



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

# NEWSLETTER

Edition 22

October 2015

**W**elcome to the latest edition of the Moray & Nairn FHS Newsletter.

## MNFHS Chairman's Report

Finally, I have finished the Records related to Nairn Poorhouse, a project which I started in 2011 and which over the past couple of years I have mentioned in former newsletters and am very happy to say that it has been printed and copies are now available. These records are for those paupers who are listed from those adjacent parishes to Nairn who had agreements or had paupers in the Nairn Poorhouse. Please note it is not the Poorhouse Register of admissions or has any information relating to the Parish of Nairn, these records have been lost.

Also we have completed the monumental inscriptions at Barevan Churchyard and with a register of burials from Cawdor Churchyard this is also available from the Society.

I have completed working on the Elgin Poor Roll Registers which will be published in three parts in early 2016. It will give details of over 970 paupers on the Poor Roll for the Parish of Elgin.

Stuart Farrell  
Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in February 2016. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: [newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

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**Secretary: Mary Evans**

**Treasurer & Webmaster: Doug Stewart**

## MNFHS Publications

**Available Now!**

### *Barevan Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions & Cawdor Churchyard Burial Register 1930-1970*

*111 stones from the former parish church of Cawdor, with a burial register for the churchyard of Cawdor.*

44 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-08-4

£4; Postage & Packing costs on application.

### *Records Relating to Nairn Poorhouse, Nairn 1862-1914*

Nairn Poorhouse was opened in 1862 as a result of the Poor Law Act of 1845, where paupers could gain accommodation when they were homeless or infirm. The publication is not a register but is a transcription of the surviving records from the parishes of Abernethy, Ardclach, Ardersier, Auldearn, Cawdor, Cromdale, Croy, Duthil, Dyke & Moy, Edinkillie and Petty Parishes who by service agreements boarded or had paupers resident in Nairn Poorhouse. Also included is a Register of Burials at Nairn Cemetery 1864-1957, Nairn Old Churchyard and Auldearn Churchyard where the address was given as Nairn Poorhouse or its later name Balblair.

110 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-07-7

£7; Postage & Packing costs on application.

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

## Fenton Petrie - Soldier, Coin Forger and Murder Victim. Part 2

### Murder Victim

Reported in the *Elgin Courant* on 4 February 1859 of the following: ‘Serious Case. Between eight and nine o’clock on Sunday morning last, the dead body of Fenton Petrie, blacksmith, residing at Collieston, parish of Lumphanan, and employed at Wester Beltie, Kincardine O’Neil, on the Deeside Extension Railway, was found in a grass field at Roadside, Lumphanan, immediately in the vicinity of Lumphanan Village. The body was first discovered by a young girl, daughter of Peter Fraser, living at Roadside. Notice was sent to the constabulary, who called Dr Walker, Kincardine O’Neil, and as it at once appeared that the skull of the deceased was fractured, an express was sent to Aberdeen to Mr Barnes, the Chief Constable, and Mr Simpson, Procurator-Fiscal. Mr Simpson proceeded that night along with Dr Ogston to the place, and the body was kept in custody by the police till next morning, when the Mr Barnes went out, and an investigation was commenced.

The *Aberdeen Journal* gives the following particulars: It appears that the deceased, who had charge of the smithy at the Railway Works, received his month’s wages on Saturday, and after paying to David Fettes, with whom he lodged, 28s for his board, he gave Mrs Fettes £2 2s to send to his wife at New Elgin. It is believed he had 12s 6d in his pocket when he left Collieston. He then proceeded to a shop near the spot where the body was found, and bought a scarf and a handkerchief, and afterwards went to another shop – a kind of sub-agency to the above one – in the immediate vicinity, and a rendezvous of the Railway employees. It appears that though this place is not licensed, drink was to be had there; and the deceased took a share along with others. He left, it is stated, about six o’clock, promising to return. According to one account, this was at ten minutes before, according to another ten minutes after, that hour; and again, some affirm that he said he was going to the shop, whilst others think he said he was going down to the toll – a short distance in the other direction, where there were some other Railway workmen. As far as cab ascertained, however, he went to neither of these places. It was in the direction of the latter where the body was found, but in immediate vicinity where the party were assembled. On emerging from this house there is an embankment, and at the foot of this the body lay. The body was next the ground, the jacket was off, and lay at some twenty yards distance away, the waistcoat being also partly off. The sum of 2s 6d was found on the deceased, and in the pocket was a letter from his wife, breathing affectionate sentiments. There were marks of

blood in two or three places, and in one place a considerable quantity of it coagulated; and though there were some large stones near on which the deceased might have fallen and thus met his death, these bore no blood marks. Besides the fractures, we learn, indicated an excess of wounds (so to speak) for a merely accidental death. Some collateral circumstances are also suspicious, but at present we say no more on this point than that Inspector Cram, Sergeant Richardson, and other constables are on the spot, following out minutely the investigation.

The body, after being examined by Dr Ogson and Dr Walker, was handed over to Mr Hall, the intelligent Manager to Messrs Mitchell & Ireland, Railway Contractors, who kindly undertook to have it decently interred. Deceased who was about 40, and, as above indicated leaves a widow, and we believe also three children. Deceased was of firmly knit muscular build, and was a remarkably good mechanic.

Intelligence of the melancholy event was sent to Provost Grant, here, on Sunday, by Mr Hall, who states that “it is not certain how he (Petries) came by his death, but it must have been either of two ways – by a fall over a bank about ten feet high, near which he was found, or by murder. His skull is fearfully fractured, and there are otherwise some traces of violence and struggling.” [The incident of his death made item in a number of national and regional newspapers]

The owner of the shop who sold the drink on the fatal day was subsequently prosecuted, reported in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 9 March 1859 as follows: ‘Warning to Excise Offenders. An Excise Court at Tarland on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, before Andrew Robertson, Esq; M.D; Andrew Ross, Esq; and James L. Douglass, Esq; three of her Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for the County, at the instance of the Hon. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, against George Cromar, grocer, Glenmillan, in the parish of Lumphanan, for retailing spirits without licence, on five separate occasions on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January last. By the Act 6 Geo. IV; c.81, sec.26, a penalty of £50 was incurred for these offences. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined in the mitigated penalty of £25, which he has since paid. Dr Robertson, the presiding Magistrate, in passing the judgement of the Court, took occasion to point out to the defendant, in very appropriate terms, the impropriety of his conduct, and in respect that this is the second conviction in little more than twelve months, refused to entertain his request for a further mitigation of the penalty. Had evidence been led, it would have been proved by two witnesses that spirits were supplied to them in the defendant’s shop on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January last, for the man Fenton Petrie, who is supposed to have

been murdered at Glenmillan on that day. The respected Presses, with reference to this matter, severely censured the defendant, and, with the other Magistrates, warned him that, if he persisted in carrying on this illegal traffic, and came before them again for a similar offence, the extreme penalty which the law imposes would be inflicted. The case was conducted by the Crown by Mr McKenzie, the Supervisor of the District; and much credit is due to Inspector Cran of the Police for his willing co-operation with Mr Mackintosh, the local revenue officer, in the detection and suppression of these offences.'

Fenton Petrie's death certificate details were as follows: Occupation given as Blacksmith (Journeyman) - Married. He died on the night between 29 & 30 January 1859, at hour unknown, in a grain field forming part of the possession of Glenmillan, Parish of Lumphanan occupied by Samuel McRobbie, Crofter & Carpenter there. (Neither his parents nor spouse are named on the death certificate) Cause of Death, a wound in the forehead and fracture of the skull in the vicinity. Certified by Dr Ogson, Aberdeen and Walker, Procurator Fiscal saw the body and certified the cause of death. Registered on the information of Alexander Simpson, Procurator Fiscal on 10 May 1859 at Lumphanan. (SRO Death:1859 Lumphanan - page 4/entry 10). He was buried at Lumphanan Churchyard and has no headstone.

His widow Isabel Masson has an entry in the Register of Poor in the parish of Elgin which shows the following: Residence: New Elgin; Age: 36; Date of Minute of Parochial Board authorising relief: Mar 1859; Amount and Description of Relief: 3/- & house rent of 30/-; Country and Place of Birth: Elgin; Religious Denomination: Protestant; Condition: Widow; Trade or Occupation: None; Wholly or Partially Disabled: Partially; Description of Disablement: Attending her three children; Wholly or Partially Destitute: Partially; Earnings: Works occasionally in the fields at 10d per day; Nature of Settlement: Birth & Residence; Name & Age of Wife, Child or Children: George Petrie 10, Francis Petrie 3, John Petrie 1 year 3mo; Name & Age of Wife, Child or Children; Name, Age & Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Children: Alexr Barron 16, James Davidson 14; Other Information: Applicant Husband Fenton Petrie was murdered on the Deeside Railway about a month since; Register: Mar 1860 - Reduced to 2/- & house rent & in July she had another illegitimate child, 24 Aug 1864 - Reduced to 1/- & House rent, 7 Jun 1865 - Ordered to Poor House and outdoor relief withdrawn, nd - Off Roll 1873.

His son John died in an accident, being reported in the *Aberdeen Journal* of the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1860 as follows: 'Melancholy Accident. At New Elgin on Saturday morning week, two boys were amusing themselves by burrowing sand in a pit situated in the village, and while thus engaged, a portion of the bank above, four feet high, and extending to several yards in breadth, gave way, burying completely the younger of the two, a child of three years, underneath. The other one being older, and therefore stronger, who was but partially covered, was able to cry for assistance, which was speedily rendered by the inhabitants, but notwithstanding every effort eagerly put forth by them, it was some time before the little sufferer was extricated from his dreadful position, when it was found that life was extinct. What adds more to the melancholy end of this boy is the circumstance that his father, Fenton Petrie, little more than a year ago, was found dead on Deeside, supposed at the time to have been by foul play.'

And what of the family thereafter? In the 1861 Census his widow Isabella Petrie was living in New Elgin, aged 38, with sons George 12 Printer (Apprentice), Francis 5 and William 6mo. (William Masson or Petrie - Illegitimate - was born 17 September 1860 where the father's name was not stated).

By the Census of 1871 Isabella Petrie is recorded as now living at 50 High Street, Elgin with sons Francis 15 Printer Compositor and Roderick 10 Scholar. In 1871 George is recorded as being a boarder at 75 Edward Street, Bury, Lancashire where his occupation is recorded as Printer Compositor.

By the Census of 1881 Isabella is now recorded as to be living at 27 Lord Street (Higher), Middlesbrough, Yorkshire with her son Roderick, Tailor. She is recorded as aged 58 whilst Roderick is 21, they also had a boarder. In 1881 George is recorded at 37/39 Jefferson Street, Westgate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne as Printer.

In the Census of 1891 Roderick Petrie, Tailor is recorded as living at 135 William Street, Sunderland, Co. Durham aged 30, with wife May 28 and daughters Isabella 4 and Florrie 2 and son Robert W aged 8 months. George is living at 13 Kent Street, Middlesbrough with occupation of Printer Traveller with his wife Harriet 35 and son John 12 Scholar. Isabella does not appear on the 1891 Census; a possible candidate for her death appears on Free BMD as dying at Chorlton, Lancashire aged 63 in Oct-Dec 1886?

In the Census of 1901 George is recorded at 15 Cort Street, Blackhill, Benfieldside, Co. Durham aged 51 with occupation as Printer (Compositor) with his wife Harriet aged 45. Roderick does not appear in the 1901 Census he is possibly recorded

in Free BMD to have died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1897 at Middlesbrough aged 36.

By the 1911 Census George is recorded as living at 63 Gerald Street, Benwell, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne with his occupation as Printer (Overseer) at the Consett Iron Co. Ltd aged 62 and his wife Harriet Joss Petrie aged 56. George's Death was noted in the *Forres Gazette* of the 24 December 1913 of the following: 'A Printer of the Old School – An Elgin Man's Death. The death took place at his residence at Benwell, on Sunday, after a lingering illness, of Mr George Petrie. Born at Elgin sixty-four years ago, Mr Petrie learned the trade of a printer, and after serving for some time with the firm of Blackwoods, in Edinburgh, he went south while still a young man. He worked in some of the best printing-houses in London, and on his was north again settled for some time in Middlesbrough, ultimately accepting the position, which he held for many years, of the oversight of the important printing department of the Consett Iron Company. Ill-health had made it impossible for him to attend regularly to his duties for some time past. Mr Petrie had been so long in England that he was by way of being of Anglicised, but the homeland and the things of the homeland had not lost their spell, and many of his fellow Scots today are grateful for his work as the founder of North-West Durham Caledonian Society. He was a printer of the old school – that is to say, he was a craftsman with the medieval craftsman's love of his art – and was yet in touch with all the modern developments in typography. Widely read and keenly observant, he was a delightful companion, just as he was a friend whose friendship never failed. He leaves a widow and son.'

So here is part of the story of Fenton Petrie and his family. But questions still remain – Who did steal the shillings from his neighbour Isabel Hossack, was it his wife? She knew about the 'bad shillings' and he denied the theft. Who actually killed Fenton? Was it an argument over drink? It does not seem to be over money as he had little or none on him or was it something else? Whatever the reason, no one seems ever to have been charged over it. Re Isabella who was the father to William and Roderick? I could also not find a birth cert for Roderick – he was also illegitimate, no record under Petrie or Masson. And what happened to William after 1861 or to Francis after 1871? And what happened to James Davidson, her illegitimate son and possibly another illegitimate son Alexander Barron, both listed in the Poor Roll? And just what was the North-West Durham Caledonian Society!

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Post-Script – Item in the *Elgin Courier* of 12<sup>th</sup> April 1833 noted the following:

'On Monday last a boy of the name Fenton Petrie was engaged in racking a quantity of wood, in the Coach Yard of Mr Dallas, when one of the supports appearing too weak, he commenced nailing another piece to strengthen it, this still proving too weighty, fell down upon him, and although there are no external marks of injury, he was so seriously bruised internally as to cause his removal to the Infirmary where he lies very ill.'

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## Nairn Miscellany

### Miss Brodie of Lethen

The following was reported in the *Nairn County Press* of 16<sup>th</sup> April 1904 –

'Fatal Hotel Fire in London. Death of Miss Brodie of Lethen.

Profound sorrow has been felt in the town and county of Nairn at the intelligence received on Wednesday morning of the death of Miss Mabel Brodie, third daughter of the late Mr J. C. Brodie of Lethen, and sister of Captain Brodie of the Scots Guards. Miss Brodie and her mother had just returned from the Continent on Sunday, and were living in a private hotel at Egerton Terrace, Brompton, London. Early on Monday morning a fire broke out in the hotel, and a number of the inmates, including Mrs Brodie and her daughter were rescued after heroic efforts by the Fire Brigade. Exact particulars as to how the fire occurred are not yet to hand, suffice it to say the rescued were all or less injured, and in the case of Miss Brodie the injuries terminated fatality. The following account of the fire is from a London paper.

The fire broke out on the second floor of the structure, which contained twenty-two rooms, about three o'clock on Monday morning, and when the firemen from Montpellier Road arrived on the scene with a horsed platform, they found that four of the guests had been unable to escape by the staircase, which was then in flames. The fire had also taken hold of the walls of the building, and the firemen – including men from the Trafalgar Square, Chelsea, and other stations – were confronted by whirling sheets of flame as they tried to gain an entrance. Inch by inch they drove the flames aside from the windows, and after being forced to retire several times the men entered the back portion of the burning building by means of Pompier ladders. Crossing a wide corridor on the second floor, already charred by the flames, they burst into a room, in which they found Mrs Brodie, the mother of the deceased lady, almost unconscious. They carried her

through the smoke-laden corridor and down the ladders to a place of safety. From a similarly perilous position the firemen rescued Mrs Brodie's maid, Miss Annie Young; and as she was conveyed down the ladders, the crowd gathered outside raised ringing cheers.

The rescue of a third resident, Miss Margaret Birse, was affected with great difficulty on the alarm being given, Miss Birse went out on the window sill of her room on the third floor. With singular coolness and presence of mind she closed the window behind her to check the progress of the flames in that direction. Although her position was very perilous, she refused to jump into the sheet held out for her below. As quickly as possible, the firemen ran their ladders up to the window-sill, and, amid tremendous cheering from the vast crowd in the street, brought her down through the blinding smoke then issuing through the second floor window.

To continue the tale of the gallant work of the firemen, there was still a fourth rescue to be made from the blazing structure. Miss Mabel Brodie was found to be missing. Rushing up the ladders again, and entering by the top window, the firemen burst open a bedroom door and found the young lady lying on her bed unconscious. Her head was buried beneath the clothes, and only this fact had saved her from suffocation. It was a great relief to the tense excitement of the crowd when the firemen re-appeared at the window with their fourth and last rescue, and as they lowered her by means of a rope into the sheet below there was renewed cheering. The men engaged in the gallant rescue work were Firemen, Bennett, Osborne, Spencer, Lloyd, Wainwright and Henderson. Wainwright is the holder of a silver medal for gallantry on a previous occasion. "Just one of these incidents that may happen any night," was the way in which one of them referred to the courageous rescue work. The hotel was only partially destroyed. It was believed at first that Miss Brodie would recover, but the hope was not fulfilled. The other guests are stated to be doing well.

The deceased Miss Mabel Evelyn Brodie was about thirty years of age. She was the third daughter of the late Mr J. Campbell Brodie of Lethen and Coulmony, Nairn, sometime Lord-Lieutenant of that county by his marriage in 1862, with Constance daughter of Mr E. T. Wedgewood Wood of Henley Hall, Ludlow, Shropshire. Mr Campbell Brodie, who was one of the best known public men of his time in the north, died in 1880. He was a first cousin of Sir Thomas Dawson Brodie, first and last baronet of Idvies, and maternally a grandson of Mr Stewart Souter of Melrose, Banff.

The funeral of Miss Brodie takes place today (Saturday) from the Nairn Railway Station. The

remains will arrive by the 10.18 a.m. train and will be conveyed direct to the family burying ground at Lethen. We understand the funeral cortege will go at a walking pace through the High Street, and where it may be joined by friends in Nairn. It has been arranged to close business premises while the funeral passes through the town.'

Reported in the *Nairn County Press* of 30<sup>th</sup> April 1904 of the following:

'The late Miss Brodie of Lethen – Firemen to be Decorated – The official orders of the London Fire Brigade issued on Wednesday contain the announcement that in connection with the fire which occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. at the private hotel in Kensington, and which resulted in the death of Miss Brodie, of Lethen. Firemen T. J. Lloyd and E. George will be recommended for the London County Council's silver medal for extra-ordinary bravery. It is awarded only in cases of exceptional merit. Not twenty members of the London Brigade are possessors of the coveted decoration. The two firemen made their way to Miss Brodie's bedroom in a stifling atmosphere, and at great risk to themselves brought her out. She subsequently died from shock. It may be stated that among those who possess the distinction is our good townsman, Mr Whaley, of the Bridge Street Cycle Works, who has distinguished himself as a fireman in the London Fire Brigade, having been instrumental in saving two lives in a fire at Caledonian Road in April 26, 1897, which earned him the silver medal, which is the Victoria Cross of the Brigade. Mr Whaley also possess the bronze medal issued by the London County Council Metropolitan Fire Brigade in commemoration of the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria in 1897. "*Forres Gazette*".'

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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## Moray Miscellany

### When a King became a Queen - then a King again

On a visit to Elgin Heritage Centre, I was scrolling through the 1901 Census Returns for the parish of Elgin, Moray looking for an entry for a farm that lay south and west of the town. I found the farm, the farmer and his family in Enumeration District 18. I also found something unexpected in that volume; why was Queen Street listed there?

Given that where I was, in the East End School, Queen Street was no more than 100 yards away, why should it be listed in that book, which covered an area on the outskirts of Elgin, more than a mile away. I had to investigate this!

Looking more closely at the microfilm, I could see I was working my way through the village of New Elgin, and I have to admit that I didn't know there was a Queen Street in New Elgin.

There isn't and however I tried, whatever lists I looked at, I could find no record of a Queen Street in New Elgin, time after time all that came up was Queen Street, Elgin.

Returning to the Census Returns microfilm, and reading through more carefully, I suddenly realised that there was no mention of King Street. I could see the residents of North Street, Smith Street, Springfield Road, Nicol Street, Gordon Street and others, but no mention of King Street.

Looking at the 1891 Census Returns, I found the same, that there was Queen Street but no King Street. Was King Street once known as Queen Street and, if so, when was its name changed?

The first task was to try and locate Queen Street on a map and luckily a very, very good series of maps exist that helped me do that.

It was on that site that I found the evidence I needed to prove that Queen Street existed and it is the street now known as King Street in New Elgin.

I found Queen Street, courtesy of NLS 'Map Images', at <http://maps.nls.uk/view/82879029>, on the Ordnance Survey, 25'' 2<sup>nd</sup> and later editions, 1892-1949 Elginshire, Sheet 007.16, published 1905:



Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

From the map, I now knew that Queen Street is now known as King Street; from a Queen to a King!

Having gotten this far, the next questions were to ask why was it called Queen Street and when was the name changed to King Street? The second part was relatively easy to work out.

Making use of the People Search feature of Moray Council's LIBINDEX site, I found a record of indexed deaths - from local newspapers - for Queen Street and King Street.

[If you've never used the facility before, if you have roots in Moray, Banff & Nairn I'd point you towards a free service, called LIBINDEX, set up, run and maintained by Moray Council at <http://libindx.moray.gov.uk/mainmenu.asp>; a great source of help for those researching anything in these old counties.]

LIBINDEX Deaths, Queen Street & King Street, 1880 - 1920			
Name	Date	Q	K
Ewen McPherson	24/05/1889	Q	
Isabella Findlay	08/08/1891	Q	
John Asher	25/11/1892	Q	
Margaret Young	15/11/1894	Q	
Jane Simpson	09/07/1896	Q	
Margaret McLeod	17/02/1904	Q	
George Ross	06/07/1904	Q	
James Falconer	15/04/1905	Q	
Mary Ross	20/05/1905	Q	
Annie Gordon	27/08/1906	Q	
John Findlay	28/03/1909		K
Isabella Cameron	03/09/1910	Q	
Alexander Ettles	12/07/1912		K
Elspey Falconer	11/01/1914		K
Joan Wood	28/05/1914		K
Elizabeth Gordon	25/02/1916		K
Elsie McLean	19/04/1916		K
Charles Cameron	29/05/1916		K
Margaret Dunbar	31/12/1917		K
Alexander Stuart	01/06/1919		K
George W Stewart	01/06/1919		K

Key: Q - Queen Street, K - King Street

Not a comprehensive list of all deaths, but sufficient to highlight when the change from Queen Street to King Street occurred.

Another aid to confirming the date of change was the Valuation Rolls for the County of Elgin and the roll for 1908-1909 lists Queen Street (but not King Street):

**Valuation Roll, County of Elgin,  
Parish of Elgin, 1908/09 - Queen Street**

Proprietor	Tenant
J Falconer	Mrs E Falconer
Mrs A Finlay or Ettles	
M Hay or McLean	P Gordon
M Hay or McLean	R Cruickshank
M Hay or McLean	D McKenzie
M Hay or McLean	Miss I Ross
J Simpson	
J Simpson	W Slater
A Thomson	W Gilzean
A Thomson	A Henderson
G Gordon	

Whereas, the roll for 1909-1910 lists King Street (and not Queen Street):

**Valuation Roll, County of Elgin,  
Parish of Elgin, 1909/10 - King Street**

Proprietor	Tenant
J Falconer	Mrs E Falconer
Mrs A Finlay or Ettles	
M Hay or McLean	P Gordon
M Hay or McLean	R Cruickshank
M Hay or McLean	J M Gorman
M Hay or McLean	Miss I Ross
J Simpson	Mrs C Simpson
J Simpson	W Slater
A Thomson	W Gilzean
A Thomson	A Henderson
G Gordon	
J Newlands	J Leighton
J Newlands	J Michael
J Newlands	D Fraser
J Newlands	G Simpson
J Newlands	J Reid
J Newlands	Miss B Asher
J Newlands	J Stephen
J Newlands	E J Clark
J Falconer	D McKenzie
J Falconer	J Smith

This tied-down the name change even more and we can see, from the two Valuation Rolls, more or less the same list of residents: Mrs Elsie Falconer, widow; Philip Gordon, retired farmer; Robert Cruickshank, &c.

Turning then to newspapers, in the *Elgin Courant & Courier* of Tuesday, April 30, 1907 (page 8) we find, in a report on Elgin County Council, that “A letter was submitted from Mr Hugh Stewart, Clerk to the Convenery of the Incorporated Trades, stating that the Convenery were about to form a new street in New Elgin, and asking the authority of the Board.”

Then from the *Northern Scot* of Saturday,

September 7, 1907 (page 7), again reporting on Elgin County Council, we learn that, “A letter was submitted from Mr Hugh Stewart, solicitor, clerk to the Convenery of the Incorporated Trades of Elgin, requesting the County Council to take over the new roadway formed by the Convenery in New Elgin, and known as King Street,” and only a week later, in the same newspaper, on the first page, we find an advert naming King Street as running southwards from Springfield Road as far as School Road (now known as Land Street).

Thus, the second part of the question can be answered; Queen Street was developed, and renamed as King Street, between April and September, 1907.

Moving on, then, to the first part of the question, some details uncovered in answering the second part proved to be useful; that the Convenery of the Incorporated Trade were involved.

From *Elgin Past And Present* by H B Mackintosh (1914, Elgin), on page 255, we read that, “The Reform Act having abolished the exclusive privileges, the Trades Incorporations had little object in continuing to take an interest in their crafts as public bodies. Some of the Incorporations having landed property sold it, dividing the spoil. But, fortunately, that part of the Muir of Elgin which the Convenery had acquired from the Town Council in 1760, could not be alienated, and has served as the link to keep the Trades Incorporations alive.”

So, given that the Incorporated Trades “owned” New Elgin, the next obvious place to look was at *The Convenery of the Six Incorporated Trades of Elgin* by W E Watson (1960, Elgin)

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 1877, at a meeting of the Convenery, there was agreement “to call the west-most street Nicol Street, and the middle street, Smith Street.”

And then, at another meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1881, they agreed that “the street next to the west of Nicol Street to be named King Street and the one west of it to be Gordon Street.”

Although this didn’t answer the question as to why the street was known as Queen Street for about 20 years, it did give up some information; that it was the intention of the Convenery to name the new street King Street.

These four streets in New Elgin - Nicol, Smith, King & Gordon Street - were named after the four most-recent conveners of the Six Incorporated Trades of Elgin:

### **John Nicol**

John Nicol, grocer & spirit merchant, 1828 - 1888, was a son of John Nicol - himself also a grocer - and Catherine Fraser. Nicol had been actively engaged in the business of grocer & spirit merchant since he was fourteen years of age, and carried on business in his own property opposite the Court House buildings in Elgin. He entered the Town Council in 1864, became Dean of Guild in 1868 and one year later passed to bench as Bailie. Retiring in 1879, he was re-elected in 1883 and appointed Dean of Guild - which position he held at his death. Nicol was long connected with the Incorporated Trades, and served as Convener from 1869 to 1873; he also took active part in Parochial Board work. He died in Elgin on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1888, aged 59 years, and was interred in Elgin Cemetery, being survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

### **William Smith**

William Smith, saddler, 1821/22 - 1883, was a member of an old Elgin family. A son of Peter Smith - also a saddler - and Elizabeth Hay, he had been carrying on his business in Elgin for around 20 years.. Smith was a long-time member of the Incorporated Trades of Elgin, and served as Convener from 1873 to 1876. He died at Maida Place, Elgin on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1883, aged 61 years, and was interred in the burying ground at Elgin Cathedral.

### **William King**

William King, carpenter, sawmill owner, Bailie of Elgin, 1829/30 - 1888, was a son of James King, tailor & Jane Donaldson, born at Mosstowie. After learning the trade of carpenter under Convener Mackenzie, King worked as a journeyman before going south for several years, returning to Elgin around 1856 to take the position of manager at Morayshire Sawmills. On leaving that business, he set up in partnership with Bailie Watson sawmills at the west end of Elgin, which ran for several years, before entering into a lease of the mills and farm of Kingsmills. At Kingsmills, King carried on a large business as meal & flour miller, being an extensive grain purchaser in Morayshire and merchant, shipping large quantities of sleepers to the south. He entered Town Council in 1865, becoming a Magistrate in 1870, and retiring on 1880. King was a member of the Squarewright Corporation and deacon of the craft, and served as Convener from 1876 to 1879. He died at Kingsmills on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1888, aged 63 years, and was interred in Elgin Cemetery, being survived by his wife, one son and three daughters.

### **John Gordon**

John Gordon, plumber, 1817/18 - 1888 was a native of Tarland, Aberdeenshire. Apprenticed to Messrs Blaikie & Sons, Aberdeen, he came to Elgin to represent that firm in the district, but soon started business on his own account. One time member of the Town Council, he was also an enthusiastic Free Mason, for a long period holding the office of Right Worshipful Master of Kilmolymock Lodge and, under that title, laid the foundation stone of U.P. Church, South Street and the Great North of Scotland Railway Bridge. Nicol one time held the position of Deacon of the Hammermen's Corporation and ultimately became Convener of the Trades, holding office from 1879 to 1882. He died at 16 South Street, Elgin on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1888, aged 70 years, and was interred in Elgin Cemetery.

Watson's book also reveals that, in 1903, the Conventry considered the street to be named as King Street because, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January that year, they discussed "an application by George Gordon, shepherd, for a feu south of Alex'r Thomson, King Street."

No evidence has yet been found as to why King Street was known, and reported in official documents, as Queen Street for nearly twenty years. It might be surmised that the name was applied in 1887 as some sort of nod towards the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria - but nothing has been found to confirm or refute this suggestion.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

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## **Nairn Miscellany**

**Adam** – Death of Mr Walter Adam, Park. On Sunday morning Mr Walter Adam, farmer, Park, Nairnshire, died at his residence. He was in failing health for some time, and although he seemed to have rallied to a certain extent, the end came on Sunday. Mr Adam was one of the best known agriculturalists in the North, and owned several farms. He took over the farm of Park a few years ago, and in working it brought to bear good farming abilities, with the result that he was very successful. He was an elder of the Nairn Free Church, of which he was a devoted member. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss. (*Nairn County Press* 24 November 1900)

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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