



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

# NEWSLETTER

Edition 33

July 2019

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

## MNFHS Chairman's Report

The Society attended the SAFHS Conference at Wick on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. The event was held at the Pulteney Centre, Huddart Street, Wick. It was well attended and numerous members of the public and a couple of members visited our stall said hello and even bought a publication or two.

As mentioned in our last newsletter the recording of the next section of Nairn Cemetery, with over 2000 stones continues. So far well over three quarters of the stones have been checked so we are well on to have this published later this year, watch out for an announcement in our next newsletter.

Web Page - We have added a list of persons who were committed to Inverness Asylum from Nairnshire 1865-1900. Anyone who requires further information get in touch with editor.

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 2019. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: [newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

## MNFHS Publications

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

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**Secretary:** Mary Evans

**Treasurer & Webmaster:** Doug Stewart

## Nairnshire Miscellany

*Nairnshire Telegraph* 28 October 1896

Death of a Nairnshire Man in Detroit. From the *Detroit Evening News* of October 2<sup>nd</sup> we take the following: "J. B. Lauder, the well-known Scotch citizen and politician, who died last evening at his residence, 87 Elizabeth Street ear, was born 60 years ago in Nairnshire, Scotland. He was trained in the dry grocery business, and followed it with success in Glasgow and London till his twenty-fourth year; when he came to the United States and settled in Cincinnati, becoming first a car inspector and later a conductor on the grand Trunk Road. In '64 Mr Lauder came to Detroit, and opened a liquor store on Michigan grand Avenue, now Cadillac Square. That was before the days of fancy sample rooms, and behind a barricade of empty tea caddies and soap boxes 'Jamie' dispensed the real imported Scotch stuff to the best custom of the town. Politicians and solid business men always went there for a 'guid drap o' the auld stuff.' Mr Lauder went in to politics and served two years in the Upper House of the Council. When a number of alderman were indicted in '89 for boodling, Mr Lauder was at first included, but his case was dismissed and never came to trial. No one believed that he was in the ring. In fact his reputation for honesty was proverbial, and many farmers while visiting Detroit left their money in his hands for safe keeping. Mr Lauder carried on the liquor trade in connection with a steamboat agency. A few modern innovations crept into the bar room, but the old crowd went there, and the compacts and schemes hatched every year over hot whiskies in Lauder's would fill chapters. 'Jamie' was a slick, genteel-looking man, with a plug hat, moustache and side whiskers, and slipped around with a quiet, cat-like tread. About six years ago, Mr Lauder withdrew from politics. He was a well-read man, very fond of Scotch poetry and literature, and a prominent members of St Andrew's Society. Many stories are told of his kind heart and charitable disposition. A widow survives him, but the only son died of apoplexy two years ago. Mr Lauder was a member of the Elks and District Lodge F. and A.M. Rev. M. A.

Brownson will officiate at the house on Sunday afternoon, and there will be a Mason burial at Elmwood.”

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## Moray & Nairn Miscellany

### FRASER and MCDONALD BRICK WALLS

I have a keen interest in Nairn and Moray areas. In fact, two of my most stubborn brick walls originate from here. I would be most grateful if anyone can assist me overcome these hurdles.

Firstly, my 2nd great grandmother was Isabella Fraser b 1835 in Inverness to Hugh Fraser (c1796-1871) and Mary Gow(e)/Fraser (1814-1876). Hugh Fraser's death registration named his deceased parents as John Fraser, a shoe maker and Mary Fraser, ms Fraser. I believe John may have been born in Kirkhill. Mary's death registration indicates her deceased parents were John Fraser, a farmer, and Jean MacBean. Isabella had four siblings named John, Hugh, Donald and Mary. Isabella Fraser married Colin Chisholm in 1859 in Petty before they relocated to Australia. There is a headstone in the Old Petty Graveyard for her parents Hugh and Mary Fraser and also their son, Isabella's brother, Hugh Fraser. The headstone was erected by Hugh and Mary's son Donald, a blacksmith. Places associated with Isabella Fraser's immediate and extended family include Inverness, Maggot, Cullernie, Culloden Point, Redhill, Alturlie, Little Draikies, Kirkhill and Kerrowgair areas. Other names linked to the Frasers are Hood, Macpherson, Macbean, Ross, Russell and Chisholm.

My other brick wall is Elizabeth (Betty) McDonald, my 3rd great grandmother who married Colin Chisholm (1803-1868) in Edinkillie, Moray on 20 May 1830. When and where Betty was born has always puzzled me. I assume she died after the birth of a child in 1846 in the town of Nairn. Betty's husband Colin Chisholm remarried in 1848. Colin was an agricultural labourer so he and Betty lived in many different places including Gervally (Moray), Brackla, Fleenas, Laiken, Rait, Park and Nairn (Nairnshire) during their 16 years or so of marriage.

I have explored many leads to try to locate Betty's birth family. I wondered if maybe she was the daughter of Allan McDonald who was living next door to Colin and Elizabeth (Betty) in Rait during the 1841 Census collection. Allan McDonald (70) had a daughter living with him named Grace (30). Interestingly Colin Chisholm and Elizabeth

McDonald named two of their children Grace, who was born in 1839, and Allan, who was born in 1841. Grace and Allan, until that time, were not names to be found in our Chisholm family. Recently I located a birth registration in Scotlandspeople which might support this idea. Twin girls, Betty and Margaret, were born to Allan Macdonald and Grace Cameron on 28 April 1806 in Inchaldane, Fortingall in Perthshire. This sounds promising but it would be comforting to learn more.

I have found two other names linked to the birth of Grace Chisholm to Colin Chisholm and Betty McDonald. The baptism record for Grace on 24 October 1839 provides the names of witnesses - Alexander Mackdonald (sic) and Mary Mackdonald (sic). I am hoping that this might provide a clue to help me solve this puzzle. Any suggestions are most welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

Contributed by Kim Polley

[Contact Editor for contact Info if you can help]

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## Moray Miscellany

### Thomas Duncan R.N. of Cullen

Recently I found on the web a source of information re Naval officers and found a Thomas Duncan RN of Cullen.

Details of his naval career entered in the Naval Biographical Dictionary (1849) as follows: Thomas Duncan Retired Commander, 1832. Full Pay 1816; Half-Pay 1838, entered the Navy, 24 April, 1793, as Ordinary, on board the Thames, of 32 guns and 184 men, Capt. Jas. Cotes. On 24 Oct. following, being on his passage to Gibraltar, he took part in a furious drawn action of nearly an hour's duration with the French frigate *Uranie*, of 44 guns and 320 men. The Thames, which on that occasion was dreadfully cut up, and sustained a loss of 11 men killed and 23 wounded, was unfortunately, however, captured in the course of the same day by one of the enemy's squadrons. After nearly two years' imprisonment, Mr. Duncan was at length, in Aug. 1795, restored to liberty. He then joined the Vesuvius bomb, Capts. Facey and Robt. Lewis Fitzgerald; and while in that vessel was present at the bombardment of Havre by a squadron under Sir Rich. Strachan, and assisted at the destruction of *La Confiante*, of 36 guns, and of a French national cutter, 31 May, 1798. Returning home afterwards from the Mediterranean in the Tonnant 80, Mr. Duncan

became attached to the *Nereide* 36, Capt. Fred. Watkins; under whom we find him participating in the capture, 2 March, 1800, of *La Vengeance* privateer, of 16 guns and 174 men, and, the next day, of a ship, with a cargo on board of the value of £30,000. After a continued servitude, as Master's Mate and Midshipman, in the *Cambrian* 40, Capt. Hon. Arthur Kaye Legge, and *Windsor Castle* 98, bearing the flag in the Channel of Sir Andrew Mitchell, he was promoted to a Lieutenantcy in the latter ship by commission dated 5 Sept. 1801. His subsequent appointments were 19 May, 1803, to the *Serapis* 44, Capt. Henry Waring, under whom he assisted at the reduction, in May, 1804, of the Dutch settlement of Surinam 31 Oct. 1804, to the *Amelia* and *Ethalion* frigates, Capts. John Chas. Wolcombe and Wm. Chas. Fahie, in the latter of which he served at the capture of the Danish West India Islands in Dec. 1807 and, 27 July, 1808, to the *Namur* 74, flag-ship at the Nore of Vice-Admiral Wells. This officer, who has been on half-pay since 1810, acquired the rank of Retired Commander 30 March, 1832.

Stated by Crammond (1883) that he left the service in 1810 due to an injury.

Born c1770. Birth as yet not found. From the Libindx I got his Headstone in Cullen Old Churchyard – Sacred to the memory of Captain T. Duncan, R.N. died at Cullen 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1848 aged 78 years. Also of his wife Ann Smith died 26<sup>th</sup> May 1859 aged 84 years, and his Death Notice in *Elgin Courant* of 12 January 1849 – ‘At Cullen on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., Captain Duncan R.N. aged 78 years.’ Married at Cullen Church Feb 1811 – Mr Thomas Duncan Lieutenant of the R. Navy and Miss Ann Smith both in Cullen were contracted in order to marriage & having consigned pledges & after proclamations & no objections offered were married Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Recorded in 1841 Census at Grant Street, Cullen of Thomas Duncan, 69, Navy HP, Ann Duncan 63, Elisabeth Duncan 23 and Agnes Grant 40.

Seem to have had only one child, **Elizabeth Duncan** (12 March 1816 – 18 November 1888), Baptism recorded in Cullen OPR of 23 March 1816 of ‘Mr Thomas Duncan Lieut. R.N. in Cullen had a child by his wife Mrs Anne Smith born the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, baptised this day named Elizabeth. Witnesses The Revd Geo. Innes & Mr Alex. Duncan Surgeon R.N. both in Cullen.’

She married **William Anderson** (c1793 – 18 July 1875) Dell of Abernethy at Cullen, OPR entry of ‘20 June 1845 William Anderson, Esq. Parish of Abernethy & Miss Elizabeth Duncan in this Parish were matrimonially contracted and after proclamations no objections having been offered were married on the 26 August.’ Marriage

recorded in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 16 July 1845 as follows: ‘At Cullen, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., by the Rev. George Henderson, William Anderson, Esq. Dell of Abernethy, to Elizabeth only daughter of Captain Duncan, R.N.’ Death reported in the *Elgin Courant* of 23 November 1888 of ‘Anderson – At the Square, Cullen, on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, Elizabeth Duncan, widow of William Anderson, aged 72 years.’ Cause of death stated on certificate as ‘malignant disease of stomach’.

Her husband **William Anderson** (12 October 1792 – 12 July 1875) was the son of James Anderson, Woollen and Linen Draper and Catherine Young. He died aged 82 at the Square Cullen of ‘Paralysis of various attacks during several years’ occupation stated as ‘Proprietor of Houses’. His parents married in Cullen 4 December 1779, both stated as belonging to Cullen.

Children – **Katherine Ann Anderson** (2 September 1847 – 24 January 1917). Death reported in the *Banffshire Advertiser* of 25 January 1917 as follows: ‘Anderson – At Bank House, Low Street, Buckie on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., Katherine Ann, eldest daughter of the late William Anderson, Square, Cullen. Friends will please accept this intimation. Funeral to Cullen Cemetery, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> inst., leaving Buckie at 12 noon, reaching Square, Cullen, at 1 pm. All friends invited.’

**Elizabeth Duncan Anderson** (17 May 1850 – 1 January 1859)

**Thomas James Anderson** (6 February 1852 – 15 December 1936) Appointed to bank agency at Aberchirder in October 1883, transferred to Buckie July 1891, appointed Sheriff Substitute at Buckie in 1913, retired to Cullen in May 1917.

**Marjory Marquis Anderson** (19 November 1853 – 10 November 1946).

**Mary Estaille Anderson** (14 December 1855 – 15 February 1947) Born at the Square, Cullen. Noted in Birth certificate as her 5<sup>th</sup> child.

**Agnes Anderson** (16 March 1858 – 17 January 1885) Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 26 January 1885 of ‘Anderson – At the Square, Cullen, on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, Agnes, youngest daughter of the late William Anderson.’

**William Alexander Anderson** (19 January 1861 – 30 December 1867). Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant* of 2 January 1868 of ‘At the Square, Cullen, on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., William Alexander, second son of William Anderson, Esq. aged seven years. Friends will please accept this intimation.’ Family Headstones in Cullen Cemetery – In memory of William Anderson, who died 18.7.1875 aged 82 years. Of William Alexander, his son who died 30.12.1867, aged 7 years. Of Agnes his daughter, who died 17.1.1885 aged 28 years. Also of Elizabeth Duncan, his wife, who

died at Cullen 18.11.1888, aged 72 years. Also Katherine Ann, his eldest daughter, who died 24.1.1917. Also of his sister, Katherine Anderson, who died 16.2.1876, aged 88 years. And – In memory of Thomas James Anderson, J.P. Banker in Buckie, who died at Cullen, 15.12.1936 in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year. Also his sister Marjory Marquis Anderson who died at Cullen 10.11.1946 in her 93<sup>rd</sup> year. And his sister Mary Estaille Anderson, who died at Cullen, 15.2.1947 in her 92 year.

### The Duncan Family

Brother? Alexander Duncan baptised 11<sup>th</sup> October 1763 at Keith entry in Keith OPR of '1763 Octr 11<sup>th</sup> Alexr lawful son to John Duncan & Elspet Davidson in Auchaynay was baptised witnesses Alexr Duncan & Jas Burnett.'

Details of part of his naval service are in the National Archives Kew with service as follows: *Germaine* sloop 9 January 1783 – 4 February 1784, *Cyclops* 15 June 1790 – 15 October 1791, *Kite* cutter 18 November 1791 – 10 April 1793, *Romulus* 11 April 1793 – 24 May 1794, *Bedford* 28 May 1794 – 15 November 1795, and *Zealand* 8 June 1799 – 9 April 1802. Total 7 years 10m 1 day. Note of 'New Book' but this has not survived.

Sale of goods in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* 21 March 1789 stated as follows: 'Roup of Household Furniture. To be sold by public roup at Cullen, upon Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, within the house lately possessed by Mr Alexander Duncan, Surgeon.

The whole household furniture, consisting of kitchen furniture, mahogany and elm bedsteads and curtains, feather beds, Scotch and English blankets, carpets, mirrors, tables, chairs, mahogany bureau and drawers, grate and fire irons, and two good milch cows.'

No reason for sale possibly in debt, though it may be due to money he was owed – Account in the Seafield Papers GD248/589/2/88 - Account for medicines supplied by Alexander Duncan, surgeon, to Lord Findlater. Containing tactful note by Robert Couper, MD, Fochabers, that the charges are reasonable 'within the ordinary rate of charge used by Surgeon-Apothecaries when their Patients are of a rank far inferior to the Earl of Findlater - and it is well known that these accounts are always regulated by rank and circumstances'.

Gravestone in Cullen Old Churchyard of 'Sacred to the memory of Alexander Duncan, Esq. Surgeon, Royal Navy, who died 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1826, aged 62 years.' Death Notice in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1826 of 'Died, at Cullen, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., Alex. Duncan, Esq. Surgeon, R.N.'

Alexander Duncan & Elspet Duncan married at Broom, Cullen 25 February 1789, OPR entry of '21 Feb 1789 Mr Alexander Duncan surgeon in Cullen and Miss Elspet Duncan in Broom and parish of Fordyce were matrimonially Contracted this day and proclamations & no objections being offered were married February 25<sup>th</sup>'. Also recorded as 22 Feb 1789 in Fordyce. Marriage reported in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1789 as follows: 'Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> ult., was married at Broom, Mr Alexander Duncan, Surgeon, of Cullen, to Miss Duncan, daughter of John Duncan Esq. Jamaica.'

Alexander and Elspet seem to have had only two children –

**John Duncan** (19 December 1789 – 28 August 1833) Cullen OPR entry of '22 December 1789 Mr Alexander Duncan Surgeon in Cullen had a child by his wife Elspet Duncan born the 19<sup>th</sup> Curt and Baptised this day named John, designed after John Duncan Esq of Jamaica Grandfather to the child and John Ross Esqr Professor of Oriental languages Kings College Aberdeen. Witnesses John Watson Esqr Cullen and Abraham Leslie Esq of Kindrassie, Mrs Innes of Jamaica and Mrs Wilson at Cullen Grand Aunts to the Child.'

Surgeon in Royal Navy. Details of part of his naval service are in the National Archives Kew with service as follows: *Namur* Assistant Surgeon 1 Oct 1808 – 2 Nov 1808, and *Agincourt* Assistant Surgeon/Surgeon 3 Nov 1808 – 18 May 1810.

**Katherine Duncan** (27 December 1790 – 16 April 1862) Cullen OPR entry of '9 Jan 1791 Mr Alexander Duncan Surgeon in the Navy had a child by his wife Mrs Elspet Duncan born upon the 27<sup>th</sup> Decr 1790 and baptised the 30<sup>th</sup> named Katherine. Designed after Mrs Katherine Duncan in Broom, Grand Mother to the Child. Witnesses John Wilson Esqr Cullen, Mrs Wilson Grant Aunt to the Child and Mrs McHattie.' Married John Fraser, Commissioner to the Earl of Seafield 5 October 1816.

Noted in Moray Libindx as son of John Duncan and Elizabeth Davidson of Jamaica (Orchardfield), by Strathmiglo, Fife though no source stated for this location likely to be incorrect and should be the Island of Jamaica. Their other children were –

**James Duncan** (1755 – ?) Keith OPR entry of '10 July 1755 James lawful son to John Duncan & Elspet Davidson in Mains of Auchynachy was baptised witnesses Jas Steinson of Abernethy & Jas Mesger(?) Jas Burnett & Jas Dunbar.'

**John Duncan** (1760 – ?) Keith OPR entry of '13 Aug 1760 John lawful son to John Duncan and Elspet Davidson in Auchynachy was baptised witness John Anderson & Rev James Hennel(?) & Margt Wright.'

**William Duncan** (1766 – ?) Keith OPR entry of ‘27 Aug 1766 William lawful son to John Duncan and Elspet Davidson in Achynachie was baptised witnesses William Anderson & Bessie Sellar both there.’

**Isobel Duncan** (1769 – ?) Keith OPR entry of ‘15 Oct 1769 Isobel lawful dau of John Duncan & Elspet Davidson in Mains of Achynachie was baptised witnesses Elspet Ker & John Anderson there.’

His wife **Elspet Duncan** (bp 26 May 1764 – ?) was the daughter of **John Duncan** (c1739 – ?) of Jamaica and **Katherine Grant** (17 March 1742 – ?) who had married on the 5 July 1763 at Fordyce, entry in the OPR as follows ‘26 June 1763 Mr John Duncan in this parish contracted &c with Miss Katie Grant in Rathven and were married 5 July.’ Entry in Fordyce OPR of ‘Baptised 26 May 1764 Mr John Duncan in Broom had a child by his wife Catherine Grant baptised called Elspet after Elpset Milne in Shearer’s born in Murray and Miss Eppie Robertson in Portsoy.’

Sister **Katherine Duncan** (bp 13 August 1765 – ?) entry in Fordyce OPR of ‘13 Aug 1765 Mr John Duncan in broom had a child born by his spouse Katherine Grant baptised called Katherine so named after Mr Gordon of Birkenbulk and Miss Katie Grant of Wester Elchies Witness Mr George Grant Minister at Rathven and Mr Robert Grant Minister at Cullen.’

### **The Smith Family**

Thomas Duncan’s wife Ann Smith born 23 November 1775 at Cullen daughter of James Smith (c1741 – 16 June 1810) and Elizabeth Reid (c1733 – 30 May 1802), date of parent’s marriage not found. Other family of George (1 June 1766 – ?), John (25 October 1767 – ?), James (13 June 1769 – ?), Alexander (21 February 1771 – ?), and Isobel (8 August 1773 – 2 April 1805).

Recorded in 1851 Census at the Square, Cullen of Ann Smith, 74, Annuitant and Agnes Grant, 58, House Servant. Ann Smith died 26 May 1859 at The Square, Cullen aged 83 years, dau of James Smith, Leather Merchant (deceased) and Elizabeth Reid, cause of death exhaustion of vital possess from old age – Buried at Old Churchyard, Cullen. Informant was Wm Anderson son-in-law. Gravestone in Cullen Churchyard – Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Reid, wife of James Smith, Merchant Cullen, who died 30.5.1802 aged 69 years. And of Isabella Smith, their daughter died 2.4.1805 aged 33 years, And of the said James Smith, who died 16.6.1810 aged 69 years. Likewise of Margaret Steinson (his cousin), widow of John Urquhart, Master Royal Navy died 27.1.1835 aged 84 years.

### **The Fraser Family**

Within enclosure at Cullen Old Churchyard are three memorials –inscribed as follows:

Sacred to the memory of John Fraser, Commissioner to the Right Honourable, the Earl of Seafield, who died at Cullen, on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1848, aged 70. Also to that of his wife Catherine Duncan, who died there on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1862, aged 71.

2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial – Erected by the surviving members of the family of the late John Fraser, in affectionate remembrance of their deceased brothers and sisters, viz: John who died at Demerara in the West Indies, 31<sup>st</sup> May 1827, aged 16. William, M.D., died at Poonah, in the H.E.I.C.S., 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1847, aged 35. Catherine Innes, wife of Dr Franics W. Innes, C.B., who died at Rangoon, 13<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1855, aged 31. Thomas died at sea on his passage home from India, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1857, aged 34. James, died at Bathurst, New South Wales, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1861, aged 42. Alexander, died at North Berwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep. 1866, aged 42. Eliza Hay, wife of John Watson, Royal Navy Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleets, died 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1908 aged 79. Also Mary Ann, wife of Alexander Leith Emslie, M.D. died in Dundee 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1898 aged 74. And Elcy, wife of Rev. James MacIntosh, D.D., Deskford, died 15<sup>th</sup> April 1889 aged 60.

John Fraser & Katherine Duncan (sometimes recorded as Catherine) were married 5 October 1816 at Cullen OPR entry of ‘5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1816 Married here this day John Fraser Esqr at Cullen House to Katharine, only daughter of Alexander Duncan Esq R.N.’

John Fraser born c1778 birth not yet located. Death of Mr John Fraser reported in the *Banffshire Journal* of 5<sup>th</sup> December 1848 as follows: ‘Death of John Fraser, Esq. Cullen House. It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of this much respected gentleman, whose death took place at Cullen House, on the morning of Friday last. The deceased had been complaining for some little time back, but no one anticipated that the issue would have been at all fatal. Fr Fraser has been long connected with the House of Seafield, and was well known and highly respected throughout the north. The important and delicate duties of his situation as Commissioner to the Right Hon. the Earl of Seafield, he discharged in a manner which did justice at once to his constituent and to the interests of the tenantry on the widely extended Estates of the family. A remarkable proof of the attachment and respect held towards him by the Seafield tenantry was, only a few weeks ago, made to Mr Fraser, when a large and respectable body of them waited upon him and presented him with a valuable piece of silver plate, as a

testimony of their esteem for “his honourable and upright conduct during a long, labourious, and useful life.” The funeral took place yesterday, and, though it was wished in every sense to be a private one, still a number on inhabitants of Cullen turned out, to show their respect for the deceased, and attended his remains to their last resting place, in the Churchyard of Cullen.’

Reported in the *Banffshire Advertiser* of 30<sup>th</sup> August 1906 of the following: ‘Provosts and Town Clerks of Cullen. Mr John Fraser. The first provost, was for long connected with the House of Seafield. His remains are buried in the old churchyard of Cullen, and on a stone built into part of the wall is the inscription – “Sacred to the memory of John Fraser, Commissioner to the Right Honourable, the Earl of Seafield, who died at Cullen, on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1848, aged 70.” During the period in which Provost Fraser ruled interesting events happened. In 1837 Sheriff Pringle went to Cullen and proclaimed the Queen. The same year the burgh for the last time paid its annual tribute of 11s 1d to the miller at Mill of Cullen, and that year, too, saw the Town Council petition the Postmaster-General, complaining that letters from London were four days in transit. In 1841 gas was introduced into Cullen.’

Death Notice of his wife in the *Elgin Courant* of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1862 of: ‘At Cullen, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., Mrs Fraser, aged seventy one, relict of the late John Fraser, Esq. Commissioner to the late Right Hon. the Earl of Seafield.’

### Children

**Alexander Fraser** (24 July 1817 – 2 September 1866) Cullen OPR entry of ‘4 August 1817 John Fraser Esqr Cashier to the Right Honble the Earl of Seafield at Cullen House had a child by his wife Mrs Katherine Duncan born the 24<sup>th</sup> July ult & baptised this day named Alexander. Witnesses Alexander Duncan Esq Surgeon Royal Navy & Lieut. Thomas Duncan R.N. both residing in Cullen’. Died at North Berwick.

**Mary Ann Grant Fraser** (29 October 1818 – 5 September 1898) Cullen OPR entry of ‘27 November 1818 John Fraser Esq. at Cullen House had a child by his wife Mrs Catharine Duncan born the 29<sup>th</sup> Oct and baptised this day named Mary Ann Grant. Witnesses Col. Grant of Grant his lady Mrs Grant, John Duncan Surgeon Esq. Surgeon R.N. and Lt. Thomas Duncan R.N’. Married Alexander Leith Emslie on 16 June 1839 at Cullen. Died at Dundee.

**James Fraser** (3 December 1819 – 18 June 1861) Cullen OPR entry of ‘24 December 1819 John Fraser Esqr at Cullen House had a child by his wife Mrs Katharine Duncan born 3<sup>rd</sup> December and baptised upon 24<sup>th</sup> of the same month named James. Witnesses Alexr Duncan Surgeon R.N. and Thomas Duncan Lieutenant R.N. both

residing in Cullen’. Died at Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia.

**John Duncan Fraser** (9 January 1821 – 31 May 1827) Cullen OPR entry of ‘21 January 1821 John Fraser Esq Cullen House had a child by his wife Mrs Catharine Duncan born upon 9<sup>th</sup> inst and baptised this Day, names John Duncan. Witnesses Alexr Duncan Surgeon Royal Navy residing in Cullen, Lieutenant Thomas Cullen also of the Royal Navy & residing in Cullen & John Duncan Surgeon Broom Royal Navy residing at Broom’. Died at Demerara, West Indies.

**William Fraser** (14 April 1822 – 19 September 1847) Cullen OPR entry of ‘28 April 1822 John Fraser Esqr Cullen had a child by his wife Mrs Catherine Duncan born 14 ins and Baptised this Day names William. Witnesses Alexander Duncan and Jn Duncan Surgeon, R.N.’. Died as Doctor in the service of the East India Company at Poonah, India.

**Thomas Fraser** (15 April 1823 – 14 February 1857) Cullen OPR entry of ‘27 April 1823 John Fraser Esqr had a Child by his wife Mrs Catharine Duncan born 15 ins & baptised this day names Thomas. Witnesses Lieut Thomas Duncan R. N. Logie, Alexr Duncan Surgeon R.N. Cullen and Jno Duncan Surgeon R.N. Broom’. Died at sea on return from India.

**Catherine Innes Fraser** (22 October 1824 – 13 September 1855) Cullen OPR entry of ‘22 Oct 1824 John Fraser Esqr Cullen had a child born by his wife Mrs Catherine Duncan and baptised on the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov named Catherine Innes. Witnesses Al. Duncan Surgeon R.N. Cullen & Thomas Duncan R.N.’. Married Dr Francis W. Innes. Died at Rangoon.

**Robert Fraser** (22 December 1825 – ?) Cullen OPR entry of ‘28 December 1825 John Fraser Esqr had a Child by his wife Katherine Duncan born 22<sup>nd</sup> instant & baptised this day named Robert. Witnesses Alex Duncan Esqr Surgeon R.N residing in Cullen, John Fraser Esqr Surgeon residing in Broom, Lieut Thomas Duncan R.N residing at Loggie, Robert Marquis Esqr at Baikenbog and Rear Admiral James Oughton residing in Cullen.’

**George Fraser** (19 February 1827 – ?) Cullen OPR entry of ‘7 March 1827 John Fraser Esqr Cashier had a child by his wife Catherine Duncan born 19<sup>th</sup> ult & baptised this day named George. Witnesses Thomas Duncan Esq. R.N at Loggie, John Duncan Esqr Surgeon R.N. at Broom, and Robert Innes School Master of Cullen.’

**Elcy Fraser** (17 October 1828 – 15 April 1889) Cullen OPR entry of ‘31 October 1828 John Fraser Esqr Cullen House had a child by his wife Catherine Duncan, born the 17<sup>th</sup> inst & baptised this day names Elcy. Witnesses Rear Admiral James Oghtyon, Lieut Thomas Duncan R.N and Mr Robert Innes, Schoolmaster Cullen.’ Married

3 February 1848 to Rev. John Mackintosh (16 January 1809 – 10 September 1902) son of William Mackintosh, Farmer, Nairnside, Croy. Educated at Croy School and King's College, Aberdeen, MA 1831. Licensed by Presbytery of Dingwall in 1837, presented to Deskford Parish Church by Francis William, Earl of Seafield, and ordained 14 December 1843. Children Catherine, born 8 May 1849, died 18 Feb. 1866; John Fraser, Merchant, Pernambuco, Brazil, born 26 March 1850; James, Banker, New Zealand, born 10 Aug. 1851; William, Farmer, Canada, born 9 Oct. 1852; Alexander Watson McKenzie, born 20 May 1858; Alice Eliza, born 28 June, and died 13 July 1859; Frank William Innes, M.B., CM., Kirkwall, born 17 Aug. 1860; Alice Hay, born 14 Jan., and died 8 April 1862; Helen Jane, born 19 July 1863; Edith Frances Wheen, Aberdeen, born 15 Aug. 1865; Ashley Watson, M.A., M.D., Regius Professor of Medicine, Aberdeen, born 8 April 1868.

**Eliza Hay Fraser** (25 December 1830 – 5 September 1908) Cullen OPR entry of '12 January 1831 John Fraser Esqr Cullen House had a child baptised by his wife Mrs Catherine Duncan born on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult & Baptised this Day named Eliza Hay. Witnesses rear Admiral James Oughton Lieut. Thomas Duncan R.N., the Revd George Innes minister Deskford and the Revd John Innes minister of Ordiguhill.' [Possibly mistake in OPR maybe should be 1830?] Married John Watson RN Inspector General of Hospitals. Died at Seafield Place, Cullen.

**Margaret Fraser** (1 June 1831 – ?) Cullen OPR entry of '10 June 1831 John Fraser Esqr Cullen House had a child baptised by his wife Mrs Catherine Duncan born on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst and Baptised this Day names Margaret. Witnesses John Duncan Surgeon R.N. residing at Broom and Mr Robert Grant residing at Cullen House and Mr John Fraser Junr there.'

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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## Moray Miscellany

### Seek And You Shall NOT Find

Recently, I stumbled across an entry which helped fill a gap for one of my Shand relatives. The death certificate told me:

At No 3, Queen Street, Branderburgh on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1879, Elspet Shand, aged 83 years, married to John Russell, Tailor & Clothier, daughter of Alexander Shand, House Carpenter (dec) & Elizabeth Taylor (dec), witness John Russell (widower).

Armed with this information – I hadn't realised

Elspet had remarried – I started digging around.

Drainie OPR, 24<sup>th</sup> December 1831 has, "John Russel, Tailor, Lossiemouth and Elspet Shand there were matrimonially contracted and married 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan'ry 1832 by the Rev'd Rich'd Rose, witnesses Jas Brander and Jas Wilson, Lossiemouth."

Linking 1831 to 1876 from various Census Returns – 1841, 1851, 1861 & 1871 – seemed to confirm my conclusion John and Elspet had no children.

Not sure I would find anything, I thought to search for an announcement, or an obituary, in local newspapers, but found nothing on-line so had to revert to the old-fashioned method, reading!

No obituary for Elspet, but a family announcement. The *Elgin Courant & Courier* of 13th May 1879, page 8, column 3, reads, "Russell – At Pitgaveny Street, Branderburgh, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., aged eighty-three years, Elspet Thanet, relict of Mr John Russell, clothier, Branderburgh."

Not quite the same as auto-correct, but obviously a compositor with a problem identifying a word and coming up with the surname 'Thanet' in place of 'Shand'.

Putting aside the 19<sup>th</sup> century printing error, this does highlight a problem. I would not have found this entry had I searched on-line for 'Shand', demonstrating the need to be imaginative when searching on-line; if the obvious search doesn't work, try as many alternatives you can think of.

In this case, the obvious alternative is 'Russell' for 'Shand'; which would have worked, but only because the newspaper used 'Russell' and not 'Russel'. Successful searching can be quite an art.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

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## Nairnshire Miscellany

### Detective Davidson of Calgary

The following obituary appeared in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1921:

#### Death of Detective Brodie Davidson, Calgary.

We regret to learn of the death in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, of Mr Brodie Davidson, a son of Mrs Davidson, Sandown, Nairn, and the late Hugh Davidson, Farmer, Wester Cairnglass, Cantray, after a somewhat lingering illness.

Calgary newspapers record that Detective Brodie Davidson, officer in charge of the morality work of the City Police Force, died in the General Hospital last evening (19<sup>th</sup> August). He was stricken with influenza two years ago and pneumonia set in. He was reported to be seriously ill for a time, and there were several relapses within the last two years. On the Wednesday before his passing, he was again removed to hospital, but died there in the presence of his wife and family.

A Fine Record. Detective Davidson joined the Calgary Police Force in 1911, and was elevated to the rank of patrol sergeant a year later. He was promoted to the detective force a couple of years ago, and at all times proved himself an able and efficient officer. In charge of the morality work in the city, his appointment resulted in a general clean-up of suspected disorderly houses, and in later months of illicit liquor establishments. He was 42 years of age and was born in Nairn, Scotland, and is survived by his widow, a daughter of Mrs Mackenzie, Minerva, Nairn, and the late Mr George Mackenzie, and three of a family, George, Hugh, and Mabel. A sad coincidence in connection with Detective Davidson's death is that it occurred on the birthday of his eldest son. His death has cast a general gloom over officer and men at police headquarters.

Speaking of the deceased detective, Chief Ritchie said – "During my term on the Calgary Force I became closely acquainted with Detective Davidson, and I always found him to be a faithful and conscientious officer. He was always ready to perform any amount of work, and in the execution of this duty this officer never failed. In conducting a campaign of morality work throughout the city, Detective Davidson proved very efficient, and seldom prosecuted unless he was fully satisfied he had established a thorough case. The staff has suffered a severe loss in the passing away of this officer, and the sympathy of the entire force goes out to the widow and children, who are left to mourn his loss."

The following officer have been selected to act as pall bearers at the funeral – Sergeants Norman Orr, John Burroughs, George Gilbert, and Constables Dan Finlayson and George Gammie.'

Brodie Davidson was born on the 2 July 1879 at West Cairnglass, Croy, Inverness-shire son of Hugh Davidson, Farmer and Margaret Davidson nee Stuart who had married on the 22 February 1877 at Nairn.

In the 1881 Census recorded at Wester Cairnglass Farmhouse, Croy with inhabitants recorded as follows: Hugh Davidson 32 Farmer (Of 85 acres of which 75 arable employing 1 Man & 1 Girl),

Maggie Davidson 25 Wife, Alexander S Davidson 3 Son, Brodie W Davidson 1 Son, Constance McDonald Davidson 7m Daughter, John McKenzie 19 Farm Servant and Annie Duncan 19 General Servant (Domestic).

In the 1891 Census still recorded at Wester Cairnglass Farmhouse, Croy with inhabitants recorded as follows: Hugh Davidson 40 Farmer, Margaret Davidson 34 Wife, Alexander S C Davidson 13 Scholar, Brodie W Davidson 11 Scholar, Constance McDonald Davidson 9 Scholar, Esther E Davidson 8 Scholar, Hugh C Davidson 7 Scholar, Jessie Davidson 5, Mabel M Davidson 3, Ethel Davidson 9m, David Munro 15 Ploughman and Sarah A McLeod 13 General Servant (Domestic).

In 1901 Census recorded at Sandown, Nairn with inhabitants recorded as follows: Maggie Davidson 43 Farmer and Dairy, Brodie Davidson 21, Ester Davidson 18, Hugh Davidson 16, Jessie Davidson 14 Scholar, Mabel Davidson 12 Scholar, Ethel Davidson 10 Scholar and Grigor Davidson 8 Scholar.

Sailed SS *Parisian* 27 June 1910 to Halifax from Glasgow – Davidson, Brodie Farmer aged 29 destination Halifax. Not found in 1911 Census for Canada.

Commemorated on family headstone in Cawdor Churchyard – In loving memory of HUGH DAVIDSON, who died at Cairnglass, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1894, aged 44. Also his daughters ESTHER ELIZABETH, who died at Sandown, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1908, aged 26. MABEL MARGARET, who died 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1919, aged 30. BRODIE, born 1879 died 1921. ALEXANDER, born 1877, died 1925. JESSIE, born 1885, died 1926. Their mother MARGARET STUART DAVIDSON died 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1936 aged 81. Also their son JOHN GEORGE MCNEIL died 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1956. *Only a star removed. We soon shall meet again our dearly loved whom here on earth we miss.*

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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