty, there was a very offensive smell, and her body was not clean. She looked as if she had not been bathed for many days, and there were three bed sores on her body of some days' standing. She did not think she had ever seen such a bad case so far as bed-clothes and filth were concerned. Mrs Mackenzie was in the room when was removed. Mrs Macdonald assisted and she (witness) carried Mrs Stewart. She did not see hens kept in the little room. She looked in afterwards to see the patient, who could not speak to her and she could not understand, although she did try to respond. Mrs Urquhart returned on Tuesday 17th October. Witness was not asked to go and see Mrs Stewart before the Sunday.

By Mr Burns – She knew Mrs Stewart had paralysis before she visited her. A patient suffering as she was might be expected to have a filthy bed, and a thin person like she was ready to get bed sores. Dr Stewart, of Dunvegan, was called in to see deceased after witness was there.

By the Sheriff – The filth in the bed had been there for some days. Fanny Macdonald or Weir said on Monday, 17th October, the Inspector of Poor asked her to go to nurse Mrs Stewart. She found the patient weak and unable to recognise her. She tried to speak but she only groaned, and was unable to make herself understood. She saw the room Mrs Stewart had occupied, in which there were coals, hens, and hens dirt, and the smell was very strong.

Mr Alex. Cowie, Postmaster, said accused received 12s 4d per week separation allowance on behalf of Mrs Stewart. It was paid to Mrs Urquhart upon a form of authority.

Private Hugh Stewart, Cameron Highlanders, said deceased was his wife. She had a seizure in May, 1914. She was not very strong. After he went away his wife went to stay with a Mrs Buchanan. When witness was home on furlough his wife was then able to walk and prepare his food. Witness arranged with Mrs Urquhart to take charge of his wife for 8d 6d per week, and the balance of 4s was to be for his wife. Next time he was home he stayed a few nights in the Urquharts. His wife was then able to go about. About a fortnight later his wife wanted him to shift her as they were not good to her. He told her to get someone to write him after he left, so that he could show the latter to his Captain. He was informed in October that his wife was ill.

By Mr Burns – He came back when he heard his wife was dead. He got no letter from Mrs Urquhart asking him to come home to look after his wife. She was to get house room and

her food from Mrs Urquhart for 8s 6d per week, and his wife could do what she liked with the 4s. He had confidence the Urquharts would look after his wife. The little room was all right when he was there.

Dr William Stewart, Dunvegan, said he agreed to act for Dr Malcom Stewart, Portree, in October, 1916. On Monday, 14th October, he was wired for to come to Portree. He saw the Inspector of Poor, and he accompanied him the deceased, who was in a bed in the kitchen. He looked into the other room, but there was no light except what came from the door. An elderly woman at present. He examined the patient and found her very ill. She was quite bloodless and greatly prostrated. He spoke to her, and she tried to speak, but only mumbled. She tried to pull herself but her side was paralysed. People often recovered from slight seizure. He saw her bed sores, which had been recently dressed and might have been of long standing, and might have been of long standing, but he only saw the edges of them. Deceased was very emaciated and appeared to have suffered from illness for months. She should have had medical attendance for some time. The immediate cause of death seemed to him to have been a seizure or a blocking of the blood. Blood clotted more readily when the person was anaemic. Deceased appeared very thin, and being in the little room she occupied, without ventilation, would not be favourable to her recovery. Witness produced a formal report of his visit.

By Mr Burns – The first seizure would lead him to expect a second seizure and a third.

By Mr MacRobert – Good nursing and good food would have put her in a better position for recovery. It was quite possible to recover from seizures by proper treatment. Full-blooded persons were more liable to a burst than thin persons to a clot.

Dr Malcolm Stewart said he was from home in October last, and the previous witness was looking after his practice. Witness examined the body after death, 24th October, 1916, being the date of his report. He was called in two years ago to see Mrs Stewart after she had an illness from shock. He would expect her to have bed sores after the first seizure. She was always, to his knowledge, thin and spare. He saw her two days before she died. He returned on 18th October and saw her that day. He found her very weak. Being in such surroundings would mitigate against the chances of bodily recovery.

By Mr Burns – After the first seizure he thought Mrs Stewart was doomed. He found her body more emaciated than before. When he saw her he expected her to die of an apoplectic seizure. The seizure might take her all in a moment, or she might have been falling off for months before he saw her. Filthy bed-clothes sometimes followed apoplexy.

Dr Burns, Medical Officer, Isle of Raasay, and Dr Grant Macdonald, Uig, Skye, gave expert opinions on the evidence led by the Crown, which closed the case for the prosecutor.

For the defence, Donald Urquhart, husband of the accused, said Mrs Stewart was staying with them for one year and two months. His wife was getting 8s 6d per week, and Mrs Stewart had 4s of a balance. Deceased was unable to go to the Post Office, so his wife lifted the separation allowance. Deceased sat at the same table with them all the time she was with them. She was able to rise every day and walk about the house. So far as he saw, she was getting the same food as the rest of them. Deceased's husband had been staying with them twice. Witness went to Kyle of Lochalsh about 12th October. Before he left he sent a wire to Stewart asking him to come and look after his wife, but he received no reply. His wife (accused) got a witness's mother to look after Mrs Stewart while they were at Kyle. There was a suggestion that they should get rid of her, but he would not

agree to that until he would hear from Stewart. It was intended that accused would come back to Portree.

Mrs Mackenzie, the mother-in-law, refused to take the oath, and was not heard. Mrs Macpherson said she stayed with the Urquharts for some time and saw Mrs Stewart take her food with the Urquharts, and she got plenty attention from them. Mrs Stewart usually got up about ten o'clock.

Giving evidence on her own behalf, the accused said her husband and Mr Stewart agreed about their taking Mrs Stewart. She lifted the separation allowance. Deceased gave her 8s 6d and kept 4s for herself. For food she sometimes got porridge, sausages, fish – just the same as they got themselves. She could wash herself and put on her clothes. She (witness) looked after her bed, and the night before she left put clean clothes on the bed and clean body clothes on deceased. Mrs Mackenzie was able to have looked after deceased until she took the stroke. Witness wrote Stewart, to come home and look after his wife, but he did not answer. Her husband sent him a telegram two days before he left for Kyle.

By Mr MacRobert – When Mrs Stewart came to their house she was not clean, and she told her husband that if she had known her case she would not have taken her in. Her head was very dirty, and her husband got something from the druggist, which he applied. She (witness) changed her things the night before she left for Kyle, and also changed the bed-clothes. There was a large sore on her back, but when she returned she observed a number of sores, which had been developed while she (witness) was away. Her mother-in-law promised to give deceased food while they were away, and she left £5 in the house with Mrs Mackenzie when she left.

The Advocate-Depute then addressed the Jury for the Crown, and Mr Burns replied for the accused, after which the Sheriff summed up the case. The Jury retired to consider their verdict, and on their return in about fifteen minutes, the Foreman (Mr Alexander MacDonald, Home Farm) announced that by a majority they had found the charges not proven.'

Kate's death is recorded in the Portree Police Station Register of Accidents Book (Skye Archives Ref. HC/R91/D/D/2/16) as: 24 Oct 1916, Kate McDiarmid or Stewart Wife of Pte Hugh Stewart 4th Camerons, lately residing at Quay Street Portree, sudden death cause Apoplexy, at Quay Street Portree reported by Inspector Mackenzie Portree. Although there is a General Register of Paupers for Portree (1900-1930)(Skye Archives Ref. SL/CI/7/27/1) Kate's name is not listed, also unfortunately there is no surviving Minute Books or Applications for Relief for the Parish of Portree either. Not listed in Duirinish Poor Minute Book so must have had a settlement in Portree but due to no surviving records am unable to establish how long she had been a Pauper before her death, it may have only been since her husband had been in the Army but surely his Separation Allowance was being paid to her?

Kate MacDiarmid was born Catharine MacDiarmid on the 15 February 1859 daughter of Neil MacDiarmid, Crofter and Rachel MacDiarmid at Edinbain, Duirnish. Her parents married 6 March 1838 at Duirnish, though her mother's forename is given as Flory. (Stated as Niel McDearmid, Geary to Flory McDearmid, Haliston) (Her father Neil McDiarmid died 1st August 1891 aged 80, at Edinbain, Duirnish. Son of John McDiarmid, Crofter and Mary McGillies (both deceased). Cause of death stated as old age, informant was his daughter Kate McDiarmid. Her mother Rachel McDiarmid died 26 January 1902 aged 82, at

Edinbain, Duirnish. Daughter of John McDiarmid, Shepherd and Effie Morrison (both deceased). Cause of death stated as influenza 1 week, informant was her son Donald McDiarmid)

The 1861 Census lists her family as Neil MacDermid 46, Crofter, Rachel MacDermid 41, Alexander MacDermid 20, John MacDermid 13, Donald MacDermid 6 and Ketty MacDermid 2. At this stage they were in the Parish of Duirnish. Previous to this the 1851 census listed her father as farming 3 acres at Pinmore, parish of Snizort, Skye. Family listed as Neil McDiarmid 36, Rachel McDiarmid 31, Allan McDiarmid 10, Mary McDiarmid 6, John McDiarmid 4, Effy McDiarmid 5m and Mary McDiarmid (niece) 12. By the 1871 Census family listed Parish of Duirnish of Neil McDermid 50, Crofter, Rachel McDermid 50, John McDermid 23, General Labourer, Mary McDermid 25, Servant, Donald McDermid 15, Scholar, Catherine McDermid 10, Scholar, Chirsty McDermid 80, Aunt, Alexander McLure 18, Visitor General Labourer and Mary McMillan 9, Boarder Scholar. By the 1881 Census family listed at Edinbain, Parish of Duirnish of Neil McDearmid 65, Crofter, Rachel McDearmid 62, Donald McDearmid 26, Fisherman, son and Catherine McDearmid 26, General Servant. By the 1891 Census family listed Parish of Duirnish of Neil McDermid 80, Crofter, Rachel McDermid 72, Donald McDairmid 34, Labourer, Kate MacDiarmid 31, and Rachael MacDairmid 13, (niece) Scholar. By the 1901 Census family listed at Edinbain, Parish of Duirnish of Rachel McDermid 82, Crofter, Donald McDairmid 45, and Kate MacDiarmid 40, General Servant.

Kate McDiarmid married Hugh Stewart on 13 October 1903 at the Old Caledonian Buildings, Portree (after Banns read in the United Free Church). Hugh Stewart's occupation given as Stoker in a Steam-Vessel aged 33, residence Bayfield, Portree. Kate, whose given name of Catherine is recorded, aged 32, residence Old Caledonian Buildings, Portree. At the time of their marriage both her parents are stated as deceased, whilst his were still alive.

By the 1911 Census Kate and her husband Hugh Stewart were resident at Beaumont Crescent, Portree, Skye as Hugh Stewart, 42, Seaman Mercantile (born Portree) and Kate Stewart, 42 (born Duirnish) it was stated as having no children.

Kate MacDiarmid's Death Certificate notes she died on 20 October 1916 aged 56, married to Private Hugh Stewart 2/4th Cameron Highlanders, daughter of Neil McDearmid, Crofter (deceased) and Rachel McDearmid nee McDearmid (deceased), cause of death of apoplexy, certified by Dr Malcolm Stewart, death was registered by her husband Hugh Stewart. Corrected entry notes father's address of Edinbane, cause of death given as apoplexy of about eight days, buried New Cemetery, Portree; undertaker was Donald MacCrimmon, Joiner, Portree.

Hugh Stewart was born on 8 September 1868 at Bayfield, Portree son of Archibald 'Archy' Stewart, Fisherman and Margaret Kerr; they had married August 1861 in Portree.

The 1871 Census lists his family at Bayfield, Portree as Archibald Stewart, 44, Fisherman, Margaret Stewart, 36, wife, Rachel Buchan, 72, Mother, Murdo Stewart, 8, Scholar, Kitty Stewart, 6, Scholar and Hugh Stewart, 2, all stated as born Portree. The 1881 Census found Hugh boarded with his maternal Grandfather at Drumbeg, Lochinver, Assynt of Hugh Kerr, 80, Crofter, John Kerr, 40, Fisherman, Margaret Kerr, 30, Hugh Stewart, 10, Scholar and Isabella Kerr, 35, Daughter-in-law. By the 1891 Census he was back at Bayfield, Portree of Archy Stewart, 66, Labourer, Margaret Stewart, 55, wife, Hugh Stewart, 21, Neil Stewart, 18, Jessie Stewart, 14 and Norman Stewart, 9. The 1901 Census finds Hugh, 31, on the merchant vessel "Gael" (Corpach Fur) at Kilmallie serving as a Fireman.

At the time of Kate's death he was recorded as serving in the 2/4th Battalion Cameron Highlanders. It had been formed in September 1914 at Inverness. Stationed at Fort George in April 1915 and Blair Atholl in July, going to Aberfeldy in October 1915 when it became the 191st Brigade of the 64th (2nd Highland) Division. In March 1916 stationed at Norwich, going to Blickling Park, Norwich in June 1916 and Kelling, Norfolk in July. By the time of Kate's death Hugh was probably stationed at Cromer, Norfolk. The 2/4th Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders were disbanded in February 1918.

Medal Rolls in the National Archives at Kew have no record of Hugh serving abroad during World War One, he may have been discharged and he may have taken up his former occupation as Merchant Seaman, though there is no record card for him as a seaman in the National Archives at Kew either, though as he was incorrect about his age on his later marriage he may have also lied about his age during his wartime service.

Hugh married again on 13 November 1918 to Barbara Mackinnon at 26 Bank Street, Inverness. Hugh Stewart's occupation was stated as Seaman (Merchant Service), aged 42 (though he was actually 50) whilst Barbara's was stated as Munition Worker, aged 23. At the time of his second marriage it was stated that both his parents were deceased. Barbara's parents (Murdoch Mackinnon, Fisherman and Mary McKinnon) were also stated as being deceased. They were married under Warrant of the Sheriff Substitute of Inverness. Witnesses were John Pirie, Shipwright, 25 New Street, Buckie and Robert Ross, Hotelkeeper, Church Street, Inverness. Hugh Stewart died on 2 February 1944 at Bayfield, Portree, aged 75. His occupation was stated as Marine Fireman (retired). Cause of death stated as Asthemia 6 months and Carcinoma of Tongue 2 years. Informant was his son Neil Stewart.

Whatever the actual cause of Kate's death, the conditions that she was being kept may be regarded as disgraceful by today's standards but spare rooms for boarding out Paupers were scarce in Portree, even during wartime, and being boarded was preferred by many to the stigma of being housed in the Poorhouse.

The McVarish Sisters

By Stuart Farrell

A few years ago I wrote an article for this journal on two sisters in Inverness Asylum, now I have found another pair of sisters who also were committed and sadly both died in the Asylum. Ann and Catherine McVarish were both committed to the Inverness District Asylum on the same day on the 5 July 1871.

Ann is described in her warrant (HHB/3/5/3/3/604) as single aged 65, occupation of Domestic Servant, Roman Catholic, residing in Glenuig Ardnamurchan, being weak in the mind from birth excited further last three weeks, supposed cause being hereditary and that 'several relatives including Aunt & Cousins' had also been classed as insane. Her Medical Certificate indicates that she had suicidal tendencies 'afraid that she would be killed by her friends & to avoid this she attempts to run off' and that she would 'rather drown herself.' Her case file (HHB/3/5/2/5/432-434) records 'She appears quite resigned at being brought here, is quiet & fine from all restlessness, seldom speaks but in answers & questions answers readily all enquiries about her sufferings. She takes her food readily.' By the 14 November her condition has worsened 'the patient passed into a depression into which she almost never spoke except to answer questions; she sat in one place almost all day long & appeared to have no interest in anything; when she saw her sister she appeared

anxious to speak to her, but she then refused'. By the 14 December she is noted as being 'in a state of extreme exhaustion & emanation'. Ann died on the 7 January 1872 aged 66 with cause of death stated as 'Imbecility since Birth. Melancholia unknown. General exhaustion six months'.

Catherine is described in her warrant (HHB/3/5/3/3/605) as single aged 63, occupation of Domestic Servant, Roman Catholic, residing in Glenuig Ardnamurchan, being weak minded from birth worse for the last four weeks, also supposed cause being hereditary and that 'several relatives including Aunt & Cousins' had also been classed as insane. Her Medical Certificate indicates that she was of 'A general maniacal appearance very noisy. Believes she is possessed of a devil Requires constant watching & restraint to keep her from attacking her attendants & friends'. Her case file (HHB/3/5/2/5/436-438) records at admission that 'she took a little food, though only when strongly pressed; she believes the food to be poisoned, says that the devil tells her not to take food'. By the 16 November 1871 she is recorded as 'one of the most troublesome patients in the asylum. As a rule she has refused her food, sometimes she has taken her food from the attendant; but she has been fed per pump; when thus fed she attempts to bring up the food again & in this she partially succeeds; she accordingly spits it out on her clothes, and all around her. Her general temper is very bad: she resists all interference, and no attempts to "get round her" have succeeded; she seldom walks but must be carried from place to place During a portion of September she was restless, destructive, and suicidal: she sat as a rule on the floor, pulling off her clothes & it was the duty of a special attendant to prevent this; her suicidal tendencies at this time were very powerful, she constantly asked for poison, for a knife to cut her throat &c'.

By the 16 May 1872 there was no improvement in her condition being noted 'As a rule she sits in one spot all day, generally silent though occasionally muttering in a low tone that she wishes her head cut off, &c, or chattering her teeth in anger at anyone interfering with her'. By 16 November 1872 it was noted that she was removed to the sick ward and was described as 'incurable'. By March 1873 it was noted that her bodily health was failing and was bedridden only eating a small amount of food but was given whisky instead of wine as a stimulant! Catherine died on the 20 March 1873 aged 65 with cause of death stated as 'Debility & Old Age uncertain'.

Unfortunately on both their death certificates names of parents are given as 'unknown'. Both are likely to be buried in the burial ground associated with the Asylum. Noted on both their warrants that they lived with their brother Charles McVarish. It has proved difficult to find the sisters in the Census records, possible entry in the 1871 Census for Glenuig Ardnamurchan is Charles McVarish 60 Retired Farm Servant born Glenuig, Catharine McVarish 54 Retired Domestic Servant born Glenuig and Jean McVarish 34 Domestic Servant born Glenuig. Age of Catharine does not match death record, though as her age was uncertain it may be right, and could Ann be the Jean? Unable to locate them in the 1861 Census.

A search of the 1851 Census revealed only one family named McVarish at Glenuig in the Parish of Ardnamurchan, Quad Sacra Parish of Aharacle:
Hugh McVarish, 80, Farmer 2½ acres, born Sarnanian (?), Isabel McVarish 75 born South Uist, Mary McVarish 40 born Glenuig, Catherine McVarish 35 born Glenuig, Jane McVarish 23 born Glenuig, Marjory McVarish 28 born Glenuig, John McVarish 38 born Glenuig and Charles McVarish 34 born Glenuig.

In the 1841 Census at Glenuig, surname of MacVarach, as follows:

Hugh MacVarach 70 Hand Loom Weaver, John MacVarach 30, Charles MacVarach 25 Agricultural Labourer, Bell MacVarach 50, Mary MacVarach 30, Catherine MacVarach 25, Marjory MacVarach 20 and Mary MacVarach 40(?), again there is no mention of Ann.

The sisters are mentioned briefly in the Minute Book of Ardnamurchan Parochial Board of 1863-1881 (Fort William Archives CA/7/2/3) with the following entries:

- 21 June 1865 Case of Ann McVarish Glenuig. Admit to 10/- per quarter.
- 1 May 1867 Case of Catherine McVarish Glenuig. Refused in the meantime as she is able to support herself.
- 1 October 1868 Case of Catherine McVarish Glenuig. Allow 10/- a quarter.
- 22 June 1870 Case of Catherine McVarish Glenuig. Allowance 5/- next payment only.

Unfortunately Applications for Parochial Relief and the General Register of Paupers for the Parish of Ardnamurchan have not survived. There are however in the above Minutes entries for a Charles McVarish at Glenuig up to the end of 1872.

Catholic records are, I now know, a real problem. There are no publicly available Catholic equivalents to the Kirk Session Minutes. Though Catholic birth and marriage records after 1703 are on ScotlandsPeople, there are no early Catholic records for Morvern. The Status Animarum, basically an annual census of members of the Catholic Church, is on FindmyPast, but again Morvern seems to be lacking. Unfortunately as the Roman Catholic Registers for Ardnamurchan are lost or not available for the late 18th/early 19th C, it is impossible to find any further information on the family.

Few graveyards, if any, to this area of the west of Scotland have been recorded; there is a burial ground at Roshven close to Glenuig but only a few stones with inscriptions and none with the name of McVarish. Maybe a trip to Ardnamurchan is needed to find out more about the McVarish family of Glenuig!

P.S. A Mary McVarish aged 19 daughter of John McVarish, Glenuig (possibly their niece) was committed to the Asylum in 1877 for 5 months!

MEMBERS' DETAILS

New Members:

- 2800. Ms Kathleen McConkey, Nepean, Ontario
- 2801. Mr Richard Bain, Littlehampton, West Sussex
- 2802. Mrs Ruth Black, Aberdeen
- 2803. Mr Peter Kennedy, Macgregor, Australia
- 2804. Mrs Deborah Hart, Isle of Wight

Changes of Address:

- 959. Mr Angus Bethune, Dingwall

Resignations:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1494. Mrs Jenny Mayhew | 1778. Mrs Barbara Aitken |
| 2737. Ms Meri Schoof | 2389. Mr David Selkirk |
| 2738. Mrs Valerie Janaway | 2769. Mr Clem Frank |
| 2772. Mr Bruce Wallace | |

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
	Kiltearn Churchyard [A4]	830	130g	£8.00
	Rosemarkie [A4]	575	220g	£5.00
	St Clements, Dingwall [A4]	689	240g	£7.00
	Ullapool Burial Grounds [A4]	474	235g	£8.00
	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
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
Nairnshire		Old Churchyard, Petty	476	100g
	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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