



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

# NEWSLETTER

Edition 30

July 2018

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

## MNFHS Chairman's Report

This year in April Moray & Nairn FHS attended the 29th SAFHS Annual Conference and Fair at The Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, Fife on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018. It was well attended and I was kept very busy with enquiries and also meet a couple of members of the Society who came, said hello and even bought a book or two. Thanks to all who attended.

Next year's SAFHS conference will be held in Wick, Caithness on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 hosted by the Caithness Family History Society.

This year's first publication is now available – Boharm – everything you wanted to know – Free Church Baptisms; Details of the men on the war memorial from both world wars, Roll of Honour of 1915 and the Parish Poor Register (which follows on our recent work on Elgin Poor Register) – what more could you ask for!

This summer the Society made a start on recording the next section of Nairn Cemetery, with over 2000 stones, so it's going to take a while but hopefully we should have this published next year.

As I often mention, I would welcome any comments for future publications or material that we can use in our newsletter or on our web page.

Stuart Farrell, Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2018. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: [newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

**Contacts: Chairman:** Stuart Farrell

**Secretary:** Mary Evans

**Treasurer & Webmaster:** Doug Stewart

## MNFHS Publication

**Available Now!**

### *Boharm*

*Baptisms from Boharm Free Church; Details of the names from the War Memorial with newspaper extracts etc; Boharm Roll of Honour of 1915, Poor Register of the Parish 1845-1880 giving details of payments, family, circumstances and even dates of death.*

118 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-18-3

£8; Postage & Packing costs on application.

### **Special Offer! – Free Book!**

At our recent AGM it was agreed by the Committee to make the following offer to Members of the Moray & Nairn Family History Society –

Spent £15 on books from the Society and receive the following free book –

*'Pre-1855 Deaths as Reported in Nairn Newspapers 1845-1854'.*

Alphabetical list of entries from the *Nairnshire Mirror* and *Nairnshire Telegraph* newspapers. 90 pages.

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

## Moray Miscellany

### The Grants of Prospect Lodge, Elgin Part 2

Headstone in Elgin Cathedral of 'In memory of James Grant, Esquire of Prospect Lodge, who died 18<sup>th</sup> Jany 1865, aged 75 years. And of his daughter, Frances Cecilia, who died 17<sup>th</sup> June 1835, aged 12 years. And of his wife Mary H. Williams who died in Jamaica, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1828. Also of his daughter Josephine Mary who died Elgin 10<sup>th</sup> July 1911 aged 84 years.'

Children - **Ann Grant** was born in Jamaica date unknown c1815. In 1841 to 1861 Census at Prospect Lodge. In 1871 Census at 26 Abbey Street, Elgin living on her own. Not located in 1881 Census. Not in Libindx.

**Elizabeth Lachlan Grant** born 4 January 1825, baptised 31 October 1825 Westmoreland, Jamaica (Church of England Parish Register 1664-1880). OPR marriage 4 January 1853 at Elgin entry of 'Mr George Duff, M.D. Upper Seymour Street, Portman Square, London and Miss Elizabeth Lachlan, eldest surviving daughter of James Grant Esquire of Prospect Lodge, Elgin, after being contracted and there was received being duly intimated in the Parish Church of Elgin were married at Prospect Lodge by the Reverend John Walker Minister of St. Andrews Lhanbryde in presence of a competent number of witnesses.' Marriage Notice in the *Banffshire Journal* of 11<sup>th</sup> January 1853 as follows: 'At Prospect Lodge, Elgin, on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, by the Rev. John Walker, minister of St. Andrews Lhanbryd, George Duff, Esq. M.D. London, to Elizabeth Lachlan, eldest daughter of James Grant, Esq. Prospect Lodge.' Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 14<sup>th</sup> February 1896 as follows: 'At Croft Cottage, Elgin, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, Elizabeth Lachlan Grant, widow of George Duff, M.D. Elgin. Funeral tomorrow (Saturday) at one o'clock to Cathedral Burying ground.'

Her husband George Duff – Born 14 September 1819. Recorded in Elgin OPR of '24 Sept 1819. Major Robert Duff & Marjory Daun his spouse had a child (born 14<sup>th</sup>) baptised called George. Witnesses Robert Reid & John Duff.' Died 11 January 1889.

Obituary in the *Moray & Nairn Express* of 12<sup>th</sup> January 1889 of the following: 'The Late Dr Duff, Elgin. At a quarter past eleven o'clock last night, Dr George Duff, one of Elgin's oldest and most respected citizens, peacefully passed away. This announcement will be received with very genuine and general regret by the widespread circle in Elgin and beyond it who learned to esteem the deceased for his gentlemanly demeanour and his

sterling worth. His illness has been of short duration. The last time he was out was when attending the service in the Parish Church on New Year's Day. The same evening he took ill with a severe attack of erysipelas. On Thursday congestion of the lungs supervened, which, owing to his weak condition, he was unable to throw off.

Dr Duff was born in September, 1819, and was thus in his seventieth year. He was a son of the late Major Duff, and the representative of a family which has long been identified with Elgin. After receiving his early education in Elgin, he graduated in Aberdeen University in 1842, and entered the medical profession. When a young man, he practised in Genoa, where he had the honour of attending Daniel O'Connell, the famous Irishman, in his last illness. He then practised for some years in London, and finally settled in Elgin, not only for the sake of the family to which he belonged, but also for his own sake, he was held in high esteem. He was exceedingly courteous and almost courtly in his manner, and in every word and action acted the part of a thorough gentleman. He was greatly trusted by his patients, and day or night, was ever ready at their call. His many little deeds of quiet, unobtrusive kindness, unknown to the world, will long be remembered by many a grateful heart.

Deceased was an elder of the Elgin Parish Church. He took a great interest in the church, and was frequently sent by the Presbytery to the General Assembly. A mark of respect and esteem in which he was held by the congregation of the Parish Church was shown by his being appointed chairman of the Congregational Committee during the last two vacancies. For his services on these and other occasions he was presented by the congregation with a silver salver. He has been for many years president of the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association, in which he took a lively interest. He was a good judge of art, and was very fond of painting, and took a leading part in the management of the Science and Art classes, having acted for several years as chairman of the committee. He served also for years as a member of the Elgin Burgh School Board, and was a trustee of the Elgin Savings Bank. He has long been president of the Elgin Guildry Fund Society. For many years he acted as one of the medical officers of Dr Gray's Hospital, and as physician to General Anderson's Institution.

Dr Duff is survived by Mrs Duff, one son, who is connected with the New Oriental Bank Corporation in Tabreez, Persia, and two daughters, who will have the deep sympathy of many friends in their sorrow.'

Report of Funeral in the *Moray & Nairn Express* of 19<sup>th</sup> January 1889 of the following: 'The Late Dr Duff. The Funeral. On Tuesday last the funeral of the late Dr Duff took place, and was a large and

representative one. The remains of the deceased were interred in the Cathedral burying-ground, and all the way between Croft Cottage and the Cathedral was lined with large numbers of sympathetic spectators. The hearse was preceded by the Kirk Session, of which Dr Duff was ordained a member in 1872, and large numbers from the town and outlying districts followed. The town bells were rung as the cortege moved slowly on, and a number of shops were closed. The coffin, which was covered with beautiful wreaths sent by sympathising friends, bore the following inscription:- "George Duff, aged 69 years." The pall-bearers were Mr Robert Duff, of Liverpool (brother of deceased); Mr Alex. Cameron of Highfield; Mr Hugh Duff, Kildary, Ross-shire; Rev. Dr Gordon, Birnie; Rev. Mr Macpherson, collegiate minister, Elgin; Rev. Mr Lawson, do; Dr Mackay, Elgin; and Mr R. B. Gordon, solicitor, Elgin. The funeral service was conducted at the residence of the deceased by the Rev. Messrs Macpherson and Lawson, and at the grave by the Rev. Mr Macpherson.'

Children - Robert James Duff – Born Marylebone, London Oct-Dec 1853 (Free BMD). Died 29 July 1889. Obituary in the *Moray & Nairn Express* of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1889 of the following: 'Death of Mr R J Duff – We regret to announce the death of R. J. Duff, only surviving son of the late Dr Duff, Elgin, which occurred in Tabreez, Persia, where he occupied the position of manager of the New Oriental Bank Corporation. Deceased began banking in the office of the British Linen Bank in Elgin. He afterwards joined the Oriental Bank in London, and in 1881 went to Ceylon, where he remained until the close of the bank. He then went to Mauritius, and was bye-and-bye transferred to Hong Kong by the New Oriental Bank, where he remained until promoted last year as manager of the bank in Tabreez. He has been cut off at the early age of thirty-five, and every sympathy will be felt with his mother and sisters in Elgin, who have another sorrow added to their recent bereavement.'

George Alexander Duff – Born 15 December 1858 at 78 High Street, Elgin. Died 6 May 1862. Death Notice in the *Forres Gazette* of 13<sup>th</sup> May 1863 of the following: 'Died at 78 High Street, Elgin, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, George Alexander Duff, son of George Duff, Esq. M.D; aged 4 years and 5 months.'

Helen Elizabeth Daun Duff – Born 27 September 1864. Died 23 April 1881. Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 26<sup>th</sup> April 1881 of the following: 'Duff – At 29 Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, London, on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Helen Elizabeth Daun, aged sixteen and a-half years,

youngest daughter of George Duff, Esq. M.D., Elgin. Friends please accept this intimation.'

Mary Williams Duff – Born c1855. Died 23 January 1952. Died at Dunlarig, Stotfield Road, Lossiemouth, aged 97. Cause of death Fractured Femur and Senility.

Memorial tablet in Elgin Cathedral of 'In memory of George Alexander, youngest son of Dr George Duff, who died 6<sup>th</sup> May 1863, aged 4 years. Helen Elizabeth Daun, his youngest daughter died 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1881, aged 16 years. Also the said Dr George Duff, who died 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1889, aged 69 years. And his eldest son Robert James Duff, who died at Tabriz, Persia, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1889, aged 35 years, and is buried there. And of Elizabeth Lachlan Grant wife of the said Dr George Duff, who died 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 1896 aged 71.' And an associated plaque of 'Also Mary Williams Duff daughter of Dr Gorge Duff who died 24<sup>th</sup> January 1952 aged 97 years.'

**Frances Cecilia Grant** born 30 October 1823, baptised 8 May 1824 Westmoreland, Jamaica (Church of England Parish Register 1664-1880). Died in Elgin 17 June 1835. Death Notice in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 24<sup>th</sup> June 1835 of the following: 'Died on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, at Prospect Lodge, Elgin, the residence of her grandfather, Lieutenant-Colonel A Grant, Frances Cecilia Grant, eldest daughter of James Grant, Esq. of Lochiel, Westmoreland, Jamaica, aged 15 years – a most amiable and engaging child.'

**Josephine Mary Grant** birth date unknown, baptised 8 April 1827 Westmoreland, Jamaica (Church of England Parish Register 1664-1880). In 1841 to 1861 Census at Prospect Lodge. In 1871 Census at 29 Reidhaven Street, Elgin with Jessie Paul, 47, Cook and Annie McKenzie, 46, Housemaid. In 1881 Census at 29 Reidhaven Street, Elgin with Jessie Paul, 60, Cook and Christina Christie, 15, Housemaid. In 1891 Census at 29 Reidhaven Street, Elgin with Jessie Paul, 60, Cook and Margaret J McRae, 16, Housemaid. In 1901 Census at 29 Reidhaven Street, Elgin with Helen Bowie, 43, Lady's Maid and Mary Logie, 14, General Domestic Servant. In 1911 Census at same address with Helen Bowie, 54, Housekeeper and Mary MacGregor, 24, Housemaid. Died in Elgin 10 July 1911. Death Notice in the *Elgin Courier* of 14<sup>th</sup> July 1911 as follows: 'Grant – At 29 Reidhaven Street, Elgin, on 10<sup>th</sup> July, Miss Josephine Mary Grant, aged 84 years.'

**Margaret Grant** was born in Jamaica date unknown. In 1841 and 1851 Census at Prospect

Lodge. Married William Jack, Cabinetmaker, Elgin on 7 October 1859 at Prospect Lodge, Elgin. Her husband was born c1833 and had married a Margaret Goldie in 1852. Marriage recorded in Dyke OPR of 'William Jack in Inverness and Margaret Goldie, in this parish, after proclamation of banns, were married 31 Augt 1852.' His first wife died at 211 High Street, Elgin on 4 December 1858. Death Notice in the *Forres Gazette* of 8<sup>th</sup> December 1858 of 'Died at 211 High Street, Elgin, on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., Mrs Margaret Goldie, wife of Mr William Jack, Cabinetmaker.'

His Death Certificate indicates he was the son of James Jack, Grocer and \_\_\_\_ Jack ms Posh. (?) He died 29 January 1888 at Millerhill, Newton, Edinburgh. Cause of death was heart disease (supposed – not certified) informant was his wife Margaret Jack. Corrected entry gives address of The Cottage, Millerhill, aged 54, died of natural causes probably apoplexy. Buried Newton Churchyard.

Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1888 of 'Jack – At Millerhill, Dalkeith, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. William Jack, cabinetmaker, late of Elgin, aged 54 years.'

In 1861 Census at Romilly Place, Edinburgh of  
William Jack 30 Cabinetmaker Born Elgin  
Margaret Jack 39 Born Jamaica  
William Jack 7 Scholar Born Elgin  
Jane K Jack 5 Scholar Born Elgin  
Alexander Mathieson 27 Lodger –  
Joiner Born Kiltarlity  
John Morrison 25 Lodger –  
Joiner Born Perth

In 1871 Census at East Millerhill, Newton, Midlothian of

William Jack 40 Cabinetmaker Born Elgin  
Margaret Jack 44 Annuitant Born Jamaica  
William Jack 17 Saddler Born Elgin  
Jane Jack 15 Born Elgin

In 1881 Census at The Cottage, Millerhill East, Newton, Midlothian of

William Jack 49 Cabinetmaker Born Elgin  
Margaret Jack 55 Born West Indies  
Died at Millerhill, Newton, Midlothian 3 March 1889, aged 60, widow of William Jack, Cabinetmaker, Dau of James Grant, Landed Proprietor (deceased), mothers name not stated. Died of Pleurisy.

Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 8<sup>th</sup> March 1889 of 'Jack – At Millerhill, Midlothian, on the 3d of March, Margaret Grant, relict of William Jack, cabinetmaker, formerly of Elgin.'

**Margaret Grant** – WO25/760 states born 25<sup>th</sup> September 1791. Baptised 24 September 1791 in Elgin, OPR entry of 'Lieut. Alexander Grant R. Independent Invalids in Elgin & Elizabeth Fraser his spouse had a child baptised called Margaret. Witnesses Mr Peter Duff, Elgin & the Revd John

Grant, Elgin. Lieut. Grant was late of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regt.'

In 1841 Census at Prospect Lodge (see above). In 1851 Census at 3 South College Street, Elgin of -  
Margaret Grant 59 Fund Holder Born Elgin  
Jane Duff Grant 56 Fund Holder Born Elgin  
Jemima C Grant 39 Fund Holder Born Elgin  
Margaret Byron 25 General Servant Born Elgin  
In the 1861 Census at 5 South College Street, Elgin of -

Margaret Grant 69 Born Elgin  
Jane Duff Grant 66 Born Elgin  
Margaret Gordon 23 Domestic Servant Born -  
Died 12<sup>th</sup> January 1863, Death Notice in the *Forres Gazette* of 14<sup>th</sup> January 1863 of 'Died, at South College Street, Elgin, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., Margaret, daughter of the late Colonel Alex. Grant, Prospect Lodge.'

**Jane Duff Grant** – WO25/760 states born 16<sup>th</sup> March 1795. Baptised 16 March 1795 in Elgin, OPR entry of 'Lieut. Alexander Grant R. Independent Invalids in Elgin & Elizabeth Fraser his spouse had a child baptised called Jean Duff. Witnesses Mr Peter Duff, Elgin & the Revd John Grant, Elgin. Lieut. Grant was late of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regt.'

In 1841 Census at Prospect Lodge (see above), In 1851 Census at 3 South College Street, Elgin (see above), In 1861 Census at 5 South College Street, Elgin (see above).

Died 9<sup>th</sup> June 1866, Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 15<sup>th</sup> June 1866 of 'At 5 South College Street, Elgin, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., Miss Jane D. Grant, last surviving daughter of the late Colonel Alexander Grant, Prospect Lodge. Friends will please accept this intimation.' Death Notice in the *Forres Gazette* of 13<sup>th</sup> June 1886 of 'At South College Street, Elgin, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., Miss Jane Grant, daughter of the late Col. Alexander Grant, Prospect Lodge, aged 71 years.'

**John Lachlan Grant** – WO25/760 states born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1798. Baptised 1 October 1798 in Elgin, OPR entry of 'Lieut. Alexander Grant R. Independent Invalids in Elgin & Elizabeth Fraser his spouse had a child baptised called John Lachlan. Witnesses Honble George Duff & Mrs Peter Duff, Elgin. Lieut. Grant was late of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regt.'

Death Notice in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1838 of 'Died, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1837, at Cascade, parish of Hanover, Jamaica, John Lachlan Grant, Esq. second son of Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Grant, Prospect Lodge, Elgin.'

**Jemima Colquhoun Grant** – WO25/760 states born 5<sup>th</sup> October 1811. Baptised 15<sup>th</sup> October 1811 in Elgin, OPR entry of ‘Lieut. Alexander Grant of the R. Invalids in Elgin & Elizabeth Fraser his spouse had a child baptised called Jemima Colquhoun. Witnesses James Colquhoun Grant Esq of Jamaica, Doctor Thomas Stephen & the Revd John Grant. Lieut. Grant was late of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regt.’

In 1841 Census at Prospect Lodge (see above). In 1851 Census at 3 South College Street, Elgin (see above).

Death Notice in the *Forres Gazette* of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1852 of ‘Died, at 5 South College Street, Elgin, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult., Miss Jemima Colquhoun Grant, youngest daughter of the late Lieut. Col. Alex. Grant.’

Part 3 in next newsletter.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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## Moray Miscellany

### Finding Robert Robertson

In 2010, I stumbled across, hidden in a cupboard at Elgin Golf Club, a scroll commemorating those members of the club who died in the First World War.

The memorial was still in its frame, but the protective glass had long since been broken. Refurbished, it was – in 2010 anyway - displayed again in a prominent position in the Clubhouse.

I thought it might be a good exercise, and test of my skills, to undertake the task of finding more about the 29 names on the list.

Most of the fatalities were local men, most of them were easy to track down: 22 of the names I found in the *Morayshire Roll of Honour*; and, 5 of the remaining 6 were also quite straight forward. One name, though, was gave me problems: Trooper Robert Robertson, 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Horse.

I couldn’t find this soldier in the *Morayshire Roll of Honour*, LIBINDEX, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Soldiers Died in the Great War, Scottish War Memorials Project, local & national newspapers, or anywhere else I chose to search.

I had no choice but to publish admitting my failure and saying, “No definite details are known of Trooper Robert Robertson.”

Over the years, as I gathered more information for some of the names, I’d make small changes to the published document; each time, I would go through my routine of hunting for Robert Robertson, always with no joy.

At a recent meeting of another family history, there was a general discussion on useful websites.

To my surprise, in a handout relating to military sites of local interest was a link to my work, the “Roll Of Honour of members of The Elgin Golf Club who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 - 1919”.

Thus prompted, I decided to search again for my missing Trooper, but still with no joy.

Surprisingly so, the *Morayshire Roll of Honour* had only one Robert Robertson listed; a Warrant Officer in the Royal Navy, so not my Robert Robertson.

I don’t know why, but I thought to have a closer look at this ‘other’ Robert Robertson; not expecting him to be the person for whom I was searching; more, perhaps, as the source of an article for Society’s Newsletter.

Robert Robertson, Warrant Office, Royal Navy, listed in the *Morayshire Roll of Honour*, so most likely also present in LIBINDEX and easily found there, with small extra details, but also something odd.

Most local fatalities in the First World War would have had a mention in one or both of the local newspapers: *Northern Scot* and *Elgin Courant & Courier*.

The LIBINDEX entry for this Robert Robertson had no newspaper links, which was unexpected; Robert Robertson had died at his home, 18 Forteach Street, Elgin, and I’d have expected there should at least have been an entry in the family announcements section of at least one of the newspapers.

I could have chosen either newspaper, but I selected the *Northern Scot* if for no other reason than it was easier to read, so pulled out the film for 1918, scrolled forward to November and there he was; a death notice and an obituary.

I also checked the *Elgin Courant & Courier* and found the same; a death notice and an obituary.

Neither newspaper had been indexed and added to LIBINDEX, which was a surprise to me.

I'd always understood death notices from the local newspapers had been extracted and added to LIBINDEX; this is something I need to remember for future projects.

I read the obituary; Robert Robertson was a Post Office telegraph worker, he served in Royal Navy at Wick and at Scapa Flow, and, "When war broke out he offered himself for active service, being a member of the Scottish Horse, but the authorities preferred to take advantage of his professional services in connection with the Navy".

I'd found the missing Robert Robertson, so could now complete the Roll of Honour.

To round things off, and to finish the project - for now - the whole structure of the document was revised: an introduction was added; details of Elgin Golf Club's activities in wartime were gathered; a timeline was prepared; and, as a significant addition for all names, newspaper obituaries for each person were sought and added.

The new document has now been uploaded to the Society's website; it can be found on the Moray Miscellany page of the Society's website.

A simple task which produced an initial 6-page document is now - I hope - complete in a 25-page volume.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

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## Nairnshire Miscellany

### James Orr – A Seaforth Highlander

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

The following obituary was printed in the *Nairn County Press and Advertiser* on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1904 – 'Death of an Old Seaforth Highlander. Pensioner David Orr, late Seaforth Highlanders, was found dead in his quarters at Fort George on Sunday morning, death being attributed to syncope, deceased having suffered from chronic bronchitis during the past few years. The deceased, who was familiarly known by his comrades as "Davie Orr," enlisted at Aberdeen in 1879, and was drafted to join the 72<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders in Afghanistan. He took part in Lord Roberts' famous march from Kabul to Kandahar, and was present at the subsequent action of Kandahar. Orr also served with the 72<sup>nd</sup> in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He was discharged to pension on 31<sup>st</sup> July last, and since then has been employed as

a waiter in the garrison coffee bar at Fort George. Orr was a quiet and inoffensive man, and was much respected by the officers and men of his regiment. He leaves a widow and six of a family, for whom much sympathy is felt in their sudden bereavement. The eldest son is at present at the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Chelsea, qualifying for the appointment of army schoolmaster. The funeral took place at Ardersier on Wednesday with full military honours.'

His Pension Papers in the National Archives at Kew, London available on Find my Past give a considerable amount of detail on his life in the Seaforth Highlanders: Chelsea Pensioner No. 44078 formerly No.484 Private David Orr discharged 31 July 1903 aged 48, described as 5ft 8" with 38" chest with brown eyes, brown hair, trade formerly Tailor. Noted that intended place of residence was to be Fort George. Claimed discharge after giving 3 months' notice, conduct noted as very good, sober and reliable with duration of service of 24 years and 24 days. Was in possession of five Good Conduct Badges, held Afghan Medal 1878-1879 with Clasp, Khandahar Bronze Star for march to Khandahar, Egyptian Medal and Clasp for Tel-el-Kebir and the Khedive Bronze Star, also held 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Certificate of Education.

His Service Papers noted him as formerly No.2647 joined at Stirling 11 July 1879, born in the Parish of Barony, Glasgow aged 24, occupation stated as Tailor. Noted as formerly served in the Aberdeen Militia. Joined for General Service in the 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Aberdeen on 4 July 1879, when was awarded no bounty but was given free kit. The details of his period of army service was given as follows: 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade 5 July 1879 – 23 December 1879, 79<sup>th</sup> Regiment 22 December 1879 – 30 June 1881, 1<sup>st</sup> Seaforth Highlanders 1 July 1881 to 26 January 1884, awarded Good Conduct pay of 1d on 8 July 1881, forfeited Good Conduct Pay on 24 February 1883, at Depot 27 January 1884 – 31 July 1885, restored Good Conduct pay of 1d on 2 January 1885, appointed Lance-Corporal with pay on 1 August 1885 to 4 September 1885, extended as Lance-Corporal on 5 September 1885 to 14 November 1887, granted Good Conduct pay of 2d on 2 January 1887, deprived of Lance-Corporal rank 15 November 1887 – 31 December 1889, 1 January 1890 at Depot, 13 January 1891 rejoined to complete 21 years' service, granted Good Conduct pay of 3d on 8 July 1891, appointed Lance-Corporal paid 12 May 1893, granted Good Conduct pay of 4d on 8 July 1897, posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders as Lance-Corporal on 22 February 1898, reverted to rank of Private at own request 25 February 1898, granted Good Conduct pay of 5d

on 8 July 1900, posted to Depot 1 June 1901, 20 June 1901 allowed to continue service past 21 years, discharged 31 July 1903.

Service stated as at home 8 July 1874 – 21 Dec 1879, East Indies 22 December 1879 – 7 August 1882, East Indies (Egypt scored out) 8 August 1882 – 31 October 1882, at home 1 November 1882 – 31 July 1903.

Next of kin stated in early part of papers as James Orr, 9 Belmore Street, Belfast (scored out). Married Mary Gordon at Nairn on 24 December 1884, who was placed on the Married establishment on 22 May 1889, children stated as James Orr born 6 July 1886 at Fort George, David John Orr born 29 January 1889 at Fort George, Jessie May Orr born 15 June 1891 at Fermoy, Florence Murray Orr born 7 September 1894, Charles George Orr born 12 January 1897 and Mary Orr born 18 February 1900. (The three youngest children were all born at Fort George, Ardersier).

David Orr and Mary Margaret Gordon had married at 13 Wilson Street, Nairn on the 24 December 1884 after Banns according to the Free Church of Scotland, and were married by the Rev. Alexander Lee of the Free Church of Nairn. David Orr gave his age as 29 and occupation as Private Seaforth Highlanders, Fort George son of John Orr, Foreman Tailor and Sarah Orr nee Hartley (deceased), whilst Mary Gordon gave her age as 24 and occupation as Domestic Servant with address of 13 Wilson Street, Nairn daughter of John Gordon General Labourer (deceased) and May Gordon nee Cameron. David Orr's Death Certificate records him as an Army Pensioner died 3 April 1904, aged 52, cause Chronic Bronchitis of 3 years probably Syncope, informant was his widow Mary Orr or Gordon. Father stated as James Orr, Tailor and Mother Sarah Heddlestow (both deceased) (Mothers surname different from that stated on marriage certificate). David Orr was buried at Ardersier Cemetery with the headstone having the following inscription: 'David Orr, late Seaforth Highlanders, died at Fort George April 1903. Remembered with affection and esteem.'

After David Orr's death his widow moved to Nairn, where she was recorded in the 1911 Census as follows: 2 Watson Place, Shaw's Close, Nairn - Mary Orr 52, born Petty, James Orr 24, Schoolmaster Army, David Orr 22, Joiner Builder, Florence Orr 16 Apprentice Tailoress and Mary Orr 11, at School, all children stated as born Ardersier. Her daughter Jessie May Orr not found in 1911 Census. Her son Charles George Orr is in the 1911 Census as being an 'Inmate' of the Queen Victoria School, Perth. (The school which still exists today is for Army children). Mary Orr nee Gordon died on 9 July 1934 at 4 Barrogill

Terrace, Nairn aged 76, her death certificate stated that she was the widow of David Orr, Master Tailor Seaforth Highlanders with cause of death given as Bronco-Pneumonia and Syncope (the same cause as her husband) with informant being her son David G. Orr. Buried in Nairn Cemetery.

I have so far found the following details of their children:

James Gordon Cameron Orr (1886-?) recorded in the Nairnshire Roll of Honour (1915) as Army Teacher, Indian Army. Teacher's records available on Find my Past indicate that he was trained at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover and served as an Army Schoolmaster and Warrant Officer Instructor Army Educational Corps 1908-1928, appointed Warrant Officer Class 1 at Queen Victoria School 5 July 1917 and Instructor 1<sup>st</sup> Class 10 January 1921, service No.7720604, awarded British War Medal for service in India from 21 January 1913, awarded Long Service & Good Conduct Medal in 1927; Assistant Master at St. George's School, Campden Hill, Kensington 1929-1931; Assistant Master St. James' Norlands Boys School, Penzance Place, Kensington 1931-1932; Assistant Master St. Mary Abbot's Boys' School, Kensington 1932-?; In 1939 Register on Find My Past as resident at 19 Eversley Crescent, Heston and Isleworth, Middlesex, London of James Orr, Retired Army Teacher, wife Lillian A. M. Orr, Unpaid Domestic born 3 January 1896, and daughters Dorothy L. Orr, Student, born 2 October 1919 and Mary P. Orr, Civil Servant, born 7 October 1921. (Possibly Mary Patricia Orr born Dunblane). Married Lillian Annie May Sayers daughter of Charles Sayers, at Ahmednagar, Bombay, India on 26 February 1917 (Family Search).

David John Gordon Orr (1889-1972) enlisted 9 December 1915 at Dundee, with occupation of Joiner in the Royal Engineers when he joined the 1/3 Highland Field Company but transferred to the 402<sup>nd</sup> (Highland) Field Company with service No.404211. Survived France but broke his leg during a football match! on 27 November 1918 when he was then in the 78<sup>th</sup> Field Company of the R.E. Discharged from the Army on 11 April 1919 under King's Regulations Paragraph 392 section xvi as being unfit for further service, awarded Silver War Badge and British War and Victory medals. Married Helen Margaret Mercer Gibb on 1 February 1933 at 86 Great King Street, Edinburgh. David stated occupation as Master Joiner with address of 4 Barrogill Terrace, Nairn (His mother's home) while Helen stated occupation as Confectioner with address of 2 Rose Street, Nairn; they were married by the Rev. Pirie of the Old Parish Church, Nairn. Died at

Inverness 17 June 1972, address of 7 Seabank Road, Nairn, wife Helen 'Nellie' died 13 April 1980, both buried Nairn Cemetery.

Jessie May Dora Orr (1891-1974) died at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness 7 July 1974, address of Macrae Avenue, Nairn buried Nairn Cemetery.

Florence Murray Orr (1894-1983) married George Graham on 12 July 1922 at Woods Temperance Hotel Nairn, George stated occupation as Chauffeur with address of 16 Rose Street, Nairn while Florence stated her occupation as Tailoress with address of 4 Barrogill Terrace, Nairn. Her husband died 16 October 1960, whilst she died 3 March 1983, both buried Nairn Cemetery.

Charles George Orr (1897-1938) Enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders at Stirling 10 April 1911 aged 14 years and 3 months, occupation stated as Musician. Recorded in the Nairnshire Roll of Honour as Bandsman service No.702 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, named on Nairn Parish Church Roll of Honour in December 1914; wounded 7 July 1917 at which point he was stated to be a Lance-Corporal and treated in a Bristol Hospital (*Nairnshire Telegraph* 31 July 1917) awarded British War and Victory Medals, Roll states rank as Lance-Sergeant formerly of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. Discharged 20 November 1923 at Fort George, under King's Regulations Paragraph 363 section xxi as 'Termination of period of engagement', Service No.8051 with rank of Corporal, character stated as good, address on discharge of 4 Barrogill Terrace, Nairn. Re-enlisted as a reservist in the Royal Army Service Corps on 26 February 1925. Died 10 March 1938 at 22 Macrae Avenue, Nairn, cause of death given as heart failure, occupation a Carpenter, buried Nairn Cemetery.

Mary Jane Orr (1900-1980) married Alexander Stephen Anderson on 26 November 1930 at The Waverley Hotel, Nairn, Alexander stated his occupation as Slater (Journeyman) with address of 40 Firthside Street, Fraserburgh while Mary stated her occupation as Shop Assistant with address of 4 Barrogill Terrace, Nairn. Mary died in hospital at Inverness 11 April 1980, address of 22 Macrae Avenue, Nairn; husband Alexander died at Nairn Hospital 12 April 1987, both buried Nairn Cemetery.

**Note – This year see's the Society surveying the 1918 section of Nairn Cemetery where James Orr's wife and 2 of his children are buried.**

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

## Moray Miscellany

Notice to Creditors of William Cumming, Merchant in Forres.

The Trustee having now realized a considerable part of the Trust Estate, requests the creditors will meet in McQueen's Hotel, Forres, on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December next, at 12 o'clock noon, when a state of the Trust affairs will be exhibited; and the Trustee will then require the instructions of the Creditors as to an interim Division of the Funds realized, the disposal of the remaining part of the Trust Effects, and generally as to the best manner of winding up the Estate.

The Creditors who have not already done so, are requested, before the day of meeting, to lodge their claims and affidavits thereto, either with the Trustee, or John Forsyth, Writer, Forres. Forres, November 25, 1837.

*Forres Gazette* 5 December 1837.

Notice to the Creditors of Mr George McKinnon, Deceased. Sometime Tacksman of the Hotel, Forres.

The deceased's Executor's, and the Managers, for the Creditors intimate, that states of his affairs up to the 29<sup>th</sup> ult., lie in the hands of R & A Urquhart, writers in Forres, for the inspections of all concerned, and hereby request the creditors to lodge particular states of their respective claims, with the said R & A Urquhart, within fourteen days from this date; certifying that all who neglect this intimation, will be excluded from any share of the fund hitherto realized, of which, at the expiration of said period, a scheme of division will be prepared among such creditors as shall have sufficiently instructed their claims, and the dividend, which is expected to be 12s 6d. per pound, will be by Messrs Urquhart, on and after Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> current. Forres 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1841.

*Forres Gazette* 16 July 1841.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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