

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 40, Issue 1
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Cover: Presentation of Quaich to John Durham by Angus Bethune, Chairman.

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*All correspondence – c/o Family History Room,
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Please mark each item for the attention of the appropriate official*

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Highland Family History Society
Comunn Sliinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd
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EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Society is always looking for new articles from members, however small, so please contribute what you can. We also accept queries and please send them to the editor for inclusion in the next journal.

New Email Address – Further to our new webpage – The Highland FHS has a new email for enquiries, articles etc – HighlandFHS@gmail.com.

Also any correspondence, including membership, should be addressed to:
Highland Family History Society, The Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness, Highland, Scotland IV3 5SS.

AGM – Due to the current partial Lockdown, the AGM that usually takes place in March was postponed and it was hoped that it be rescheduled for September. However due to continuing restrictions in the Archive Centre, Inverness this again will have to be postponed. We will keep you apprised of any changes at a future date.

Committee News – The fact that John Durham our Treasurer and Membership Secretary has tendered his resignation, means we are still looking for someone locally to join the Committee. If you feel you would like to help run the Society, please get in touch. Due to restrictions the presentation of an engraved silver quaich to John was made at his house by our Chairman Angus Bethune.

Find my Past – The Society in partnership with Find My Past – is now able to offer a discount on Membership of Find My Past – use the Code HIGHLAND2022 – this should get you a 15% discount.

Forthcoming Publications – Work is ongoing on finish the publication of monumental inscriptions from Fodderty, also ongoing to complete those for Kirkhill and for Kiltarlity. So, keep an eye out in our next journal early 2022 for availability!

Stuart Farrell

The Grantown Murder of 1878 Part 2

by Stuart Farrell

There occurred on 17 July 1878 a case of murder at Grantown when Andrew Granger, a Farmer and Railway Engineer, killed James Fraser, Police Constable.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of 18 September 1878 of the following: 'Inverness Circuit Court. The Circuit Court for Inverness opened on Friday morning – Lord Deas presiding. Mr Roger Montgomerie was the Advocate-Depute, and Mr W. Hamilton Bell was Clerk of Court. Unusual interest was manifested in the proceedings, the Court-Room being crowded all day, and hundred unable to obtain admission.

The Grantown Stabbing Case. Andrew Granger, farmer, Fettes, Redcastle, was charged with the crime of murder. The indictment stated that on the 17 July he did, in the Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown, wickedly and feloniously attack and assault the now deceased James Fraser, then one of the police constables for the county of Elgin, stationed at Grantown, and did with a knife cut or stab the said James Fraser one or more times, in one or more places, in his stomach of belly, whereby he was mortally injured, and in consequence thereof died on the 19th of day of July.

Granger pleaded not guilty, and a special plea was lodged that he was insane when the crime was committed. He was defended by Messrs Asher and Mackintosh.

Mr Fraser, landlord of the Grants Arms Hotel, was the first witness. He deponed – I recollect Wednesday, the 17th July, being at Grantown Station about twelve o'clock, when the train from Forres arrived. I saw the train coming in. I observed three or more people on the coals on the tender. They were holding a man – the prisoner, Mr Granger. There was a man on each side of him holding him by the shoulder. He was sitting on the coals far back on the tender. He was led to a seat, where he sat down. He recognised me and spoke to me. He asked, would I see that nobody would hurt him, or such words. I said there was not the least fear of anybody meddling with him, and that he should sit still and calm himself. He said something about his tongue having been burnt. I went away, and left him there in charge of the stationmaster. I saw him again between two and three o'clock in the hotel. I did not see him come in. he had gone to the kitchen, and was sitting when I saw him. Forbes, the station agent, was with him for a short time. I saw him afterwards in the bar. I spoke to him there. I said to him, "O, Mr Granger, are you here?" He said "Yes I have known you for a long time as an honourable little gentleman. I hope you will allow nobody to do any harm to me." I said – "Oh, no, there's not the least fear of you while here." I asked him if he was going back to the train, and he said "No." He said he would like to go to bed in the quietest room, No.18. I went in with him. He wished the door to be locked, and he extended his hand to do so. I was inside with him, but I prevented him locking the door, turning the key myself to please him. He then insisted on the key being taken out of the lock. I did so. He then told me to look under the bed, which I did. He also looked under himself, and went down on one knee. While he was doing so I turned the key and got myself outside. He hurried to the door, and I felt his hand on the handle, and heard him turn the key and take it out of the lock. I asked him when outside if he was going to bed, and that he should not require anything for some time. He said to send word to his grieve and to Falconer, of Falconer Brothers, Inverness, to come up to him at Grantown. He then said not to send for his grieve, only for Falconer, and I said it would be done and left him. Some time afterwards the housemaid said there was a great

noise being made in the room. I went and spoke to him again outside the door, the key being out of the lock, and I observed his clothes were off and lying on a chair. I asked him what he was doing, and wouldn't he let me in. He said he would not; he was making a gallows to hang me and many others. I begged him again to let me in, but he would not. About a quarter past four I was in the commercial room with commercial gentlemen and Mr Francis McBean. Some of the maids came screaming to me and said he was doing something fearful, that he had knocked out all of the panes in the window, and that they were afraid he would jump out of the window. I again went and the two gentlemen I have named to the door. He still refused to let me in. He said "There's a great number of you. I won't let you in. I know you." We left him then, and I brought the Constable, the deceased James Fraser. We went upstairs to the room door, the constable and I. The constable said, "Will you open the door, Mr Granger? I know you and your brother quite well." He said, "I daresay you do." "Well," said the constable, "won't you open the door and let us in? Its only Mr Fraser and I." He said "No." We tried a key of one of the rooms, but it would not fit. With a second key we opened the door, and made a rush in. Fraser was first, and he looked round at the back of the door, and said, "Oh, Mr Granger, what -----." That was all he got said, when he immediately fell back upon me with a loud exclamation of "Oh." I immediately pulled the door to and locked Granger in, and went to the assistance of the constable. I asked him if he was severely wounded. He Said "Oh, yes; I'm stabbed, and I fear I'm done for." I helped him down stairs. Miss Yates was present. Fraser walked all the way downstairs, and I put him on the sofa. I said to him, "You are not so bad." He replied, "oh, yes, man; look here," and he took away his hand and showed me part of his dinner coming out – he had just had his dinner. Mr Duncan, chemist, and Dr Pringle dressed the wound. After the wound was dressed he was taken home. I then went back to No.18 with Forbes, the stationmaster, and some other people. We opened the door about 6 or 8 inches, and found something pressing against it from the inside. It was the prisoner that was resisting. We got a long pole to push the door open. I did this and got into the room eventually and secured him, and carried him to the Police Office. There was a large cut inside his right thigh. We did not see the knife, as he had dropped it out of the window. We left him in the Police Office. I returned and locked up the room.

In cross-examination nothing new was elicited, and a number of other witnesses gave substantially the same narration of the occurrence.

Dr Grant, Grantown, spoke to seeing the prisoner in the hotel at Grantown, and suffering from *delirium tremens*.

Dr Petrie Hay identified as correct a report on the injuries sustained by the deceased constable drawn up by him and Dr Grant, Grantown.

A large number of witnesses were examined as to the excited behaviour of the panel during his detention at Grantown, and after his removal to Elgin.

Dr Whyte, Elgin, deponed to having seen prisoner on the day after the murder was committed. He was suffering from *delirium tremens* in a very marked degree and did not recover until the 24th. Saw the wound on his leg, and prisoner when asked about it was quite un-aware he had such a wound. He was insensible to its touch, which showed that the brain was very much affected.

In his declaration, which was taken on the 19th, the prisoner admitted that he had taken so much whisky that he did not remember anything that occurred on the 17th after leaving his own house in the morning.

The Advocate-Depute asked the jury for the verdict on the capital charge, as he contended that the crime was committed through the effects of intoxication, and the law of Scotland did not recognise mania from drink as a cause of exemption from punishment.

Mr Asher, for the prisoner, referred his Lordship to the case of Alexander Milne, 1863, where the Lord Justice-General had laid it down in his charge to the jury if insanity existed "it matters not what was the exciting cause of that insanity, whether from drunkenness or immorality." Mr Asher contended that on the day libelled the prisoner was suffering from *delirium tremens*. And his conduct and actions showed that he was not a sane man; while every medical man who had seen him he was not suffering from mere intoxication but from *delirium*.

Lord Deas, in summing up. Controverted the argument that the prisoner was not responsible for his actions when the crime was committed. He held that the prisoner by his conduct had made himself responsible, and said it was for the jury to determine whether his capability amounted to the crime of murder or merely culpable homicide.

The jury were absent about twenty minutes, and then returned finding the prisoner guilty of culpable homicide, believing him to be when the act was committed under *delirium tremens*, to which was added, on the suggestion of Lord Deas, "and not guilty of the charge of murder."

Sentence was delayed.

The Court resumed its sittings on Saturday morning – Lord Deas presiding – when Mr Asher, in Granger's behalf, made a statement urging that no sentence could be pronounced. He held that *delirium tremens* was a valid defence against responsibility for a crime committed. The question he submitted was this, whether a person labouring under *delirium* was not, under the eye of the law, an insane person, and therefore liable to the only sentence prescribed under the statute, to the effect that he must be acquitted, on the ground of insanity. If the jury, as in the present case, found the panel guilty, at the same time stating he was insane at the time of the act, then they have returned an incompetent verdict, and sentence could not be pronounced on the accused; and he urged that according to the best authorities in medical jurisprudence *delirium tremens* was a phase of insanity, or, more strictly, actual insanity itself.

Lord Deas controverted the arguments of the learned counsel, and proceeded to pass sentence. In doing so he said – Andrew Granger, you have been convicted by the unanimous verdict of as intelligent a jury as ever I saw in the box – they have paid great care and attention to your case – of the crime of culpable homicide. That appears to me not only to have been an intelligent but a humane verdict. You had plainly, for some days at all events been drinking very hard, and that course of drinking produced what is a natural result – the excited state in which you were when you committed this act. If you had been simply drunk on that occasion – so drunk that you had no idea what you were about, or of what you did – unquestionably you would have been held guilty of murder, and you must have paid the penalty which the law imposes for that crime. That alone shows very distinctly that the mere fact of a man depriving himself of his intellect at the time of the act forms no excuse or palliation. To my mind that doctrine is clear and distinct. Well, the distinction between that and your case is very narrow. If by a course of hard drinking a man carries himself a step further, and produces a degree less or more of what is called *delirium tremens*, it is a narrow slip to sit that he will not be held equally responsible. Drink is the cause almost as directly in

the one case as in the other. If the jury in your case had affirmed the capital charge I could not have relieved you from the consequences, and it is difficult for me to say that you would have been relieved from suffering the last penalty of the law. For me to pronounce in your case a sentence short of penal servitude would be altogether out of the question. The difficulty with me has been whether it should not be one for a long period. I can find only one ground for limiting the period of penal servitude, and there may be a difference of opinion as to whether that ground is sufficient. But the sentence I shall pronounce in this case is justified in my mind by one or two things. One consideration is to deter other people, and the other is the reformation of the criminal. There can be no other justification of human sentences. If I were to look only the first consideration just stated, I would have to award you a long period of penal servitude – a very long period indeed. It is only when I come to the second consideration that I find I cannot make up my mind to do that. In a case recently at Aberdeen the course of life of the man made it clear that no hope of his reformation existed – that when he got out of prison he would in all human probability return to his old habits. At least that was the impression on my mind, and he was a man of a greater age than you are, and was not likely to see out the term of his sentence. I have therefore, on all these considerations, no hesitation in reducing the term of penal servitude in your case, in the hope of producing your repentance. You are only forty-three years of age, and have been engaged in useful and probably successful work all your life. You may have been in the habit of drinking from time to time. I have no evidence of that, and I am not going to travel beyond the evidence produced in your case. The only evidence went to show that you had been drinking hard two or three days before the crime was committed. Whatever the fact may be, I am not entitled to assume anything you are incapable of being reformed. Probably you have been engaged in industrial occupations up to the very time of committing the crime of which you have been found guilty, and you may have been looking forward to resuming these, but it would certainly be with some danger to yourself and others. Under all the circumstances therefore I am called upon to consider whether a shorter sentence that I am inclined to give might not produce your reformation, leading you to abandon drinking altogether, and go on for the rest of your life in the occupation you have followed hitherto without indulging at all. I have no power to sentence you to penal servitude for less than five years, and have had great consideration in making the term so short. You will find out during that time that you can live without liquor. I hope that may be the result, and that for the rest of your life you may be a sober man. I need not tell a man of your intelligence that if you take to drinking when you get out of prison again your mind will probably be affected even more than before, and probably lead you to doing violence to yourself or others. I do not say that no man should take drink, but I do say that man such as you is bound morally and in every way, to abstain from drinking: and if you resolve so to abstain in the future, you may yet live to be a prosperous and successful man.'

Note of Jury Court Papers (JC26/1878/48) – 'The jury unanimously find the prisoner guilty of Culpable Homicide believing the act to have been committed while he was labouring under "Delerium Tremors" M W Miller Foreman.

Reported in *The Moray Weekly News* of 5 October 1878 of the following: 'On Saturday Andrew Granger, who, it will be remembered was sentenced to five years' penal servitude

at the Inverness Circuit Court for the murder of Constable Fraser at Grantown, was removed from Inverness Prison to Perth.'

Andrew Granger

Andrew Granger was baptised 22 October 1835 at Loudoun, Ayrshire, son of William Granger and Isabella Young, and was one of 12 children. Recorded in the 1841 Census as being at Underwood, Falkirk, Stirlingshire as follows: William Granger 50, Isabella Granger 45, William Granger 20, John Granger 20, Allan Granger 18, Janet Granger 18, Mary Granger 15, Isabella Granger 13, Jane Granger 11, Lillias Granger 8, Andrew Granger 6 and Robert Granger 3. In the 1851 Census as being at Dumbuck Farmhouse, Dumbartonshire as follows: William Granger 61, Isabella Granger 55, Janet Granger 25, Mary Granger 23, Lillias Granger 18 and Andrew Granger 15 (Farmer's son). The 1861 Census finds him at Balbirnie Mill, Markinch, Fife, listed as Railway Contractor aged 24 staying with his elder brother Allan Granger. Recorded in the 1871 Census at Fettes House, Killearnan, Ross-shire as Farmer of 359 acres of which 37 arable employs 9 men of Andrew Granger 36, Amelia Granger 27, William Granger (Scholar) 7, Amelia Granger 6, Bella Watson (Domestic Servant) 26, Christina Matheson (Domestic Servant) 24. The 1881 Census found his wife and family staying at Letham House, St. Vigean, Angus with Andrew Granger's elder brother William Granger.

He married Amelia Reid on 21 July 1863 at Logierait, Perthshire – Andrew Granger (Railway Contractor) son of William Granger, Farmer (deceased) and Isabella Granger ms Young to Amelia Reid daughter of James Reid, Carpenter and Amelia Reid ms Stewart were married at Church of Scotland, witnesses Allan Granger and David Reid.

Granger prior to the Grantown Murder was a Railway Engineer, working on the Dee Railway with his brother John Granger. In 1864 he was the contractor on the Bonar Bridge to Meikle Ferry section of the Inverness and Aberdeen Railway again with his brother John. In 1865 he was working on the Crieff and Methven Railway Junction. In April 1869 he was working on the railway at Kinlochluichart. In August 1869 the farm of Fettes, Redcastle, Ross-shire was let to him. Valuation Rolls of Ross-shire for 1869-1879 indicate that the farm had a rentable value of £855 when he rented the farm in 1869, rising the following year to £875, which was not only the largest in the Parish of Killearnan but one of the principal farms in Easter Ross.

On the 14th of June 1878 the following was noted in the *Inverness Advertiser*. 'Late Fire at Fettes – We understand that Mr Granger, Fettes, has received from the Northern Insurance company, through their agent at Dingwall, Mr Ross, banker, the full amount of his claim against them for the loss sustained in the late fire, with a further considerable sum to cover any additional loss which he may have omitted to take into account. Mr Granger also received from the Company the sum of £5 for distribution among those who exerted themselves in extinguishing the fire. The total claim, we understand, amounted to between £1100 and £1200.' One witness, Kenneth Macrae Shepherd at Fettes, stated that Granger's drinking became worse after the fire. A month later Granger was in Inverness seeing about ironwork from Falconer's Foundry for replacing the buildings.



At his arrest his sister Jane Granger of Mill of Forrest by Stonehaven went to Fettes to look after the family. Upon his imprisonment Granger had his estate at Fettes, Redcastle, Ross-shire sequestrated, with adverts appearing in the *Inverness Courier* in February 1879 for the sale of two prize horses. Prison records (Find My Past) indicate he was 5ft 6½ inches tall, described as strong built, good general form, healthy aspect face marked with smallpox. He was committed to Inverness Prison on 5 September 1878 as prisoner No.317, transferred to Perth 28 September 1878 as No.396/37, to Pentonville Prison, Middlesex on 12 March 1879, discharged 16 June 1879 to Woking Prison, Surrey, being transferred to Parkhurst on 18 May 1880 and licenced 13 September 1881.

Whilst in Perth Prison he was involved in sack making, at Pentonville a Tailor, Woking a Labourer, and at Parkhurst as a Tailor. Noted to have had a bout of epilepsy in Woking Prison on 17 May 1880. Visited at Perth on 17 December 1878 and 10 March 1879, no visits at Pentonville, Woking – 22 August 1879 by his wife, sister & brother-in-law, 25 August 1879 – In advance, 31 December 1879 by his brother.

In 1883 upon his release, he took his brother John Granger, of Pitcur, Coupar Angus to court over contractual agreements made on the Dee Railway for £12,000. This must have been unsuccessful as Granger was declared bankrupt in December 1886, when his address was stated at 13 Royal Park Terrace, Edinburgh.

By the 1891 Census Andrew Granger was now recorded as staying at Cultenhove Mill, St. Ninians, Stirlingshire aged 55, occupation as Contractor, Amelia Granger 47, Amelia Granger 22, David Granger 12 and Isabella Reid (Visitor). By the 1901 Census he was recorded as staying at 83 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh with occupation of Contractor, as Andrew Granger 65, Amelia Granger 60 and Andrew Granger Jnr 37. He died on the 26th August 1908 at 6 Leven Terrace, Edinburgh aged 73 in the parish of St Giles, Andrew Granger, Railway Contractor (retired) married to Amelia Reid. Death certificate states son of William Granger, Farmer (deceased) and Isabella Granger ms Young (deceased), cause of death epileptic fit (1 day) tubular disease of the heart, cardiac failure, informant was A. J. Russell, son-in-law of 50 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh.

Police Constable James Fraser

Death Certificate James Fraser, Police Constable married to Jane Hopkirk died 19 July 1878 0.30am Square Grantown, aged 39, Son of Donald Fraser, Master Blacksmith (deceased) & Marjory McGregor (deceased). Cause of death – Punctured wound of abdomen 2 days,

Peritonitis and Haemorrhage 2 days as cert by John Grant MD. Informant – Margaret Hopkirk, Mother-in-law, Registered at Grantown 24th July. Corrected Entry – Cause of death – A punctured wound in the region of the stomach caused by stabbing. Certified by John Grant MD Grantown, and George Petrie Hay, MD Forres, who made a post-mortem examination of the body. Culpable Homicide. Procurator Fiscal's Office Elgin, 1 August 1878.



James Fraser was born 20 June 1839 to Donald Fraser (? – 18 March 1878; James was informant of his father's death), Blacksmith Corshellach and Marjory McGregor (? – 26 November 1858) and was baptised in Cromdale Church on the 17 July 1839 and was one of 3 children.

Marriage of James Fraser & Jane Hopkirk on 2 Sep 1870 at Dunphail Mills, Edinkillie, James Fraser Police Constable 31 of Balnain, Edinkillie, son of Donald Fraser Blacksmith & Marjory McGregor (deceased) and Jane Hopkirk Farmer's Daughter 19 of Dunphail Mills, Edinkillie, daughter of John Hopkirk Farmer & Margaret Good.

Gravestone – Abernethy Churchyard: Erected by Jane Hopkirk in memory of her husband James Fraser Police Officer Grantown who died there 19th July 1878, aged 39 years. Also in memory of his father & mother who died at Cromdale in 1878 & 1858 and of two brothers and a sister.

In 1871 Census at Queen Street, Lossiemouth of James Fraser 31, Police Constable and Jane Fraser 20. Not in 1875 Valuation Roll for Grantown.

Wife Jane Hopkirk was born 11 January 1851 at Dunphail Mills, Edinkillie daughter of John Hopkirk (? – 26 January 1880) and Margaret Good (? – 1 December 1882) and was one of 11 children (last one born in 1855 when noted other 8 were alive and 2 deceased). Her parents were married in 1835 in Liberton – OPR entry of '2 October 1835 John Hopkirk, Gardener, Knighthill Parish of Lambeth, County of Surrey and Margaret Good, daughter of the late Henry Good, Ploughman in this Parish'. Jane is not commemorated on Hopkirk family headstone in Edinkillie Churchyard.

Children of Peter and Jane: John Fraser born 13 June 1871 at Police Station, Branderburgh (Lossiemouth), Donald Fraser born 23 May 1873 at Branderburgh (Lossiemouth), James Fraser born 28 May 1875 at Court House, Grantown, Marjory Fraser born 13 May 1878 at East End, Grantown. Jane was to have an illegitimate child George Lennox Munro Hopkirk or Fraser born 12 November 1890 at 9 Wood Street, Partick, child died 7 April 1892 at 86 Dundas Street, Glasgow of 'Commission Fit'. Recorded on George's birth certificate as Mother: 'Jane Hopkirk Widow of James Fraser Police Constable who died in Grantown on 19 July 1878'.

After the death of her husband, Jane moved to No.18 South Side in the nearby Village of Cromdale being recorded here in the 1881 Census: Jane Fraser Widow 30 Milliner, John Fraser 9 Scholar, Donald Fraser 7 Scholar, James Fraser 5 Scholar, Marjory Fraser 2 and Jessie McKenzie 17 General Servant born Grantown.

By the 1891 Census the family had moved to 9 Wood Street, Partick, Glasgow: Jane Fraser 40 Widow, John Fraser 19 Draper's Assistant, Donald Fraser 17 Stationer's Assistant, James Fraser 15 Draper's Apprentice, Marjory Fraser 12 Scholar and Lennox Fraser 4m born Govan (see above).

By the 1901 Census now resident at 13 Tassie Street, Pollockshaws, Eastwood: Jane Fraser 50, John Fraser 29 Commercial Traveller, James Fraser 25 Draper's Assistant, Marjory Fraser 22 and Robert Hopkirk 46 Brother Labourer born Edinkillie.

By the 1911 Census now resident at 499 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow: Jane Fraser 60 Boarding Housekeeper, Marjorie Fraser 32, Harry Person 21 Student born Swindon and John William Fraser 37 Lodger born Rogart.

Have been unable to find Jane's death, however Constable Fraser is commemorated on the Scottish Police Memorial at Tulliallan, Fife.

Sources

Court Papers (National Records of Scotland JC26/1878/48).

The Inverness Advertiser 14 June 1878.

Inverness Courier February 1879.

The Moray Weekly News of 20 July & 5 October 1878.

Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette of 24 July & 18 September 1878.

The Moray Weekly News of 7 & 14 September 1878.

The Parish of Cromdale'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 Cromdale. The Parish in 1841 had a population of 3561; the number of persons entitled to relief in 1841 was 138, with a sum distributed between them of £73.8.4. The report for Cromdale is unusual that the Minister of the Church made no statement but statements were given by two of the Church Elders and the Session Clerk.

Summary of Statement made by Mr John MacDonald, Merchant in Grantown, an Elder in the Parish of Cromdale. Statement made at Grantown on the 28 August 1843:

'He is a native of this part of the country, and generally acquainted with the people in it, and is perfectly acquainted with all the poor in about Grantown. The poor get, upon an average of years, from 10s. 6d to 17s. each. If persons come to be bed-ridden and useless, and have no means of support of their own, and no relations to support them, they are then entirely maintained from the poor funds. There is a doctor in the town, who gets a house free from the family of Grant, on the condition that he attends the poor of the parish and the servants at Castle Grant, when there are any servants there, but there are very seldom any. It does not signify what people are, whether they are good or bad, if they have children, and are in destitute circumstances, they get assistance. It is very seldom that they have widows in that situation. He thinks the paupers whom he visited with the Commissioner today, are about the most destitute both in Grantown and its neighbourhood. The greatest dependence the poor have is on begging. There is no light work of any kind for old people. He does not think it would be necessary to introduce an assessment in the united parishes, for the maintenance of the poor; many of them are of very bad character, and would not be better for any increase of allowance. They might make a bad use of it, and become riotous. The decent people are supported better in the country and by going through the town, than those of bad character are, and they have a tolerably decent maintenance.'

A second Statement was made by James Grant, Session-Clerk of Cromdale at Grantown on the 2 September 1843:

'The average allowance given to a pauper upon the first class list in the parish, is about 14s. per annum. A good many of them are able to do something for themselves. Some of those that get from the funds are not in the habit of going about and begging. They hoe turnips, and do other things of that kind. Those that do go about, get less or more from the farmers. He thinks those that go about are better off than some of those that stay at home. Some that are very poor do not go about regularly. They have scarcely enough to maintain them. The poor live chiefly upon meal and potatoes. There is only one heritor in the parish. He does not give anything, except when he goes to church. He does not give any stated sum regularly to the poor. The late Mrs Grant used to be very kind in giving clothes and other supplies to the poor about her; but there is no stated sum given, and the family are not often in the parish. He cannot say whether an assessment would be proper or not. When there is any pressing case reported by elders, they get 2s. or 3s. from the session to relieve it. He does not think there is much difference in the collections in consequence of the secession; but

this is merely his opinion. Does not know one man who has left the congregation of Cromdale church.

The third statement was made by Mr Donald Stewart, Farmer at Balmanoc and Elder in the Parish of Cromdale at Grantown also on the 2 September 1843:

'Thinks that if relief were confined to the poor of the parish there should be an assessment for them, according to the present law, including means and substance. The poor are maintained at present but irregularly, and sometimes they suffer. Besides, an assessment would fall equally upon all. At present some do not give, and others do. Besides, some of the poor are shy of themselves, and suffer, because they do not let their wants be known to the elders. If they were looked more regularly after, they would be better attended to.'

On the 28 August 1843, the following 15 Paupers were visited by the Committee (All except last two reside in Grantown, others in Cromdale were visited 3 September 1843). Notes were as follows:

1. **Ann Barrow**, aged sixty-four. Gets 5s. in the year from the session. Once got 7s. Her rent is 13s., which is the only thing which annoys her. Last half year's rent is not paid. She was working stockings for herself, and could work them for sale if she could get any employment. She cannot do any work out of doors now. She was not very fond of work when she was young. Her natural daughter, who is married to a miller, helps her with a little meal, and she makes stockings for her children. She would not like to depend altogether upon them; "although she is her daughter, her husband is not her son." The family of Grant did a great deal for her, but she went wrong herself, and she is now just a poor creature, getting a mouthful from day to day. She is often ill with pains that she does not expect to live till morning. House poor. Open chimney; dresser and crockery, chair, press, and table; good bed and bed-clothes and sheets.

[Ann Barron listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842. In the 1851 Census as Pauper formerly Agricultural Labourer residing with her daughter Christina and Son-in-law Donald McGregor, Meal Miller at Miltown, Cromdale. Same in 1861 Census. Died 29 March 1867 aged 86 at Milton, Cromdale of 'Old Age' daughter of John Barron, Letter Carrier and Janet McIntosh]

2. **Jane Grant**, in the other end of the same house, with a natural child. Not at home. She is in poor health. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

3. **Bell Mackenzie**, aged seventy-eight. In bad health. Gets from the session as they can afford. Got 8s. last year, and 8s. from the Baptists. She has one room, for which she pays £1. Good bed, chest, table, two chairs. House pretty comfortable. Works stockings, if she can get them. Was not taught to sew. Has no one to help her. Gets a little now and then from those that are charitable. It takes all she can get by working stockings to buy firing. [Listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842 as Isabella]

4. **Mary Grant**, aged sixty-five. Very infirm. Her brother lives with her; he is silly. They got 12s. each last year from the session, and she has got occasional aid besides. She has two natural children. Never did work, and cannot work now. Three poor beds, two stoups, a little

meal, chest, dresser, and very little crockery. Poor house, paved floor, very dirty. Lives principally upon charity. Her brother goes about. Her natural son, a labourer, does a little for the sister. [Possibly listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842 as Mary Grant or Berry]

5. **Alexander Burgess**, near seventy. Has lost a leg. A widower. Had 13s. last year. Can do nothing but go about begging. Rent £1 2s. [Listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842 as lame]

6. **William Nairn**, widower. Has three daughters, only one at home, the other two in service; the one at home is in bad health, and has some allowance from the parish. They had both gone out to harvest work. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842. In the 1841 Census at Main Street, William Nairn 60 Tailor; In the 1851 Census at North Side, Main Street, Grantown, William Nairn 73 Tailor, Isabella Nairn 31 Farm Servant and Ann Nairn 23 Farm Labourer]

7. **Widow MacIntosh**. Not on the roll. Has six or seven children. Of the three youngest the eldest is not seven years old. Two of her sons are masons, and they assist her in bringing up the family. She works stockings, and goes about with confectionery to markets, and when there is no mason work in the winter, her sons slaughter cattle. She is bringing up her family without any assistance from the parish. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

8. **May Burgess**, aged sixty. Got 6s. last year. Her rent is 14s. Pays it sometimes. She used to shear at harvest to pay it. "God knows how she is to do it now." She has three natural children, a son and a daughter married, and one in service. The two first assist her a little. Lives in a good garret-room; table, crockery (chiefly tea cups), two pots, three tin cans, and two beds. [Listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842 as Marjory]

9. **Margaret Ross**, aged sixty. Gets 5s. Rent 14s. "She steals nothing." "She lives honestly." She has a natural daughter, who does nothing for her. She is married. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

10. **James**, son of **Alexander McKenzie**, once Gaelic teacher, dismissed because he took to preaching. He is seven years old, and fatuous from infancy. An occasional allowance is sometimes made to him by the parish. Three doctors have seen him, and can do nothing for him. The father is half blind. Goes about the country collecting what he can, and brings it back to his family. He is at present in Caithness. They are not at all troublesome to the parish. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

11. **Widow Fraser**. Had eight children; all dead but one daughter, who lives with her. Fraser is seventy-six years old. Session give her as they can afford. Got 13s. last year. Her rent is 20s. Has no friends to assist her. She gives what she gets from the session for her rent, and her daughter helps her to make up the rest. She has no way of living but by going through the town. She cannot travel through the country. Two very good beds, chairs, tubs, table, chests, &c. House pretty comfortable. Her daughter has a natural daughter, and she is now married to a pensioner, who is a weaver, and works in another part of the country. He comes

on pension-day to draw his pension, "and then he makes them a' fou; and he does little also for them." [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

12. **Grace Grant**, aged thirty one. Has four natural children. Eldest, a boy aged seventeen, who pays her rent for her. Good house; not much furniture. New press and bed, chest, bench, and chairs. Rent £1. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842. In the 1841 Census at Main Street, Grace Grant 30, Janet McLean 6, John Grant 3, N K [William Fraser] 5m. In the 1851 Census as Grace grant 40 Agricultural Labourer, William Fraser 10 Scholar. In the 1861 Census as Grace Grant 52 Pauper, Jessie McLean 26 Worker of Husbandry & Willimena Robertson 5 Niece. Died 6 September 1864 aged 56 at West End, Grantown, Pauper formerly Domestic Servant daughter of Duncan Grant, Inverness-shire Militia and Janet Grant. Informant was Sister Ann Grant]

13. **Janet Bethune**, from Skye, aged sixty-six. Has been thirty years in the parish. Has 4s. from session, and 5s. from the Baptists. Has a room and a loom-shop. Makes 20s. a year by the loom. Rent 24s., but never paid more than £1. Has not paid last year's rent. Her neighbours assist her. Has no help from her children. Good bed, and very large chest, and a small one. Round folding-up table, three chairs, plenty of crockery. House comfortable. This old woman is very respectable, and the people round about are very kind to her. [Not listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

14. **Janet McGregor**. Gone out to work. House, as far as could be judged from its external appearance, comfortable. [Listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

15. **Elsbeth Rose**. Has been able to do nothing for three years. Got 13s. from the session last year, and 7s. the year before. Asked nothing as long as she could do without it. The session have so much to do, they cannot do much for any one. The minister and his wife are very kind to her, and charitable people sometimes give her milk and meal. She applied for some of the meal for the poor left by Sir James Grant, to be given to persons in the parish above sixty. When she first applied she was a few months under age; and afterwards, when she was of age, she was told the list was full; and she could not get on till there was a vacancy. She is very ill with dropsy. Mrs Grant, the minister's wife, sent a doctor to attend her. She had been kept down by being obliged to support her relations, and her father also required support from her. She was an able servant once, but all those things kept her bare, else she would have been better off. She is not afraid of want. God knows every one's condition. She lives with her brother, a labourer, who is aged fifty-eight. House not a bad highland house. [Listed on Parish Poor List for 28 December 1842]

From the Kirk Session Records (CH2/983/3) a disbursement of funds to the Poor was made at Grantown on the 28 December 1842. Although Minutes of the Cromdale Parochial Board exist from 1845 unfortunately there is no Roll of Paupers and Applications for relief and General Registers do not survive.

Poor Law Inquiry 1843 Parish of Edderton

By Stuart Farrell

The Rev. Donald Gordon provided the following statement to the Poor Law Inquiry at Tain on the 30 June 1843, where it was stated that the population of the parish of Edderton in 1841 was 975 with the average number of paupers relieved in 1835-6-7 being 25⅓ with a sum of £21.1s.9d being distributed among them.

I have been minister of Eddertoun since 1835. There is no assessment in the parish, the funds are administered by the kirk-session. The heritors never interfered until this year. The factors of two of the heritors attended this year on account of the recent secession. I wrote to them requesting to attend. We divide the poor into three classes: 1st, Those quite unable to work or bed-ridden or deformed, they receive from 8s to 9s a year; 2nd, Those who can work a little, at harvest or turnips, they receive generally about 6s or 7s a year; 3rd, Those in destitute circumstances but stronger and more able to work than the former class, they receive 5s to 6s. Once a year the roll was adjusted with reference to these three divisions. Widows with young children are placed in a distinct class, and are considered as donations, or occasional poor, varying from 5s to 20s., and in a few extreme cases, 30s or £2. We have perhaps two or three of these extreme cases on the roll. We have several bed-ridden people, about fourteen or fifteen, out of sixty-six on the permanent roll. By bed-ridden I mean those who are confined to the house. There are many cases of these bed-ridden people living just in bothies by themselves. They subsist by contributions of meal and provisions from the parishioners. Where there is no relation the nearest neighbours look after them. I may say that all in the first class are in a very destitute condition. That is upwards of one half of the whole. There are orphan children in the parish who are under the charge of friends; but there are none on the roll. There is one family in which there are two affected by epilepsy and paralysis. There were two more of the same family who died of the same complaint. They are supported by a very destitute parent advanced in years, and his wife is just as helpless as the children. There have been three fatuous persons in the parish since I came to it who lost their lives through neglect, all of different families, - two were drowned and one perished in the snow. The heritors did not voluntarily assess themselves for those cases, nor have they done so for any others since I came to the parish. I may mention, however, that the Balnagowan family have been in the habit of contributing a portion of meal, say one or two bolls, annually for particular cases of distress recommended to them; but this was distributed by the factor without consulting the session. We have no deaf or dumb on the roll. I forgot to mention that there is one fatuous person, a boy, who was put on the roll this years. We do not provide a doctor for the poor from the funds. The nearest medical officer is in Tain, five miles from the manse. I have had some practice of medicine myself. I was fourteen years in some parts of Sutherland where there was no doctor for seventy miles. The poor in my parish generally come to me for medical advice, and I give them medicines. I may mention that when I was residing in Sutherlandshire, the late Duchess of Sutherland gave me £10 annually for medicines to the poor on her estates. When the poor are sick, we do not give them extra food from the poor fund, they are obliged to go to the manse or their neighbours for anything of that kind. We do not pay for midwifery cases. We pay for the coffins of the paupers on the roll. Our general rule is to grant for the coffin of the dead pauper

as much as he would have been entitled to at the next distribution if he had lived. The poor in my parish are generally vaccinated. There is a medical man in Tain who vaccinates them gratis. I have not attempted it here. I used to do it in Sutherland. The food of the poor is chiefly potatoes. This applies both to paupers and tenants. Farm servants have more meal. The tenants have milk. Many of the tenants are sometimes not able to afford meal. They are confined to such mere patches of land. There are only four farms in the parish on which day labourers are employed. They are from 150 to 300 acres. The tenants likewise all get fish. They come to Tain and sell peats and purchase fish along with other necessities. There is not much begging in my parish among paupers on the roll. It is custom for them to come round twice in the year to every house in the parish where they expect to get anything. Their begging is confined to those two visits, and several do not beg at all; but we are very much annoyed with beggars from the south. Some of these people are impotent; but many of the, are able to work. They are generally vagrants. There are many persons in the parish who are able to work, and willing to work, if they had employment, who cannot find employment. They are maintained partly by the crofts, and partly by going south at harvest time. When I say they cannot get work I mean that they cannot find work in their own parish. The people are temperate in their habits. They generally can read Gaelic and the rising generation are most of them taught English. Within the last five years, three or four of our families have emigrated to Australia; but they are more inclined to go to North America. About five or six have emigrated to America since my incumbency. Since the separation from the established church, I suppose there will not be any collections at all. There are only three families in the parish who have not yet decided to secede. As to the principle of an assessment for the aged and infirm, I do not think an assessment in itself desirable; but I think it necessary under the circumstances. One of the circumstances which I would mention is the general poverty of the small tenants. I consider it necessary, as all the good land has been thrown into large farms which are occupied by few families. And I may farther mention, that since the separations from the establishment, the people do not consider themselves bound to support the poor in the same way as formerly. They used to consider that, as the heritors from the teinds maintained the establishment, it was the duty of the inhabitants, to a certain extent, to relieve the heritors from the burden of maintaining the poor; in point of fact, that it cannot be said that the heritors support the church, inasmuch as the teinds belong to the church as the rent belongs to the heritors; but when the people of the establishment used to contrast themselves with the dissenting congregations who had to maintain their own pastors, the people had a feeling that their contributions should go more in the channel of relief to the poor. Provided that able-bodied persons could possibly find employment, and support themselves by their industry, I should be strongly against giving relief to that class : it would have a tendency to impair their habits; - of injuring and endangering their moral and religious character. I have known cases of person who were in extreme destitution from inability to find such employment as would enable them to maintain their families. I never could put such parties on the poor roll. I have experienced severe loss from helping such persons, but I think that they ought to be maintained in some way or other, and yet I feel that relieving them from the poor rates would impair their industry and independence of character. I think that in such cases they should have a legal right to be supplemented out of the poor rates. Take the case of a man with a large, young, or delicate family – none of them able to work, - the mother is obliged to remain at home, - the husband earns a shilling

a day – How can he possibly maintain his family under such circumstances, especially when provisions are dear? I know of several cases of this kind.

Interrogated, “Whether if his wages were supplemented from the poor rates, there would not be a tendency of the employed to lower his wages?” Answers, “I do not think it would in this part of the country, while the feeling remains what it is.” I have nothing more to suggest on the poor laws. With reference to the parish of Edderachillis and Stoer in Assynt, of which I was minister, as compared with the poor in Ross-shire, I think that the former are better off than in Eddertoun. The way that I account for this is that the removal of the people from the interior to their allotments, took place at a later period – great sacrifices were made by the proprietor to reconcile the people to change, considerable employment was given to the people by improving harbours and making roads, and also their allotments of land were in general assigned to them at a very low rent. I apprehend, however, that from the want of employment in that part of the country, their condition will soon be worse than in this part of the country. The making of harbours and roads has ceased, and they are there farther from the south, and consequently from facilities for obtaining employment elsewhere. The aged and infirm poor were taken care of very much on the same principle as in Ross-shire, only their allowance were considerably less, and there was likewise less money given from private sources, except from the kindness of near relations, who, in the highlands, consider their own character involved in the comfort of those who are nearly allied to them by blood. The feeling is decidedly stronger in the highlands than in the lowlands, and is a remnant of the old feudal feelings, and of the spirit of clanship. In fact, highlanders will make considerable sacrifices of personal comfort, in order to support their aged parents and relatives.

The Rev. Donald Gordon (1796-1847) had left the Established Church to join the Free Church of Scotland having signed the Act of Separation and Deed of Demission on the 23 May 1843. By 1855 the Free Church in Eddertoun had 400 members though a decreasing population especially through emigration, which the Rev. Gordon had noted in his statement, meant by 1900 it had only 34 members. The population of the parish in 1851 had dropped slightly to 890 and by 1881 it had dropped by half to 431 increasing to 545 in 1911. The Free Church at Eddertoun joined the United Free Church in 1900 and in turn rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1926.

The following paupers were visited in their houses by the Poor Law Inquiry on the 4 July 1843 where it was noted ‘the parish of Eddertoun is entirely a rural parish, with scarcely any village, and the above cases were scattered over an extensive district.’

1. **Margaret Ross**, aged fifty, unmarried, in receipt of 8s a year. Her rent was £1; but her rent had not been paid during the last two years owing to the indulgence of the proprietor. She was always unwell, but not confined to bed. She had an unmarried sister, aged thirty-two, who lived with her, and was able to work, and maintained both herself and her sister. They had potatoes planted. The produce would be about half a boll. One room with bed-closet; two chests, two tables, a dresser, three old chairs, and two stools. The house was not water-tight; the roof was turf.

2. **Barbara Ross**, a widow, near sixty, received 8s a year. She paid no rent in money. The house had been built by her husband. She paid by way of rent, two hens and two dozen eggs to the farmer upon whose ground her house stood. She was said to be a very decent woman. She was unable to work, but could knit stockings. What she could make by knitting might be about 6d a week; but that, she said, would not keep her more than a day. She went about collecting meal from the farmers and neighbours. A nephew of hers, aged fifteen, slept in the house, but worked during the day with his father, who lived near, and was a blacksmith. She had a hen and chickens. Her house was furnished decently.

3. **Janet Henry**, aged seventy, received 8s a year. Her rent was 5s., but was not exacted. Her brother, a widower, and his daughter, aged twenty, lived with her. The daughter worked for Mr Ross the farmer. The brother was a carpenter, and did little jobs for the neighbours, which were paid in meal and potatoes, not in money. They had potatoes planted. The produce might be about two bolls. She kept a pig. The house was very poorly furnished, and very dirty. Furniture in one room, three chairs, two of which were broken, a stool, and a dresser; no chimney. In the bed-room, a bed, chest, chair, and cupboard. There was likewise a bed-closet.

4. **William Mackenzie**, aged seventy-six. Confined to bed. Received 8s a year. His wife, upwards of fifty, subject to fits. Received 5s a year. Their rent was two hens and forty eggs. He had been bed-ridden for forty years. During the two last he had seen no doctor, the doctor having said he could be of no further use to him. They had three sons, one married in Edinburgh, one in service, and another aged twenty, lived with them. The son who lives with them got occasional work, but was often wanted at home to assist his parents. His mother said she could not do without him. They were allowed two pecks of meal from Mr Ross, and their two other children contributed to their support. The neighbouring farmers sent them meal. The house consisted of two rooms, and was simply but decently furnished. They had a pig.

5. **Widow MacLeod**, aged -, in receipt of 8s. a year. She lived alone. She was not at home. Her house was very poorly furnished. There was no chimney. One chair, broken; a chest, and a few pieces of crockery. There was a little meal and salt in her chest, and some potatoes on the bed, which had been left for her by a friend. There was also a spinning-wheel, and wool-combs for carding.

6. **Catharine Munro**, aged sixty-four, unmarried. She received no relief. The session had refused her lately when she applied. She had always lived with her brother, who died last year. He had occupied a small croft, at a rent of 5s; which she continued to possess. She stated that the croft had never yielded more than six pecks of meal. Her rent was not in arrear. She had six sheep and three hens, but no pigs. Last year she had eight sheep, but sold two, and had bought meal with money. She spun the wool herself, and made clothes. She had living with her a cousin, aged sixty. Her residence with her was only temporary. House consisted of two rooms, was very smoky and dirty, and the furniture poor; but there was no appearance of want, and the session seemed to have exercised a sound judgement in not admitting the case on the roll.

7. **George Mackay**, aged eighty-four, received 5s a year. His wife was alive, aged sixty. He was a crofter, and paid 10s rent. The croft did not yield them above a boll of meal. They had potatoes planted elsewhere, for which they gave nothing but the dung. The produce was about four or five bolls. They had one daughter and two sons. One son, aged nineteen lived with them, and got occasional work, by which he earned 1s a day, and his food. The two other children were at service. George Mackay had a horse and cart, and six sheep, and no pig. His wife carded and spun the wool. The sons said he had porridge for breakfast, potatoes or porridge for dinner, and gruel for supper. He sometimes drove peats to Tain, which he sold, and bought fish. The house was poor and dirty.

8. and 9. **Widow J. Ross**, aged seventy-nine, received 8s a year. **William Frazer**, aged twenty-four, sickly and deformed, 8s a year. Widow Ross was grandmother of William Frazer. She was tenant of a small farm, for which she paid £16 rent. Her son, aged forty-seven, unmarried, lived with her, and worked the farm, on which they had two cows, six sheep, and three horses and a pig. William Frazer's father had five other children. He was a labourer, and lived in Tain. The old woman was asthmatic, and quite unable to do anything. The house was tolerably well furnished, with no appearance of destitution.

10. **Alexander Ross**, aged seventy, received 5s a year. He had been formerly a crofter at a rent of £16. He had given up the farm, being unable to pay the rent; and it was now possessed by his son, with whom he lived, and by whom he was supported. The house seemed poor, but he was not found at home.

11. **Christian Graeme**, about fifty, unmarried, received 6s a year. She paid no rent, but her rent would have been about 5s if she had been able to pay. She lived alone in a wretched hovel, the roof of which was originally of turf, but there were many holes. One large portion of the roof consisted merely of withered fir branches, and it was no protection from rain or snow. There was no chimney. The furniture consisted of one small broken chair, a stool, and a table. She had potatoes planted, for which she worked at harvest. The produce might be one or two bolls. She said she was unable to work, from her feet swelling, and that she had not earned 1s for the last nine months, but she did not look very unwell. The miller's wife gave her a peck of meal now and then, and also other farmers. Her sister lived near her. She was married to a labourer, with a small croft. They had four children, all grown up. Christian Graeme said her sister did not help her. She was found at dinner, which consisted of potatoes and a cup of coffee. It was understood that she gained a livelihood by begging. She had formerly saved a little money, but has lost it by lending it to persons who never repaid her. [Recorded in 1851 Census at Rhanich, Edderton aged 63 Pauper formerly a Cook Maid].

12. **Widow Sutherland**, aged sixty-five, in receipt of 8s a year. She lived alone. A wretched dwelling, very nearly as bad as No.11. Scarcely any furniture. Two old chairs, a table; and her bed, which was on the floor, consisted of a little straw in a corner. The roof was made of turf, but not water-tight. She had a small bit of a garden, with potatoes planted in it, and gained her living by begging. She has formerly a son who was fatuous, but able to work a little, and supported by his mother. He was lost in the snow. She also had a daughter who did not live with her. (See the next case.)

13. and 14. **Catherine Sutherland**, daughter of the preceding, known by the name of "Foolish Kate," aged about 40, in the receipt of 5s a year. She lived with an aunt, **Mary Ross**, aged sixty, who received 8s a year. The house was nearly as bade as Widow Sutherlands (No.12). Part of the roof consisted of withered branches, with a few weeds and heather put over them. There was a bedstead in a small inner room, but no bedding, merely a little straw. They had a hen, with some chickens. The furniture was of the poorest description. They paid no rent. The house belonged to Mary Ross. "Foolish Kate" preferred living with her aunt, to being with her mother. Both she and her aunt lived by begging. "Foolish Kate" was met on the road with some oatmeal cake, and a bag of meal, which she had obtained in this way.

15. **Widow MacLeod**, aged sixty, in the receipt of 5s a year. Her rent was 20s but she was unable to pay any. She had some potatoes planted; and was not able to work herself, but could spin. She has been hurt by a cart, when a girl, and could not work at harvest. Her husband had been a pensioner. She had a daughter in service, who had been ill, and obliged to come home to her mother, and remained with her six weeks. She had gone only eight days. The neighbours had been kind to her when ill. The house consisted of two rooms, which were decently kept, and contained sufficient furniture. When asked how widow Sutherland lived? William MacLeod replied, "She must beg. What could she do without? So beg she must. I beg myself. The house is good, and all that is in it, but will not keep us alive." She stated her daughter at service helped her with clothes and food.

16. **Widow William Ross**, had applied, but received no relief. She had six young children – five girls, fifteen, fourteen, nine, six, two and a half; and one boy, four. She had been left a widow, with a small croft, at a rent of £3.10s. She was herself unwell, and spitting blood. On her husband's death, a subscription had been made for her in the parish, amounting to £6. Her eldest girl was at service, and the second one worked a day now and then. A neighbouring farmer had supplied her with seed for her croft. She had a cow and horse. She said she had applied for relief, because she wished to get a frock for her little girl. They were threatening to take the cow for her rent. The house was poorly furnished, and ill kept.

17. **Janet Kennedy**, aged sixty-nine, in the receipt of 7s a year. She paid 8s feu-duty. She had built the house herself. She had lived alone, since her sister's death, ten years before. She planted potatoes. The produce might be two bolls. She spun wool, which her neighbours sent her to spin, in return for which she got meal. She said she tried to get on by living sparingly, and that she subsisted on the charity of her neighbours, but she never went out on purpose to beg, but sometimes persons seeing her would give her meal. She had been taught to read when fifty years old. Her room, although scantily furnished, was kept clean. She had a sister in Tarbat, as poor as herself, who was supported by her son. She had also a married brother, with two sons, but she received no assistance from them, as they were unable to help her.

18. **Widow Ross**, aged about sixty, in the receipt of 5s a year. Paid 10s rent. She lived by herself. She had potato ground, on which she raised three or four bolls of potatoes. She paid her rent by means of her pig. Her neighbours were kind to her, and gave her meal. She had a son who had gone to America. Her room was decently kept.

19. **Catherine Ross Macandrew**, aged fifty-one, in the receipt of 6s a year. Paid no rent. She had potato ground, and worked occasionally for a neighbouring farmer. She was not not at home. Her house consisted of two rooms barely furnished.

The Last Execution in Nairn
By Stuart Farrell

The following article was published in the *Forres Gazette* of 6 November 1929: 'The Last Execution in Nairn. Mr Laing, joint town clerk of Nairn, gave a lecture to the local Literary Institute, on some old records of the burgh. He recalled that on 13th December, 1742, Murdoch Mackenzie, of whom it is recorded that he did not understand the language, was charged before Sheriff Patrick Clark, and a jury with the theft of two mares, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged by the common hangman upon a gibbet or gallows to be erected on the gallow-hill of Nairn, at the west end of the town, and the magistrates of the burgh were ordained to see the sentence put into execution. This sentence occasioned the Town Council of the day some trouble and anxiety of mind. Every burgh was understood to have among its staff of officials a common hangman, but presumably for the reason that the town had no work for a permanent official and that, if appointed, his office would be a sinecure, the burgh did not at that time possess an executioner to carry out the sentence. A meeting of the Council was conveyed by the Provost, Mr Lewis Rose, to consider the situation, and being duly impressed by the gravity of the task committed to them, they came to the conclusion that it behoved them to borrow an executioner from some of the neighbouring burghs for the occasion. Accordingly a messenger whose name was Robert Sutherland was despatched to Inverness, and on his return reported to the Council that the magistrates of Inverness were willing to lend the services of their executioner, but it was necessary to send a guard to carry him from Inverness to Nairn. What is described as a sufficient guard was then appointed, and, having conveyed him to Nairn, the execution was duly carried out on 21st January, 1743. Thus, so far as the records disclose, was the last execution that took place in the burgh of Nairn.'

Recorded in the Nairn Burgh Council Minutes (Inverness Archives BN/1/1/3) of the following on the 9 January 1743: 'The council having mett to consider that ther is at present a prisoner under sentence of death to be made on the twenty first of the instant Moneth of January which the Magistrates are ordained to see putt in execution on the sd day and having no executioner be employed. Therefore they give it as their opinion that application be instantly made to the Magistrates of any of the neighbouring Burghs who have an executioner that they may have the use of that executioner for that purpose, and that ther be a Gibbet purpusly erected at the west end of the Town for that and conform to the Sentence agst the so condemned person named Murdoch McKenzie and that the Magistrates order the wrights in the Town joyntly to erect the sd Gallows or Gibbet against ffriday seanight the fourteenth current and in case of their failure or reffusal to be liable to the penalties that may be inflicted according to law. Lewis Rose.' It was further recorded on the 17 January 1743 of the following: 'The Council having received the Report of Robert Sutherland that the Magistrates of Inverness are willing to allow their executioner to give in the executing the prisoner

presently lying condemned in the prison of the burgh and that it's now necessary a guard be sent to carry the executioner from the burgh of Inverness to this place they appoint a sufficient guard to be named for that purpose. Hugh Ore Bailie.' No mention in the Minutes of the hanging after it was carried out; likewise there is no mention of the event in the Inverness Burgh Minutes for the period. Gallow Hill was situated in area of the site of Lodgehill House (Irene Mackintosh pers comm.).

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MEMBERS' DETAILS

New Members:

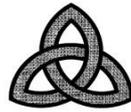
- 2830. Ms Barbara Mackay, Goderich, Ontario, Canada
- 2831. Mr Iain Fraser, Faringdon, Oxfordshire
- 2832. Ms Catherine Greig, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 2833. Mr William Nicholson, Peebles, Scottish Borders
- 2834. Mr David Mills, Haywards Heath, West Sussex
- 2835. Ms Bev MacCulloch, Burlington, Ontario, Canada
- 2836. Mrs Pamela Goddard, Sevenoaks, Kent
- 2837. Ms Debbie Hewitt, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Changes of Address:

- 2794. Mrs Jane Harris, Culbokie, Ross-shire

Resignations:

- 487. Mrs Elizabeth Nicholls
 - 1946. Mrs Anne Dunnett
 - 2353. Dr Robert Allan
 - 2616. Mr Michael Walker
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