



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

Edition 35

February 2020

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

MNFHS Chairman's Report

The Society will attend the 31st SAFHS Annual Conference to 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 in 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 sooner but work and bad weather on planned days means that final recording is still to be undertaken. I am afraid that it will be later this year until finished. Also the book will be the biggest we have produced of over 160 pages.

At our recent AGM Mary Evans stood down as Membership Secretary for which I would like to thank her especially that she will stay on as Minute Secretary for our committee meetings.

The new Membership secretary will be myself so apologies in advance if you receive a stern email about renewal or a late reply!

We have also a new Committee Member, Alice Thornton, who will be looking after our new Facebook page (something I have to admit I am a dinosaur to).

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 July 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**

New Book!

Mortlach Poor Register 1865-1903

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

72 pages, ISBN - 978-1-909887-23-7

£8; Postage & Packing costs on application.

Facebook

The Society is now on Facebook!

Members will have been contacted by Alice Thornton as an invite to see our new addition to the Society. Please visit the page and give it a like.

**Please note that no member's details
will be posted on our Facebook pages
as per our Privacy Statement per the
Data Protection Act.**

Contacts: Chairman: Stuart Farrell

Secretary: Mary Evans

Treasurer & Webmaster: Doug Stewart

Nairnshire Miscellany

Prisoner at Kut : A Nairn Seaman's Experience

Recently I read a book on the WW1 campaign at Kut (In modern day Iraq) and the terrible organisation that practically led to its surrender and captivity of the men involved. Few stories of the rank and file who had to endure being a prisoner survive due to a high death rate in captivity, so the following story in *The Nairnshire Telegraph* of 7 January 1919 makes for particular interesting reading:

‘Nairn Seaman’s Experience as a Prisoner with The Turks. Seaman Donald Main Laird, taken prisoner by the Turks on the fall of Kut, gives the following account of his treatment by the Turks:- The officers were separated from the rank and file. We were marched to a camp at Sham Rae, about eight miles distant, the officers being conveyed by boat. Here we were supplied with a ration of black bread and biscuits, which were so unpalatable that they could not be used by many of us. Our stay here was short, for on the third day we were told that we would have to get ready to march to Bagdad, about a hundred miles away.

I shall never forget the horrors of that terrible march. We were sent forward in batches under charge of Arab guides, who were armed with whips and rifles, which they used mercilessly on the slightest pretext. I was in the first batch that went forward. Before starting we were told that if we fell out we would be left to the mercy of our Arab guides. Small consolation this for a band of starving men who were reduced to such an extent by the ravages of hunger and by the effects of illness that we were scarcely able to walk.

But we were soon to realise the truth of the warning. Not a few of our comrades fell by the way completely overcome. Sometimes a chum would try to help him, only to find himself set upon by our guides. I had seen not a few of my comrades who had fallen out from sheer exhaustion and, unable to proceed any further, left to the fate of the Arabs, who would strip them and rob them of their belongings. I had tried to help one of my mates who had served with me on the river boat. He was unable to walk, and I had to help him along. The sufferings of the siege and the horrors and hardships of the march had told upon him so that he literally went mad.

At length, after days of terrible suffering and agony, as the result of our long march across the desert, we arrived at Bagdad in a state of starvation. As we marched through the streets to the station, large crowds of Arab inhabitants jeered and mocked us. In their rage some of them spat in our faces and made signs with their hands

which boded no good for us if they could get hold of us.

Our stay in the city was short, for we were immediately entrained for Samara, about 75 miles away. There we remained for about a week, and then marched to Mossel. Our condition was really bad. Some of us were in rags and all of us consumed with a raging thirst, and we were all suffering from pangs of hunger. I saw some poor fellows who fell out owing to weakness flogged to death by our cruel Arab guides, who were mounted on horseback driving us along like a flock of sheep.

After two days at Mossel we again started on an eighteen mile march of Rossalind, which was situated at the head of the railway. Here we were served with a ration of raw wheat and black biscuits. The latter had to be soaked in water before they could be used. Here we again entrained. We were put into cattle trucks. About 40 or 50 men were accommodated in each truck. We were packed so closely together that we could scarcely move. Most of us were suffering from dysentery and other diseases. A number of poor fellows lay dead at our feet. Some sick men lay in the bottom of the trucks, so weak they cared little whether they lived or not.

Some of the worst cases were taken out, and at a place called Is-la-Hae they were attended by a German doctor. I was among them. I was now so weak from want of food that I could scarcely walk. Those who were able to walk were sent forward, the sick being left behind. Quite a few of our fellows had died, and they were given a decent burial.

The following afternoon, weak as we were, we were sent forward again. We were being marched so fast that some fellows had to fall out by the way. I was one of them. So weak had I become with the long march that I was quite done up. One Arab guide seeing me fall, rushed towards me in horseback and shouted at me to get to my feet. I tried to rise, but was unable to do so, and I lay on the ground quite helpless. As I lay there he struck me three times with the butt of his rifle and left me there to die like a dog.

How long I remained there I cannot tell, but when I regained consciousness I found myself lying in a pool of blood. The blood was flowing down my face from my wound on the head, and I was lapping my blood like a dog. To this fact I owe my life. On looking round I could see nothing, but heard the noise of voices, which I recognised as those of some of our “pals.” I shouted back at them, and a few of them came to my assistance. They bathed my face and put a blanket round me, and laid me at the side of the road. Next morning when I awoke we resumed the march at a steady pace. We saw two Arabs coming toward us. One of them pulled out a revolver and demanded my

haversack. But just then two Turkish officers came along the road on horseback, and when our assailants saw them coming up they bolted. I reported the affair to the Turkish officers and they ran after them.

We were all more or less exhausted and to halt every half-hour on the way. Our clothes were in rags, we were scarcely recognisable. On our way we passed one of our Generals and his staff. Our miserable and terrible appearance shocked him so much that he wept for us, and swore that we should not have to march another yard. He helped us into the cars he and his staff were travelling in. He took us as far as the railway, and before leaving us requested the German officer at Marmara to send us into hospital. This request was complied with, and we were admitted to Adana Hospital.

Very few of the men who went into Turkish hospitals ever came out again, and that was the case here. Out of thirty-two men who went in only eight came out alive, the remainder having died of all sorts of diseases. On another occasion thirty-six men went in and only a few survived.

After coming out of hospital we were removed to an American Mission Station. Here we were very kindly treated. Had it not been for the kindness of the Americans, I don't think any of us would have been alive to tell the tale, as we were in rags and had scarcely any underclothing. We had only one shirt, and when this was washed we had to remain on the spot in the cold until it was dried and ready to be used again.

The American Embassy supplied us with money, clothing, and boots, and after this our position was slightly better. The Turkish officers sent us to work on the railway at Apheim Kairahissar. Here my health got worse, and I had again to go into hospital. On coming out I again resumed work on the railway.

The huts in which we were living were in a very filthy condition. They were covered with vermin, which were falling in hundreds from the roof. To make matters worse, the Turkish officer in charge of us was a brute, and treated us very cruelly. He was armed with a whip, which he used upon our weak and exhausted bodies on the slightest pretext. I saw two poor fellows flogged, their bodies bearing the scars of the whip.

The Turkish officials left us at Marmara, and for this we were thankful. While working we were constantly being bullied by our guards, who were continually shouting to us in their own language something to the following effect – "hurry up, English dogs."

The horrors of the siege and the consequent suffering during our two and a half years' imprisonment had told heavily upon us. Death had reduced our numbers very heavily. Another man and myself are the only two ratings alive out of a

total of 37. This gives you an idea of how we suffered, but I am glad to that invariably we gave our chaps a decent farewell.

We were stationed at Angora when the very welcome news came that the armistice had been signed. We did not get clear until November 14, on which date we left for Constantinople. At the Ottoman capital we went aboard some British warships, where I received the first square meal I had had for two and a half years. From Constantinople we went to Salonika, where I was again confined to hospital, and from there sailed for Blighty, disembarking at Dover.'

(A second article was published in October 1919 which I will contribute at a later date. SF)

Historically General Townshend, with some 13,000 men surrendered at Kut on 29 April 1916. The captured soldiers were divided, many were pressed into hard labour until the surrender of the Ottoman Empire; more than half of them died. The British retook Kut on 23 February 1917.

Donald Main Laird was born 31 October 1894 at 79 Harbour Street, Nairn son of William Main Laird, Fisherman and Elizabeth Main Barron. Married Jeanie 'Jane' Main Bunker, Fishworker, born 5 January 1895, daughter of John Main Bunker, Fisherman & Janet Main Smith on 10 September 1920 at 36 Park Street, Nairn after banns of the United Free Church. Donald's occupation stated as Fisherman with address of 18 Park Street, Nairn.

Service Records indicate he joined the Royal Naval Reserve on 9 December 1913 with address of 16a King Street, Nairn with occupation as Fisherman. Service no.A5323, he was according to his service papers at Adana on 1 July 1916, by 16 April 1918 he was at Angeria, released from captivity on 9 December 1918 and discharged from service on 26 February 1919. Awarded disability pension of 5/- 6d a week from 27 March 1919 to 23 September 1919. On 15 July 1919 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Headstone in Nairn Cemetery (1918 Section) of 'In loving memory of Jane Bunker died 11th June 1955, aged 60 years. Beloved wife of Donald M. Laird D.S.M. who died 30th December 1981, aged 87 years.'

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Nairnshire Miscellany

THE GEDDES FAMILY WILLS

This is the story of the three wills of the Geddes Family of Bellie, Elgin and of Manchester Parish Jamaica. Andrew Geddes baptised 11th October 1763 and John Geddes baptised 15th August 1774 were the oldest and youngest sons of Andrew Geddes and Katherine Duffus who farmed at Aulthash a small farm on the Earl of Seafield's Estate in the Parish of Bellie, Morayshire.

Andrew married Margaret Duffus on 23rd February 1788 at Bellie (born 16th January 1762 daughter of Alexander Duffus and Helen Burgess) and the couple had nine children, eight of whom were born at Aulthash (Andrew born 1788, Katherine born 1791, Margaret born 1793, William born 1795, James born 1797, Janet born 1800, Isobel born 1802, Helen born 1804) and the ninth child a daughter Ann born in 1806 at Burnside of Glassgreen Elgin Parish. Andrew died 7th November 1850 at Bruceland Elgin Parish and the death notice in the Elgin Courant of 21st November 1850 states "At Bruceland, near Elgin, on the 7th inst, Mr Andrew Geddes farmer, aged 87 years. Mr Geddes, for upwards of half a century, filled the office of Elder, first in the Church of Scotland, and since the disruption, in the Free Church of Elgin. He was a man of guileless simplicity, sterling integrity, and genuine piety, and much esteemed in the circle in which he moved."

Andrew Geddes had both a testament and inventory which can be seen on the www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk website and transcription of both follows

At Elgin the first day of December Eighteen Hundred and fifty one years In presence of Comso Innes Esquire Advocate Commissary of the Commissary of Elgin and Nairn. Compeered Alexander Brown Esq. writer in Elgin and gave in the Deed of Settlement under written during whereof the tenor follows

I Andrew Geddes Farmer at Shankery being resolved to settle my affairs so as to prevent all disputes among my family after my death do therefore hereby give Grant assign and dispose to and in favour of my son James Geddes presently residing in family with me, and who has for many years carried on and managed the operations on my Farm and his heirs and assignees all and sundry lands and hailages, Tacks or minutes of Tack debts heritable and moveable of whatever nature or denomination, or wherever situated presently belonging or which shall belong to me at the time of my death (with the exception always after mentioned) with the whole vouchers

instructions and conveyances of the said debts and the writ and wident of my said heritable estate and particularly without prediuce. To the said generality the whole stocking of cattle horses sheep implements of husbandry corns household furniture and hail other effects pertaining and belonging to me on the said Farm of Shankery, with all the sums of money due to me by Bond, Bill, or otherwise, cash in bank or in my keeping, and all other moveable effects of any description which shall belong to me at the time of my death. But specially excepting from the before general and special conveyance of my means and estate whatever sum or money I may be found entitled to as nearest next of kin of my deceased brother John Geddes, sometime of the Island of Jamaica as to which, I have already executed a deed in favour of the executors therein named for the recovery and division of what they may realize of the estate of my said brother failing to me. But declaring always that these presents are granted by me in favour of the said James Geddes under the burden in the first place of the payment of all my just and lawful debts deathbed and funeral expenses. Secondly under the burden that he shall take charge of and suitably support and maintain my spouse Duffus or Geddes with every necessary requisite during her life it being my earnest wish that during the period she may now at her advanced age, be spared in this world she be kept as comfortable, as possible and I am satisfied my said son will duly attend to this. Thirdly I appoint the said James Geddes to make payment to each of my Daughters Ann and Margaret Geddes of the sum of Thirty Pounds Stirling and to each of my Daughters Catherine, Isobel and Janet of the sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling and this on the expiry of twelve months after my death and which provisions in favour of my spouse and children I declare to be in full, she can claim from my means and estate juce relicta or otherwise or which my said children could claim under this conveyance as legitimate portion natural or banns part of year or in any other way and do hereby nominate and appoint the said James Geddes to be my sole executor under this conveyance of my means and estate and exceptions always as herein before excepted with power to him to do everything competent to the office of executor reserving always my own life rent of the subjects hereby convened, and also full power and likely to myself at any time of my life to alter innovate or revoke these presents in whole or part as I shall think proper. But declaring that the same so far as not revoked or altered by me shall be a valid and effectual deed although lying in my repositories or in the custody of any person to whom I may instruct the same undelivered at time of my death, with the delivery whereof I have disposed and hereby dispose forever and consent

to the Registration hereof in the books of Council and Session, or any other Judges books competent therein for preservation and for that effect constitute.

In Witness whereof these presents written on this and the two proceeding pages of stamped paper by James Grant Clerk to Alexander Brown Writer in Elgin, are subscribed by me at Shankerry aforesaid, the twenty fifth day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty nine before these witnesses, the said Alexander Brown, and James Grant writer (hereof) signed Andrew Geddes Alexander Brown James Grant Witness.

Inventory

At Elgin the first day of December eighteen hundred and fifty one years In presence of Cosmo Innes Esquire Advocate Commissary of the Commissariat of Elgin and Nairn Compeered Alexander Brown Esquire Writer in Elgin and gave in the Inventory under written during whereof the tenor follows viz.

Inventory of the Personal Estate of the deceased Andrew Geddes sometime Farmer at Shankerry, who died on the seventh day of November Eighteen hundred and fifty

Cash found in the deceased's repositories
£ 60.3.0

Value of the deceased's household furniture,
corns

Cattle, horses, implements of husbandry, and
wearing

Apparel per inventory and appraisement made by
James Adam licensed appraiser in Elgin on the
Seventeenth day of November Eighteen Hundred
And fifty

370.14 .6

Amount of the inventory £430. 17. 6

Elgin 14th November 1851.

This is the inventory referred to in my deposition of this date signed James Geddes, Pat. Cameron At Elgin the fourteenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty one years.

As the reader will note it makes reference to his deceased brother John who had been living in Jamaica. John died in 1832 at Elgin Plantation, Manchester, Jamaica. John had owned the plantation at least since 1817 when Jamaica Almanac records he had 12 slaves, in 1820 14, in 1823 26, 11 of whom had been purchased from "Mount Faraway" plantation. At John's death in 1832 there were still 26 slaves on the plantation 7 females and 19 males. The Plantation was 100 acres in Size. With the abolition of slavery his executors claimed compensation from the British Government on 11th January 1836 and £662 3s 4d was awarded (which in 2017 equated to approx. 40,000 pounds)

John's will was proved in the Island of Jamaica and also having estate out-with Jamaica a copy can be found on Ancestry.com in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858 collection.

Jamaica Is. Manchester

In the name of God amen

I John Geddes of Elgin Plantation in the parish and Island aforesaid being as it pleased Almighty God in sound mind and memory to make this last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say after all my just debts are pad and satisfied and the exposure of this instrument of writing is my will and excise that my executors afterwards named to pay the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds money to Elisabeth H----tta a free Sambo woman my present housekeeper to be paid in two instalments of sixty pounds each one immediately after my decease and the other a year after and in the event of her death prior to the payment of one or both instalments that total sum shall revert to my reputed children by her viz. William, Andrew and May Geddes to be equally divided among them. All the Rest and Residue of my possessions in this island I will and bequeath unto my reputed children by the stated aforementioned Sambo woman named William, Andrew & Mary Geddes --- zeal and personal ----- of --- property to be laid out in giving them abjuration until the youngest is eighteen years of age the property to be sold and equally divided among the children then alive with exception the following sill living legatees viz. To my niece Margaret Geddes one hundred and ---- Stirling to my ----- sixty pounds Stirling, to my nephew James Geddes and to my niece Janet Geddes fifty pounds and likewise to Miss Ann Stuart fifty pounds ---- living and to care of my executors twenty pounds to purchase mourning . It is likewise with my request my executors do not permit my coffin to be covered with cloth but painted black with Lamp black beat up with the yolks of Eggs. Finally I hereby appoint as my executors James Stevenson planter and John Simpson Merchant both of this parish of Manchester and Edmund Francis Green Merchant ----- and this I declare and so order to be my last will and testament. I witness wetherof I do my hand and affix my seal this thirtieth day of January eighteen hundred and thirty two signed John Geddes. signed sealed published & ----- in our presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names and thereto signed Thomas Bygnall – Ellen Hutchieson – Elizabeth her mark Hunt – Witnesses

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

In the Goods of John Geddes deceased Appeared Personally Andrew Geddes of ----- near Elgin in North Britain and ----- oath that he is the

natural and lawful brother and only next of kin of John Geddes late of Elgin Plantation in the Island of Jamaica & that the said deceased ----- and only ---- his last will and testament in writing bearing date the thirtieth day of January and one thousand eight hundred and thirty two and thereof appointed James Stevenson John Simpson and Edmund Francis Green Executors who dully proved the – in the proper Court or p----- in the said Island of Jamaica.

On the 24th April 1852 admitted firth a Copy of the Will annexed of the Goods Chattels and Credits of John Geddes late of Elgin Plantation in the Island of Jamaica Bachelor deceased left unadministered by Andrew Geddes deceased whilst being the natural and lawful Brother and only next of kin and the sole person entitled to the personal estate and effects of the said deceased in disposal by the said Will – save and except such part of the said Goods Chattels and Credits as were in the Island of Jamaica at the time of the death of the said deceased and limited until the original Will or an authentic thereof should be brought into and left in the Registry of this Court was granted to Edmund Logan and Alexander Brown the Executors of the Will of the said Andrew Geddes deceased in respect to that part of the moveable Estate of the said deceased which fell to him the said Andrew Geddes deceased from the estate of the said deceased limited to that part of the moveable means and Estate of the said Deceased in this country which fell to his said Brother Andrew Geddes deceased and save except such part of the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said Deceased as were in the Island of Jamaica at the time of his death and limited until the original Will or an authentic copy thereof shall be brought into and left in the Registry of this court but no further or otherwise having been first sworn duly to administer James Stevenson and Edmund Francis Green the Executor named in the said will detailed proved the same in the Court of Probate in the Island of Jamaica but died without having proved the same in this court – No Residual Legatee--

The Slave Registers of Former British Colonial Dependencies 1813-1834 collection is also on Ancestry. The return of slaves in the Parish of Manchester in possession of James Stevenson as the executor to the estate of John Geddes taken on 28th June 1832 shows there were 19 male slaves and eight females, there had been a change in the number of females from the previous register a creole Eliza had been born and Celia a creole aged 8 had died as had Beckey a 40 year old African. The slave registers gave details of the names and ages of those who either sold to and from the plantation and those who died. The 1817 register

which shows 12 slaves on the plantation all of whom bar James a 15 year old creole were described as African, two of the slaves were noted as being runaways James aged 25 and Billy aged 50. The reader will note that John's will mentions three children he had by his housekeeper the children's births can be found in the Jamaica baptismal registers on www.familysearch.org William born 13th September 1812, Mary born 21st June 1814 and Andrew born 26th June 1817. Because they were illegitimate John's brother Andrew disputed the children's right to inherit his estate. However it can be seen that John remembered some of his nieces and one nephew in his will by leaving them a financial legacy.

James Andrew's son who was born 10th September 1797 seems to have stayed at home and took over the farm of Bruceland from his father and died there on 2nd March 1875 (his mother Margaret had died on 19th October 1851 at Bruceland) James never married and like his father he too died testate

At Elgin the seventeenth day of April One Thousand eight hundred and seventy five In presence of Benjamin Robert Bell Esquire Advocate ----- of the Commissariat of the shires of Elgin and Nairn Compeered William Macdonald Esquire Solicitor Elgin and gave in the settlement underwritten discerning that the same might be recorded in the Comm----- Record the said C----- in terms of law ----- Where --- the tenor follows viz

I James Geddes residing at New Elgin having resolved to settle my affairs so as to prevent all disputes after my death do hereby nominate constitute and appoint James Shand Draper in Elgin to be my sole Executor and Universal Legatee having and bequeathing to him the whole moveable Estate that may pertain and be resting owing to me at that time of my death with the whole Vouchers and Instruction thereof and all that has followed or may be competent to follow thereon but always with and under the Burden of the Legacy and life rent here in after appointed to be paid and given with full power to the said James Shand ----- with the whole of my moveable Estate to give up Inventories thereof to confirm the same and generally everything in the B----- to do compleat to an ----- and I ordain my said Executor to pay to my --- Sister Janet Geddes or Rennie Wife of John Rennie House Carpenter Aberlour the sum of One Hundred pounds Stirling and that as soon after my death as consistent. Declaring that the said Legacy shall be paid to the said Janet Geddes or Rennie or invested for her own behoof alone as alimentary exclusive of the Jus ---- and right of administration of her husband and shall not be subject to his Debts nor deeds nor

attachable to his creditors and the Receipt and discharge of said Janet Geddes or Rennie alone shall be sufficient acquittance and relief to my Said Executor and after payment of my said debts deathbed and funeral Expenses the above, Legacy and any other Legacies which I may hereafter bequeath. I appoint the said James Shand Executor foresaid to pay to my sister Isabella Geddes residing with me at New Elgin or permit and suffer or legally authorize and empower her to uplift and receive the rents, Interest dividends and annual profits of the whole reissue of my remains and Estate during all the days of her life and immediately after the decease of the said Isabella Geddes to pay assign and convey the same residue to himself the said James Shand and I consent to the registration hereof and of any Codicil or Codicils which may hereafter annex or execute relative for presentation, reserving power to alter innovate or revoke these presents in whole or part as I shall think proper. In witness whereof these presents written on this and preceding page by William Macdonald Solicitor in Elgin are subscribed by me at Elgin the ninth day of September in the year One Thousand eight hundred and seventy three before theses Witnesses the said William Macdonald and Robert Grant his clerk

Inventory

Cash in House at the time of death £ 17
Household Furniture and other effects in the dwelling house at New Elgin occupied by the deceased conform to appraisalment by Finlay Munro Licensed Appraiser New Elgin £ 17.7. 8
Principal Sum due to the deceased by the Caledonian Banking Company at their agency in Elgin viz

On Deposit £ 143
Interest thereon to date of death £ 2.19.10
Interest to date of oath of Inventory £ 8.0.3
On Deposit Receipt No 36/447 dated 27th November 1874 for £ 157
Interest thereon to date of death £ 1.6.11
Interest to date of oath of Inventory £ 8.8.0
Principal sum due to the deceased by the Union Bank of Scotland
At their Elgin agency per deposit Receipt No 25/225 dated 6th Nov 1874 for £ 22
Interest thereon to date of death £ 4.3.0
Interest to date of oath of Inventory £ 1.0.2
Principal Sum due to the deceased by the Reverend Thomas Steven Minister of Kinloss conform to Promisory note by him dated 1st August 1863 payable 12 months after date £ 300
Interest thereon to date of death £ 1.4.8
Interest to date of oath of inventory £ 1.15.4
Principal Sum due to the deceased by James

Shand Draper Elgin Being money lent to him but for which there exists no document of Debt £ 160
Interest thereon from 22nd November 1874 to date of death £ 2.4.3
Interest to date of oath of inventory £ 18.0.10
Principal Sum due to the deceased by John Sim Mossend, Elgin John Rhind Labourer New Elgin and Walter Urquhart Grocer New Elgin Conform to their promisory note dated 29th December 1863 payable On one year after date for £ 25
Interest thereon to date of death £ 0.16.10
Interest to date of oath of Inventory £ 847.19.3/8

The inventory was completed at Elgin on 17th April 1875, the James Shand mentioned both in the testament and inventory was James's nephew being the son of William Shand and Katherine Geddes. William Shand was a builder in Elgin and married Katherine Geddes at Elgin Cathedral on 12th June 1814 and the couple had 9 children. James Shand was born 3rd September 1820 and died unmarried on 8th May 1899 at 78 High Street Elgin unfortunately intestate. The Janet Geddes or Rennie mentioned in James testament was his sister who was married to John Rennie or Rannie formerly a private in the Rifle Brigade and then a house carpenter. The couple had 8 children and lived at Charlestown of Aberlour Banffshire and are the authors 3*Great Grandparents.

Sources

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Parish Register Bellie 126

Parish Register Elgin 135

Death Certificates

James Geddes 1875 Elgin 135-42

James Shand 1899 Elgin 135-75

Inventory

Andrew Geddes SC26/39/6 & James Geddes

SC26/39/12 Elgin Sheriff Court Inventories

Testament

Andrew Geddes SC26/38/7 & James Geddes

SC26/38/12 Elgin Sheriff Court Wills

www.familysearch.org.uk

Church of England Transcripts 1664-1880

Manchester Jamaica 1816-1836

www.ancestry.com

Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills,

1384-1858

Slave Registers of Former British Colonial

Dependencies 1813-1834

www.findmypast.com

Elgin Courant and Morayshire Advertiser Col.6

page 3 15th November 1850

www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/estates/

Contributed by Ken Nisbet

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*.

13 Apr 1852 - At 36 Montrose Street, Glasgow, on the 6th inst., Mr John Allardice, Upholsterer, Edinburgh to Agnes, daughter of Mr Robert Sclanders, Glasgow.

27 Apr 1852 - At Maida Cottage, Elgin on the 15th inst., Alexander Cooper, Esq. Solicitor, Elgin to Ann Phoebe, eldest daughter of William Jenkins, Esq. and grand-daughter of the late Major Robertson of Strowan.

27 Apr 1852 - At Trinity Church, Edinburgh, on the 15th inst., Aeneas MacBean, Esq. jun., W.S. to Marianne, second daughter of the late Harry Gordon, Esq. of Liverpool.

12 May 1852 - At Maryfield, Near Melbourne, Port Philip, on the 15th October, Patrick McArthur, Esq. to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of John Westgarth, Esq. Edinburgh.

25 May 1852 - At Kincardine, Ross-shire, on the 30th ult., by the Rev. Hector Allan, F.C. Minister, Mr John Polson, Mason, Fearn to Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr Fraser, Grieve, Invercaron. The bride is said to be only thirteen years and five months old.

25 May 1852 - At Newton of Darnaway, on the 12th inst., by the Rev. James Forsyth, Lochee, George Bell, Esq. Barns of Claverhouse, Forfarshire to Margaret, third daughter of William Forsyth, Esq. Farmer.

22 Jun 1852 - At Mains of Clunas, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. Lewis Macpherson of Cawdor, Mr James Petrie, Agent, Nairn to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr Wm Fraser, Farmer.

22 Jun 1852 - At Campbelltown of Ardersier, on the 18th instant, Mr William Ross, Manager at Mains of Moy, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr John Lauder, Shoemaker, Campbelltown.

22 Jun 1852 - At Logie, Ardclach, on the 18th instant, by the Rev. Colin Mackenzie, Mr Robert Campbell, Plasterer, Forres to Margaret, third daughter of Mr John Murray, Ferness.

22 Jun 1852 - At Achmore, Badenoch, on the 10th instant, by the Rev. G Shepherd, Kingussie, Mr Angus Macpherson, Farmer, Dulsie Bridge to Margaret, second daughter of Mr Jason Macgregor, Tacksman, Achmore.

6 Jul 1852 - At Auldearn, on the 2nd instant, Mr Donald MacLennan, House Carpenter, Redcastle to Jane, eldest daughter of Mr John Mackintosh, Builder, Auldearn.

6 Jul 1852 - At Forres, on the 2nd instant, by the Rev. Mr Bathgate, Mr James Grant, Ostler, Nairn to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr Donald Ross, Farmer, Coathall.

6 Jul 1852 - At Neilston, near Cromarty, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. John Kennedy, Dingwall, the Rev. Donald Kennedy, Free Church, Killearnan to Caroline Isabella, eldest daughter of George MacDonald, Esq. M.D.

20 Jul 1852 - At Nairn, on the 8th instant, by, and in the house of the Rev. Mr Howie, the Rev. Andrew Noble, formerly of Forres, and now of the Independent Church, Laurencekirk to Miss A Gordon, lately of Forres.

20 Jul 1852 - At the residence of the bride's father, on the 8th instant, by the Rev. Mr Fraser, of the Free Church, Grantown, Mr John Geddes, Farmer, Bracdale of Abernethy to Ann, daughter of Mr John Stewart Black, of Laggan, Clachaig.

20 Jul 1852 - At Inverness, on the 15th instant, by the Rev. Joseph Thorburn, of the Free Church, James Gordon, Esq. Surgeon Dentist, Bristol to Catherine, eldest daughter of William Keith, Esq.

3 Aug 1852 - At Nairn on the 23rd ultimo, Mr James Ingram, Tailor, Forres to Harriet, third daughter of Mr David Macintyre, Plasterer, Nairn.

3 Aug 1852 - At Kindance House, Ross-shire, on the 27th ult., by the Rev. Duncan Mackenzie, Episcopal clergyman, James Falconar Gillanders, Esq. of Highfield to Margaret Amy, second and youngest daughter of Major Robertson of Kindance.

3 Aug 1852 - At St. George's, Hanover Square, London on the 21st ultimo, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Moray and Ross, James Jack, Esq. Woolton Hill, Liverpool to Frederica Mary, widow of the late A. M. Hay, Esq. of Westerton, Morayshire and daughter of John Stephen, Esq. of Melbourne, Port-Philip.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell.