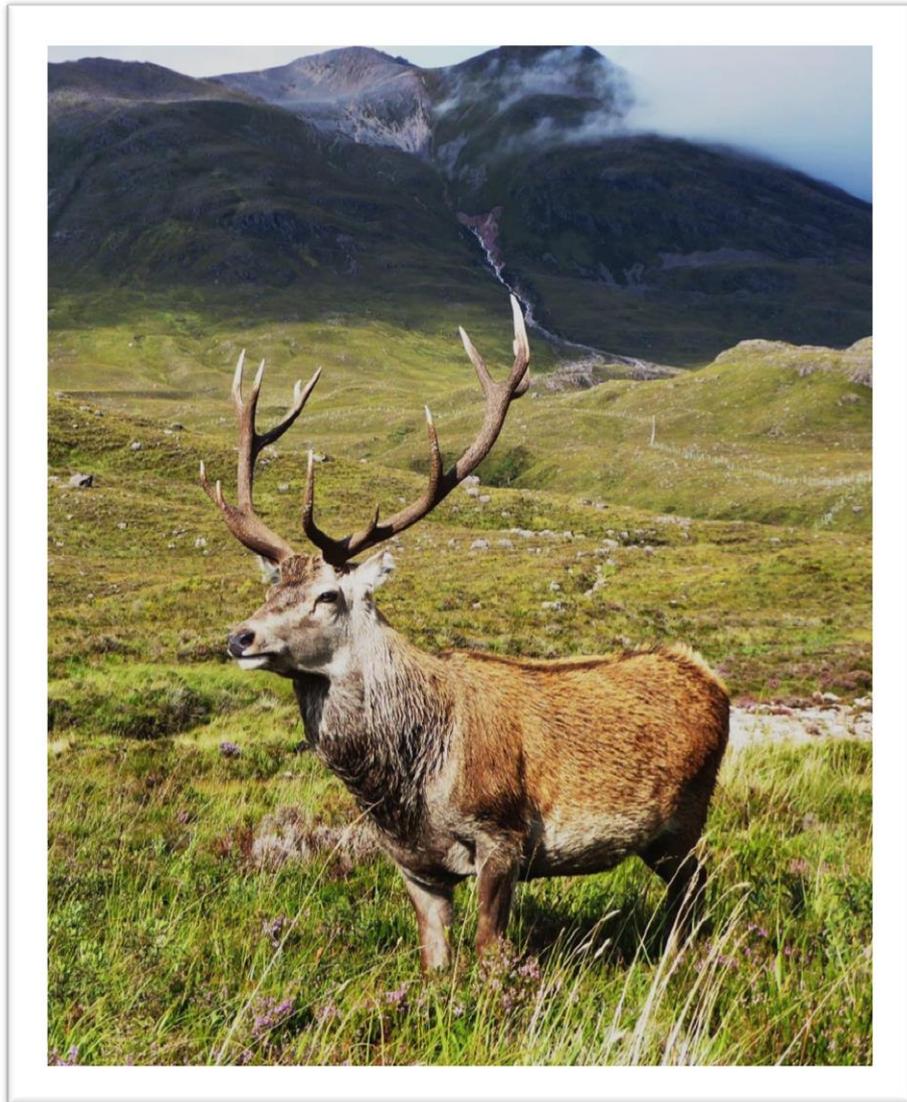


HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 38, Issue 3

May 2020

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Cover: 'Stag on route to Gairloch' © Laurel Lahay.

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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. We also accept queries so please do contribute.

New Publication. The Society is pleased to announce the following new publication: Marydale Catholic Church Cannich, Strathglass Births & Baptisms 1793 – 1828 & Marriages 1811, 1827 – 1844 & Eskadale Congregation Census of 1851.

This is ready to go to the printer's once I can get out and get a picture for the front cover!

Stuart Farrell

MEMBERS' DETAILS

New Members:

- 2805. Ms Mary Mackay, Wick, Caithness.
- 2806. Ms Kathryn Thomas, Anchorage, Alaska.
- 2807. Mrs Trudi Mann, Wick, Caithness.
- 2808. Ms Rhona Maclean, Culloden, Inverness.
- 2809. Mrs Gillian Waugh, Cam, Dursley.
- 2810. Ms Sheila Callaghan, Long Beach, California.
- 2811. Mr Richard Clerihew, Gateshead.
- 2812. Mr Douglas Holt, Llandudno, Conwy.
- 2813. Mrs Marilyn Greenlees, Anan, France.
- 2814. Mrs Margaret Campbell, Kilwinning.

Resignations:

- 205. Mr Frank B. Smith.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the closure of the Archive Centre in Inverness due to the ongoing Coronavirus lockdown, the Highland Family History Society AGM had to be cancelled. It is hoped that we can undertake the AGM on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 7pm.

An Unusual Conundrum

By John A. Gordon

While researching a branch of the Family Tree for a cousin, I recently discovered that not all births in Scotland are required to be Registered in the parish where they occurred, and a time limit of 21 days is allowed for the Registration.

Using the Census records, I like to build up a picture and follow families through the years. From experience, I have learned to be careful and use the information given on these records as useful indicators.

In the 1901 Census records for the family of a Donald Jack, in Avoch, Ross-shire, the last entry was for a William J. Jack, Grandson, 2 years old and born in Avoch. With that information, I thought that finding a date of birth and who the parents were, was going to be straight forward. Not so, and as a birth record could not be found, the Jack family was subsequently located in the 1911 Census. Donald Jack has died, and his Widow Helen was Head. The last entry for her family was William J. Jack, 12 years old, a Relative, in School and born in Avoch, Ross-shire.

To try and resolve the conundrum, I then did a search for all the Jack male births in Avoch for 1899 and found 4 records, no Williams but there was a John William Jack. The birth was recorded as Illegitimate, and occurred on the 17th July 1899 in Newlands of Clans, Croy, Nairn-shire. (On the other side of the Moray Firth). The record stated that the mother was a Domestic Servant who was domiciled at 20 High Street, Avoch and she signed the Register at Croy on the 24th August. These facts were registered by George Wedderburn the Assistant Registrar at Croy. On the 30th August the record was transcribed by the Avoch registrar W. D. Mitchell and the details were recorded in the Avoch Register.

Looking at the dates on the elusive birth record, I think that we have the situation of the two Registrars involved, using common sense and compassion, to help a young girl who had not registered the birth of her son in time as was required. At present, the answers as to the whys for the happenings, will have to be left to conjecture until further research is carried out.

[Editor's Note – Mother Johan Jack in Avoch Poor Register – Residence: Avoch; Age: 28; Date of Minute of Parochial Board authorising relief: 19 Sep 1902; Amount and Description of Relief: Indoor; Place of Birth: Avoch; Religious Denomination: Protestant; Condition: Single; Trade or Occupation: Domestic Servant; Wholly or Partially Disabled: Partially; Description of Disablement: Pregnancy; Wholly or Partially Destitute: Wholly; Nature of Settlement: Birth & Residence; Other Information: Has another illegitimate living with parents in Avoch; Register: 21 Apr 1902 Sent to Poorhouse, 25 May 1902 Gave birth to male illegitimate child paternity of which imputes to George McKenzie late Cattleman, Flowerburn Mains present address unknown, 28 Nov 1902 Chargeability ceased now a Servant in Poorhouse. 1911 Census at 20 High Street, Avoch 38 Laundress with son John 11 at School, child stated as born Clunes, Nairnshire]

The Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat Court Case of 1808 List of Witnesses

By Stuart Farrell

In September 1808 The Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat went to court against Mrs Anne Fraser of Eskadale and her husband Hugh Fraser Esq. over lands and grazings in the Parish of Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire.

As part of that court case statements, including their biblio, evidence was taken from the following witnesses:

John Nicol Tacksman of Teawig, widower 60 yrs and upwards. Resident on Fanellan 37 or 38 years previous to 1804 having farm of Carrachash ? Had sublet of hill of Achnamoan & Carrachaorach.

William Fraser Residenter in Easter Main, unmarried 72 yrs. In infancy resided in Er Main, his father having resided there. Knows sheiling Glacnavoan, bet hills of Wr Eskadale and Loch netty. Beasts of E Mains pastured at Glacnavoan, common pasturage. Fanellan tenants came there but their beasts were turned off. Bothies erected by Fanellan tenants were taken down, etc. Tenants in Fanellan Hugh McDonald vie Finlay in Achinleach and Murdoch Mackenzie in Kaunlish (Cean an lios) Deponents fr was prop of Er Main. From earliest recall, the possessors of Er Main used to cut peats at moss of Torquil, then mosses below Torquil as far as Loch Acheranachan and afterwards to moss below Craiggan – Naharabin, then to moss at Loanteanounnie and then to moss nr Craiganchoiltich on SW side of said loch. Burn of Esk bet Er & Wr Esk, Burn issued from Essamlaure or Land Fall and dike continued to Loch tu mellan and then to R. Beaully. Brewhouse was erected on E side of burn. 50 yrs ago, Evan Matheson Tenant in Er Main. Deponent knows arable field Lupe Ronnich. Burn up from road and W to Craig Guise as march bet. Mid and Wr Main & Burn called above Allt Craig Guise and below, burn of main. Spoutandow rock up to the W side of Incherchart from thence to bet Torquil and moss Loan na varter Loan of Craggan curach, Rein na coil Carurinacuil to above Loannagaur gorm (loam of grey goats). Ford called Pellanahermich or Pellaloanrontich. Craggancosach on bounds of Er Main. Tourlea of Er Main is diff. from Tourlea first described. Hillock Knock Utas. Defender his sheiling to S of L. Netty, Cattle pointed in Glacknanoan bel. to a widow in Lurg and Alex Cameron in Bridag, both now dead. Br of deponent, Hugh, now in Boblainy and Don Bain alias Fraser now at Hughs Town of Er Esk. Hugh MacLean now in Esk, was one of the servants of late Capt Hugh F of Esk. Rory McRae in Er Main and fr farmer of deponent dead since. Last throwing down of bothies upwards of 30 yrs ago. Hugh's Town a pendicle of Poulemore. 10 or 12 yrs ago, Alex F then tenant in Mid Main. 30 yrs ago or upwards John Gordon now cottar in Knockcoil & Jas. F. then servant to deceased Capt Hugh F.

Hugh Fraser at Boblainy, widower 67 yrs. Born Er Main and there till 20 yrs of age. To Strathglass and other places ret. to Er Main after his marriage at 32 yrs of age. There for 5 yrs then to Feingorry, part of Wr Esk, for 5 or 6 yrs and since in Boblainy with his son Wm. The deceased James F then tenant in Mid Main who was uncle by the mother's side to pres. Tenant of Mid Main Capt Hugh Chisholm. Deponents fr, dead upwards of 40 yrs ago,

was prop of Er Main Evan Miller or Matheson then tenant in Mid Main Hill grounds above Spoutandow called Inchharchart.

Thomas Fraser alias Roy, Tenant in Deany (part of pursuer's prop.) marr 50 yrs and upwards. Br of 2 preceding witnesses. Br Er Main and there till he was 18. Left and ret. in 2 yrs and in service of br in law for 5 yrs; then in Glenstrathfarras c 25 yrs ago, Aultbeg, march bet Er & Mid Mains about 20 yrs ago Don. McGuier, since gone to America by order of his maser, Wm F a preceding witness & Don. Buie then tenant Mid Main. Since his earliest recollection near a house belonging to John Forbes a possessor in Wr Main. Deponent knows places Craignalough and Letirvean, former is right of houses of Wr Main, latter is a part of latter prop of Mr Chisholm of Chisholm attached to Mauld.

Roderick Macrae Cottar in Easter Main, marr. 60yrs and upwards. Except 6 yrs in Struy, all lifetime in the 3 mains. March Er & Mid Main burn from Essanlour to W of brow of hill called the Caban, Carnduchary. Torran Ueamich lies bet Craig quish and houses of Wr Main. Road to shealing of Netty was up hill by ford called Bealanahirmich or Bealastrouvenly. Craigveally or Knockveally. Deponent went to Mr F of Struy for 18 yrs. Returned 7-8 yrs ago. Saw deceased Hugh C, then tenant of Wr Main father to Hugh C. now Tacksman Mid Main & Hugh F also tenant in same Mains deceased. James F uncle by mother's side to said Capt Hugh C., two John F that resided in Mid Main & one Thomas in Mid main (surname not remembered) Torlea of Mid Main, Torlea of Er Main. Deceased Hugh F Tacksman of Poulmore. Cottars of a new settlement called Hughstown. Deponent, 10 years ago was employed by John F, now deceased, then farmer at Poulmore and 6 or 7 yrs ago employed by another farmer of same name and still alive to cast peats and wrought at there to be free of ferry dues. Saw deceased Alex Bain F, br of deceased Capt Hugh F of Esk., when residing at Er Esk 40 years ago. Alex F would have d about 40 years ago. Tenants of Poulmore cast peats in moss of Craggan na callich.

Isobel Fraser Widow of Simon Fraser sometime Tenant of Easter Main, 60 yrs and upwards. Born in Er Main, left in infancy & ret when married at age 22 and there ince. Sister to Wm, Thomas & Hugh preceding witnesses.

Valentine Chisholm Tenant in Crochel of Strathglass, widower, 79 yrs. (Gr uncle to defender, Mrs F.) Br to defender Mrs F's grfather by the mother's side.

William Fraser Tenant in Wester Eskadale, marr. 23 yrs old. In Wr Esk since 6 yrs old. Knows Carulamont (Carnlaman) nr Urquhart bounds. His br subtenant & miller to deceased Hugh F of Esk. March bet Gruive and Knockvuie & Er Esk by a line bet Carnlaman and eminence Buachilbreah being footpath down by a green spot and then by said stripe till it enters burn into Locharichillikan. Peter F, then tenant, now cottar Knockvuie.

Donald Fraser in Hughtown of Poulmore, marr. 55 yrs or thereby Born Wr Main & there with his fr (Hugh) till 7 or 8 yrs ago. His br Hugh F. A burn called Ault lon nag rea and from there cross to Knock Judas. Old men who were tenants of Eskadale excepting peter F, tenant in Knockvuie. Deponent and his br intended to em. To America 4 or 5 years ago

and before leaving pointed out marches to Peter F then Tenant in Knockvuie, Alex Chisholm Merchant in Hugstown, Alex F now tenant in Er Main and Hugh Maclean, shepherd to defender.

Alexander Fraser Tenant in Easter Main, aged 34. By a deed of settlement, to succeed to estate of Er Esk. And Er & Wr Mains failing present defender, Mrs F of Esk and her children. Born and all his life in Er Main. A dike in side of arable field of Mid Main called Runevaich or Byre field from thence to E end of field Chule-chippich and from thence to S side of Ersanmore by a run of water Loch in inellan to R Beauly. Malcolm F now Lord Lovat's gr officer. About 12 yrs ago deponent shown march by dec. Hugh F then tenant of Wr Main, Donald F then and now tenant Auch na clach and Don F in Hughstown a preceding witness. Spring well of Inishercher. Don Munro then servant to Hugh F then tenant in Mid Main (12-15 yrs ago).

Alexander Fraser Cottar in Wester Eskadale, marr. 50 yrs. Born in lands of Kinerras and when young to lands of Furanbuie (Kinerras) until 16 yrs of age. To low country and 15yrs at Wr Main.

Donald Fraser Tenant in Kinerras, marr. 57 yrs old. Was 12 yrs tenant in Mid Main and left same 16 or 17 years ago. Simon F then tenant in Er Main.

John Fraser Grieve at Englishtown, marr. 36 yrs old. 30 yrs herding sheep for dec. Capt Hugh F of Esk. who was then Tacksman of Wr Esk incl Liemgorry and of part of Gruive.

Donald Fraser Sub-Tenant in Wester Eskadale, 45 yrs of age. Cousin German of defender, Mrs F. He is besides a nat. son of late Capt. Hugh F's br. Born in Er Esk and there until 15 yrs of age. 6 yrs absent & ret to Aird and at Wr Esk ever since. March shown to him 6 or 7 yrs ago when Wm Cumming was making survey of Lovat Est. Alducharie, march bet Mains and Er Esk. Hillock, Buickle na Bread or the false herd.

Donald Fraser Sub Tenant in Wester Eskadale, unmarr. 23 yrs of age. Seven or eight years ago, deponent along with Hugh F then in Upper Main or Hughstown and his son Don F. a former witness, Alex Cameron then in Wr Esk. deceased, at that time gr. Officer to Capt F of Esk and John F then in Wr Esk, now in America. Ford called Bella loan na vontich to N side of carn duschary, then E of shoulder of hill nr Loan na your gorn, then S edge of Craggancoach then by S side of crow of Knock tu loam nas vaster, then through peat moss to a string of rocks and by ridge thereof to spot opp. Tnincercher.

Hector MacLean at Bridge-end of Beauly, marr. aged 63 yrs. Was 9 yrs in Kiltarlity as tenant and left 20 years ag. Possessed whole of lands of Kiltarlity except glebe. Kiltarlity part of davoch of Fanellan.

Donald MacLean Tenant Cragganmore of Kinerras, marr. aged 60 yrs. In Cragganmore all his life. Was many yrs herding br's cattle nr Loch Vron and through Maulmore to E end of L. Vruiach. Since fox hunters introduced 35 yrs past.

John Fraser Servant in Groam, marr. aged 48 yrs. Was 15 yrs ferryman at Aigas preceding Whitsunday 1807 and had lands and lived on S side of Ferry on lands of Poulmore.

Peter Fraser Residenter in Knockvuie, widower, 71 yrs of age. All his life in Knockvuie.

Elizabeth Mackenzie in Breakachy, unmarr. 59 yrs old. Born in Knockchoille, there till 16 yrs, then to Er Esk. for 3yrs then to Poulmore for 12 yrs then to present residence. Herding for her fr in Knockchoille.

Alexander Chisholm Tenant in Achnagraitich, prop of defender. Marr. aged 54 yrs. Born Erchless and when 6 yrs to Aigas where he was till 21 yrs. Since he came to Hughstown. Could not write.

Alexander Fraser Crofter in Hughstown, marr. 60 yrs of age. Born in Knockvuie and there for 12 yrs. In different places and last 40 years in present possession in Hughstown. Tenants of Cruives had bothies on shealing of Arrichilichan and those of Knockvuie on sh of Lochgarrabreck.

John Gordon Cottar in Knockchoille, marr. aged 68 yrs. Born Kinerras and there till 10 yrs of age. Removed with his fr to Cruives for 3 yrs. Then in diff places and for one yr herd with Alex Cameron tenant in Bridaig of Fanellan about 58 years ago and then in service of Andrew F. smith in Wr Esk for 3½ years. Cattle taken from him by James F. then tenant Er Main, and James F then tenant in mains of Er Esk. Cart peats and this before Capt Hugh F or Esk quitted army. After said Alex F's death, Simon F commonly called Deany succu. him in farm. Deceased Alex Mackenzie tenant in Knockchoille. Before march bet Er & Wr Esk was struck on low ground, places called Croich and Black Beds and Black Riggs bel to Wr Esk and part of Avanahark bel to Er and part to Wr Esk. The old channel or Clattach o Claddich on E or SE of pool where Wr Esk tenants steeped lint. Eastern bothy Caractes of Little Netty. James Cameron in Cullachkin of Fanellan.

Ann Fraser in Clunevach part of Lovat Estate, widow of Donald F tenant in Knockchollie. aged 59 yrs. Husband was tenant in Knockchoille upwards of 20 yrs till his death about 10 yrs ago. Except for time in service was at Knockchoille where she was born till husband's death. Was dairymaid for one ye before marr. with Hugh F then Tacksman of Poulmore. After her marriage was in use to pay her proportion of wages due to deceased Norman MacDonald, then res. in Wr Esk. and afterwards in Kinerra for preserving grass at Rhiedu. Wm Bain F in Knockchoille. Alec Mackenzie then tenant in Knockchoille cut peats in moss of Cruives when her husband died, 10-20 yrs ago.

Isobel Fraser Residenter in Knockchoille, widow of deceased Wm F tenant in Knockchoille, aged 50 yrs and upwards. For last 21 yrs of Knockchoille.

Donald Munro Residenter in Glascharn, marr. 62 yrs old. Born in Fanellan and there until 2 yrs ago. Father also was there. Remembers Fanellan to be the property of late Mr F of Culboky and aft. of General F.

Mary Fraser Wife of Alexander Fraser Tenant in Clunevachy, aged 48 yrs. Born at Knockcoillie and there till 15 yrs old. Herding for her br 4 or 5 yrs.

Hugh MacLean Shepherd to defenders at Easter Eskadale, marr. aged 35 yrs. In service of defenders and late Capt Hugh F of Esk for 20 or 21 yrs. 8 yrs went with deceased Hugh F then tenant in Wr Main. Along with then Don Miller now res. in Counnols of Achnacleuch and Don F said Hugh F's sons preceding witness, Hugh Bain alias Gow in Liengorry, Alex F in Er Main, a preceding witness, Don F now tenant in Wr Esk. and Wm F in Wr Esk. Also Alex Chisholm in Auchnagreintich. Said person Don F alias Miller. Alex Cameron Taylor then in Auchnaclach. John Bain Maclean or his son Alex both res in same family in Cullachkin, Don Oag F deceased, then residing there, Alex Cameron in Kainlich, now gone to America and a poor woman Nickinuier, or the weaver's daughter. John Cameron alias McJames in Wr Cullachkin Hugh Cameron then grieve and now grieve to Mr John Nicol and deceased Geo. F then servant at the saw mills. All these lived in bounds of Fanellan. Deponent received from each of foresaid some consideration, half a yard of tartan for hose, a waistcoat, money, etc. Daughter of Nickinuier now dead. Don F who was shepherd to Erk. before the deponent. Kirk officer in Kiltarlity to proclaim, at church, about poiding.

Simon Fraser Tenant in Easter Main, unmarr. aged 26 yrs. Since he was a child in Er Main. Hugh F Bobliany, a witness for pursuer. Tenants of Er Main took flogs or feal for dunghill from Knockdu to Laggan na cloin.

Roderick Chisholm Tenant in Crochel, Strathglass, marr. aged 40 yrs or upwards. Son to Valentine C. a witness. Was 15 yrs in service of dec. Capt Hugh F of Esk until 10 yrs ago. Then to Er Main for 1 yr. Don Bain commonly, called Firanach in Cottertown Fanellan gone to America. Observed James MacGregor son of Simon MacG sometime in Kinerras then servant to Hugh F Tacksman of Poulmore sent to preserve grass at Carlamont, etc. Nickinuier and her dau. used to shear in harvest for deponent's master on consideration of mother's sheep being allowed to pasture on Glachnavoan.

Elizabeth Mackenzie Wife of Alexander Chisholm, tenant in Hughstown aged 50 yrs. Came as servant yo Andrew F alias Gow Smith, in Wr Erk 38 yrs ago, for 6 months, then to present residence where she has been since. Ann F. dau of Nikkinuier. John Taylor in Cullachkin, Don Oag in Er Cullachkin, Janet F now widow of Geo F in Auchnagreintich of Fanellan.

Janet Fraser Widow of deceased George Fraser late servant saw mills, aged 60 yrs. Lived on Fanellan upwards of 40 yrs. Horse provided. Did shearing to prevent sheep being poided. Has small spot of land and house from deceased Capt. Simon F, wadsetter of Fanellan and fat. from Mr John Nicol.

Alexander Cameron in Bunchrew, marr. aged 37 yrs or thereby. Was herding for dec. Capt Hugh F or Erk. when 12 yrs old and 15 yrs ago was foxhunter in the Aird. Was succeed as herd by Rod. Chisholm, preceding witness.

Evan MacDonald Labourer in Easter Eskdale, marr. 60 years old. For last 20 yrs in Er Esk.

Thomas Fraser Late Carter, now residenter in Inverness, marr. 75 yrs old. Was 20 yrs in Er Esk and kept whisky house there until about 12 yrs ago. Of those who gave shilling each to Hugh Maclean, defender's shepherd, were Don Roy in mid possession of Fanellan, Cameron (does not recollect first name) in W of Fanellan and since gone to America, deceased Don Chisholm alias McThomas.

Barbara Fraser Residenter in Bught, unmarr. aged 50 yrs & upwards. Born Mid Main and there till 18 yrs old. Her step father then tenant in Mid Main.

Catherine MacLean Wife of Donald F in Knockchoille, aged 48 yrs. Was in Mid Main for 5 or 6 yrs 31 yrs ago. Wm McJames now deceased, then tenant in Wr Main.

[Transcription made of hand written notes by Hugh Barron from papers of Innes and Mackay Solicitors, Inverness (NRS GD296) and supplied to the Highland FHS].

The Farms of East, Mid & West Main, Kiltarlity: James Fraser known as the 1st of Main was a son of Hucheon Fraser 2nd of Belladrum and acquired a wadset of Mid Main from Lord Lovat in May 1632 and added to it in 1651 by acquiring land from Alexander Chisholm of Comer. When he died in 1660 his eldest son John inherited but due to his father's will not being confirmed till 1679 it was only in 1696 that he was finally confirmed of the lands. He sold the wadset to Hugh Fraser of Belladrum in 1698 but remained as Tenant. The family of James Fraser continued to occupy Mid Main till 1755.

18th Century records – Earliest reference to a farm at Main in OPR records is on the 18 September 1714, when a Donald McWilliam had a child named Christian baptised in Kiltarlity Church. In 1749 a John MacHutchon was recorded as Tenant in the Rental of Kiltarlity. By the 1841 Census four houses are recorded at Wester Main, five at Mid Main and five at Easter Main.

A Monumental Inscription from Old Kiltarlity Churchyard gives the following; 'Here lies the body of John Fraser late Farmer in Mid Main who died in the year 1784 aged 63 years and his spouse Anne Fraser who died in the year (stone broken).'

Sources

Kiltarlity Heritage Group (2007) A History of the Parish of Kiltarlity. Volume 2 The Westerly Townships. Privately Printed.

Kiltarlity Heritage Group (2002) Memorial Inscriptions Parish of Kiltarlity and Convinth. Privately Printed.

The Ardersier Fishing Disaster of 1909

By Stuart Farrell

The small village of Ardersier was rocked by tragedy on the 15 February 1909 when four men from the village were drowned when their boat foundered just near the coast. The following report on the recovery of the remains and funerals was given in the *Inverness Courier* 19 February 1909:

'The Ardersier Fishing Disaster. Three Bodies Recovered. The fishery cutter *Ringdove* and the fishing fleet belonging to the village of Campbeltown were out in the Moray Firth east of Fort George on Tuesday, searching for the bodies of the four fisherman of the *Fear Not*, which foundered the day before. A diver from the *Ringdove* succeeded in locating the fishing boat in six fathoms of water, but failed to discover and trace of the bodies. Later in the day one of the fishing fleet recovered the body of William Main, skipper of the boat, by means of grappling irons, and another boat subsequently secured the body of William Davidson, one of the hands. The bodies were brought to the village, where sad scenes were witnessed.

The diver found that the *Fear Not* was stuck in the sand by her stern, which was filled with the loose ballast, the shifting of which is no doubt responsible for the peculiar position which the boat occupies. He could not see more than two feet in front of him on account of the muddy nature of the water. This prevented him from making a thorough examination. As the boat might shift her position at any moment, and so endanger his life, the utmost caution was necessary. The *Ringdove* was unable to proceed to the exact spot where the *Fear Not* had gone down, as the latter lay near the edge of a sand reef. The cutter remained in the open channel, and sent a boat out with the diver.

On Wednesday diligent search was made for the remaining bodies by the men of the fishing fleet. The *Ringdove* had gone away the previous evening. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon the body of James Sutherland was recovered, but though the searchers were untiring in their efforts, the body of William Ralph could not be found. It is supposed that the body is entangled in the boat. The remains of the other three fishermen were found close to one another, not far from the boat. The supposition is that they were in the stern of the boat when she sank.

The search for the body of William Ralph will be resumed today, and an attempt will be made to raise the boat. On Wednesday the fishermen partially succeeded in doing this, but it was abandoned on the anchor, which they had managed to fix to the sunken boat, breaking.

The Funerals. A Village in Mourning. Seldom indeed has the village of Campbeltown witnessed such a sad and affecting scene as that which took place yesterday, when the funeral of the three drowned men took place to Ardersier Burying-ground. The whole village was in mourning, and the sole topic of conversation was the suddenness of the disaster.

In the forenoon a joint service, conducted by the three local clergymen, was held in the Ardersier Free Church. There were over 300 people present, and throughout the service, which was deeply impressive, many had difficulty in subduing their emotions. The service was conducted by Rev. James Mackay, Free Church. Rev. J. Paton, Parish Church, read the lesson, and the prayer was offered by Rev. A. A. Robertson, U.F. Church.

Rev. Mr Mackay, who based his remarks on the text, "Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the might waters" (Ex. Xv. 10), said – These words, taken of themselves alone, entirely apart from the context, fitly express the sad occasion of our present gathering together in the house of God. It is needless to rehearse in your hearing, for alas! it is only too well known to all of you, how early on Monday morning the *Fear Not*, with her brave and capable crew of four, was wiped out from the surface of the sea in the twinkling of an eye. It was not in the midst of the wide ocean, but within hail of land; nor yet in strange waters, but within sight of home; neither in an angry tempest, but in comparatively favourable weather, and surrounded by their comrades of the sea, that our brethren were suddenly removed as by an invisible hand. All the circumstances conspire to emphasise the suddenness, the unexpectedness, and the completeness of that calamity which in a moment of time made three wives into widows, twenty-two children into orphans, and one widowed mother into a Rachel, mourning for her son because he is not. The sad event was for us here one of rare severity, and one has to go back over twenty years to find a parallel. It seemed to some of us peculiarly fitting that a solemn assembly embracing all sections of the community should be held as a memorial service in honour of these four good men and true who perished while pursuing not only their private, but in a sense the public good. It is not to my mind called for in the solemn worship of God to eulogise any flesh either living or dead; therefore I refrain from pronouncing anything in the shape of a panegyric upon those who are gone, worthy as they were. But this much I may be permitted to say – that the universal sorrow is the best testimony to the high esteem entertained for the memory of those four gallant men who daily pursued their lawful calling at the hazard of their lives, and died in the discharge of their arduous duty. It is well also that the people with one voice should thus express their deepest sympathy with all the bereaved families and friends, and bear them up as on one heart at the common mercy-seat, commending them to the infinite fatherly care of the widow's help and orphan's stay. God's way is in the sea, his path in the great water, and His footsteps are not known. Therefore, we must not presume to interpret the secret meaning of the mysteries of Divine Providence. But a few things are clear. It is a reminder, especially to the seafaring class, that every time they go forth to toil upon the deep they carry their lives in their hands, and that there is but a step betwixt them and death, for what has happened to those four may happen any day to one or all of them. Those men were perhaps chosen as a sample from among the rest by means of them God might bring His message home to all of us. I am persuaded that useful though these lives would have been if spared, they will probably have accomplished more by their awakening many to a life of righteousness, so that the dark-robed messenger will yet be seen to be a blessed angel of light in disguise. It is also my strong conviction that this is a clear call to all the churches that while perhaps it is inevitable that there should be separate organisations, they should yet cultivate the spirit of unity in the bond of peace.

The funeral, which was the largest seen in the village within memory, took place at two o'clock. At each of the houses where the bodies lay a large concourse of mourners and others gathered. At the house where the body of William Main lay, Rev. Mr Mackay conducted a short service, and at the homes of Wm. Davidson and James Sutherland the services were conducted by Rev. Mr Paton and Rev. Mr Robertson respectively. James Sutherland was an old soldier with a record of twenty-one years' service, the greater part

of which he served with the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. A large detachment of the Seaforth Highlanders from Fort George followed the remains. The coffin was draped with a Union Jack, and placed on a gun-carriage. There was no band or firing party, in accordance with the expressed wish of Mrs Sutherland. The gun-carriage headed the large procession, followed by the soldiers, the chief mourners of the deceased coming next. They were Wm. Sutherland, Hopeman, father; Daniel, William, and John Sutherland, brothers; David Young and Daniel Davidson, brothers-in-law. Following on biers were the coffins of Wm. Main and Wm. Davidson. The chief mourners following the coffin of Wm. Main were Donald, Wm., and John Main, sons; David, James, and Alexander Main, brothers; and Donald Smith, father-in-law. Following the coffin of William Davidson were his brothers and other relatives. The general public followed four abreast. Almost the entire population of the village were present, as well as fishermen from Hopeman, Burghead, and neighbouring towns. The public school, the shops, and places of business were closed. As the solemn procession wended its way to the Church-yard it was watched by large crowds of women and children at various points of the route. Among them were to be seen many of the bereaved relatives, in tears. The anguish of some of the women, with little children clinging to them, was deeply affecting. When the procession arrived at the Church-yard the coffins were placed in their respective graves, and a short burial service was conducted by Rev. Mr Robertson, after which the graves were closed.

A local committee has been appointed, with Col. Russell, Treeton, as chairman, for the purpose of collecting and distributing funds to the dependants of the drowned fishermen.'

Funds for the Widows and Orphans were raised by public concerts, one being held in Ardersier only a few weeks after the disaster. A concert was also held in the Inverness Music Hall on the 18th March which included the band of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, at that time Provost Gossip of Inverness intimated that £200 had already been subscribed to the Fund. By the end of April the Inverness Courier intimated that over £500 had been raised, by mid-August it had doubled to over £1000.

Unfortunately there are no surviving records of the Funds distribution and no Poor Records for the Parish after 1902. Likewise nothing listed under Kirk Session Records for either the Church of Scotland or the United Free Church or the Free Church for the dispersal of the funds. No fatal accident report was made by authorities and Police Log Books for Ardersier do not cover the date.

But what of the four men that were lost? Interestingly all four men have corrected entries for their death certificates dated 2 April 1909 by the Procurator Fiscal William Anderson.

William Davidson was the son of John Davidson, Fisherman (deceased) and Christina Mackay. Date of parents' marriage not found.

In 1901 Census possibly residing at 115 High Street, Ardersier though Mother's name stated as Margaret? Margaret Davidson 40 Fishwife, William Davidson 14 Scholar and John Davidson 12. Death Certificate indicates he was still at this address at time of death.

Headstone in Ardersier Cemetery of: Erected in memory of John Davidson, Fisherman, drowned at sea 22nd Nov. 1888, aged 49 years; also his son William, [dr]owned at sea [15th] Feb. 1909, [aged 22] years.

William Main was the son of Alexander Main, Fisherman and Janet Smith. He had married Margaret Smith on the 29 September 1882 at Ardersier.

In 1891 Census as residing at Elmbank House, Ardersier of: William Main 31 Fisherman, Margaret Main 32 Fishwife, Janet Main 7 Scholar, Christina Main 5 Scholar, Catherine Main 3, Donald A Main 1 and Janet Mains 16 Sister General Domestic Servant. In 1901 Census as residing at Stuartown, Stuart Street, Campeltown of: William Main 48 Fisherman, Margaret Main 39 Fishwife, Christina Main 15 Housekeeper (Domestic), Catherine Main 13 Scholar, Donald A Main 11 Scholar, Margaret Main 9 Scholar, Helen Main 7 Scholar, William Main 5, Isabella Main 3 and John Main 1. Death Certificate indicates he was still at this address at time of death.

Headstone in Ardersier Cemetery of: In loving memory of William Main, Fisherman, drowned at sea 15 Feby 1909, aged 48 years; his daughter Christina, died 8 Feby 1903, aged 18 years; also his son William, died 16 Nov. 1922, aged 27 years; and his wife Margaret Smith, died 15 Nov. 1944, aged 85 years; also their daughters – Ida, died 23 Oct. 1959; Catherine, died 14 Jan. 1961. "*Thy will be done*" Erected by his widow and family.

William Ralph was the son of Alexander Ralph, Fisherman & Margaret Mackenzie. He married Christina Main on 16 September 1887 at the Free Church, Ardersier.

In 1891 Census as residing at Fisher Row, Ardersier: William Ralph 28 Fisherman, Christina M Ralph 26 and Margaret Ralph 1. In 1901 Census as residing at 115 High Street, Ardersier: William Ralph 38 Fisherman, Christina Ralph 35, Margaret Ralph 11 Scholar, Jessie Ann Ralph 6 Scholar, Alexander Ralph 3 and Bella Ralph 1. Death Certificate indicates he was still at this address at time of death.

Headstone in Ardersier Cemetery of: In loving memory of William Ralph, Seaman, Ardersier, drowned off Fort George 15 Feb. 1909, aged 46 years; and his wife Christina Main, who died at Ardersier 18 March 1920, aged 53 years. "*Till the day dawn*" Erected by their family.

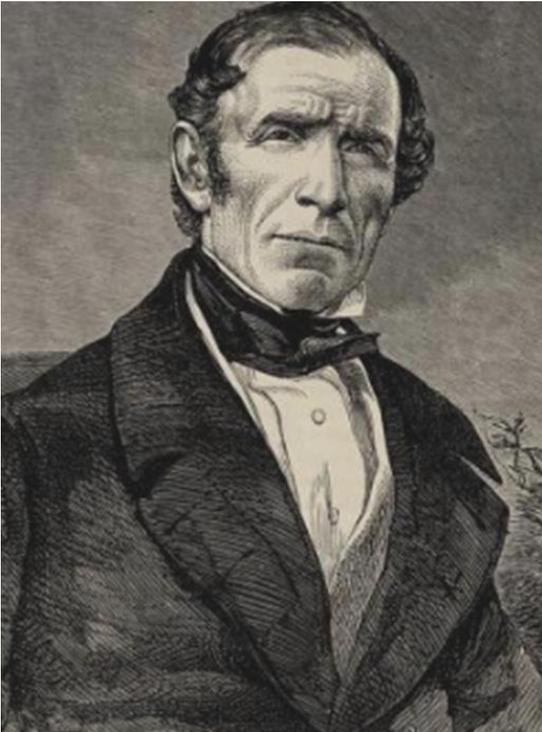
James Sutherland was the son of William Sutherland, Fisherman and Mary Main. Noted in Death certificate as Fisherman and Army Pensioner. Married Helen Main on 14 September 1894 at Ardersier.

In 1901 Census not found may have been abroad with Army. Wife residing at 114 High Street, Ardersier of: Alexander Main 72 Fisherman (Retired), Helen Sutherland 31 Soldier's Wife, Alexander Sutherland 4, Mary Sutherland 2 and Janet Sutherland 2m. Death Certificate indicates he was at this address at time of death.

Headstone in Ardersier Cemetery of: Erected by David, her son, in loving memory of our dear mother Helen Main, who died 1st February 1939; and our dear father James Sutherland, drowned 15th February 1909; our brothers – Alexander, H.M.S. Greatheart, drowned 25th September 1915; William, drowned in infancy; also the above David, died the 2nd Sept 1946, aged 40 years, beloved husband of Ethel Cornal. "*Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep*".

Donald Beaton – The Great Victorian Gardener Part 1

By Laurel Lahay



While researching family history, many of us get easily side-tracked. A while back I was perusing through archived issues of the Inverness Courier looking for notices regarding my Bethune/Beaton family who lived in Inverness and the surrounding area in the 1800s. It is always a bonus to find an old birth, marriage or death notice from that time period. I've been able to trace my Bethune/Beaton family to Gairloch, Ross-shire circa 1780. From there, the family moved eastward and found work at places such as Kiltarlity, Belladrum, Beaully and Inverness. One day, I noticed a lengthy obit for a man named Donald Beaton who was born sixteen miles from the parish church of Urray in Strathconon, Ross-shire on or about March 8th, 1802. Donald was a well-known and respected gardener in his day and at the height of his career he was head gardener at the Shrubland Estate

owned by Sir William Middleton of Suffolk, England. Donald left quite a paper trail. Not only did he write regular articles for the *Cottage Gardener* and the *Journal of Horticulture* but he also penned a published autobiography. Oh, with this fabulous personal history, wouldn't it have been nice to have had Donald on the family tree. Sadly, there is no surviving proof that he was related to our family. It is possible though as the name Donald was passed down through the Beaton line and my Beatons were living in the same vicinity and in the same time period as Donald's family.

B. Elliott in his book, *Victorian Gardens*, published in 1990, suggested that Donald Beaton might have been one of the greatest gardening journalists of the early 19th century. Donald experimented with ornamental flower beds and was a "pioneer breeder of bedding plants, especially pelargoniums."¹ When Donald wrote about his results from cross breeding plants, it caught the attention of Charles Darwin. They corresponded via the *Journal of Horticulture* (formerly the *Cottage Gardener*) but Darwin deemed Donald to be "a clever, but d—d cock-sure man."² Later on, there seemed to be some mutual respect. Donald suffered a stroke in 1863. After his death an unfinished article was discovered which was ready for publication. A written apology to Darwin was posthumously published, "This seems the best place for me to make a suitable apology to Mr. Darwin..... I wrote hurriedly and very earnestly for a particular reason—well knowing that every word Mr. Darwin says carries great influence with it to the ends of the earth."³ In 1863, J.R. of the *Surbiton Comet* stated "If he chafed occasionally at opposition, in good time he made amends by proofs of his acknowledgement of his errors and his corrections."⁴ Darwin referred to Donald as 'the great Mr. Beaton' in a letter to C.W. Crocker, in 1861.⁵

Donald's father, also named Donald Beaton was a well-known Highland drover and cattle dealer. Along with partner Hugh MacLean, they rented large tracts of grazing land around

Beaufort Castle. While his father was attending to cattle, young Donald became a tutor for the children of Mr. Strachan who was the manager at Beaufort Castle. Along with Mr. Strachan's oldest son, Donald was very pleased to have been sent to the Inverness Academy in preparation to compete for a bursary to the King's College of Aberdeen. Donald wrote, "Inverness Academy was then the best school in Scotland, and still is among the very best in the three kingdoms. Many of our naval officers had to get the finishing stroke at Inverness, after going through at Oxford, or Cambridge." Sadly, Donald's hopes were dashed, "Yet, to my mortification, I soon found that I could not be a "dux" at the examination, and, without that, I had no hopes of a bursary in Aberdeen. The first, second, and third places in the class were marked once a week; but I might be first five days, and yet have only the third place on the sixth; by some fatality the class was never "taken" when I was first; but partiality had more to do with it." Due to the fact that Donald came from humble circumstances, he believed that he had been passed over from being one of the top students (dux.) He returned to Beaufort Castle as deputy game keeper but when he came of age, he decided to train to become a gardener, "I was now "brothered" – an awful ceremony, by which a young fellow is admitted into the free masonry of gardening; after that, every one assisted me to make up for lost time; all their books were open to me, the news spread, and I was admitted to see other gardens and systems round about."

From Beaufort, Donald moved up the ranks, landing a position at Altyre House, an estate near Forres in Morayshire where it was reputed to have the best gardens in Scotland. This is where Donald began crossing plants and bulbs. Seeds were sent to Shrubland Park in Suffolk from Altyre House by Lady Cumming on Donald's insistence. Following that Donald worked in the best nursery at Perth and then at the Garden of the Caledonian Horticultural Society in Edinburgh. A few years later, he sailed to London where he obtained a position at a nursery in Clapton and then at Haffield in Ledbury. While working as a gardener and general manager at Haffield House he was launched on a journalistic career for J.C. Loudon's Gardener's magazine. Donald wrote, "Mr. Gordon, my employer at Haffield, was a practical botanist, a great lover of experiments, and a most kind and liberal master; through his influence, and at his cost, I got into correspondence with the principal botanic gardens in this country, and with the best private gardens. I travelled every summer to see what was going on round London, and all over the country. I travelled three thousand miles, in England alone."

When Mr. Gordon died suddenly at the age of 41, Donald was forced to make another move. He found employment working for Mr. Thomas Harris Esq. in Kilburn, London before settling down at Shrubland Park, the home of Sir William F.F. Middleton where he became the head gardener and spent long hours experimenting with bedding plants. Donald penned "I was nine years a journeyman and twenty-one years a head gardener." By 1840, Donald was renowned for his magnificent displays of summer bedding plants. He was the first successful breeder of bedding pelargoniums (Elliott, 1991.) Donald was the gardener who introduced coconut fiber to plant cultivation and in 1853 it was written in the Surrey Comet, "If the cocoa fibre company would erect a monument on his remains, they

would give a fresh stimulus to the sale of the fibre, and it would not be too much for the labour and talent he exercised to bring their golden treasure to public notice.”



Shrubland Park, near Ipswich, Suffolk. This sketch appeared in The Illustrated London News in July 1851. It showed the arrival of Prince Albert after a meeting of the British Association in Ipswich. Image: The British Newspaper Archive.

In 1837 Donald married Lydia Penn in Ledbury, Herefordshire but the marriage didn't last long as Lydia died in 1850 from "laryngitis," (according to her death registration.) Donald then married Jane Parfett (Parfitt) in 1851 in Barham, Bosmere, Suffolk. Not much was written about the two wives and no children resulted from either marriage. Donald died of a stroke on Oct. 31st in 1863 in Surbiton, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey at the age of 61. "To the last he devoted himself to his favourite pursuits; he literally died in the midst of them, for it was when in the act of providing protection for his favourite flowers for the winter that he was seized by the disease which so soon proved fatal."⁶ Upon his death, the editor of *The Journal of Horticulture*, Nov. 3rd, 1863 wrote, "That we are mainly indebted to Mr. Beaton for the present direction that has been given to English gardening; that his skill in harmonizing colors operated in all the best establishments in the country. That perhaps there is not another example recorded in the history of British Gardening, of one who applied the science of Botany so beneficially to practice, as Mr. Beaton did." J.R. wrote in the *Surrey Comet*, Nov. 28th, 1863, "The king died uncrowned.....He declined the numerous invitations of the nobility and gentry in order to reserve his vigorous mind for experimental research, which he considered of more extensive importance." For a lasting tribute, the flowering plant genus "Beatonia" was named in his honour. In his autobiography, Donald summed up his life, "If I have met with disappointments at my first starting in life, I think, on the whole, that was best for me, and I have great reasons to be thankful."

71st Fraser Regiment 1776-1784 Marriages Part 1

by Ed Brumby

The 71st Fraser Highland regiment was raised by Simon Fraser of Lovat in 1775 to fight in the American War of Independence. Clan chiefs clamoured for an officer's position for their sons and relations. By raising a sufficient number of recruits they would not have to pay for a commission. The Duchess of Gordon raised about 80 recruits and thanks to the diligence of her factor, their details have been preserved and made available to the public at the National records of Scotland (NRS Ref. GD44/47/1/2). Unfortunately the same can't be said for the other clan chiefs, the records having been lost either due to re-indexing, unable to find them, destroyed by fire etc.

The 71st had an eventful journey, in June 1776 400 were captured at Boston before they even entered the war. The rest would march with the British Army from New York to Savannah and back to Yorktown before being finally beaten and forced to surrender. Muster and prisoner lists were kept but due to the frequency of similar Scottish names, it is almost impossible to trace a recruit's journey unless he happened to have an unusual name. Regiment was disbanded in May 1784.

Scotland's People does not index by regiment so it takes a lot of effort to extract names of marriages etc. It is a worthwhile exercise if it allows someone to link to that marriage because then at least they will know the journey that their ancestor took. The following List should not be seen as complete, those for Perth will follow in part 2; and some soldiers settled in Nova Scotia, Canada, but that is a story for another day.

INVERNESS 71st Regt and other Regt.

1776

Evan Fraser Soldier in 71st and Jean Fraser 16th Feb 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

Peter McKinzie Soldier in 71st & Janet Cameron 21st March 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

Donald McKinzie Soldier in 71st & Anne McKinzie 21st March 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

John McIntyre Sergeant in 71st & Katherine McRae 23rd March 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

Donald McKinzie Corpl [Regt. Not stated] & Grisel Ross 31st March 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

Finlay McInzie Soldier in 71st & Isoble Chisolm 10th April 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

John McDonald Soldier in 71st & Christian Cameron 16th April 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

George McPherson Soldier in 42nd & Janet Fraser 12th July 1776 (OPR 098/00 0080 0148)

1781

Neil McInven Soldier in 71st Regt & Ann Fraser 24th Jan 1781 (OPR 098/00 0080 0155)

George Taylor Soldier in 42nd Regt & Margaret Shaw 2nd Feb 1781 (OPR 098/00 0080 0155)

Neil Ryrie Soldier in 73rd Regt & Anne McKinzie 10th March 1781 (OPR 098/00 0080 0155)

Alexander Baillie Soldier in the 73rd Regt & Heny McKinzie 15th March 1781 (OPR 098/00 0080 0155)

Duncan Campble Soldier in 71st Regt & Anne Lilie 7th Dec 1781 (OPR 098/00 0080 0155) 1782

David Ferguson in the 71st Regt & Magi Grigor 21st Jan 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)
Capt **Thomas Walcote** & May McInzie 6th Feb 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)

Hugh McKay Soldier in 73rd Regt & Helen Fraser 8th April 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)

John Schiach Sergt in 73rd Regt & Margaret Clunas 9th April 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)

Donald Mitchell Soldier in 71st Regt. & Isoble McLeod 29th May 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)

John McPhail Soldier in 71st & Janet McLane 30th June 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0156)

John Munro Sergt in 21st Regt & Janet Davidson 9th Aug 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0159)

Thomas Hull Corpl in 76th Regt & Janet Cuming 3rd Aug 1782 (OPR 098/00 0080 0159)

1783

John Sutherland Soldier in 2nd Battn. Royal & Janet Thomson 22nd May 1783 (OPR 098/00 0080 0160)

Alex McGillavray Corpl. in 73rd Regt & Kath Murchison 6th June 1783 (OPR 098/00 0080 0160)

Alexander McIntosh Soldier in 73rd Regt & Isable Mure 20th May 1783(OPR 098/00 0080 0160)

Alexander Robertson late Soldier in late 17th & Isabl Cample 17th June 1783 (OPR 098/00 0080 0160)

Duncan Forbes Soldier in 42nd Regt & Kath McKay 30th Dec 1783 (OPR 098/00 0080 0160)

1784

Alexander McDonald Soldier in the 21st Regt. & Ann Cameron 30th Jan 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0161)

William Munro late Soldier & Elizabeth Read 7th June 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0161)

William Nicol Corpl in the 73rd Regt & Anne Tulloch 29th June 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

Farquhar McKay late Soldier in 71st Regt & Nelly Fraser 10th July 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

William Melvaun Soldier in 55th Regt & Janet McKenzie 28th July 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

Alexander Campble Soldier in the 56th Regt & Helen McKinzie 14th Sept 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

Donald Fraser Soldier in the 42nd Regt and Isable Mclver? 18th Oct 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

Capt **Evan McPherson** & Margt Cuming 8th Dec 1784 (OPR 098/00 0080 0162)

GLASGOW

Thomas McIntosh Soldier in the 71st Regt of Foot m 21st Jan 1776 Christian Fergusson Rest Glasgow (OPR 644/26 p174)

David Petrie Soldier in the 71st Regt of Foot m 26th Jan 1776 Margret Taylor Rest in Glasgow (OPR 644/26 p175)

William Bell Soldier in the 71st Regt of Foot m 15th Jan 1776 Margaret Gardner Res in Partick? (OPR 644/26 p176)

James Menzies Soldier in the 71st Regt m 12th April 1776 Elizabeth McDonald Rest Glasgow (OPR 644/26 p179)

Robert Campbell Soldier in the 71st Regt of Foot m 19th April 1776 Margaret McDermaid Rest Glasgow (OPR 644/26 p180)

Alexander McFarlan Soldier in the 71st Regt m 19th April 1776 Janet Gardner Rest in Glasgow (OPR 644/26 p180)

STIRLING

OPR 490/40/ Pages 182-184

1784

John McKinzie 71st in Captain Hutchison's Company m 11th Jan 1784 Catherine Cameron in this parish

Angus McDonald 71st m 18th Jan 1784 Grizel McDonald

James Bain 71st m 18th Jan 1784 Catherine Ferguson in this parish

Simon McFarlane 71st m 22nd Jan 1784 Sarah Donaldson in this parish. I think McFralan on musters. One in Barker's Company at Perth, discharged 8th May 1784

Alexander Gull [I think Gould] Corporal 71st m 22nd Jan 1784 Janet Paterson, Alexander Gould was in Barker's Company at Perth WO12-7848. It says he was promoted to Capt. Campbell's Company 25th Oct 1783 and discharged 9th May 1784

John Bain 71st m 25th Jan 1784 Ann Kuitson [?] in this parish, One in Col's Company at Perth 1784

William Barr 71st m 25th Jan 1784 Euphemia Sutherland in this parish

Donald Lamond [Lamont] 71st m 25th Jan 1784 Jean Samson? In this parish, In GD153/1/6/2 at New Town Creek...detachment. Discharged in Skelly's at Perth

James Bain 71st m 25th Jan 1784 Jean Taylor in this parish, In Skelly's at Jamaica. In Major Simon Fraser's at Perth. But two James Bain above

John Hay 71st m 8th Feb 1784 Ann Drummond in this parish

James Torrie 71st m 29th Feb 1784 Christian Kirk

Donald McKenzie Corporal 71st m 21st March 1784 Lilly McEwen

William Swanson 71st m 18th April 1784 Janet Wright

Robin Reid late soldier in 71st m 2nd May 1784 Isobel Taylor in this parish

John Cameron 71st m 10th May 1784 Anne McIntyre in this parish

Murdoch Campbell 71st m 16th May 1784 Warby Youll in this parish

John Fraser 71st m 13th May 1784 Margaret Campbell in this parish

Simon Fraser late of the 71st m 11th Sept 1784 Barbara Monro

If anyone has any information on these marriages or their families please contact the Editor.

The Oldest Invernessian: John Fraser 111 Years Old!

By Stuart Farrell

Whilst searching for a family in the Inverness Poor Registers I found this entry for a John Fraser, 15 Upper Kessock Street, aged 105 when he became a Pauper on the Parish on 23 April 1868. Stated as born Kirkhill, occupation Labourer and had been resident in Inverness for 65 years. Was awarded 3/6 a week and noted that he resided with his Daughter-in-law Widow Fraser, with son James residing at Bogroy.

The Inspector of the Poor made the following note in the Register: 7 May 1869 To present a record of the great age of this man John Fraser Tenter here that he stated in April 1868, as the ground for his age that he was Foster Brother to the late Major Thomas Fraser of Newton (in the Aird formerly in command during the Irish Rebellion of the 42d Highlanders) John Fraser's Mother having given birth to both the children at the same time. He could not tell the Majors age but the pauper states that when the first turf was cut for the foundations of the Northern Infirmary (Infirmary finished 1803), Provost Inglis at the head of the Magistrates of Inverness & assembly present gave him the first glass of whisky as being the oldest Labourer on the ground; & he is sure he must have been then 40 years old at least. This would make him 105 years old. James Wilson Esqr Banker whose first Wife was a Daughter of Major Fraser of Newton tells me that he knows from the Commissary Court Records that the Major died on the 11th June 1838 at the age of 80 years. Mr Wilson is well aware that Fraser was the Major's Foster Brother & was always recognised as such by the family, & he believes that on the 11th June 1869 he will be fully 111 years old. He is now in his Dotage & his Daughter in Law is very kind to him; His Son James gives him no assistance & says he is in poverty himself.

Register Entries are as follows: 4 June 1870 Continued at 3/6 a week, Amount paid for year to 14 May 1870 as per Ordinary Roll £9.3/-, 25 Jan 1871 Continued at 3/6 a week, 14 May 1871 Amount paid for year to date as per Roll of Ceased Ordinary Outdoor Poor £9.5.5½, Dead.

John Fraser died 9 March 1871 occupation Labourer Widower of Mary Fraser at 16 Upper Kessock Street, Inverness with age stated as 100 years or upwards. Son of William Fraser, Farmer and Margaret Fraser or Michael, cause General Debility from Old Age 3 months, Informant was John Fraser, Grandson.

Notice of his death in the following article in the *Inverness Courier* 16 March 1871: 'Death of a Centenarian. An aged man died on Thursday last in the Merkinch, Inverness, who was reputed to be more than 100 years old, although his precious age was never clearly ascertained. His name was John Fraser, and he was a native of the parish of Kirkhill. Some years ago a good deal of attention was given to his case by the Parochial Board, and the sub-inspector made inquiries which led him to believe that the man was then 198 years of age! The register of his birth has not been found, but it is stated that he was foster-brother of the late Major Fraser of Newtown, who died more than thirty years ago at the age of seventy-eight. This has been questioned, and his own friends do not claim for him such an advanced age, but they believe he was over a hundred. The register of the

birth of a sister who lived to be very old, and who is dead a good many years, corroborates this view to a certain extent. The deceased, it is said, was engaged in digging the foundation of the Northern Infirmary, which was opened in 1803. Whatever may have been his exact age, there is no doubt that he had survived far beyond the ordinary term of human life. In his late years he received an allowance from the Parochial Board, and was carefully tended by a widowed daughter-in-law, who suffered him to want no comfort that he could desire. We saw him last year when he was still able to move about, though bent and tottering from age and infirmity. His faculties were not quite gone; he could understand something of what was said to him, and appeared to have a will of his own, which it would not be east to persuade or oppose. He leaves a son who resides in Kirkhill, the daughter-in-law who attended him, and a grandson who is employed in the railway. We are not aware whether there are any other relatives surviving.'

From his Death Certificate John was the son of William Fraser and Margaret Michael. No record in the Kirkhill OPR for his birth, though they did have another child born in 1772 where it is recorded that they lived at Easter Lovat, unfortunately the child's name is not stated. No date of Marriage to be found for his parents either as Marriages for Kirkhill only survive from 1784. No headstone to found in Kirkhill Churchyard with parents names either.

A William Fraser at Easter Lovat is recorded there in 1764 when the Commissioners for the Annexed Estate of Lovat gave him lint seed to the value of 1/9d to encourage lint production (Harrison, H. W. 2008 A History of the Parish of Kirkhill Volume 2: The Townships. Kilmorack Heritage Group. Privately Printed).

So far it has been impossible to corroborate the statement made in the Poor Register that John Fraser was 111 years old, but it would be nice to think that he was close to that age!

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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	£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	
Nairnshire		Old Churchyard, Petty	476	100g	£4.00
	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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