



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

Edition 21

July 2015

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

MNFHS Chairman's Report

So summer is here, so we can hopefully finish and complete work at Barevan Churchyard (maybe we will get some sunny days to carry out the work) but who knows with a northern Scottish summer!

Myself, I am still working on putting the final edits to the Records related to Nairn Poorhouse, which will be published later this year. I am also currently working on the Elgin Poor Roll Registers which will be published in three parts in early 2016. It will give details of over 950 paupers on the Poor Roll.

The society attended the SAFHS Conference at Stirling at the end of April and though it was not a busy day, we had a few enquiries, sold a few books and talked to other societies about the future of our family history groups. Many are losing members to the web, but many believe that the unique material that we all publish will continue to appeal to new members.

As previously mentioned before I would welcome any comments or ideas on the society's future publications. Please tell us what you want! Items for the newsletter are particularly welcomed.

Stuart Farrell
Chairman

Fenton Petrie - Soldier, Coin Forger and Murder Victim. Part 1

I am currently working my way through the Elgin Poor Roll and transcribing the details for the individuals recorded as part of a publication for the Moray & Nairn Family History Society, and came across an entry for Isabel Petrie nee Masson which noted that her husband had been murdered – I was intrigued. What was his story? With a bit of searching in the Elgin Heritage Centre, The

National Records of Scotland, Scotland's People and other websites I found the following story.

Fenton Petrie was baptised on the 13 July 1815 at Elgin, son of John Petrie, Blacksmith and Jean Anderson, the witnesses were George Fenton Esqr & Miss Jean Cumming. (So he was probably named after one on his witnesses but unknown how that person was related to his parents). John Petrie (possibly c1771-1843), Blacksmith and Jean Anderson (c1774-1834) who had married on 3 July 1798, both belonged to Elgin. He was the youngest child of eight, his siblings being Jean (27 September 1799 – 17 June 1801), Isobel (14 January 1801 - ?), George (27 Jun 1802 - 7 June 1873), John (27 March 1803 – 2 April 1853), Janet (27 October 1806 - ?), Ann (30 July 1809 - 8 February 1811) and Isobel (14 January 1812 - ?). He seems to have lived in Elgin.

Soldier

Fenton Petrie is recorded to have served in the Rifle Brigade (National Archives UK -WO 97/1085/93) from 1836-1838. His papers state that he was No.1105 of the 2nd Battalion, trade of Blacksmith, had attested at Elgin on the 3rd December 1836 aged 19 and was discharged 28 May 1838 being signed off at Horse Guards the 11 July 1838. Cause of discharge: 'According to the surgeons report it appears that this is a case of Scrupulous disease of the right foot rendering him unfit for the service, originating in constitutional infirmity and not caused by design & by his own vice or interferences; and the Regimental Board approved of the opinion of the Surgeon as it is shown by the Proceedings of the Board hereto annexed. The Regimental Board is of the opinion that his conduct has been good, honest and trustworthy but almost constantly in Hospital.'

The Surgeon M White MD 2nd Rifles gave the following statement: 'I certify that Private Fenton Petrie 2d Battn Rifle Brigade aged 20 years and 5 months has since August 1837 been affected with scrupulous disease of the bones of the instep of right foot. A great variety of measures have been put in practice with the view of effecting a cure, but no benefit has resulted and these in many reason to believe him totally unfit for the service. There are no grounds that misconduct or design

on his part has aggravated or produced the disease, but that it has originated in causes of a constitutional nature. Portsmouth 28 May 1838.'

His proceedings of discharge were undertaken on the 28 May 1838 where it was noted he had served 177 days, at his discharge he was owed no back pay or claim on the Regiment for allowances or clothing. He had attested on the 2nd December 1836 at Elgin where he is described as 5 feet 6 inches tall with a dark complexion with gray eyes and dark brown hair. His attestation was witnessed by Peter Brown J.P. He was medically examined at Dover on the 19 January 1837.

He also seems to have joined the 72nd Regiment of Foot (The Seaforth Highlanders) being discharged 1844 aged 23. His papers (National Archives UK - WO 97/844/57) state that he enlisted on the 7 January 1843 aged 22 with No.1713 at Elgin before John Kynoch Magistrate where he received a bounty of £4.7.6 and gave his trade as Blacksmith. He is described as 5 feet 7½ inches tall with a dark complexion with dark blue eyes and dark brown hair, with a scar on the left side of his chin. He did not state his previous service in the Army. He was medically examined at Glasgow on the 23rd January 1843. His proceedings of discharge were undertaken on the 4 June 1844 where it was noted he had served 150 days.

He was tried by a District Court Martial "For having at Templemore on or about the 2nd September 1843 in consequence of a fall injured the left elbow joint to that degree that permanent stiffness of it has ensued & whereby he has been rendered totally unfit for the performance of Military Duty." Found Guilty. "But the court is further of opinion that the injury received by the prisoner was the result of accident and not of design and does therefore acquit the prisoner Private Fenton Petrie No.1713 of the 72nd Highrs of all blame." He was further examined by the Medical officer on the 26 July 1844 where he was noted unfit for service. He was signed off at Horse Guards the 26 August 1844 with 238 days service.

In April 1843 the Seaforths had been stationed in Dublin, later that year in August they were at Templemore and then at Fermoy in September. They left Fermoy on 2 July 1844 to Buttevant and from there to Cork on the 28 of September to be ready for foreign service, leaving on the 27 November 1844 to go to Gibraltar. Had Fenton caused his injury to stop himself being posted abroad?

Having returned home he married Isabella Masson on 21 July 1848 at Elgin, their entry in the OPR reads: 'After being contracted and their matrimonial banns duly intimated in the Parish Church of Elgin, were married here by The Revd Adam Lind, Fenton Petrie, Blacksmith in Elgin,

and Isabella Masson, also in the parish of Elgin, before a competent number of witnesses.' He was the father of George (1 January 1849 – 21 Dec 1913), John (29 September 1850 – 28 February 1852) and Francis (19 December 1856 - ?) and John (28 October 1857 – 10 March 1860). He is recorded in the 1851 Census at Glover's Close, Elgin as Blacksmith (Journeyman) aged 35, with wife Isabella 28, James 4 Scholar, George 2 and John 7mo. The boy James was named James Davidson, a son of his wife born before they were married.

Coin Forger

Reported in the *Elgin Courant and Morayshire Advertiser* of 29 August 1851 of the following: 'Coining and Uttering Counterfeit Shillings. On Friday last, information was lodge at the Police Office here that a little boy had been detected uttering counterfeit shillings, when Constables Collins and Barber immediately proceeded to inquire into the circumstances, and succeeded in tracing the charges to a person named Fenton Petrie, a blacksmith, residing in Glover's Close, whom they immediately apprehended and lodged in the Police Office. Supt. Sutherland and Constable Collins then made a strict search in Petrie's house and dunghill, where they found all the apparatus for coining. A small hand-vice and a portion of base metal were discovered in the house, and a ladle used for melting and a die for a shilling-piece were found concealed in the dunghill. Through the activity and vigilance of the police, eight of the counterfeit shillings have been discovered, five of which had been uttered by Petrie or some member of his family. The prisoner has since been examined and committed for trial.'

Reported in the *Elgin Courier* of 29 August 1851 of the following: 'Counterfeit Money. We record with regret the discovery of a species of crime new in this part of the country. On Friday last, a boy living with Fenton Petrie, blacksmith, Glover's Close, had succeeded in passing a counterfeit shilling, and was in the act of disposing of the second, when it was detected. Notice was immediately given to the police, who interrogated the boy on the subject; and the result was, that Constables Collins and Barber on that evening apprehended Petrie on a charge of uttering base coin. Meantime the officers, from some circumstances which came to their knowledge, began to suspect that Petrie was not merely issuing, but coining counterfeit money; and in the course of that night and next morning the house and dunghill of the prisoner were searched by Superintendent Sutherland and Constable Collins, the result of which fully justified their suspicions. A portion of the base metal was found in the house, and a melting ladle and a shilling die was discovered in the dunghill.

The police deserve great credit for their activity in this case. We understand that no fewer than five different cases of uttering base coin are charged against Petrie, and that eight of the counterfeit shillings, issued by him or some of his household, have been discovered. Petrie has since been committed for trial.

The incident was reported in the *Inverness Courier* of 4 September 1851 as follows: “‘Mint’ at Elgin. The police of Elgin have succeeded in apprehending a coiner resident within that burgh. He is a blacksmith, named Fenton Petrie, and on searching his house in Glover’s Close the whole apparatus necessary for the manufacture of false coin was discovered, with some of the base metal used in the operation. Petrie seems to have confined his ingenuity to the manufacture of imitations of shillings, an attempt to pass one of which by a little boy led to the detection of the coiner, who, with his family, is in custody.’

Reported in the *Elgin Courier* of 12 September 1851 of the following: ‘Inverness Circuit. The following parties from this county are indicted to stand their trial at the ensuing Circuit Court of Justiciary, to be held at Inverness on the 2nd of October, viz: Fenton Petrie, blacksmith, Elgin, for coining, utterings, and having in his possession base coin.’

Reported in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 8 October 1851 of the following: ‘Inverness Circuit Court. This court met on Thursday – Lord Wood presiding. The number of cases before the court was 13 – of persons 18. Fenton Petrie, blacksmith, Elgin, charged with coining and uttering counterfeit coin, pled guilty, and was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Panel is an intelligent man, of middle age, with a wife and three children.’

Reported in the *John o’Groat Journal* of 10 October 1851 of the following: ‘Circuit Court of Justiciary, Inverness. The usual autumnal meeting of the Circuit Court of Justiciary was held on Thursday last, Lord Wood presiding, with Thomas Cleghorn, Esq. as Advocate-depute. The usual preliminaries having gone through, Fenton Petrie was placed at the bar, charged with a breach of the Act 2 William IV. Cap.34, by making, issuing, and having in his possession, a number of base and counterfeit coins, and also having in his dwelling a mould for the manufacture of such pieces. He pled guilty. Sentence of transportation for a period of seven years was passed against him.’

Within the National Records of Scotland (Ref: AD14/51/228) there is the Precognition against Fenton Petrie for the crime of uttering base coin. Fenton was committed to prison in Elgin on the 25 August 1851. The indict was he was charged on seven counts of the making and having equipment to make counterfeit shillings.

Indict 30 Aug 1851

Fenton Petrie – Coining & Uttering base coin

Elgin 28 Aug 1851

In respect herewith precognition in this case, and relative papers.

The accused is a native of this place, was in the Army, from which he was dismissed, and has been for years considered as a very suspicious person here, and was suspected of being concerned in various thefts, tho such could not be brought home to home, and his wife is not a reputable character.

The counterfeit coins, are very clumsily executed, but might be passed in the way the accused seems to have followed, by sending out in an evening, or taking people unwarily.

I am sir, yours most obedient

John Brodie Esq

Crown Agent Elgin

His warrant of arrest was as follows: 23d August 1851

To the Honourable the Sheriff of Elginshire: The information of Alexander Brown, Writer in Elgin Procurator Fiscal of Court for the Public interest.

Humbly showeth, that he has received information that, upon or about the eighteenth day of August Eighteen hundred and fifty one, Fenton Petrie Blacksmith, now or lately residing in Elgin, did wickedly and feloniously utter and use as genuine a false or counterfeit coin resembling or intended to resemble and pass for a shilling piece of the Queen’s current coin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit, by delivering the same within his Dwelling House in Elgin, to James Davidson, a boy, son of Isabella Davidson, wife of the said Fenton Petrie, with instructions that he would purchase a loaf of bread from Elspet Grant, residing in Lazarus Lane of Elgin which the said James Davidson did tendering the said false or counterfeit coin in payment, and receiving the balance of ten pence from the said Elspet Grant, which with the loaf of bread were delivered by the said James Davidson to the said Fenton Petrie; Likeas on or about the nineteenth day of the said month of August, the said Fenton Petrie, did wickedly and feloniously utter and use as genuine, a false and counterfeit coin resembling or intended to resemble and pass for a shilling piece of the Queen’s current coin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit by delivering the same on the Cattle market stance of Elgin to John McCombie son of, and residing with James McCombie Gardener, High Street of Elgin, with instructions to go with the same to Catherine Scott residing in Elgin and to obtain other money in exchange for the said false and counterfeit coin, but which was refused by her; Likeas on or about the twentieth day of August the said Fenton Pirie, did wickedly and feloniously utter and use as

genuine another false and counterfeit coin, resembling or intended to resemble and pass for a genuine shilling piece of the Queen's current coin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit by delivering the same on the High Street of Elgin to James Brown, Grandson of and residing with William Walker, Carrier in Elgin, requesting him to purchase an ounce of tobacco therewith; Likeas on or about the twenty second of the said month of August, the said Fenton Petrie did wickedly and feloniously utter and use as genuine another false and counterfeit, coin by delivering the same within his Dwelling House in Elgin aforesaid, well knowing the said coin to be false and counterfeit, to the said James Davidson, with instructions to apply the same in the purchase of a loaf of Bread from the said Elspet Grant, and to obtain from her the balance and the said James Davidson presented the said false and counterfeit coin to the said Elspet Grant but it was refused by her; Likeas on or about the said twenty second day of August, the said Fenton Petrie did wickedly and feloniously utter and use as genuine, another false and counterfeit coin intending the same to pass for and resemble a genuine shilling piece of the Queen's current coin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit by delivering the said false and counterfeit coin, within his dwelling house aforesaid to the said James Davidson with instructions to purchase a gill of whisky from Mrs Catharine Nicol a Merchant, and to obtain the balance; and the said James Davidson presented the said false and counterfeit coin to John Nicol son of the said Mrs Catherine Nicol, and obtained from him a gill of whisky, and sixpence in silver money and two pence halfpenny in copper money as the balance of the shilling and the said Fenton Petrie did wickedly and felonious; by coin and fabricate all the counterfeit coins herein mentioned and which were so uttered by him.

May it therefore please your Lordship to grant Warrant to Officers of Court, and Assistants, to search for seize and apprehend the person of the said Fenton Petrie in order to his being brought before you for examination. Also to grant Warrant to cite Witnesses, to be precognosed in the premises; and thereafter to do in the case as shall seem meet.

According to Justice (Signed) Alexr Brown
Elgin 23rd August 1851

Having considered the foregoing Information grants Warrant to apprehend, and to cite Witnesses as craved, and to commit the said Fenton Petrie to the prison of Elgin, in the meantime till brought up for examination. (Signed) Patrick Duff.

Elgin 25th August 1851. Having considered the Information declaration of the said Fenton Petrie grants Warrant to commit him to the prison of

Elgin for farther examination. (Signed) Pat Cameron.

Elgin 28th August 1851. Having considered the Information, declaration of the said Fenton Petrie and precognition; grants Warrant to commit him to the prison of Elgin, therein to be detained till he be brought to trial for the charge made in the Information against him or till he be otherwise liberated in due course of law. (Signed) Pat Cameron.

Two of the witness statements are as follows:
Elgin 25th August 1851 – Elspet Grant residing in Lazarus Lane of Elgin aged 65 years. I retail some bread and small articles.

On the evening of Monday the 18th current just as it was getting dark a little child came into my house asking for a two pence loaf and gave me in payment what I took to be a shilling and I was astonished at such a little boy being sent on such an errand. I did not know him. I gave him a loaf and a six pence piece in silver and four pence in copper and he went away.

I put what I thought was a shilling into the corner of trunk and next morning I discovered it was a counterfeit and nothing but a piece of lead.

On Friday evening the 22nd the same little boy came to my house after nine o'clock and asked me to give him a loaf of bread and gave me a similar counterfeit piece for a shilling as I had got on the Monday when I told him it was a bad one and the same as he had given me before. He went away and in less than ten minute came back with a genuine shilling and I gave him a loaf of Bread and a six pence and four pence silver pieces and he asked me to give him back the bad shilling I had got. At this time Mrs Nicol who lives nearby was in my house and said she knew the boy and told me his name was Davidson and that he lived with Fenton Petrie. I told him I would not give him the bad shilling and to tell his mother come and speak to me, which she did not do, and I kept both the bad shillings.

The same evening William Barber Assistant Police Officer came to my house enquiring about the matter and I delivered to him the two counterfeit pieces and he went away and returned in a few minutes with William Collins Police Officer.

And now being shown two counterfeit coins (Labels No.1 & No.2) intending to represent two genuine shilling pieces of Her Majesty's Coin, I declare these are the two pieces I got from the little boy Davidson whom I now see and I put a mark on them at the time and have adhibited my mark to labels attached to them. All which is truth & I cannot write.

Elgin 25 August 1851 – Catherine Scott or Reid a Widow residing in Elgin aged 45 years. I retail

some small sweetmeats and fruit and have a stand of the market days.

On Tuesday last the 19th current I had my stand on the market green at the west end of the town and a boy John McCombie son of James McCombie Gardener whom I knew came up and offered me what I thought was a shilling and asked me to give him change for it. I said if he could take it all copper I would do so. William Malcolm was standing beside me at this time and said I would better see the shilling was good, as he took it up and said that that is not a shilling at all, and put it to his mouth and bit a little out of it. He asked the boy where he got it when he said from a blacksmith and Malcolm desired him to go and get the man & the boy came back and said he could not find him and Malcolm said he would keep the shilling, and the boy began to cry and went away.

And being now shown a Counterfeit Coin (Label No.3) I declare that is the piece the boy offered to me which Malcolm took a small piece out of the side of in my presence and I have marked a label attached to it. All which is truth (Signed) Catherine Reid.

Fenton Petrie's statements – At Elgin the 25th day of August 1851. In presence of Patrick Cameron, Esquire, Sheriff substitute of Elginshire.

Fenton Petrie, blacksmith, residing in Elgin, married man, aged thirty seven years, having been apprehended and brought before the Sheriff substitute for examination, and being interrogated, Declared, on the eighteenth of August, being this day week, I gave a bad shilling, which at the time I knew to be bad, to a boy of the name of James Davidson, a son of my wife's, and who resides in family with me, aged about six years, and desired him to go to the house of one Elspit Grant, who resides in Lazarus Lane of Elgin, in order to get a loaf of Bread, and he got a two penny loaf, and brought me back ten pence.

Next day was a market day and I gave a shilling to a boy of the name of McCombie, in order to get exchanged for other coin, and which I also knew at the time to be bad, but I did not remain to see whether the boy succeeded in getting it changed, being afraid. This was in the Cattle Market.

On the evening of the Market day I also gave a bad shilling to a boy Walker, to go and purchase an ounce of tobacco for me, but I did not remain till he came back either, being afraid.

On Friday the 22^d instant I also gave the same boy Davidson a bad shilling to go and get a loaf of bread, without saying where he was to go; and he came back saying he had gone to Elspit Grants' who accused him of having previously given her a bad shilling. I had been paid a shilling that day for a day's work, and I gave the boy that shilling, desiring him to go and give it to Elspit Grant, and

he got a loaf from her, and brought me the change, deducting the price of the two loaves. This shilling which I had got for work was the only money I has, or had been able to gain, for eight days and my family were in the greatest possible want.

And being shown four pieces of counterfeit coin apparently intended to resemble shilling pieces of the Queen's coin, and interrogated if gave these, or any of them to the boys Davidson McCombie or Walker, Declared, So far as I can judge these are the coins I gave to those boys, and I have no doubt they are the same. Interrogated, where he got those counterfeits, Declares, as I have said, I was in great want, and I cast them in a mould. I think I did not cast above eight or ten altogether, and I have marked Labels (No.s 1, 2, 3 & 4) attached to those counterfeits along with the Sheriff-substitute as relative hereto.

And being shown a rude lead mould (Label No.8), Declares, It was in that I cast the counterfeit coins, and melting the lead in a small iron pan (No.7), which I now also see; and I have marked labels attached to the mould and the pan along with the Sheriff substitute as relative hereto.

And being also shown a small iron vice (No.6), I declare that this is my property, and I placed the mould in this Vice, to keep the sides together; and I have marked a label attached to it, along with the Sheriff substitute as relative hereto. All which I declare to be truth.

(Signed) Fenton Petrie, Pat Chrichton, Alexr Brown, James Anderson, John Sutherland.

At Elgin the 28th day of August 1851. In presence of Patrick Cameron, Esquire, Sheriff substitute of Elginshire.

Fenton Petrie, present prisoner in the prison of Elgin, having been again brought before the Sheriff substitute for examination, and the declaration emitted by his before the said Sheriff substitute, on the twenty fifth day of August current, having been read over to him, he adhered hereto, and it is docketed and subscribed by him and the Sheriff-substitute as relative hereto. And being of new interrogated – On Friday the 22^d instant I had been working at a place called Longhill in the country, and before going away, I said to my wife if I did not come home in time with some money to her, to give the boy Davidson a bad shilling, that he might try and get something for me against I came home, and on coming in I found that the boy had gone out with a bad shilling, and he immediately returned, bringing a bottle of beer and six pence in silver money, and two pence half penny, which the boy said he had got from John Nicol, son of Mrs Catherine Nicol.

And a counterfeit shilling being shown to him, Declared I have little doubt that that is one of the shillings I passed; and a label (No.5) attached to it

is subscribed by me and the Sheriff substitute as relative hereto.

There is a woman Helen Hossack, a pauper, lives on the end of my house. I have scarce ever been in her house. I did not, at any time, take two shillings out of her chest, and put two counterfeit shillings in their stead.

When I was apprehended I had in my custody another counterfeit shilling, and on passing the dyke of Mr Cooper's garden I threw that shilling (No.9) over the wall. All which I declare to be truth. (Signed) Fenton Petrie, Pat Cameron, Alexr Brown, James Anderson, John Sutherland.

Unfortunately the relative trial papers in the National Records of Scotland (Ref: JC26/1851/112) were not available for consultation due to being in a very poor condition. He pleaded guilty by his own confession and was sentenced to seven years transportation. However, this may have been committed to imprisonment as I have as yet found no details to where he was transported?

To be continued in next newsletter.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray Miscellany

How Many Years in a Generation?

I'd always thought 25 years as a reasonable answer. At least, I did, until I started to look at my own family tree in which I have dates of birth for all sixteen of my 2 x great grandparents.

The range of years I found surprised me, from Isabella Young, a daughter of John Young, fisherman & Isabella Davidson born 11 July 1855 in Hopeman, Moray all the way back in time to Thomas Spence, agricultural labourer, a son of John Spence & Janet Denoon born 15 June 1793 at Birkenburn, Keith, Banffshire.

The shortest chain runs from 1956 only to 1855; 101 years, or 25¼ years per generation. The longest chain of same length goes back as far as 1793; an amazing 163 years, or 40¾ years per generation.

Putting aside these extremes and looking at all sixteen of my ancestors, I calculate the average generation is 33 years. That's made me think about some of the assumptions I may have made when looking for people missing from further back in my chain.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Miscellany

DNA testing – one person's experience

A couple of years ago, I took a DNA test (this involved spitting into a test tube) with 23andMe, while at the same time I offered a test to my brother with Family Tree in the framework of what was supposedly a one-name study. About six Macgillivrays tested and each showed a different male ancestor, that being the disappointing scope of the results. However, 23andMe provided me with a thousand matches, most supposedly being relatives over the last ten generations. There were matches in faraway lands, Croatia, Romania, India – and even a native American. I doubt if any of us can trace our complete ancestry over the last ten generations to 562 couples who were perhaps born at the beginning of the 17th century. If each of these couples had three children who in turn over the succeeding generations had three children, our 562 ancestor couples at the beginning of the 17th century would have over 10 million descendants, all our relatives. So 23andMe's 1000 matches is only the tiny available drop in that genetic ocean.

Many years ago when I was researching my ancestors and the Macgillivrays in general in order to understand litigation for the Dunmaglass estates in the 19th century, I was lucky enough to meet the late Al Simonds, a fellow researcher into Macgillivrays. He believed that his Macgillivray ancestors from Duthil were connected to my Cawdor Macgillivrays, but there was nothing to indicate this was the case.

His earliest Macgillivray ancestor was Duncan, a soldier in Duthil, who married Mary Roger, with issue Mary born 1781, James born 1763, Peter born 1784, Angus or Aeneas born 1785, Janet 1800 and William 1803. James was in the 78th Regiment, married Mary McBain, then emigrated to Canada with his family. Peter was a sawmiller in Rosehall, married Isabella McGregor, one of his children John Gregor married Catherine Dallas in Cawdor, daughter of Duncan Dallas and Sarah Ross at Inchyette (their descendants would be related to me through Sarah Ross' Falconer mother), Aeneas married twice in Ross & Cromarty, Anne Matheson and Helen Morrison, and emigrated likewise with his family to Megantic County, Canada as did his younger brother William who married Christine McKay (ancestors of my friend Al Simonds).

The 23andMe DNA test gave me a match of someone in Al Simond's family, describing her as 3rd to 6th cousin, predicting her as 4th cousin on account of the amount of DNA shared. In fact - I had heard this was often the case - the predicted

cousinship was too close and it was more likely 6th cousinship or earlier that this Duthil Macgillivray family was connected to my Cawdor ancestors. Interestingly, my elderly mother nee Macqueen (with ancestors in Perthshire early 18th century) also tested. There were double matches for me through both my mother and father, meaning that my mother and father had a common ancestor, most likely in 17th century or earlier, and most likely from Skye, Inverness or Nairn, perhaps Clan Chattan... So thanks to DNA testing and in the absence of a paper trail, Al Simonds was proved right about his hunch - we were related...

Contributed by Jane MacGillivray

Moray Miscellany

Elgin Court

Forres Gazette 22 May 1901

On Monday in the Elgin Police Court Baillie Forsyth had to dispose of the largest number of cases that have come up in the Court for a number of years, there being 21 persons implicated and 14 cases. Isabella Kilby or Williamson and Mary Newlands of Kilby, both Hawkers of no fixed residence, pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace in High Street on 16th May last, and were each sentenced to pay a fine of 5s with the option of five days imprisonment. John Grant, shoemaker, and his wife Isabella Mackintosh were convicted of having created a disturbance in the close, 225 High Street, in which they reside, and were each sentenced to pay a fine of 5s, with the alternative of three days imprisonment. Alexander Brown, Tailor, High Street, and Ann Pirie or Campbell, Lodging-house keeper, South Street, were charged with committing a breach of the peace on Sunday morning. Brown pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 10s or five days imprisonment. The woman denied the charge, and her case was adjourned. Jessie Scott, outworker, High Street, pleaded guilty to a similar charge, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 5s, or go to prison for three days. James Wilson, vagrant, pleaded guilty to begging on Saturday last, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 5s, with a similar alternative. A mason residing in High Street was sentenced to pay a fine of 5s, with the alternative of one days imprisonment, for riding a bicycle on the evening of 11th May without having a light. James Williamson, Horse dealer, of no fixed abode, forfeited a bail of 7s 6d for creating a disturbance in New Elgin on 16th May last. The

rest of the offenders forfeited bails from 20s to 2s 6d.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray Miscellany

Bankers' Bonus

The *Forres Gazette* of Wednesday, September 22, 1852 contained three consecutive, and somewhat related, announcements of births that might give a new meaning to the phrase bankers' bonus:

First, we find, "Birth, at the Caledonian Bank, Elgin, on the 11th inst., Mrs Grant, of a daughter" - this is Alice, a daughter of James Grant & Julia Matilda Grant, born September 11 & baptised October 2, 1852, Elgin.

Next, comes, "Birth, at Inverness, on the 12th inst., Mr Waterston, Caledonian Bank, of a son" - this is David, a son of Charles Waterston & Agnes Webster, born September 12 & baptised November 10, 1852, Inverness.

And, finally, "Birth, at the Caledonian Bank, Nairn, on the 19th ult., Mr Macdougall, of a daughter" - this is Jane Isabella, a daughter of Peter Macdougall & Ann May, born August 19 Aug & baptised November 23 1852, Nairn.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Nairn Miscellany

Nairnshire Volunteers

On the 7th of August 1860 a review at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh saw men of the Nairnshire Artillery Volunteers and Nairnshire Rifle Volunteers take part in a parade of the newly formed Scottish artillery and rifle volunteers before Queen Victoria.

The Nairnshire Artillery Battery continued in existence till Army changes in 1908, the roll of the company exists (which I hope to transcribe one day) whilst the Rifle Volunteers went out of existence in 1862.

Taken from - Vernon, E R (1860) A Narrative of the Royal Scottish Volunteer Review in Holyrood Park on seventh of August 1860.

1st Nairnshire Artillery

A Findlay, Captain
D McLeod, 1st Lieutenant.
A Mann, 2nd Lieutenant.
Alexander Hay, Sergeant.
Wm Falconer, Sergeant.
A S Black, Sergeant.
G D Matheson, Sergeant.
D Mackenzie, Corporal.
Jas G Malcolm, Corporal.
F Macdonald, Corporal.
John Mackie, Corporal.
James Duffus.
William Robertson.
William Watson.
D Grant.
D C Munro.
Duncan Dunbar.
John Munro
James Robertson
John Nicol.
Hugh Clarke.
George Souter.
Wm Macdonald.
Robert Denoon.
Alex MacLennan.
James Calder.
Robert Milne.
Alexander Findlay.

1st Nairnshire Rifles

A Clarke, Captain.
A Campbell, Lieutenant.
J McPherson, Ensign.
Alex. Alexander.
Wm Anderson.
Neil Asher.
George Arnott.
Brodie Clarke.
William Clark, 1st.
Peter Clark.
William Clark, 2nd.
James Cumming.
Duncan Davidson.
John Davidson.
William Fraser, 1st.
Charles Falconer.
Gilbert Falconer.
William Fraser, 2nd.
Robert Fraser.
Alex. Falconer.
James Gray.
Simon Hendry.
Andrew Kerr.
Robert Leslie.
James McBean.
Peter McArthur.
Peter McArthur.

Wm McDonald.
Wm McGillivray.
Alex. McIntosh.
Henry McIntosh.
Wm McIntosh, 1st.
James McIntosh.
Wm McIntosh, 2nd.
John McIntosh.
James McPherson.
Alex. Malcom.
Wm Malcolm.
John Mann.
Wm Masson.
David Murray.
James Poole.
Thomas Riddle.
Robert Rennie.
Alex. Robertson.
Wm Robertson.
David Sinclair.
John Skene.
James Steel.
Wm A Stables.
James Stephen.
Alex. Stewart.
David Tulloch.
George Young.

The three officers of the 1st Nairnshire Rifles received their commissions in April 1860. Listed in *The London Gazette* (18 May 1860) and *The Edinburgh Gazette* (22 May 1860) as follows:

Commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Nairn.

Augustus Clarke, Esq., to be Captain. Dated 14th April 1860.
Archibald Campbell, Gent., to be First Lieutenant. Dated 14th April 1860.
James MacPherson, Gent., to be Ensign. Dated 14th April 1860.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2015. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

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