



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

Edition 15

July 2013

Welcome to the latest edition of the Moray & Nairn FHS Newsletter.

MNFHS Chairman's Report

And welcome to the latest newsletter from the Moray & Nairn Family History Society. In the last couple of years since I took over the production of the newsletter I have been able to put out 4 a year but unfortunately due to the lack of articles from members, it will have to be 3 from now on. But if you do have any stories of interest, members interests or queries or problems please submit and we might get back to 4 newsletters a year!

Stuart Farrell



Bruce Bishop (left) with New Chairman Stuart Farrell at AGM in January 2013 with Auldearn Churchyard Book.

Contacts: Chairman: Stuart Farrell

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Secretary: Mary Evans

Treasurer & Webmaster: Doug Stewart

MNFHS Publications

New Publication – Alves Poor Register & Alves War Memorial

Poor Register 1845-1930 (full transcription of each entry as detailed in the Parochial Board Register of Poor) for over 250 individuals of the Parish. War Memorial includes details of each of the fallen from WW1 and WW2 as commemorated on the War Memorial (with relevant newspaper articles transcribed).

ISBN 978-0-9561750-9-0 90 Pages, £5
P & P costs on application.

**SEE THE BOOKSHOP ON THE WEBSITE
FOR ALL TITLES AVAILABLE**

Nairn Miscellany

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Fatal Accident – On Thursday last a horse and cart having been left standing at the playground of the Relugas School, a number of children got into the cart. The horse taking fright, bolted, and the occupants were thrown violently to the ground. A little fellow aged five years, grandson of Mr Mackenzie, Graystone was instantly killed. Two others were hurt but not seriously. (*St Ninian Press & Nairnshire Advertiser* 26 July 1892)

A search of death records revealed that the individual was a John Ross (illegitimate), aged 5, son of John Ross, Farm Servant and Mary Jane McKenzie with an address of Greystone, Ardclach.

The next Newsletter will be published in Oct 2013. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Moray Miscellany

War Memorial Unveiled in the United Free High Church, Forres.

Impressive Ceremony Witnessed by a Large Congregation. On Sunday afternoon the first war memorial in Forres, to the memory of those who fell in the Great War, was dedicated and unveiled in the High U.F. Church here in presence of a large congregation of people representing all the churches in town. The members of the local branch of the Comrades of the Great War and the local Company of the 6th Seaforth Highlanders, under the command of Captain A D MacDonald and Lieut. A W I Thomson, paraded from the Comrade's rooms in Tytler Street, headed by the local pipe band, to the church, and were joined at Cumming Street by the Forres Troop of Boy Scouts under the charge of Scoutmaster Geo. Adam and assistant-scoutmaster George R. Mackenzie. The area of the church was filled by the children of the congregation who took part in the cantata, which helped to raise funds for the memorial, the Boy Scouts, the Comrades of the Great War and the Territorials, while the side seats and gallery were packed to their utmost capacity by the general public. Rev. James Hendry, the pastor, occupied the pulpit, and Miss Gordon, Tytler Street, presided at the organ.

The service, which was a most impressive one throughout, opened with the singing of the 100th Psalm, followed by prayer and the reading of passages from the 23rd chapter of Samuel and from the book of Revelations, chapter 22, and Hymn No.477 was sung.

The Meaning of the Memorial. The Rev. James Hendry, pastor of the church, then addressed the congregation on what was meant by the service and the memorial. What did they mean by this service, by this memorial? They meant something very solemn, very serious and very thankful. They meant to give expression to a solemn sense of their having passed through a great day of the Lord, in which the heavens and the earth were shaken in judgement that all men might take better knowledge of Him with whom they had to do. In the morning of that day their own nation was suddenly called to choose its side in the strife of truth and falseness; and through all the storm that followed it was a solemn strength to their hearts before God that they had made the good choice of being true to the covenant, and it would abide for strength and honour and straight leading for those coming after them.

The soul of their nation was saved, and savingly inspired by that first good choice, yet this seriousness of things soon appeared, that their very existence was involved; and with trial and

judgement searching out weaknesses of their own, neither few nor small, would they be able to endure to the end? They remembered that seriousness and how year after year it gathered into a sense of all the horrors and intolerableness that had to be endured and overcome; and even yet the earth was still trembling and men's hearts and minds were restless and were strained over the thought of what results were yet to appear of a better order of things or further confusion. But amid all this it was very right and meet that they should express their thankfulness – solemn thankfulness to God, who had already shown them a supreme deliverance, and serious and abiding thankfulness and honour to the men through whom He wrought His deliverance, and especially all-loving grateful remembrance of those who served then at the cost of their own precious life. For such a time of service they came to their youth and manhood. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." Christ himself did it and He left work and sacrifice for us also. "I fill up on my part" said Paul, "that which is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, in my flesh for his body's sake." And so the blood of Christ, which speaks God's best love to them, sanctifies also the blood of their sons and brothers and husbands and gives to their blood the right to speak with authority to them that they so carry on and so build up faithfulness and righteousness and ordered liberty as that the dead shall not have died in vain.

Above our praise they are,
Their own great word is said.

Prior to the unveiling of the memorial tablet, and after the congregation had sung hymn 339, Rev. Mr Hendry intimated that for the tablet they were indebted to the cantata rehearsal collections, and the cantata class and Mr Stewart, its conductor. They were also indebted to Mr Alex. Grant, who had come down from Edinburgh, for the unveiling ceremony. Mr Grant was a worthy son of Forres and took a great interest in all things in his native town. He had also taken with him Colonel Robertson, who was to address them.

The Unveiling Ceremony. The congregation stood while Mr Henry engaged in a solemn prayer of dedication. Thereafter Mr Grant unveiled the memorial, which is a handsome tablet of fumed oak to be fitted into the vestibule window, but which was placed on the Communion Table for the ceremony. The inscription at the top runs as follows:- "Erected by the High U.F Church, Forres, to the Glory of God and in memory of those who gave their lives in the war, 1914-1919."

Then came the names of the fallen:-
1915

Donald Simpson, 84 High Street, 1st Seaforths
Grigor Masson, 22 North Road, 9th Gordons

Arthur J Grant, Rowallan, 5th Scottish Rifles
George Sinclair, Long Row, Camerons
James Russell, Demerara, 10th Seaforths
1916

Alexander Fraser, Cumming Street, Royal Fusiliers
James Sinclair, Long Row, Tyneside Scottish
David S MacDonald, Mosset Terrace, Royal Scots
Chas. G Hendry, Edward Road, 4th London Infantry
John Ferguson, Caroline Street, Canadians
John MacGillivray, Tulloch Park, 2nd Seaforths
Adam G Galloway, Towerside, Royal Scots
John MacGillivray, 70 High Street, 6th Seaforths
1917

John Ross, Burnside, Scottish Rifles
Wm. Ferguson, Caroline Street, Royal Scots
James Fowlie, St. Catherines, H.L.I
John Mackenzie, Fern Cottage, 6th Seaforths
Wm. Cumming, Orchard Road, 6th Seaforths
James Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Camerons
George Murray, Murray Place, 6th Seaforths
John A Chisholm, Mosset Terrace, 6th Seaforths
Duncan Masson, Bogton, 2nd Seaforths
James Jamieson, Urquhart Street, Scottish Borderers

1918

Alexander Robertson, Balnakeith, 6th Seaforths
George Munro, Batchen Street, 6th Seaforths
Roger Mackenzie, Moycarse, 6th Seaforths
Wm. Cumming, 28 North Road, 6th Seaforths
John Sinclair, Tolbooth Street, 3rd Camerons
James Mackenzie, Dunedin Place, 6th Seaforths
John Melville, Burnside, Canadians
David Fraser, Batchen Street, Canadians
William Black, Springfield, 6th Seaforths
John Ross, Rosefield, Lovat Scouts

1919

Thomas Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Seaforths
James Burr, North Road, 6th Seaforths

At the foot are the words – “Their name liveth for evermore.”

Rev. Mr Hendry placed a laurel wreath at the foot of the tablet and thereafter Pipe-Major Morrison, Iowa Place, played the “Flowers of the Forest” down both aisles of the Church, the congregation standing the while.

Mr Grant’s Address. Mr Grant, addressing the gathering said he was glad to be with them that day, in the church where his mother worshipped, to do honour to the memory of the men belonging to the congregation who fell in the Great War. They did well to do them honour. They went forth to preserve their liberty and their homes and in doing so made the supreme sacrifice. It was right and fitting that the church which nourished them in spiritual things, whose teachings imbued them with loyalty to God and king, should commemorate in this handsome memorial the

names of her brave sons. Their memory would ever be an inspiration to them and to those who follow them in this place.

From that single congregation no less than 191 men joined His Majesty’s forces and 35 of these laid down their lives. Some of them died young, but he would have them remember that life is not to measured only by duration.

One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name.

What was it that these, their glorious dead, asked? They asked life put to some great use; life which they knew would purchase peace and protection for those at home. What did they mean by life? For most of those men joining up was the most Christ-like act of their lives, most corresponding to taking up their cross and following Him.

What deeds of self-sacrificing love was theirs! They stepped into the breach with a mortal purity and a vision of a better world. Their capacity for service astonished them. They proved themselves heroes of the good, old Moray stock from which they sprang. They would give the last drop from their water bottles to the sick, the thirsty, even to their foes. They threw themselves upon the bursting bomb to give their comrades a chance. They did not die in vain.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

To the parents, the widows and relatives of these gallant men, to whom they were all proud to do honour that day he would say, “Here is no place for tears.” Their heroes are not dead. Their bodies may lie on the stricken fields of France, Belgium, Italy or Gallipoli, or deep down in the depths of the seven seas, but their souls go marching on.

This Church was justly proud of the splendid part played by son many of her sons. Forres, their beloved town, was proud of her gallant “loons” and will ever cherish their memory. Scotland would never forget the noble part they played. They had left them all a splendid heritage of noble example in service and sacrifice. It was for those who remain and who are proud of them to re-dedicate themselves that they may live better, truer and nobler men and women.

They may not rise to the height of their achievement, but if we “carry on” in the same spirit in which they had given their lives, it would be well for their country and the town they loved. He had the greatest pleasure and felt highly honoured in the unveiling the memorial to the gallant men whose names are inscribed on the scroll.

Lieut.-Colonel Robertson’s Remarks.

Lieut.-Colonel Robertson, V.C; O.B.E; J.P; Edinburgh, said that it was great pleasure for him to be associated with the distinguished son of their

town, Mr Alex. Grant, who by the way was also a most distinguished citizen of Edinburgh. It was also a pleasure for him to be associated with the people of that congregation at the unveiling of their memorial to the memory of those who fell nobly fighting for their king, country and freedom. It would be impertinence on his part to try to sound the praises of those gallant dean after the splendid tribute paid to them by Mr Grant, son instead of referring to the dead he would address a few remarks to the living. Coming along the street that afternoon just before entering the church he was much impressed by the parading of the Comrades, the Territorials and the Boy Scouts, but more particularly by the flag, which had stood for a thousand years the battle and the breeze, and at the foot of the flag there was an old Indian Mutiny Veteran, one of the very few left now-a-days. He could almost see that old Mutiny veteran beckoning on the soldiers of the future. He would like to say one word to those who had dear ones lying on some foreign shore and he would like to give them a legacy from that great poet Rupert Brooke, who fell himself. This verse would be as much a consolation to them as it had been to himself –

If I should die,
Think only this of me,
There is a corner of some foreign field,
That is England.

They all had an interest in that foreign field Longfellow says there is no dead when we know of such as only tradition. Let then look at it in this light and let them carry a remembrance of that someone to be proud of. The cause that these lads died for was a sacred duty imposed upon every man of their country and today the memory of their devotion to the great cause of freedom would run through the world. The war was gained by the valour, devotion and self-sacrifice of their brave men. The war was gained by the individual efforts of every soldier and sailor of the Empire fires by the interests of a righteous cause.

Far be it from any man in this country to benefit himself of the returned soldier. What they wanted in these days was a universal application of the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would have others do to you." There was far too much unrest in the world today, and it ought not to be. One saw it very well. Their gallant sons had gone over the top for the last time. He believed that they were looking down upon them from the white ramparts of Heaven's fortresses hoping, praying and expecting that every man and woman in this country was doing their best to carry on.

He would like, on behalf of the military authorities, to congratulate this congregation upon the honours won in the war by its members:- 1 M.C. and 2 bars, 1 D.S.C; 1 D.C.M; 8 M.M.'s; 1 Portuguese Medal, 13 1914 Stars and 19 1915

Stars. He also congratulated them on the public-spiritedness shown by their brave sons. The last post was then sounded on the bugle by Drum-major Neil Campbell, 6th Seaforth Highlanders, Elgin.

It was intimated that a photographs of the memorial tablet is to be sent in due course to the next-of-kin of the fallen heroes.

The singing of a verse of the last paraphrase and the pronouncing of the benediction brought the service to a finish.

On the congregation dispersing, the Comrades of the Great War, the Territorials and the Boy Scouts filed past the memorial tablet and heads uncovered and falling in again marched to the Club-rooms in Tytler Street, where they were dismissed.

Forres, Elgin, and Nairn Gazette 9th February 1921.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Details of the fallen can be found on our web page.

Nairn Academy

The friends and well-wishers of the good town of Nairn will be happy to learn, that the collection of subscriptions for this Academy, is proceeding with considerable spirit. There is no manner in which those who have been educated at Nairn, and who feel interested in its prosperity, can testify their attachment and regard to a more acceptably and beneficially than in liberally aiding the proposed Seminary. To them the community looks for support, and will not look in vain. The following subscriptions have already been received:

Alex. Falconer, Sheriff Substitute	£ 20.0.0
William McIntosh of Geddes	£ 20.0.0
J A Grant of Viewfield	£ 20.0.0
Adam Davidson, Town Clerk	£ 20.0.0
Arthur Cant, Millfield	£ 20.0.0
Baillie Roderick McKenzie, with £1	
Per annum for seven years	£ 2.0.0
Robert Skene, Skenepark	£ 10.0.0
John Wilson, Builder, Nairn	£ 10.0.0
John McIntosh, Auldearn	£ 5.0.0
William McIntosh of Millbank	£ 20.0.0
Rev. James Grant, Nairn	£ 5.5.0
Alex Aeneas Grant, Banker, Nairn	£ 5.5.0
Sir Wm G Gordon Cumming, Bart of Altyre	£ 25.0.0
Lieut L D Mitchell, R.N. Alnmouth	£ 10.0.0
Rev. James Mein, Nairn	£ 5.5.0

J McDonald, London	£ 5.0.0
George Grant, of Liverpool	£ 20.0.0
Burgh of Nairn, £10 per annum for seven years certain	
Captain Rose, R.N; Nairn	£ 10.0.0
Collector Todd, Nairn, £1 1s per annum	
Charles Cameron, Nairn, £1 1s per annum	
Mrs McIntosh of Geddes, Lodgehill	£ 5.0.0
Mrs Rose of Kilravoch	£ 5.0.0
David McIntyre, Plasterer, Nairn	£ 5.0.0
Miss Mitchell, Nairn	£ 1.1.0
Dr Falconer, Nairn	£ 5.0.0
Dr Smith, Nairn, £1 1s per annum for seven years, besides a proportion of the expense of building.	
Mr McLean, Merchant	£ 2.2.0
James Anderson, Merchant	£ 2.2.0
Mrs Grant of Duthel, £1 1s per annum for five years	
William McIntosh, Postmaster	£ 2.2.0
John Malcolm, Merchant	£ 2.2.0
Daniel Fraser, Perfumer	£ 5.0.0
Alexander Austin, Merchant	£ 5.5.0
John Smith, Merchant	£ 1.0.0
Alexander Fraser, Merchant	£ 2.2.0
Robert Cameron, Shoemaker	£ 1.1.0
Robert Malcolm, Balmakeith	£ 1.1.0
Charles Smith, Merchant	£ 2.2.0
Rev. J Dewar	£ 1.1.0
Patrick Dewar, Writer	£ 1.1.0
Robert Simpson, Merchant	£ 1.1.0
John Fraser, Merchant	£ 5.0.0
Alexander Jamieson, Mason	£ 5.0.0
John Wilson, Shoremaster	£ 1.1.0
David Falconer, Merchant	£ 1.1.0
Alexander Duncan, Flesher	£ 5.0.0
William Gordon, Merchant	£ 1.1.0
Daniel Fraser, Merchant	£ 1.1.0
Mrs Morison	£ 1.0.0
James Anderson, Cabinetmaker	£ 1.1.0
Mrs Captain McKenzie	£ 1.1.0
Mrs Cassie	£ 1.1.0
John Paxton, Cabinetmaker	£ 1.1.0
Francis Davidson, Shoemaker	£ 0.10.0
J & W Donaldson, Merchants	£ 2.2.0

The Elgin and Forres Journal and Northern Advertiser

15 April 1830

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

The Editor of the Newsletter would like to ask members of the MNFHS if they would like to contribute a note of their interests for inclusion in the next newsletter. Details should be sent to: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Moray Miscellany

Melancholy Occurrence - Death by Drowning.

About 9 o'clock on the morning of Monday last, the 28th ult; the body of Mr William Milne, farmer at Cuthill, near Forres, was found in the River Findhorn, about a mile above the great Suspension Bridge. Mr Milne had for many years back been employed as forester or overseer on the estate of Sir W G Cumming of Altyre, and as factor on the estate of Dumphail the property of Mr Cumming Bruce M.P; and had consequently many valuable books and papers belonging to these gentlemen in his possession. Owing to some accident his writing officer, where these were deposited, caught fire on the previous Saturday, and the most important of them were destroyed. The deceased in consequence of this, evinced symptoms of great uneasiness of mind, and on Sunday, he remained all day at home with his family; and at night, not having gone to bed (in consequence as is supposed of his family being alarmed by the fire the proceeding evening), he left the house about one o'clock on Monday morning, and was neither seen nor heard of after, till his body was found in the water about a mile down the stream. Whether the deceased had fallen accidentally down the high precipice that leads from the gable of his house to the river, or whether in a fit of temporary insanity, he had consigned himself to the mercy of the rapid stream, at this place, is very uncertain. Mr Milne has left a widow and a numerous and respectable family, by whom, as well as by all in the neighbourhood who had the slightest acquaintance of him, his death is deeply regretted.

The Elgin Courant 1 January 1836

Bakehouse in Findhorn, to be Let.

There will be Let at Whitsunday first, that well frequented central bakehouse, in the village of Findhorn, lately occupied by James Clark. The premises are in excellent condition, and have an oven, table, and other necessary furniture; and also a back court for fuel and other accommodation.

From the present state of the trade in the district, a more eligible opening seldom occurs. The Rent is extremely moderate. Application to be made to Mr. David Clark, Merchant.

Findhorn 1 May 1838.

Forres Gazette 2 May 1838

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray Miscellany

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Aberlour Baptisms 1873-1877

SMITH, Margaret Charlotte
Bapt 15 Aug 1873
James & Helen Smith, Aberlour, Gamekeeper

THOMPSON, Harry James
Bapt 7 Sep 1873
William & Margaret Thompson, Aberlour,
Serjeant of Volunteers

BARNES, Arthur Stansfield
Bapt 9 Jan 1875
Thomas Barnes & Williamina Murray, Dufftown,
Divinity Student

MORRISON, Ellen Comfort
Bapt 21 Feb 1875
Murdoch Morrison & Margaret Younie Mitchell,
Aberlour, Carpenter

BALDWIN, Hellen
Bapt 11 Apr 1875
Hugh & Hellen Baldwin, Aberlour, Hawker

THOMSON, Charles Jupp
Bapt 23 May 1875
William & Margaret Thomson, Aberlour, Drill
Instructor

SMITH, Williamina
Bapt 22 Aug 1875
James & Ellen Smith, Aberlour, Gamekeeper

DAVISON, Jemima
Bapt 22 Aug 1875
Isabella Davison, Burn Agan

MACKIE, Ann Coutts
Bapt 26 Dec 1875
William & Elspet Mackie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Farm Servant

GOW, John
Bapt 9 Jan 1876
Margaret Duncan, Charlestown of Aberlour

HADDEN, Charles
Bapt 23 Jan 1876
Elsie Simpson, Aberlour, Coachman

GRIEVE, Charles
Bapt 2 Apr 1876
Rachel Sharer, Charlestown of Aberlour

TAYLOR, Thomas
Bapt 7 May 1876
Henry & Sarah Taylor, Rothes, Licensed Hawker

MURRAY, James
Bapt 29 Oct 1876
James & Margaret Murray, Aberlour, Miller

WEBSTER, John
Bapt 29 Oct 1876
John & Isabella Webster, Rothes, Hawker

MOWES, Martha
Bapt 15 Nov 1876
Elizabeth Cumming, Aberlour

GUTHRIE, William
Bapt 19 Nov 1876
Jane Guthrie, Craigellachie

LESLIE, Harriet
Bapt 20 Dec 1876
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

LESLIE, Ann
Bapt 20 Dec 1876
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

LESLIE, John
Bapt 31 Dec 1876
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

LESLIE, Margaret
Bapt 31 Dec 1876
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

LESLIE, Agnes
Bapt 31 Dec 1876
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

ROBERTSON, Margaret Mary
Bapt 25 Feb 1877
Jane Robertson, Moss-head, Aberlour

FALCONER, Arthur Charles
Bapt 4 Mar 1877
Peter & Jane Falconer, Rothes, General Merchant

BAIN, Ann
Bapt 15 Apr 1877
Findlay & Ann Bain, Rothes, Labourer

MORRISON, Hector Goss
Bapt 29 Apr 1877
Murdoch Morrison & Margaret Younie Mitchell,
Aberlour, Carpenter

LESLIE, Edith Arthur
Bapt 27 May 1877
James & Margaret Leslie, Charlestown of
Aberlour, Gardener

TAYLOR, Margaret
Bapt 24 Jun 1877
Henry & Sarah Taylor, Aberlour, Hawker

DUNCAN, John
Bapt 30 Sep 1877
Hellen Duncan, Aberlour

SMITH, Donald John Macpherson
Bapt 7 Oct 1877
James & Ellen Smith, Aberlour, Keeper

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray & Nairn Miscellany

Contributed by Irene Mackintosh

**INVERNESS, ABERDEEN, AND EDINBURGH
PASSAGE.**

**TWICE-A-WEEK FROM EACH END,
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**
(Weather, &c. permitting.)

FROM GRANTON PIER.

The Queen	on Tuesday, 5th March	at 6 morning
Duke of Richmond	on Thursday, 7th do.	at 6 do.
The Queen	on Tuesday, 12th do.	at 6 do.
Duke of Richmond	on Thursday, 14th do.	at 6 do.
The Queen	on Tuesday, 19th do.	at 6 do.
Duke of Richmond	on Thursday, 21st do.	at 6 do.
Duke of Richmond	on Tuesday, 26th do.	at 6 do.

FROM INVERNESS.

The Queen	on Thursday, 7th March	at 10 P.M.
Duke of Richmond	on Monday, 11th do.	at 10 A.M.
The Queen	on Thursday, 14th do.	at 10 P.M.
Duke of Richmond	on Monday, 18th do.	at 10 A.M.
The Queen	on Thursday, 21st do.	at 10 P.M.
Duke of Richmond	on Monday, 25th do.	at 10 A.M.

These Vessels call (weather permitting) at FORT-GEORGE, CROMARTY, INVERGORDON, NAIRN, FINDHORN, BURGHEAD, LOSSIEMOUTH, and BANFF, thus affording a first-rate Conveyance Twice-a-Week to Shippers and Importers of Stock, Goods, &c., to and from Inverness, the Moray Firth, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh.

Fares and Freight very Low.

Goods received for shipment at all times at the Office at Kessock Ferry, or until within one hour of the Steamer's sailing at John Douglas's Yard, opposite the Caledonian Hotel.

J. Douglas's conveyances always in readiness for the use of Passengers, to and from the Steamers.

Further particulars to be had of George Matheson, 3 Back Gate, Leith, 27 Princes Street, Edinburgh, and Granton Pier; Robert Mitchell, Manager, Aberdeen; the Agents at the Ports of call; and here of

ALEX. M'KENZIE, Jun.
Kessock, Inverness, 2d March 1850.

A GRAVE CONUNDRUM

Pursuing my wife Sheena's Jamieson ancestry was more difficult than it should have been. Because I was new to family history research I missed several fairly obvious clues. However, eventually I got back five generations to John Jamieson and Mary Gray marrying in Bellie, Moray in 1796.

Various branches grew from this union and I had an enjoyable time finding them all and following them back and forwards through a few generations. The fact that most nineteenth century members of the family stayed in Bellie...indeed, in the hamlet of Bogmuir... helped in finding them.

There didn't seem to be any clear record of either John's or Mary's births although there were plenty other Grays and Jamiesons in the parish records. So maybe 1796 was as far back as we were going to trace these Jamiesons.

And then there was a development.

Since the Jamiesons had been so fond of Bogmuir in the 1800s I wondered if there were any of them still living there. On a visit to the area I started knocking on doors.

Quite quickly I was directed to the house of the Crown Agent. Why would he know? Well, I was told, the whole area had been owned by the Dukes of Gordon, who had also lived in the parish for many years. In the 1920s the Duke had met death duties by disposing of all his estates in Moray, by transfer of land to the Crown. Also at that time many of the previously tenanted holdings were sold to their occupants. So it was easy to see that the Crown Agent would have a good grasp of who-was-who in the area.

He told me there were no Jamiesons still in Bogmuir except for one young married woman, previously Jamieson and now Watson. Within minutes his directions led me to her door.

In the ensuing conversation an interesting point emerged. In the Bellie cemetery there was an old family gravestone which recorded earlier generations. So that was the next port of call. Now I might get back further than the John Jamieson who married in 1796.

The stone was quickly found, a tall sandstone one with epitaphs for Jamiesons carved on front and back. But, a big problem was immediately obvious.

The names on the rear of the stone were familiar to me from my own researches of this family. They were individuals who had died from 1908 on. But the names on the front of the stone covered four deaths from 1780 to 1789. So there was a gap in family interments between 1789 and 1908. Very peculiar. But there was a possible explanation, which was also a major frustration.

The last line of the text carved on the older front

face of the stone half disappeared into the concrete footing in which the stone stood. It was obvious that at some stage the stone must have become unstable and it had been re-stabilised by sinking the bottom portion into a concrete “boot”. But in so doing they had submerged the post-1789 names that would have provided the link between the earlier generations and those recorded on the newer rear panel. My hope of linking the family tree I had constructed back two or three more generations started to evaporate.

Since then various ways of making this link have been looked at.

Was there a gravedigger’s record of where he had put who over the years? No, a leading member of the Moray Burials Group tells me; “we would have published it if there had been one”.

Would it be possible to have the stone raised and the concrete “boot” cleaned off to see what text it had concealed? Apart altogether from issues of approval and cost, a civil engineer thinks that clearing harder concrete from softer sandstone without destroying any carving would be difficult if not impossible. He suspects that at least a foot of the stone would have been sunk into the “boot” to achieve stability so there might be quite a few further burials recorded on that portion. Even more frustrating!

Clearly the later generations of Jamiesons who have been buried in the plot believe the earlier ones on the other side of the stone are their predecessors and it is tempting to accept that as a basis for extending our Jamieson tree back to the Jamieson/Geddes/Innes individuals whose life spans are recorded on the stone. But it would be nice to find a concrete link to them.... though concrete has already featured too much in this story!

Contributed by Tom Graham (Member 33)

Moray Miscellany

71st Regiment Wedding

Recently we highlighted the work of Ed Brumby and his research into the 71st Highlanders in America, some of whom came from Moray. Ed has found the following marriage from Perth of a 71st Soldier :

‘16th April 1784 – Contracted William Robertson soldier in the first seventy first Regiment of Foot and Ann Mackenzie daughter to James Mackenzie, Merchant in Elgin, parties both in this parish. The persons beforenamed were married the 20th April 1784 by the Reverend John Duff Minister of the Gospel in Perth.’

Moray Miscellany

Forres Gazette, 1837-1855

Doug Stewart, one of our Committee members is putting the finishing touches to all the deaths and obituaries from the *Forres Gazette*, which is hoped to be published by the Society later this year, and will run to over 230 pages. Doug was also minded to extract some of those births and marriages listed, which we will put in the newsletter in this and forthcoming issues.

Bankers’ Bonus?

In the *Forres Gazette* of September 22, 1852 can be found three separate, but linked curious birth announcements:

Birth, at the Caledonian Bank, Elgin, on the 11th inst., Mrs Grant, of a daughter.

Birth, at Inverness, on the 12th inst., Mr Waterston, Caledonian Bank, of a son.

Birth, at the Caledonian Bank, Nairn, on the 19th ult., Mr MacDougal, of a daughter.

How Many Children?

The *Forres Gazette* of March 10, 1852 carried the announcement of:

Birth, on Thursday the 4th inst., the beloved wife of Mr John Robert Taylor, Chancery Lane, London, of a son, being her thirteenth child.

That wasn’t the largest family; the edition of February 23, 1853 noted an even larger family:

Birth, at Caerleon, Wales, on the 3d inst., Mrs Bennet, of her twenty-sixth child.

The ‘biggest’ local notice was one of the birth notices in the *Forres Gazette* of October 6, 1852 tells of a family of (at least) twenty four children:

Birth, at Forres, on the 23d ult., the wife of John Ross, town's drummer, of her twelfth son, and what is more remarkable still, every one of these sons has a sister.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Watch out for further details on this new publication in our next issue.
