



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

# NEWSLETTER

Edition 45

July 2023

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

## **MNFHS Chairman's Report**

I do hope that this finds you a member of the Moray & Nairn FHS well.

Due to family matters and myself working full-time our new publications for the Society - the Nairnshire Militia and another for Burghead - are still underway but hopefully both should be available in the coming months.

To all take care,

Stuart Farrell Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2023. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: [newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

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## **SUMMER STOCK CLEARANCE!!**

### **FREE BOOKS!!**

Yes, free books. All the Moray & Nairn FHS titles are available to members for free for a limited period. (Offer ends 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023)

Pay only for Postage & Packing (regardless of destination).

Please note the vast majority of our titles and the information contained therein are not available on family history websites.

Note for some titles we have only limited numbers, so first come first served.

So order now!! See our web page for all available titles.

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## The 1907 Lhanbryde Murder Part 2

By Stuart Farrell

Medical Evidence. Dr Alexander, Elgin, said on Sunday, September 29, he, along with Dr Stephen and the Procurator-Fiscal of Elginshire, went to Lhanbryde and examined the dead man lying in a bed in a cottage. He found the deceased, John Barclay Smith, lying on a rough bed, with extensive injuries on the left side of his face and head, his skull having been crushed in. He concluded that the injuries were caused by the use of a hammer which he saw lying with blood upon it. Witness then read the report which Dr Stephen and he had drawn up. The report gave a detailed description of Smith's injuries. The left side of the face was battered in, and covered with blood, and the tongue was much swollen. The injured area was depressed about one inch below the normal surface. As regards the internal injuries, the report stated that when the skull cap was removed the brain was found in such a pulpy condition that it was impossible to recognise the different parts. The internal organs were all healthy, but showed signs of putrefaction. The report concluded: - "We further certify that from these inspections we are of opinion that John Barclay Smith died from the above injuries to the head, resulting from external violence." He formed the impression that deceased was murdered in his sleep. Decomposition was well advanced in this case. In addition to the micro-organisms, do you occasionally find, when there has been a wound on part of the surface of the body open to the atmosphere, that the dead body is attacked by maggots, or the larvae of the blue-bottle fly? – Yes. Did you find in this case that the body had been attacked by those maggots? – Yes, on the back of the head. He fixed the date of the death at four days prior to Sunday, for the reason that maggots are a stage in the existence of the ordinary fly, and that this stage occupies about eight or ten days. These maggots as far as we could determine by their appearance, had at least passed their half stage of development. That is to say, they had probably been in existence for four or more days.

Cross-examined with regard to the presence of bloodstains on Hume's clothing, witness was asked – If there had been bloodstains, large or small, not dissolved, would not your investigations have disclosed them – We may have failed to detect them. On the ground of being small? – Yes. What is the latest date you think, from your own observation, apart from what you have been asked to assume, would explain the appearance of the body and surroundings? – I think every date after Monday would make it much more improbable. I think it highly improbable that death took place after Tuesday. It is impossible that death could have taken place on Wednesday? – It is possible, but highly improbable. Dr Stephen, Elgin, concurred in the statement contained in the report spoken to by Dr Alexander, and generally corroborated. According to probability from the appearances he saw, Monday might have been the date of death. It was possible that death might have taken place on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup>, and it was possible that death might have taken place on an earlier date.'

Speeches by Counsel. The Advocate Depute addressed the jury. The prisoner had been defended with skill and courage, and in the course of a criminal experience, now not inconsiderable, he (counsel) had never seen a trial presided over with greater care, greater fairness, and greater skill, and greater dignity than the one with which they were now concerned. They were dealing with a crime of peculiar atrocity. They had heard from the

evidence of the doctors that this man was struck down by at least two violent blows with the deadly weapon produced, while he was lying on his bed in slumber, and this distressing feature of aggravation was associated with the crime, that it was committed by one who was being benefitted by him. If they had followed the evidence, it had clearly proved that this man Hume, penniless, homeless, lacking food, and lacking employment, was taken in hand by the dead man, was fed, and provided with an opportunity of earning an honest livelihood, and his requital was to send him to a speedy and cruel death. Another feature of the case that marked it as a serious and painful one was that there was no middle course open to them. This was not a case in which they could for a moment consider the possibility of returning a verdict of culpable homicide. Accordingly their duty was either to acquit prisoner or convict him of the crime libelled. He was positively sure it would not require any eloquent urging on behalf of prisoner by his counsel to induce them to give this unhappy man the benefit of every doubt. But if they had a duty to prisoner, they had not less other duties to discharge. They had a duty to the dead man, who was so cruelly done to death, and a duty to the community and the public, and society, whose representatives they were at that assize, and he looked to them to see to it that a crime of this nature should not go unpunished. They had a duty to discharge, and if they did not discharge it faithfully they would be guilty of a grave dereliction of public duty, and furthermore, they would loose on society a ruffian who might have the chance of seeking another victim. The crime was obviously murder, and the question they had to consider was, who was the murderer? He thought he could unfold the evidence which the Crown had adduced – evidence which he was going to maintain was terribly convincing and completely conclusive.

What Probably Took Place. What he asked them to hold was that the situation was that the two men returned in the evening, supper was in the course of being prepared, and it was partially cooked when the deed was done. He said it was supper and not breakfast that was being prepared, because the dish was a supper one. There was no proof that tea was being prepared, which would have been the case had the meal been for breakfast. In the third place, he thought they would be satisfied that Smith was partially dressed, and what probably took place was that Smith, who had been drinking, practically undressed himself and prepared for bed, while the supper was being cooked fell asleep, and was done to death before anything further occurred. He thought they might hold it proved reasonably and satisfactorily that it occurred on the evening of Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup>, after the arrival of the 7.30 pm train from Elgin and before the hour of ten, when Margaret McGillivray passed the house it was in darkness. Then they had the evidence of James Stewart, careful and truthful, who said that the men, who were breaking stones near his bing, were working on the Tuesday, but did not turn up on the Wednesday. The explanation was that one of the men had been done to death, and the murderer had left for Edinburgh. The Advocate-Depute then proceeded to speak of the most important points of the evidence. If Smith was really about on Wednesday, it was a most extraordinary thing that out of 30 or 40 Crown witnesses brought from the locality, not one of them saw after 7.30 on the Tuesday night. The evidence for the defence was really of a most extraordinary character, for it seemed from their story that Smith did nothing on the Wednesday but walk between Lhanbryde and Elgin. If Mr Ross was right in saying that he saw Smith on the road, then Margaret McGillivray must be wrong when she said that she saw Smith lying on the bed in the

cottage. The evidence for the defence was evidence to which they could not give weight owing to the undecisiveness of the witnesses, when they contrasted then with those for the Crown. The Advocate-Depute then dealt with Smith's movements about the time of the murder. He thought the jury had no alternative but to hold that the story told by the accused was a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. Smith had taken the man by the hand, and was willing to help him, and the accused stayed with Smith from Saturday to Tuesday. What took place on the evening no one could with certainty tell. Witnesses might forget, they might exaggerate, or they might unconsciously fail to reveal all they saw, circumstances would not lie; facts were things they could not get over. They had a complete and conclusive chain of evidence pointing to the prisoner as having been guilty of this dreadful deed. He asked the jury to give that existence its logical effect, and return the verdict demanded of them by the law – that the prisoner was guilty of this crime of murder.

The Counsel for the Defence. Mr Moncrieff reviewed the evidence for the defence at some length. It was suggested that the murder was committed for the purpose of gain, but he submitted except that what had been spoken to that no great gain resulted from the murder. No attempt seemed to have been made to explore the various places where money might have been stored in Smith's house, and there was no indication that the pockets had been touched. Whether or not the crime was committed for the purposes of gain, or whether or not any gain resulted from the crime, how did that lead them to conclude that the man that committed the crime and acquired the gain was Joseph Hume any more than the innumerable unknown persons who might well at this period have had access to the house. Mr Moncrieff pointed out that they had the evidence of four witnesses that on Wednesday Smith was seen alive. The circumstances, he held, disproved that the man who committed the crime could have been the prisoner. Dealing with the clothing question, counsel said prisoner when apprehended was wearing the clothing he got at Fort George, but he quite frankly told the police that the trousers he was wearing were not the same. If prisoner wanted to conceal his identity, was it conceivable he would not have concealed the clothing? This was not a case said counsel, in which there could be found extenuating circumstances. His position was that the prisoner was not proved to have been guilty of the murder, but if they thought otherwise their duty was clear.

Summing Up. Lord Mackenzie, in reviewing the evidence, said he thought Margaret McGillivray was a very important witness in the case, and from what the jury heard from, and saw of her in the box they would know what weight to attach to her evidence. They knew very little about deceased's previous life. As to the appearance of Smith's house, there was nothing to suggest a struggle, and both doctors were of opinion that death could not have been caused by one blow, but by two blows of the big hammer which had been produced in Court. There could be no reasonable doubt that death followed as the result of one or more blows inflicted by the hammer. His lordship called attention to the statement made by the prisoner after his apprehension that he did not know John Barclay Smith. It was admitted by the Advocate-Depute, that if the evidence for the defence was correct Smith was in life at the time spoken to by the first witnesses, and that prisoner could not have been the man who killed him. The case was the Crown was that the defence witnesses were mistaken, and it was for the jury to form an opinion after deliberation whether they considered that the evidence for the Crown so closed in round prisoner as not

to make it reasonable possible for the defence witnesses to be correct in making the statements they did.

The Verdict. Sentence of Death Passed. The Judge closed his summing up at ten minutes past six o'clock, and the jury retired. Waiting for the verdict was a very anxious and trying time. The Judge left the bench and the counsel left the court for a time. All the officials engaged in the case discussed the situation, and the probabilities of the verdict. The prisoner looked calm and betrayed little feeling. He often cast his eyes towards the jury seat waiting for the sound of the bell that would tell of their arrival and settle life or death for him. The strain was severe on everybody. The macer came in adroitly with the black cap, and placed it near the seat of the Judge on the bench. It was concealed, but it was there, and ready if the jury so decreed it. It was a period of extreme tension. The audience in the gallery rose in their seats and gazed at the prisoner, and the people in the court did likewise. Many women were in court – some in fashionable attire. They were in their places at ten o'clock in the morning, and remained till the court rose. The jury were away for exactly an hour. They had retired at ten minutes past six o'clock, and did not return till ten minutes past seven. They took their seats very quietly, and their solemn look betrayed their verdict.

The Clerk of Court – Gentlemen, have you agreed on your verdict? Mr D. W. Abernethy, foreman of the jury – The unanimous verdict of the jury is that the prisoner is guilty as libelled. A hush fell upon the court. Amidst a painful silence the Clerk recorded the verdict, and reading it, asked the jury if that was the verdict they returned? The foreman assented. There were some official acts to be performed. The Clerk made an entry in an official volume, which was handed to the Judge.

Lord Mackenzie, addressing the condemned man, said – Joseph Hume, the jury have found you guilty of the crime of murder on evidence which leaves little room for doubt. One sentence alone can follow upon that verdict, and the kindest thing I can say to you is this, use the time that remains in repentance for the past and in preparation for the future.

Lord Mackenzie then assumed the black cap, and pronounced sentence as follows: The sentence upon you is – In respect of the foregoing verdict Lord Mackenzie decerns and adjudges the said Joseph Hume, panel, to be carried from the bar to the prison of Aberdeen, thence to be forthwith transmitted to the prison of Inverness, therein to be detained to the fifth day of March next, and upon that day between the hours of eight and ten o'clock forenoon, within the walls of the said prison of Inverness, by the hands of the common executioner, to be hanged by the neck upon a gibbet until he be dead, and his body thereafter to be buried within the walls of the said prison of Inverness, and ordains his whole movable goods and gear to be escheat and inbrought to His Majesty's use which is pronounced for doom, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner staggered when he heard the sentence. The trap door was opened. As he descended the stair he looked straight at the judge, and was evidently on the point of making an observation. Then he moved his gaze to the left, kissed his hand to somebody in the audience, and disappeared below.

Lord Mackenzie bowed to the magistrates and left the bench. The court rose at 7.30. A great crowd gathered on the street. Hume was driven to Craiginches, where he will be watched by warders night and day till his removal to Inverness.'

A Petition of reprieve was submitted to the Home Secretary. It was signed by 3689 people. A considerable number of young people resident in Inverness were among the signatories. A strong protest has been made regarding the methods employed by certain parties in soliciting the signatures of children. Questions were even asked in parliament regarding the submission of the petition, that several witnesses believed they saw Hume on the Wednesday, that the verdict was said to be unanimous, the jury were absent from court for an hour, and whether it was true that there were some of them who held out for a recommendation of mercy, and gave way only on the assurance from the foreman that there was no likelihood of the death sentence being carried out, and whether one of the jurymen had signed the petition for the reprieve and that whether the evidence was circumstantial. The Secretary for Scotland only replied that the case was being considered but to no avail.

Joseph Hume was executed at Inverness prison on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1908, the circumstances being reported in *The Elgin Courant and Courier* of 6<sup>th</sup> March 1908 as follows: 'The Lhanbryde Murder. Execution of Joseph Hume. No Confession. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning Joseph Hume was hanged for the murder of John Barclay Smith, contractor, committed at the village of Lhanbryde on September 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> last. There was little or no excitement, and only about 200 people assembled in the vicinity of the prison. All those who were to be present at the execution arrived shortly after 7 o'clock. The execution was carried out in private. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning the party in the prison proceeded to the condemned cell. The official report is to the effect that there were present the two Junior Bailies, the Town Clerk-Depute, the governor of the prison, the chaplain (Rev. Gavin Lang), surgeon (Dr Murray), the Sheriff Clerk, the Chief Constable, and the Burgh Surveyor.

On entering the cell, Mr Lang asked the prisoner if he had any confession to make, and said – "I adjure thee in the presence of these witnesses if you have any confession to make, to make it." The prisoner answered – "No, sir," and gripped his lips firmly.

The procession to the scaffold was then started, the executioner following behind the prisoner, who was accompanied by two warders, and on the way Rev. Mr Lang commenced a religious service. Hume walked up the steps to the scaffold, and appeared almost immediately to faint. There was no time to strap him, the lever was pulled, and Hume was executed.

Hume had slept up to 4 o'clock in the morning, and he took a good breakfast. He was perfectly calm, and the last words he uttered were – "Goodbye, Father," and then to the executioner, "Don't blindfold me." He was immediately overcome, and was in a fainting condition. There was no time to strap his legs, and Pierpont, realising the situation, drew the lever, and the collapsed prisoner died instantaneously.'

Joseph Hume's death certificate, states his occupation as Labourer, with his father, Joseph Hume, listed as Mason Journeyman. Cause of death given as 'dislocation of cervical vertebrae by legal execution'. Informant was the Governor of the Prison. Corrected entry states cause of death as 'execution'.

Joseph Hume was born circa 1882/3 but I have been unable to find his birth, Census of 1891 states he was born in England. His younger brother Abraham was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1886 at Duke Street, Coldstream (Father Joseph Hume Stonemason (journeyman) and wife Mary Hume nee Wilson who had married 9 Dec 1878 at Kelso). Whilst his older brother Robert John was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1880 at Linburn Street, Galashiels (Father Joseph Hume Stonemason (journeyman) and wife Mary Hume nee Wilson). Therefore it looks like the family moved around before settling later in Midlothian.

The 1881 Census found his mother and older brother at 53 West Port, Edinburgh of Mary Hume (head) 22 and Robert Hume, 1. No indication of where his father was. By the 1891 Census they were living in Haugh Street, Edinburgh of Joseph Hume, 32, Free Stone Cutter, Mary Hume, 32, Wife, Robert J Hume, 11, Scholar, Joseph Hume, 9, Scholar, Abraham Hume, 4, Mary Hume, 1, Janet Stewart, Sister, 40 and Joseph Stewart, Nephew, 5. By the 1901 Census his family living at 43 Well Court, Edinburgh of Joseph Hume, 42, Mason, Mary Hume, 22, Wife, Abraham Hume, 14, Message Boy, Mary Hume, 11, Scholar, William Hume, 9, Scholar, Margaret J Hume, 7, Scholar and Jane O Hume, 4.

Joseph Hume possibly as 'Joseph Rutherford' enlisted as Pte. 7450 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers at Alnwick on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1906, stated he was born at Newcastle in the Parish of St. Nicholas, Northumberland, gave his age as 22 years 11 months. Occupation stated as Labourer with address of 208 Pilgrim Street, M'Coy's Lodging House. Described as 5 feet 5 inches tall with fresh complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. Note on Service Sheet as had enlisted Highland Light Infantry 31<sup>st</sup> July 1906. (Ref. WO396/91/349) No mention of Hume or Rutherford in the Highland Light Infantry Chronicle for 1906 or 1907 under new recruits. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion who were stationed at Fort George in 1907. An inquiry to the Highland Light Infantry Museum at Glasgow re Hume yielded no reply.

After his death, his family by the 1911 Census was at Yewlands Cottages, Midlothian. Mary Hume 52, Cleaner (School) Head, William 19, Miner's Dawl, Collieries, Mary 21, Shop Girl (Unemployed), Maggie 17, General Domestic Servant, Janet 14 and Lizzie 1, granddaughter. No indication of where his father was, no death listed in Scotland's People for period 1908-1911. His brother Robert John Hume was killed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916, the first day of the Somme, whilst serving as Private 19631 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He had enlisted 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1914 at West Hartlepool. Mother Mrs M Hume living at Yewland Cottage, Liberton, Midlothian in 1920, when his medals were sent to her. His brother William Hume enlisted as Gunner 84370 in the Royal Field Artillery on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1914 but was discharged as permanently unfit 7<sup>th</sup> May 1915, gave his mother as next-of-kin. There is an Ann Hume, 6 Russell Row, Bathgate on Witness List for the trial but no mention in newspapers, who was this?

Overall Hume seems to have killed John Smith for reasons unknown except the fact that he robbed him of his cash and watch. Although Witnesses for the defence thought they saw Hume on the Wednesday morning after Smith's death most were unsure if they were correct. Although there was a petition against Hume being executed, it was unsuccessful (as were a few other petitions against capital punishment at the time) and he was executed at Inverness Prison and lies in an unmarked grave within the current prison.

**Notes of Cases of Paupers visted at their own houses, in the Parish of Auldearn, Presbytery of Nairn, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1843.**

1. **John Munro**, aged eighty-two. Received 1s.a week. His rent was 20s. a year. He seemed feeble, was able to go about the doors. He had a graf-daughter, thirteen years old, who lived with him, and took care of him. She was out at harvestwork, and might earn 4d or 5d a day. She also worked in the fields at other periods of the year. He had three sons in service; but they were all married, and had families, and could give him no assistance. He said that three or dour families were very kind to him, and helped him occassionally. His house consisted of two garret rooms, and was well furnished.

2. **Alexander McKenzie**, aged thirty-seven. Fatuous. He lived with his parents, who received for him £6 a year from the parish of Lochbroom, to which he belonged. His father had been a crofter on the estate of Mr Davidson of Tulloch. He was sixty-four years of age, and the mother was upwards of that. They had six other children – all of whom were in service. Their rent was 37s. a year. The house consisted of a room and two bed-closets. The father was out, engaged in harvest work, and the mother could earn something by spinning and knitting. There was plenty of good furniture; but the family was said not to be very respectable.

3. **Ann MacIntosh**, aged forty-six. Unmarried. She was lame, and in bad health. She received 1s. a week, and paid 21s. a year for rent. She loved by herself, and taught a school of young children. She had from twelve to fourteen. The school fees were 1s. a quarter; but were very irregularly paid. She had been ill for nearly three years, and able to do nothing, and was still very weak at times. She could seldom go out even as far as the church, which was at a very short distance from her house. The children brought her water, and also carried in woods and peat for her. She could do a little sewing; but her time was much taken up with teaching the children. She had a pig and some poultry. Her house was clean, and the furniture good.

4. **Alexander Munro**, aged seventy. His wife was about two years younger. They received 1s. 2d a week between them. His rent was 20s; and the house was pretty good. There was no want of furniture. He had a pig, and some potatoes planted. He was lame in both legs. His lameness was brought on by cold. He was quite well on other respects. He had a daughter married in the village, and her husband cast peats for him. His wife was in the habit of going about to the different houses in the neighbourhood. He said, "The farmers, now that they are obliged to pay, are not so willing to give."

5. **Christian Young**, aged fifty-eight. Unmarried. She had been ill, and confined for four months. She lived alone, and received 4d a week. Margaret MacIntosh (see next case), who lived next door, took care of her; and the neighbours sent her things. Her house was very poor, and the furniture scanty. There were three chests, one chair, an old dresser, with very little china. Her rent was 20s. a year; but no rent had been yet paid. There was no fire in the house; and she said she went into the other woman's house and made use of her fire

to cook her victuals. She had a daughter, a natural child, seventeen years of age, who was in service in Forres. She sent what she could, but it was very little.

6. **Margaret MacIntosh**, aged fifty-three. She was almost quite deaf, and in bad health in other respects. She had the charge of Christian Young, and received 9d a week for taking care of her. Her allowance was 6d a week. She was not at home.

7. **Betty Fraser**, aged forty. Unmarried. A maniac. She was taken charge of by her father and mother, and kept in constant confinement in a garret over the room in which they lived. Her father was a mason, aged sixty-nine; but able to work. His wife was seventy-two years of age. There was no other children living with them. Their house was good, and well kept; and there was plenty of good furniture. £4 a year was allowed for Betty Frazer's support. She had been many years confined. She lay generally ined, with a blanket and no other clothes about her. She was very violent is any one went into the room; and would attempt to escape when the door was opened. Her mother said she went into the room every day; but that, had it not been for a hurt which Betty Frazer had got in her foot, she could not have withstood her. Her habits were filthy. She was never washed; and her food was put in her her at a hole in the wall.

8. **Donald MacLean**, aged ninety. In the receipt of 1s. a week. His wife about fifty-five years of age. She did everything for him. He had been himself unable to work for the last fifteen years. His rent was 35s. a year; for which they had a piece of garden ground. He had eight children, who were all out in the world. He received some help from his family. The house appeared comfortable.

9. **Margaret Short**, above forty. Of weak intellect. She had formerly had a sister, who was also deranged, who died a few months ago. They had received an allowance of 6s. a week from the heritors. Since her sister's death, the sum was reduced to 3s. a week. Her rent was a guinea. Her father was a farmer, and was at one time in respectable circumstances. Her brother, a lad of fourteen, who was in service with Mr Barclay, slept in the house. She was much better that she had been at one time, although she wandered a good deal in her conversation. The room was floored; and the furniture was altogether of a better kind than is usually met with; and she was neat and clean in her person.

10. **Alexander Fraser**, kirk-officer, aged seventy-seven. Received 4d a week. He was lame, and was almost quite blind. His wife was nearly as old as himself, and was infirm. He had a little boy, a grandson, who lived with him, twelve years old, who led him about. He had about 5s. a year as a superannuated member of the Auldearn royal friendly society, and a guinea a year as kirk-officer. He also got small fees for baptisms and marriages. One of his sons assisted him a little. His house rent was 22s. a year. The house was dirty, and ill kept; and the furniture very poor. There were three broken chairs, two stools, two chests, a table, and dresser. They had some potatoes planted.

11. **Margaret MacLean**, past forty. Unmarried. Often ill with rheumatism. She received occasionally relief. She got 3s. last spring. She could shear; but there was little doing in that way. She also knitted stockings, and could make 9d a week. She lived in the same house with her sister, Widow Fraser. (See next case)

12. **Widow Fraser**. In receipt of 6d a week. She was out at harvest work. Her children helped her a little. She used to beg, but had not been out begging for some time. Her rent was 35s. a year, which she and her sister, Margaret McLean, paid jointly. They had potatoes planted. There were two beds, six chairs, four or five stools, a chest and table, all pretty good. The house was clean, although the floor was earthen.

13. **Widow Simpson**, aged seventy-six. In the receipt of 6d a week. She lived in a garret, for which she paid 20s. rent. She had five children, all married, and out in the world. Her son was a small farmer, and might help her a little. She lived by herself, and was understood not to beg. She could do nothing for herself.

14. **Bell Munro**, aged sixty. Unmarried. She was not found at home, being engaged at harvest work. Her rent was £1 1s. a year, and she received 4d a week. She was employed in field labour in summer and spring, and at other times made something by spinning – about 1s. a week.

15. **John Herd**, aged twenty-eight. A lunatic, but said to be quite harmless. His father was in service at Findhorn, as a farm-servant. John lived with his sister, a young woman of about twenty-five, who worked in the fields, and mainly supported him at such times as he was at home. She received for him 1s. a month. He went about the country, and the people were all very kind to him. He was sometimes absent for two months at a time. The rent of the house in which his sister lived was 30s., which was paid by the father. John Herd slept in a closet on some straw. He made his bed very filthy at night, and he with difficulty, kept clean.

16. **Margaret Macpherson**, aged seventy-three. Unmarried. She received 1s. a week. Before the assessment was laid on she received not more than 8s. in the year. She paid no rent; but the house in which she lived was in a state of complete dilapidation; the interior was very dirty and ill kept, and there was hardly any furniture. She seemed, however, cheerful and contented. She was able to go about, and Mr Barclay, the late minister, had been very good to her. She said the neighbours were very kind, and bid her call regularly, but she did not like to be greedy.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

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## What's in a Name?

One of our members is interested if anyone is researching the surname Dean in the Boharm, Urquhart and Drainie Parishes of Moray.

The Moray Libindx lists 753 Deans, 10 in Boharm, 3 in Drainie and 11 in Urquhart, we even have 2 in our Boharm book, another is listed on the Urquhart War memorial with another in the Poor Register for the same Parish.

Black's Surnames of Scotland includes a William Dean alias Davidson in 1703 as being Miller in the King's Milne (possibly Inverness) in the Mackintosh Muniments, but indicates name of local origin and has references to Deans in Ayrshire and Fyvie. The Clan Davidson Society includes "the Deans name within our list of sept name, because there are some refs Deans also known as Davidsons in some early records".

**If you are researching Dean get in touch and we will forward your email.**

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## Banffshire Miscellany

### Death Notices – Banffshire Journal 1<sup>st</sup> January 1850

**CULLEN—SUDDEN DEATH.**—A person of the name of Green residing here, and who had acted for some time past as brewer at Cullen House, came home on Friday night in his usual health, and after partaking of his supper, fell down, and instantly expired.

**DEATH FROM BURNING.**—We understand that some weeks ago, a girl belonging to a fisherman of the name of Coull, in the village of Nether Backie, having been left in the house alone by her mother, who had gone out some errand, the child's clothes had caught fire, and before assistance could be rendered, she was, it appears, terribly scorched: she, however, lingered on till Saturday last, when death put an end to the poor child's sufferings. This ought to be a warning to parents, but especially to mothers, not to go out and leave their young offspring in danger of the fire, and no one to care for them.

Death Notices – Banffshire Journal 1<sup>st</sup> January 1850

### Deaths.

At Banff, on the 28th ult., Mary, daughter of the late Mr James Laird, Merchant, Banff.

At Banff, on the 24th ult., Mrs Pyper, Seatown.

At Portsoy, on the 24th ult., in the ninth year of his age, James Badenoch, eldest son of Mr Thomas Anderson.

At Edinburgh, on the 26th ult., Charlotte, the second surviving daughter of the late Sir George Abercromby of Birkenbog and Forglen, Bart., and sister to the present Baronet, aged 62 years.

At Darnaway, Morayshire, on the 9th ult., Mr W. Syme, saw miller, upwards of ninety years of age; and, on the 10th ult., his wife, upwards of eighty years of age. This remarkable pair had eleven children, forty-four grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

At Springfield Lodge, Great Malvern, on the 24th ult., Patrick Fraser Tytler, Esq.

Death Notices – Banffshire Journal 8<sup>th</sup> January 1850

### Deaths.

On Christmas morning, at Aberdeen, Mr Alexander Wattie, formerly in the Royal Navy, in the 69th year of his age.

At No. 50, Castle Street, Aberdeen, on the 19th ultimo, Alex. Irvine, Esq., aged 72.

At the United Presbyterian Manse, Abernethy, on the 21st ult., the Rev. David Lawrie, in the 68th year of his age and the 46th of his ministry.

Suddenly, at Newcastle, on the 24th ult., Alexander Macewen, Esq., Accountant in the branch of the Bank of England there. Mr Macewen was a native of Elgin, son of Mr A. Macewen, sometime cabinetmaker there, and now at Montreal, in Canada. He was a young man of great promise, and highly respected as an excellent man of business, and of a very amiable disposition.