



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

Edition 23

February 2016

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

MNFHS Chairman's Report

As I write this Moray & Nairn Family History Society gains its 7th Birthday – has it been that long – how the last year has passed so quickly. I would like to thank all our members for their continued support of the society.

This year will also see a slight change to the Society in that we will have only 2 publications this year but forming 5 books, as my current research project – Nairn Artillery Volunteers is just starting and will take up most of the my spare time for the next couple of years – my day job is busy as well!

I have completed working on the Elgin Poor Roll Registers which are available now in three parts from 1845-1891. This is a complete transcription of each pauper's record in the register and gives details of over 970 paupers on the Poor Roll for the Parish of Elgin. Later this summer will see us publishing in two parts Deaths and Obituaries from the Elgin Courier newspaper from 1827 to 1834. Current publication work underway for 2017 includes Forres Free Church and Records relating to Lhanbryde.

This year will see us attending the Scottish Association of Family History Societies Conference at New Lanark on the 23rd April 2016.

Stuart Farrell, Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in July 2016. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Contacts: Chairman: Stuart Farrell

Secretary: Mary Evans

Treasurer & Webmaster: Doug Stewart

MNFHS Publications

Available Now!

Elgin Poor Registers

This is a complete transcription of each pauper in the Elgin Poor Register, giving details of payments, family, circumstances and even dates of death.

Part One – 1845-1871

99 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-09-1

Part Two – 1871-1881

99 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-10-7

Part Three 1881-1891

100 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-11-4

£6 each; Postage & Packing costs on application.

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

SAFHS Conference

The 27th SAFHS Conference and Family History Fair will be hosted by Lanarkshire Family History Society on the theme of "*Heritage along the Clyde*" and will be held in New Lanark Mill, a World Heritage Site, on Saturday 23rd April 2016, from 9.30am to 4.45pm.

Delegate options: 4 talks £16 or 4 talks and buffet lunch £20.

Information on travelling to New Lanark can be found on the New Lanark website - a free shuttle bus has been arranged to convey delegates and visitors from the car park to the mills.

Moray Miscellany

List of The Municipal Electors of Forres, 1851

Anderson, John, Merchant
Anderson, W, Painter
Anderson, A, Butcher
Allan, J B, M.D
Austin, J, Baker
Aitkin, Rev M, Mayfield
Alves, J, Shoemaker
Austie, James, Bulletloan
Alves, W, Mason

Brands, A D, Surgeon
Butler, Richard, Chapelton
Bremner, James, Merchant
Bain, Alexander, Shoemaker
Bowie, Thomas, Shoemaker
Bowie, A, Pork-Dealer
Bell, William, Baker
Bowie, James, Grocer
Bezeck, Alexander, Farmer, Courage of Brodie

Cumming, Sir W G G, Bart
Cruickshank, R, Wright
Cant, Alexander, Merchant
Campbell, William, Grocer
Calder, Peter, Baker
Clark, R, China Merchant
Cooper, David, Tailor,
Cunningham, Alexander, Watchmaker

Davidson, Thomas, Merchant
Donaldson, William, Labourer
Duffes, A, Plasterer
Dickson, George, Teacher
Dempster, R, Surgeon

Eddie, Alexander, Hairdresser

Forsyth, John, Writer
Fraser, John, Merchant
Fraser, R, Tailor
Fridge, James, Farmer
Ferguson, J, Gardener
Fraser, S, Baker
Fraser, John, Innkeeper
Fimister, J, Carrier
Fraser, A, Grocer
Ferrier, William, Weaver
Fraser, W, Tailor
Forsyth, William, Merchant Tailor
Fraser, William, Draper

Gill, J, Merchant
Gillan, James, Clothier
Gillan, John, Wine Merchant
Gillan, John, Jun, Grocer
Gillan, James, Mason

Grant, Rev Duncan
Grant, J, Cabinetmaker
Grant, J, Carrier
Gillan, John, Vintner
Grant, Robert, Meal Dealer
Gillan, G, Cabinetmaker
Grant, A, of Bogton
Galloway, Alexander, Druggist
Grant, William, Thornhill
Grant, John, Carrier

Hendry, Alexander, Merchant
Henry, George, Merchant
Hendry, William, Wright
Hunter, J, Tailor
Harrold, Alexander, Wright
Hendry, James, Builder
Hendrie, R, Watchmaker
Hood, Alexander, Shoemaker
Hossack, John, Brewer

Innes, J G, Surgeon

Kerr, William, Butcher
Kynoch, John, Merchant
Kerr, T, Merchant
Kerr, J, Carpenter
Kynoch, W, Merchant

Laing, William, Merchant
Logie, William, Cassieford
Lauder, F, Shoemaker
Laing, J, Draper
Leal, John, Crooks
Laing, John, Jun, Merchant
Leitch, A, Baker,
Laing, A, Ironmonger
Lillie, John, Shoemaker

Munro, George, Flesher
Murdoch, John, Vintner
McRae, John, Merchant
Manford, J G, Writer
McKenzie, A, Plasterer
McPherson, J, Blacksmith
Munro, James, Grocer
McGarrow, W, Grocer
McDonald, Charles, Baker
Miller, J, Printer
McGarrow, D, Innkeeper
McLennan, Kenneth, Merchant
Munro, Donald, Merchant
Murdoch, John, Horse-Hirer
Murdoch, George, Blacksmith
Munro, Robert, Flesher
McKidd, William, Merchant
Murdoch, A, Vintner
Mellis, John, Blacksmith
Mitchell, R, Registrar
McDonald, H G, Merchant

Michie, J, Druggist
Munro, H, Cartwright
Murdoch, Thomas, Flesher
McKimmie, J, Tailor
McQuiban, W, Watchmaker
Miller, A U, Baker
McIntosh, Aeneas, Bulletloan

Nairn, D, Plasterer

Purse, W, Merchant
Peterkin, Major Grant

Raff, James, Saddler
Riach, Patrick, Merchant
Rose, John, Merchant
Ross, George, Merchant
Ross, Hugh, Mason
Russell, Thomas, Pluscarden
Rose, A, Carrier
Raff, James, Jun, Saddler
Reid, George, Innkeeper
Ritchie, Alexander, Sawyer

Sinclair, John, Mason
Sim, R, Alves
Smith, Alexander, Carpenter
Smith, Alexander, Merchant
Stuart, R, Jeweller
Simpson, Rev A L
Smith, J, Grocer
Smith, L, Farmer

Thomson, P, Wright
Taylor, P, Manufacturer
Tolmie, A, Innkeeper

Urquhart, James, Mills
Urquhart, Alexander, Mills
Urquhart, George, Mills
Urquhart, R, Writer
Urquhart, John, Mills

White, Alexander, Merchant
Williamson, A, Merchant
Williamson, A, Vintner
Watson, W, Shoemaker
Wood, A, Russell Place

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

See Moray & Nairn FHS Web Page for list of electors for 1856, 1868, 1873, 1892 and 1913-14.

Moray Miscellany

From the *Forres Gazette*, 1837-1855

Marriage Strays 1854-55

Although the majority of marriage announcements found in the *Forres Gazette* of this time were performed locally there were a significant number of notices of weddings that took place elsewhere – that is, in neither Moray nor Nairn – but involved bride and/or groom with a local connection.

The list of overseas marriages has been separately compiled, and can be found in other newsletters, here are the ‘strays’:

Married, at Stoke Church, Devonport, on the 3d inst., Sir **James Alexander Dunbar**, Bart., RN of Boath, Nairnshire to **Louisa Pemble**, third daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel **Parsons**, C M G. (May 17, 1854)

Married, at Aberdeen, on Thursday the 22d inst., by the Rev Alex Spence of the St Clements Church, Mr **Thomas Smith**, bookseller and stationer, Elgin, to **Elizabeth**, eldest daughter of the late Mr **David Mollison**, merchant, Aberdeen. (June 28, 1854)

Married, at Tomich, Beauly, on the 13th inst., **Colin McKenzie**, Esq., shipowner, Elgin, to **Sarah**, eldest daughter of **John McLennan**, Esq., corn-factor and shipowner. (July 26, 1854)

Married, at Dalraddy, Inverness-shire, on the 22d ult., Mrs [sic] **Wm Fletcher**, merchant, Elgin (Messrs Brander & Co) to **Elsie Grant**, eldest daughter to Mr **Donald Grant**, Dalraddy and Tullochgorum. (September 6, 1854)

Married, at Canning Street, Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, on the 24th ult., by the Rev Mr Welsh, the Rev **D C Gordon**, of the South Free Church, Elgin, to **Eleanor**, youngest daughter of the late **R Bennet**, Esq., of London. (September 6, 1854)

Married, at Aberdeen, on the 3d curt., Mr **J Alexander**, gardener, Woolton Hall, Liverpool, to **Jane Ann Fraser Tytler**, youngest daughter of Mr **James Fimister**, Bridge-end, Forres. (November 15, 1854)

Married, at Culbeuchly, Banff, on the 4th inst., by the Rev John Mackie, of the Independent Church, Mr **Alexander Allan**, shoemaker, Bishopmill, Elgin, to **Margaret**, daughter of the late Mr **William Nicol**. (May 9, 1855)

Married, at 13 Moray Place, Edinburgh, on the 22d inst., by the Rev Dr Muir of St Stephens, **Benjamin Robert Bell**, sheriff of Elgin and Nairn, to **Janet** Alexander, youngest daughter of **James Hunt**, Esq., of Pittencrieff. (May 30, 1855)

Married, at Kensington Church, on the 23d ult., by the Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair, **George Fowler**, Place-de-la-Bourse, Paris, to **Helen Charlotte Anne**, second daughter of Mr **Forsythe**, late post-master, Elgin. (July 11, 1855)

Married, at Mainhouse, on the 11th inst., by the Rev Joseph Vair, minister of Eckford, **Alexander Cameron**, Esq., Solicitor, Elgin, to **Elizabeth Louisa**, younger daughter of the **Ralph Compton Nisbet**, Esq., of Mainhouse. (July 18, 1855)

Married, at 35 South Bridge Street, Edinburgh, on the 17th inst., by the Rev Patrick Clason, D D, Free Buccleugh Church, Mr **Alexander Watson**, Elgin, to **Mary**, youngest daughter of the late Mr **Christopher Findlater**, Edinburgh. (August 22, 1855)

Married, at Fort George, on the 3d inst., by the Rev thomas Fraser, of Croy, the Rev **Ewan Ross**, minister of Ardersier, to **Jane**, second daughter of **Joseph Ewing**, Esq., M D. (December 12, 1855)

Married, at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, on the 13th inst., by the Hon and Rev Douglas Gordon, M A, Rector of Stanmore, **John Taylor Gordon**, Esq., of Nethermuir and Blackhouse, to **Margaret Grant**, daughter of the late **Robert Watson**, Esq., Forres, Morayshire. (December 19, 1855)

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Moray Miscellany

Nameless Deaths Elgin Courier 1827-1830

No. 10, Friday, September 14, 1827

The inhabitants of Forres and its neighbourhood were yesterday thrown yesterday into a state of confusion in consequence of a report that a mother had murdered her own child. We are not yet certain of the particulars respecting this atrocious crime; but so far as our information goes, the unhappy mother confesses that it was committed about two weeks ago. According to report, the unfortunate woman stated, in the first instance, that her murdered child would be found on the estate of Waterford, and afterwards on the estate

of Hedgefield, but it was ultimately found in a park a little westward of Forres, at present in the possession of Archibald Rhind, Esq. Allarburn. An investigation into the unhappy circumstance is, we understand now going on.

No. 11, Friday, September 21, 1827

In our Paper of last week, we mentioned a report, that a woman in the neighbourhood of Forres has confessed having had an illegitimate child, and of having afterwards murdered it. We have since learned that the latter clause is not correct. The child, it appears, was still born; and the woman is only blamed for the concealment of pregnancy. This contradiction to a former report, we feel it our duty to give.

No. 46, Friday, May 23, 1828

On Sunday last, while two boys were amusing themselves at Covesea, one of them fell over a precipice of great altitude. He is so seriously injured that he has not been able to speak since the accident happened; and, we regret to say, doubts are entertained of his recovery.

On Monday last an old pensioner in Forres, of the name of Urquhart, attempted committing suicide, by cutting his own throat. He is, we believe, still in life; but no hopes are entertained of his recovery. We have not heard any particular cause assigned for the unhappy man's wishing to terminate his own existence.

No. 47, Friday, May 30, 1828

The unhappy man mentioned in our last as having cut his throat in Forres on the preceding week, is, we understand, still in life.

On Wednesday last, while two children in this place were amusing themselves at the fire, one of the accidentally overturned a kettle of boiling water, the contents of which having been poured on the other, it was so dreadfully scalded, that doubts are entertained of its recovery.

No. 84, Friday, February 13, 1829

At a court held in Keith on the 10th inst., a woman of the name of Sophia Kynoch residing in Bridge Street was placed at the bar accused of concealment of pregnancy and child-murder. Presumptive evidence being brought forward sufficient to commit her, the Justice felt justified in granting a warrant to commit her to Banff gaol, there to wait her trial in April, at Aberdeen, before the court of Justiciary. *Correspondent.*

No. 93, Friday, April 17, 1829

A young man of the name of Paul who was lately, in Gray's Hospital, labouring under mental aberration but who had experienced a temporary cure, left his father's house on Friday morning last, to work in the Garden of Alexander Fordeath, Esq. of Newton; but not having returned, search was made for him when he was traced as far as Cullen; but no further accounts have been yet heard of him.

No. 102, Friday, June 19, 1829

On Monday evening last, about the hour of ten o'clock, two men, who had been previously drinking together, in the most friendly manner, it is said, were observed going up the street, the one having a hold of the other. In the course of a few minutes afterwards, one of them was seen lying motionless on the ground opposite Batchen's street; and was carried by the spectators into a neighbouring house. He was taken to the hospital on the following day, where he lies dangerously ill, not having spoken a word since the circumstance happened. The affair will no doubt undergo judicial investigation, and then the public will be put in possession of the facts concerned with it. The man's name is Fraser; and he belongs either to Inverness or to its neighbourhood. Since the above was in type the other young man has been placed in custody.

No. 120, Friday, October 23, 1829

It is with regret that we have to state that upon Tuesday the 20th, while Mr George McLean, son of the Rev Mr McLean of Urquhart was leaving Elgin, riding a young horse, the animal was frightened by some rubbish being thrown from the roof of an old house, and became so unmanageable, that when near the bridge on the Turnpike road over the Tyock, the animal ran with such force against a cart, that horse and rider were thrown to the ground, and Mr McLean was much hurt, and having been carried to the nearest house, lies dangerously ill.

No. 126, Friday, December 4, 1829

Our readers will perceive from the subjoined paragraph, which we extracted from a private letter written by a gentleman belonging to Elgin, to a relation in the neighbourhood – that there has been a tremendous and destructive storm at sea last week. He was a passenger on board the *Duke of Wellington* steam vessel, on her last voyage to London, and writes thus:- "London, Nov 28, 1829 – After a long and tedious passage, we arrived about an hour ago (four pm). We sailed on Sunday

last about half past 10 am and got as far as the Humber (the passage up to Hull) by Monday, at half past 2 pm, when we were obliged to take shelter, and remained there until Thursday, when we again sailed and got last night, within 80 miles of London, where we were obliged to anchor till this morning. Such a storm has not been at sea within the recollection of any of our crew. On Thursday morning, within three hours, we saw 30 vessels all driven to pieces; and had we not got into the Humber, we must have shared the same fate."

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Moray Miscellany

Some of the Principal Residents of the Burgh of Elgin on 23rd July 1694

National Archives of Scotland, CH1/2/2/1/f173

Elgin 23 July 1694

List of inhabitants of the Burgh of Elgin offered be the Magiftrats and Counfell thereof to the Committee of the Generall Assembly to the effect they may make ane Election of Elders for the Pariqh of Elgin off such of them as they think most fitt and best Qualified for exercesing that office.

The Provost and Baillis for this tyme-

South East Quarter

Arthur Chalmer	Litster
Thomas Smith elder	Smith
Robert Andersone	Clerk
John Riddrie	Shoemaker
John Innes	Merchant
Andreu Ogilbie	Merchant
Philip Buchannan	Carpenter
George Gordons	Merchant
Robert Blenshall	Taylor
Alexander Philip	Merchant
John Buie	Shoemaker
James Duncan	Gunsmith

South West Quarter

Alexander Fordyce	Merchant
William Paull	Merchant
John Morn	Merchant
William Rose	Merchant
John Zoung	Merchant
William Mitchell	Merchant
William Douglass	Merchant
John Gilzeane	Shoemaker
William Brodie	Merchant
John Dunbar	Merchant

Alexander Dunbar Merchant
John Phimifter Merchant
William Crombie eld Merchant

North West Quarter
William Crombie Dean of Guild
James ffentone Merchant
George Stodart Merchant
James fforsyth Glassier
William Edward Taylor
Alexander Brodie Merchant
William Innes Shoemaker
John Winchefter Merchant
Alexander Muir Carpenter
Thomas Allan Clerk
Andrew Munro Clerk
James Zoung Glover

North East Quarter
David Bremner Merchant
James Warden Glover

List of Elders for the Colledge of Elgine
James Chisholme in the Colledge
John Purfs there
James Morrefs there
John Cuie there

List of Landward Elders
Walter Innes of Blackhills
James Brander in Longmorne
John Petrie in Whytebrae
John Russell in Manbeens
Alexander Russell there
Joseph Brodie in Milntoune
Peter Grant in Whyttree
Lauchlan Grant Chamberlain of Pluscarden
Thomas Rufsell in Mofstowie
Thomas Naughtie in Milntoun
John Gill in Pettindreich
John Andersone in Oldmilns

Subfcryved at Command of the Magistraits by
(signed) Geo Chalmers, Clk

Contributed by Bruce Bishop

Moray Miscellany

The Smoke-Doctor

When compiling *Death Notices, Articles Concerning Deaths, and Obituaries from the Forres Gazette* for the Society, I came across an entry that intrigued me in the edition of Wednesday, August 25, 1852:

“Died, at Elgin, on Thursday last, William Hossack, smoke-doctor. Willie was a genius in the mechanical line, and often produced toys and other specimens of neat handedness, which showed that in wood carving and similar crafts he would have been a great adept if his attention had been directed in these pursuits in early life.”

It was the description of the deceased as a “smoke-doctor” that caught my eye, and I just had to try and find out a little more about this man, and his occupation.

The obvious first port of call was Moray Council’s LIBINDEX service and I found my subject as entry NM041148. This told me he was also a chimney-sweep which should not have surprised me.

A native of Inverness, born about 1794, married to Elspet Millar, father of Elizabeth, Margaret and Jane, resident of Elgin, he died there on August 12, 1852 and was interred at Elgin Cathedral.

I also learned that William Hossack, near the end of his life, had applied for poor relief from the Parish of Elgin. His entry in the register describes him as labourer and chimney-sweep, suffering from “disease in chest” and with no means of support “except what his children and wife can earn at out work.”

The 1851 Census Returns tell me even more; William was a patient at Gray’s Hospital, Elgin.

What, then, was a smoke-doctor?

The best and pithiest description might be that found in *The Illuminated Magazine, Vol 1*, edited by Douglas Jerrold, London, 1843 which, on page 171, in *Passages from the Life of Smudge*, edited by Cimabue Briggs, Esq., we read “nevertheless he was a doctor – ay, a smoke-doctor, for the cured bad chimneys”.

An earlier reference can be found in *A Practical Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Smoky Chimneys* by George Silver, Blackie, Glasgow, 1836 which, in its Preface, the author claimed “long and considerable experience in curing smoky chimneys having been extensively employed in that line for a period of about thirty years.”

Obvious, when you know the answer!

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Nairnshire Miscellany

Nairn County Press Deaths 1900-1903

The Nairn County Press and Advertiser newspaper was published by John Fraser, 102 High Street, Nairn, and was issued weekly on a Saturday. First issue was on the 17th July 1897 and ceased trading at the end of July 1917.

Adam – Death of a Prominent Northern Farmer. The death took place on Thursday of Mr Hugh R. Adam, farmer, Balvaird, Muir of Ord. The sad event was the result of an accident received by Mr Adam, on Saturday night, being knocked down by one of his own horses. Mr Adam, who was a son of the late Mr Adam, Hamferston, near Dingwall, and brother of Dr Adam, Dingwall, was well and favourably known over the whole of the north of Scotland, having for some time acted on the Crofters Commission. He was for a long time an ardent Volunteer, and retired with the rank of Major. (21 Jul 1900)

Anderson – The Late Mr Anderson of Lochdhu. Mr Robert Anderson of Lochdhu, one of Nairnshire's most popular and widely known agriculturalists, passed away at his residence of Lochdhu on Wednesday last, in his 91st year. Mr Anderson was a native of Edinkillie, Morayshire, and came to the county some sixty years ago. The deceased gentleman was in many respects a remarkable man. His strong individuality, sagacious and shrewd business qualities not only enabled him to build up a successful business for himself, but to render valuable services to the profession with which he was intimately associated for the greater part of a busy life. He was in great request as a judge at all our northern agricultural shows, and as a valuator in the farming interests he was regarded as one of the best authorities. In 1860 he purchased the estate of Lochdhu and other adjoining properties. On two occasions his services to agriculture were publicly recognised by his friends and agricultural associates, first by the presentation to him of pieces of plate and 600 sovereigns, and second by the presentation of a life-size portrait. He was a Liberal in politics, but at the Home Rule split he became a Unionist. For a long period he was a valued member of the Nairn Town Council. He was some years ago predeceased by his son, who died in South Africa. He is survived by an only daughter – Mrs Stewart of Ensay. (27 Oct 1900)

Baillie – The late Captain Baillie. On Thursday the remains of the late Captain Baillie, who died at Glasgow, were interred in the Nairn Cemetery. Deceased who was only 46 years of age attained a

high position in the mercantile marine, and held the position of Captain of one of the liners trading to the East, belonging to Messrs Smith & Son, Glasgow. Mr Baillie was married to a daughter of the late Mr Simpson, Bath Street, by whom and a young family he is survived and to whom the sympathy of many friends in Nairn is extended. (10 Oct 1903)

Bain – Death of Mr Alex. Bain, M.A., Glasgow. We deeply regret to have to record the death of this much esteemed native of Nairn. Mr Bain was born here about forty-six years ago, and was a pupil teacher in the old Free Church School, under the late Mr MacLeod. After passing through the F. C. Normal Schools he received an appointment under the Glasgow School Board. He soon became noted for his success as a teacher, and his promotion was rapid as it was well deserved. St. David's Public School, of which he was headmaster for many years, ranked as one of the highest of the Glasgow Board Schools in Government examinations. He will be greatly missed by Nairnshire people in Glasgow, in whom he always took a kindly interest. He was an enthusiastic member of the Glasgow Nairnshire Association almost from its inception, and his lectures and addresses to the members were highly appreciated. Mr Bain was a fine type of one who by his own efforts and ability rose to an honourable position in his profession, esteemed alike by his colleagues and members of the School Board, and by his removal his many friends loose one whom they loved for his manly character and admired for his brilliant intellectual gifts. (11 Jan 1902)

Barron – Fatality near Elgin. An accident, which has had a fatal termination, occurred at the Longmorn Distillery, near Elgin, on Monday night, to Wm. Barron, aged 24, washer of tunroom-man. The accident happened while Barron was standing on steps, about four feet high, putting a belt on a pulley for the purpose of driving the worts pumps. The machinery was in motion at the time, and either the right arm of the deceased or the breast of his shirt got caught in the belt, and he was drawn between the wall and the shaft. John Taylor, the brewer, was close at hand, and immediately stopped the machinery, but when released, Barron was found to be severely injured about the abdomen and spine. Dr Watson, Elgin, was sent for, and had the young man conveyed to Gray's Hospital, where he died of his injuries and shock to the system on Tuesday afternoon. Barron, who belongs to New Elgin was unmarried. (12 Apr 1902)

Barron – The Late Mr D. D. Barron, I.R. We regret to record the death of Mr D. D. Barron, supervisor of Inland Revenue, which took place on Monday morning after a short illness. Deceased had been a long time in the service, and many years ago was stationed at Forres. He was afterwards for a short time in England, and for several years was supervisor at Dufftown, and for a few years had charge of the Nairn and Forres districts. Mr Barron was a most capable officer, and was held in high esteem by all classes in the service and by those with whom he was brought into contact in a business way. Much sympathy has been expressed for his young widow and family of seven children, the youngest of whom is only a few months old. Deceased was fifty years of age. (3 Jan 1903)

Bayne – The Late Mrs Menzies, Beach Lea. We regret to announce the death of Mrs Menzies, Cumming Street, which took place at her residence, Beach Lea, in the early hours of Wednesday morning. Mrs Menzies had been failing for some time past, and latterly suffered from great weakness. She was the eldest daughter of the late Dr Bayne, Firhall, a medical practitioner of great skill and kindly disposition, and a great favourite with his numerous patients. A woman of keen sympathies and of deep though unobtrusive religious feelings. Mrs Menzies took a warm interest in all objects bearing upon the amelioration of those among whom she dwelt. Along with her sisters, she was much interested in the fishing community, and her visits very greatly prized specially in times of trial and bereavement, when her kind and sympathetic words and actions imparted needed cheer and comfort. She was a member of the High U.F. Church and gave ungrudgingly of her time to congregational work. For upwards of fifty years she was a regular and enthusiastic Sabbath School teacher, and was greatly beloved by those whom she taught. For not content with her teaching on the Sabbath, she visited her pupils during the week, and thus got their attachment. Some four years ago when through failing health she felt unable to attend regularly to her Sabbath School duties, she was presented on her retirement with a bible and a purse of sovereigns by her fellow-teachers. Her married life was a short one, her husband – an ink manufacturer, who we understand was connected with the old and well known firm of Cochrane – dying from the effects of an accident a year or two after marriage. She lived a useful life, and her removal is greatly mourned by a large circle of friends. (16 Nov 1901)

Beaton – Death of Mr Beaton, B.L. Bank, Nairn. We regret to learn of the somewhat unexpected death, after a few days' illness, of Mr John F.

Beaton who was employed in the office of the B.L. Bank here. Deceased was a native of Burghead and came to Nairn from the B.L. Bank, Elgin, upwards of a year ago. He was of a quiet and retiring disposition, but was considered an excellent clerk, and was much respected by his fellow-officials and friends. (9 Aug 1902)

Brown – Death of a Well-known Banker. The death took place at Oban, on Saturday, of Mr Alexander Brown, Agent for the Bank of Scotland and for Mr MacBrayne's steamers. Mr Brown, who was a native of Glendarnel, joined the Castle Company, a Clyde shipping concern, about the year 1842. The business was subsequently taken over by Messrs Burns, and was afterwards carried on by Messrs Hutcheson, and now by Mr MacBrayne. Mr Brown was formerly agent for these steamers at Fort William, and went to Oban as agent in 1860, since which time, as is well known, the service of steamers to the West Highlands has enormously developed, and Oban has become the principal agency. When the Bank of Scotland opened a branch at Oban in 1863, Mr Brown was appointed its agent, and he was also agent for Lloyd's. His position as agent for MacBrayne at Oban made him one of the best-known men in the Western Highlands, and when three years ago Mr and Mrs Brown celebrated their golden wedding, they were recipients of congratulations from all parts of the world. Mr Brown, who was 78 years of age, is survived by a widow, three sons, and two daughters, his second son, Mr Duncan Campbell Brown, having for some time been associated with him in his business. (7 Apr 1900)

Buchan – Killed at Sea. As the boat Fairfield, FR. 619, was returning to Lerwick from the fishing on Tuesday, the mizzen mast broke, falling on Alexander Buchan, one of the crew, killing him instantly. Deceased belonged to Inverallochy. (21 Jul 1900)

Cameron – Auldearn – Sudden Death. On Wednesday morning William Cameron, Blacksmith, was found dead in bed. Deceased was out and about in his usual health on the previous day, and his death is attributed to heart disease, from which Mr Cameron suffered. Deceased, who has conducted a successful business in Auldearn for a long period, was a man of sterling qualities and retiring habits, and he was universally respected for his kindly and unassuming disposition. He leaves a widow and a family of two daughters to mourn his loss, for whom much sympathy is felt in their sudden bereavement. (1 Nov 1902)

Contributed by Stuart Farrell