



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

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October 2019

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

MNFHS Chairman's Report

The Society recently attended the Lanarkshire FHS Conference on the 5th October. The event was held at the Conference & Concert Hall, Motherwell. It was quite well attended and a few members of the public visited our stall said hello and even bought a publication or two.

While on the subject of Conferences, the SAFHS annual conference will be held on the 18 April 2020 at The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh. Details and booking form for delegates can be found on the SAFHS website. Moray & Nairn FHS will be attendance so make a note in your diary.

As mentioned in our last newsletter the recording of the '1918' section of Nairn Cemetery, with over 2000 stones continues. I had hoped to get this finished this year but bad weather on planned days means that final recording is still to be undertaken. I am afraid that it will be late this year or even early next year until finished. Also the book might be the biggest we have produced of over 160 pages.

Web Page - We have added a list of persons who were committed to Inverness Asylum from Nairnshire 1865-1900. Anyone who requires further information please 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 February 2020. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

MNFHS Publications

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

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Morayshire Miscellany

Alexander Dunbar, Tailor.

Respectfully intimates to the inhabitants of Forres and the public in general, that he has commenced business in the above line, in that House belonging to Mr McKerron, in house on the east side of Mr McQueen's Hotel, where he intends carrying on the Trade in all its branches. By arrangements he has made in London and Edinburgh for a regular supply of the fashions, and from his experience in business, those favouring him with employment may depend upon having it done in the first rate style on moderate charges; he therefore hopes to merit a share of public patronage.

Ladies' Riding Habits, Boys' Dresses, and Liveries made to Order.

Forres, 2d Nov. 1837.

Forres Gazette 7 Nov 1837.

Alexander Dunbar according to Libindx was born 16 March 1809 (Though 1841 Census indicates birth c1816) and married Catherine Grant 8 Feb 1839 at Forres; he died 11 March 1895 in the Moray Poorhouse Elgin, having been first admitted there in 1887 and became a Pauper on the Roll of Kinloss (his place of birth) in 1890.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray Miscellany

The Davidson Family from Findhorn: The importance of family portraits and photos.

By Nick Hide

Twenty years ago, Clan Davidson Association (CDA) member Stephen Venour contributed an article to the 1999 edition of *The Pheon* about his Davidson ancestors from Findhorn and his childhood spent in the area of Northern Scotland. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Stephen on a number of occasions and learnt much about his Davidson ancestors. Although his memory began to fade later on, he shared a collection of inherited family papers and photos, filling in the many gaps about his ancestors. He used to frequently call me as he remembered bits of wonderful historical gossip which he had inherited from his family as well as snippets about other non-related Davidson families.

Separately CDA members Malcolm Davidson from Angus, Scotland and Keith Davidson from New Zealand have also very kindly shared information and in particular important images of family portraits.

The purpose of this article is to draw attention to this distinguished Davidson family, and to the fact that we have a growing collection of portraits of different members of this family. Few of us have such fine examples of surviving portraits of our early ancestors. I have included just some of the items which we now have in our archive for this family.

Findhorn is located at the mouth of the river of the same name, facing out into the Moray Firth. Historically this was an important harbour for trading vessels and also providing a sea road for passengers needing to travel along the east coast of Scotland and across the North Sea to the Baltic ports, long before there were good inland roads and later railways. It was in this trade which the earliest known member of this family, John Davidson [c1724-1801], made his mark. He created a merchanting business based on the Findhorn harbour and its facilities. We understand that he or his family created the building now occupied by The Royal Findhorn Yacht Club, albeit much altered over the years. This was the family's business premises, and the family home for one branch of the family for at least 3 generations.

The family thrived; two generations later some of his grandchildren are found listed as bank agents, surgeons, solicitors, large scale local farmers, ship owners and merchants, indigo planters in India, and senior British Army medical officers. One of the grandsons, Robert Davidson [1783-1842] worked as merchant in London in the 1820s with



The former Davidson home at Findhorn [now occupied by the Royal Findhorn Yacht Club]

the Davidsons of Tulloch, the ancestors of our Chief Grant Davidson, possibly as a formal partner, before leaving for India with his family. Later generations moved elsewhere in the UK, and further afield to settle in Tasmania, and New Zealand, where a major branch of the family established themselves.

There are generations of senior British Army officers, many serving overseas, the most recent being General Richard Shirreff, recently retired Deputy Supreme Commander NATO forces in Europe, 5 x great grandson of John Davidson of Findhorn. We know much about some of these descendants but we have still to determine John Davidson's origins. He might have come from a local family or possibly from elsewhere in the wider region but the lack of parish records provides no clues as yet. However, a portrait of his eldest son Robert Davidson [1751-1833] who inherited his father's merchant business has survived.



***Portrait of Robert Davidson
Findhorn Merchant 1751-1833
[Image shared by Malcolm Davidson]***

Last autumn, as we were getting ready for the AGM & Gathering at Aberdeen, Keith Davidson in New Zealand shared a copy image of a portrait of Helen Davidson [1796-1824] which was found in his parent's papers together with a typescript note about the subject and the distinguished artist Sir Thomas Lawrence. The original portrait may well have painted at the time of Helen Davidson's marriage to Walter Askill Venour, [a surgeon in the East India Company] which took place in 1817 at St George's Bloomsbury, in London. This portrait is an important find and addition to the Clan Davidson Collection of portrait images.



*Copy portrait image of Helen Davidson
[1796-1824]
[Images shared by Keith Davidson]*

HELEN DAVIDSON, born 10/5/1796, a daughter of Robert Davidson, born 1751 in Findhorn, Scotland, and granddaughter of John Davidson, also of Findhorn, born circa 1715.
A copy of a painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence in 1818, in which year Helen became engaged to Mr W.A. Venour. She died at Cawnpore, India, on 11/6/1824.

It provides an indication to the status of this generation of the Findhorn Davidson family. If Stephen Venour were still with us would have been amazed to see a portrait of his great grandmother. The challenge now is to discover if the original portrait has survived and where it is located.

At almost the same time Malcolm Davidson from Angus shared another discovery about a pair of miniatures which had remained unidentified until recently. His researches now indicate that these

portraits are of Alexander Davidson [1797-1883], Army Surgeon and later Inspector General, Indian Army Hospitals, and his wife Mary Ann Blundell [1801-1884]. These miniature portraits were possibly painted at the time of their marriage in 1823 at Meerut in India. This Alexander Davidson was another of the grandchildren of John Davidson, the Findhorn merchant mentioned at the head of this article.



Alexander Davidson [1797-1883]

*Mary Ann Blundell [1801-1884]
[Images shared by Malcolm Davidson]*



Nairnshire Miscellany

James Orr – A Seaforth Highlander

The following obituary was printed in the *Nairn County Press and Advertiser* on the 9th 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 72nd 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 72nd in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He was discharged to pension on 31st 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 3rd 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 58th 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



Two separate photos of taken in the early 1860s of the family of Robert Davidson and Mary Ann Venour

During one of my meetings with Stephen Venour, he was determined to pass on some of his inherited photo portraits of his Davidson ancestors. Two of these are formal studio glass plate photographs of his maternal great grandparents Robert Davidson [1821-1903] and Mary Ann Venour [1823-1913] and their family. Together we were able to identify the names of all the members of the family included in these photos and determine approximately when the photos were taken in the early 1860s in Inverness where this family lived at that time.

We hold an extensive outline family tree for this family in our Clan Davidson Archive Collection which includes over 500 names so far.

was given as follows: 58th Brigade 5 July 1879 – 23 December 1879, 79th Regiment 22 December 1879 – 30 June 1881, 1st 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 2nd 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 Heddlestone (both deceased) (Mother's 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 Broncho-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 1st 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 402nd (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 78th 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 2nd 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 8th 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 4 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.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Moray Miscellany

John McDonald's Father WAS John McDonald

The details on John McDonald's death certificate are clear enough:

Died, at Garlinemore, Knockando, on 8th April 1899, John McDonald (illegitimate), aged 67 years, labourer, son of John McDonald, tailor (dec) & Elspet McKay (dec), married to Jessie Cruickshank, witness John McDonald, grandson.

As clear as day, John McDonald's father was named John McDonald!

Why then, in my records had I recorded his father as James McDonald?

And, what's worse, why did I focus on a James McDonald, who died in 1864:

Died, at Kirdals Poorhouse, Knockando, on 14th April 1864, James McDonald, aged 86 years, tailor, son of John McDonald, crofter (dec) & Catherine Munro (dec), married, witness Peter Margach, Inspector of Poor.

The only reason could be because of the record for plot 264 in the Register of Burials for Knockando, listed are Jas McDonald, 6th April 1864 and Elspet McKay, 25th September 1888.

I already knew, and was convinced, Elspet McKay was John McDonald's mother but had I, from the burial records, put 'two and two' together and made 'five' by assuming John's parents had been buried in the same plot and the details, therefore, on John McDonald's death certificate were incorrect, and his father's name was indeed James!

Because of this error, I also thought I had found a new generation beyond John McDonald's father with the John McDonald and Catherine Munro.

The only good thing about these mistakes was there were only two: the original assumption and

the follow-up link backwards.

How, then, did I come to realise the error of my ways?

Entirely by accident, I stumbled upon a Decree of Aliment dated 28th March 1832 in the records of Inverness Sheriff Court:

“Decreet of Aliment, Elspeth Mackay, residing at Mains of Kirdals in the parish of Knockando, against John Macdonald, Tailor, residing at Nether Port, parish of Cromdale. John Edwards Esquire, Sheriff Substitute of the County of Inverness, on the eighth and twenty first days of March current decerned and ordained and hereby decerns and ordains the said John Macdonald, defender, to make payment to the said Elspeth Mackay, pursuer, of the sum of Two Pounds Sterling in name of inlying charges and of the sum of Five Pounds Sterling yearly in name of aliment of a Male child begotten with the pursuer in fornication by the said John Macdonald commencing as at its birth being the first day of July last eighteen hundred and thirty one ...”

So, John McDonald’s father really was John – and not James – and at the time of the court action he was living at Nether Port in the parish of Cromdale.

I had no choice but to unpick my records – locally and on-line – and start delving further into the new name, and place.

Finding the real father was surprisingly easy; at the time of the next Census in 1841, he was living with his parents and a brother named Alexander at West Port in the parish of Cromdale:

1841 Cromdale, 3/3 West Port

1 James McDonald, M, 70, Farmer

2 Mary McDonald, F, 70

3 Alex’r McDonald, M, 35

4 John McDonald, M, 30

5 Jean Grant, F, 15, Female Servant

1841 Cromdale, 3/3 West Port

1 Elizabeth Grant, F, 60, Independent

John and Mary are not listed in the 1851 Census – assumed to have died – and the family have moved, and his brother Alexander is now head of the household:

1851 Cromdale, 3/16 Lower Port

*1 Alexander McDonald, Head, U, 46,
Farmer of 10 Ac with 13 Ac of Pasture
Employing 1 Indoor Lab, Cromdale*

*2 John McDonald, Brother, U, 40,
Tailor, Cromdale*

*3 Margaret Grant, Niece, U, 18,
Scholar, Cromdale*

4 Ann Grant, Niece, U, 15, Scholar,

Cromdale

*5 Janet McDonald, Servant, U, 30,
House Servant, Daviot*

1851 Cromdale, 3/16 Lower Port

*1 Elizabeth Grant, Head, U, 75,
Pauper Former House Servant, Cromdale*

By 1861, and another move, although Alexander has a wife – his former house servant – John is still present as brother of the head of household:

1861 Cromdale, 4/7 West Port

1 Alexander McDonald, Head, M 60,

Farmer of 10 Acres, Cromdale

2 Janet McDonald, Wife, M, 41,

Farmer’s Wife, Moy

3 John McDonald, Son, , 2, , Cromdale

4 John McDonald, Brother, U, 52,

Tailor Master, Cromdale

5 James McIntosh, Servant, , 11,

Herd, Cromdale

6 Peter Grant, Lodger, U, 27,

Floater of Wood Labourer, Urquhart

7 Peter Dickson. Lodger, U, 26,

Labourer Floater of Wood, Duthil

8 Donald Dickson. Lodger, U, 24,

Labourer Floater of Wood, Duthil

It was easy to discover Alexander, John’s brother, died in 1862:

Died, at Nether Port, Cromdale, on 8th January 1862, Alexander McDonald, Farmer, married to Janet McDonald, aged 62 years, son of James McDonald, Farmer (dec) & Mary Grant (dec), witness, William McDonald (brother).

So, by the time of the 1871 Census, and yet another move, because his elder brother had died in 1862, John had become head of the household:

1871 Cromdale, 7/9 1 Nether Port

1 John McDonald, Head, U, 66,

Farmer of 20 Acres 2 Arable, Cromdale

2 Janet McDonald, Sister, W, 51,

Farmer’s Sister, Moy

3 John McDonald, Son, , 12,

Scholar, Cromdale

4 Isabella Stewart, Servant, U, 15,

Servant, Cromdale

John remained the head of the household in 1881:

1881 Cromdale, 7/35 Nether Port

1 John McDonald, Head, U, 70,

Farmer, Cromdale

2 Janet McDonald, Sister-in-Law, W, 45,

Formerly Farmer’s Wife, Cromdale

3 Alexander Jack, Servant, U, 16,

Farm Serv, Cromdale

However, John does not appear at any of the properties at Port in the 1891 returns, and a new tenant occupies Nether Port:

- 1891 Cromdale, 6/30 Nether Port*
1 James Smith, Head, M, 69,
Farmer, Inverallan
2 Margaret Smith, Wife, M, 69,
Farmer's Wife, Glenlivet
3 Mary Smith, Daughter, U, 21,
General Servant (Domestic), Rothes

It turns out John McDonald died in 1888:

Died, at Upper Port, Cromdale, on 22nd January 1888, John McDonald, Pauper formerly Crofter, aged 85 years, single, son of James McDonald, Crofter (dec) & Mary Grant (dec), witness John Rattray, Upper Port (neighbour).

Records would suggest John McDonald never married – not even Elspet McKay, the mother of his child.

John McDonald's father was John McDonald and I now I have the names of John, Alexander and William's parents – James McDonald and Mary Grant – an area for future research.

Contributed by Doug Stewart

Nairnshire Miscellany

Nairnshire Mirror Marriages 1852

Published fortnightly by Charles MacWatt with office in Church Street, and who resided in Douglas Lane, Nairn. The paper's last issue was on the 11th of October 1854 and was absorbed into the *Nairnshire Telegraph*.

5 Jan 1852 - At the British Embassy, Florence, on the 19th ult., Colonel Sir **Henry Fairfax**, Baronet to **Sarah**, eldest daughter of **William Astall**, Esq. M.P. for Bedfordshire.

5 Jan 1852 - At the Cathedral, Calcutta, on the 24th October, **Robert B. Chapman**, Esq. Civil Service to **Louisa**, second daughter of the Hon. **John Lewis**, Member of the Supreme Council of India.

5 Jan 1852 - At Blairg, Glenmoriston, on the 26th ultimo, by the Rev. Mr McConnochie of Urquhart, Mr **Donald MacGruer**, Invermoriston to **Barbara**, eldest daughter of the late **Alexander MacLean**, Esq. Merchant, Inverness.

19 Jan 1852 - At Preston, on the 8th ultimo, Mr **Thomas Reed** to **Maria Charnley**. The bride and

bridegroom were both deaf and dumb, natives of Preston, and formerly pupils at the Deaf and Dumb School in that town. There were three groomsmen and three bridesmaids, all of whom were deaf and dumb, and there were also present a deaf and dumb couple who had been married ten years.

19 Jan 1852 - At Inverness, by the Rev. D. MacDonald, D.D., **Robert William Kilgour**, Esq. of Tulloch, Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire to **Jane**, eldest daughter of the late Mr **Archibald MacDonald**, of Inverness.

3 Feb 1852 - At Nairn, on the 30th ultimo, by the Rev. Mr Grant of the Established Church, Mr **Daniel Gray**, Calico Printer to **Mary**, second daughter of the late Mr **James Smith**, House Carpenter, Glasgow.

3 Feb 1852 - At Remore, Ardclach, on the 23rd ultimo, by the Rev. Henry McLeod of the Free Church, Mr **Wm McGlashan**, Farmer, Muir of Logie, Edinkillie to **Rose**, second daughter of the late Mr **James Falconer**, Farmer.

17 Feb 1852 - At Inverness, on the 6th instant, by the Rev. Mr Thorburn, Mr **James Squair**, Builder, Nairn to **Margaret**, eldest daughter of Mr **D Robertson**, late Farmer, Whinhill, Cawdor.

17 Feb 1852 - At Little Urchany, on the 6th inst., by the Rev. Mr Macpherson, Free Church, Cawdor, Mr **James Macpherson**, Farmer, Carnoch to **May**, daughter of the late Mr **Clark**, Farmer, Little Urchany.

17 Feb 1852 - At Kirkwall, on the 2d inst., **Kenneth Macpherson**, Esq. to **Margaret**, second daughter of the late **George Firth**, Esq. Comptroller of Customs, Kirkwall.

2 Mar 1852 - At 22 Church Street, Inverness, on the 20th ult., by the Rev. D MacDonald, D.D., **William Ferguson**, Esq. C.C.B. to **Robina**, only daughter of the late **James Innes**, Esq. Forres.

2 Mar 1852 - At Aberdeen, on Thursday, the 19th ult., by the Rev. Dr Mackintosh of East parish, senior Minister of Aberdeen, Mr **J A Wilson**, Bookseller to **Harriett**, daughter of Mr **Jas Brown**, late of Banchory, Ternan.

16 Mar 1852 - At Nairn, on the 12th inst., by the Rev. Alexander Mackenzie of the Free Church, Mr **John Sutherland**, Blacksmith, Geddes to **Ann**, elder daughter of Mr **Daniel Clark**, Blacksmith, Nairn.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell.