



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

# NEWSLETTER

Edition 47

February 2024

**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. This finds us as a Society 15 years old this month, to all our members thank you for your support.

Due to an ongoing family matter one of our new publications for the Society - the Nairnshire Militia is still underway, it was nearly done and recently I found some more information to add so hopefully should be available very soon. Apologies.

We have 2 new books – One is a book I did a number of years ago but still useful of pre-1855 deaths from Nairnshire newspapers, the other is of the Burghead War Memorial (details of service, pensions, obituaries etc) with a burial register of the Burghead Cemetery.

Forthcoming publications, and I have managed to get time to work on them over the winter, will be works relating to the parish of Deskford and the parish of Cabrach. Other works underway are records of the poor for Auldearn and deaths and obituaries from the *Nairn County Press* (not available online). Like nearly all our publications we try and have material not available on the web.

Last summer we offered copies of our publications for free, which many of you took the opportunity to increase your library, with the result that a few books are now out of stock. We have not as yet made any decisions on reprinting (due to increased costs) but are considering making some available as a PDF. I would welcome any comments or thoughts on the subject.

We also are keen to put a list of members interests onto our website, its early days but if anyone is interested in offering their family names and parishes to include (personal details will be excluded) do get in touch.

And finally do you have a Dunbar family connection. 'A Gathering of Dunbars' will be held in the Moray Golf Club in June. See details on next page.

To all take care,  
Stuart Farrell  
Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in July 2024. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: [newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

Calling all —  
**Dunbars**

CLAN DUNBAR INTERNATIONAL IS COMING TO MORAY. WE ARE INVITING OUR FELLOW DUNBARS FROM THE AREA TO AN INFORMAL GATHERING AT THE MORAY GOLF CLUB ON THE MORAY FIRTH, AND WE EXTEND OUR INVITATION TO ALL. PLEASE COME CASUALLY DRESSED OR WEAR YOUR KILT.



JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>  
2024

5PM- 7PM

**THE MORAY GOLF CLUB**

STOTFIELD ROAD  
LOSSIEMOUTH, MORAY

RSVP: [CHIEFTAIN@CLANDUNBAR.COM](mailto:CHIEFTAIN@CLANDUNBAR.COM)

## **MNFHS Publications**

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

### **New Titles!**

Pre-1855 Deaths as Reported in Nairn Newspapers 1845-1854  
compiled by Stuart Farrell. 90 pages £5.00 Postage & Packing extra.

Burghead War Memorial & Burghead Cemetery Burial Register  
1869-1883 & 1896-1944 compiled by Stuart Farrell & Doug Stewart  
112 pages £8.00 Postage & Packing extra.

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### **Forthcoming Book**

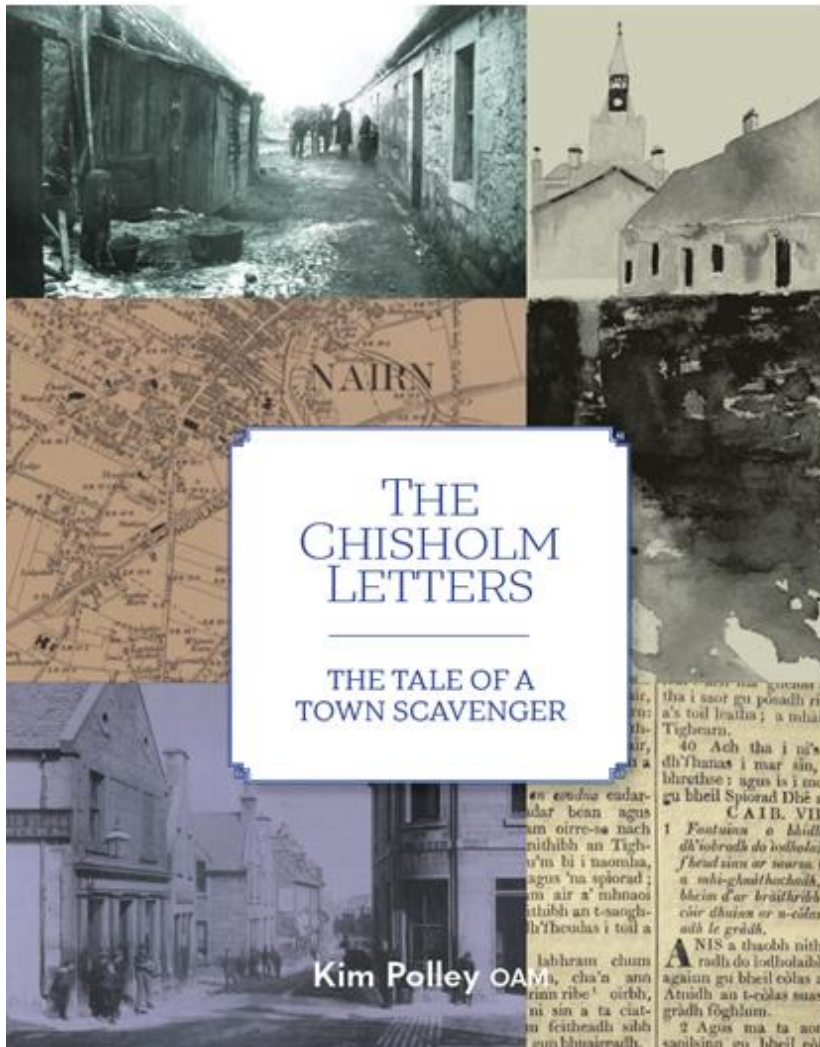
The following book has been produced by one of our members and I look forward in seeing my copy soon,

**'The Chisholm Letters: The Tale of a Town Scavenger'**  
By Kim Polley

Writing family histories can be an exhausting task. I know this for a fact, having many years ago undertaken this very process as I traced the history of my Chisholm family from their roots on Scottish farms and villages to the vast openness and emptiness of Australia. It can also be a frustrating enterprise, trying to inject life into the narrative while being held captive to the inevitable litany of births, marriages and deaths that by necessity shape any family history.

Last year, in writing *The Chisholm Letters: The Tale of a Town Scavenger*, I was determined to break that mould, to delve more deeply, to walk alongside them as they went about their lives, to become a living spectator, to sense their emotional highs and feel their grief as they went about their days both in Scotland and the colony of Australia. Fortunately, and in part by chance, I discovered an on-line repository of old Scottish newspapers, which opened a whole new world of information reaching beyond the old parish records and statutory registers. Suddenly, I was able to put my ancestors into the world as it existed for them, I could hear their voices, and I could see and smell and taste their lives, almost as if I was sitting in the corner by the hearth, or riding in the back of the wagon in New England.

But what could I do with the treasure trove of information that I found? How could I use it in an authentic manner, and yet draw the threads of family across the oceans? By creating a narrative through the concept of letters between Colin Chisholm and his siblings, I found that I could be both true to the history of the times whilst injecting the story of the Chisholm family – a personal saga within the (and their) real world. The second part of the book, Notes, follows the lives of Colin’s children and his brother and sisters after he died in 1868, as they navigate life in Dingwall, Nairn and other places in Scotland, England, Canada and Australia up until the early 1900s.



*The Chisholm Letters* has been meticulously annotated throughout and contains 292 pages, hundreds of current and historical photographs, diagrams, maps, and original drawings. Since its publication, the book has become widely acknowledged as a social history and a family saga.

I am offering a discount on the black and white copies of my book. They will be £22 UK (book only). I hope to have them available in the UK shortly. This will avoid the cost of postage from Australia but will require postage (and packing costs) within the UK.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact me at [info@polleybooksaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@polleybooksaustralia.com.au)  
 More details and reviews of the book can be found at <https://polleybooksaustralia.com.au>

# The Missing Marriage

By Doug Stewart

Those of us who are old enough and have been delving into our family history for more years than we care to remember, will recall that marvelous pre-online tool, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) of which most libraries held a microfiche copy.

SHAAN, JAMES		COUNTY MORAY		AS OF MAY 1988		PAGE 3 218	
NAME	RELATIONSHIP OR SOURCE	DATE	TOWN, PARISH	B	E	B	NUM. SHEET
SHAAN, JAMES		06JUL1758	MORAY, DRAINIE			16AUG1981SL	M111302 0863
SHAAN, JOHN	CHRISTIAN LAING	10JUL1704	MORAY, DRAINIE	21JAN1983AZ	22FEB1983AZ	16AUG1981SL	C111302 1990
SHAAND, MARGARET	MR. SHAAND / F	21MAR1721	MORAY, BRATGIE	185EC1982IZ	22JAN1983AZ	19MAR1983AZ	C111302 2753
SHAAND, MARGT.	JAMES SHAAND / F	29NOV1740	MORAY, DRAINIE	04JAN1983AZ	25JAN19P AZ	16AUG1981SL	C111302 3485
SHAAND, MARGT.	JOHN KINTISAL	15JUN1749	MORAY, DRAINIE			16AUG1981SL	M111302 0979
SHAAND, WILLIAM	JEAN ALLAN	25JUN1720	MORAY, DRAINIE			16AUG1981SL	M111302 0705
SHAAND, WILLIAM	JANET CRANON	22JUL1755	MORAY, DRAINIE			16AUG1981SL	M111302 0835
SHAAND, WILLIAM	JAMES SHAAND / F	24DEC1747	MORAY, DRAINIE	22JAN1983AZ	23FEB1983AZ	17MAR1983AZ	C111302 3732
SHAAN, ** SEE SHAAN							
SHAELL, GEORGE	HELEN CLAPPERTON	05AUG1772	MORAY, BELLIE			28JAN1982SL	M111262 0435
SHAAN, ** SEE SHAW							
SHAND, JOHN SHAND/BESSIE CLERK		01MAR1696	MURAY, URGUHART	14SEP1982IF	13NOV1982IF	01DEC1982IF	C111442 0872
SHAND, ALEXANDER SHAND/JANET LAING		12JUL1752	MORAY, URGUHART	17SEP1982IF	17NOV1982IF	08DEC1982IF	C111442 3397
SHAND, ALEX. SHAND/ELIZABETH TAYLOR		20NOV1795	MORAY, DRAINIE	26JAN1983AZ	25FEB1983AZ	18MAR1983AZ	C111302 5195
SHAND, AGNES	ALEXR. SHAND/ANNA LORESON	25APR1750	MORAY, BOTHS	12NOV1982OK	11JAN1983OK	01FEB1983OK	C111412 1205
SHAND, AL.	ELIZABETH TAYLOR	09NOV1795	MORAY, DRAINIE			16AUG1981SL	M111302 1459
SHAND, ALEX.	ELISPEY YOUNG	06DEC1752	MORAY, DRAINIE			08FEB1918MT	A170514 0378
SHAND, ALEX.	CHRISTINA STEWART	1844	MORAY, DRAINIE			08FEB1925MT	A170516 5879
SHAND, ALEX.	ISABELLA TOD	09APR1853	MORAY, ELGIN			23FEB1981SL	M111351 0411
SHAND, ALEX.	ALEX. SHAND/JANET LAING	05DEC1757	MORAY, URGUHART	17SEP1982IF	17NOV1982IF	08DEC1982IF	C111442 3562
SHAND, ALEX.	ELIZABETH WATERS	04MAY1816	MORAY, BELLIE			07FEB1983OK	C111312 2904
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND/MARGARET SWYMER	23JUL1706	MORAY, DUFFUS	27OCT1982OK	18FEB1983OK	17FEB1983OK	C111312 2904
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND/HELEN ROBERTSON	02APR1730	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	19MAR1982OK	29MAY1982OK	18JUN1982OK	C111432 1089
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JEAN ANGUS	07JUL1737	MORAY, BELLIE			28JAN1982SL	M111262 0179
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND / F	27NOV1743	MORAY, BOHARR	04SEP1982IF	10NOV1982IF	19NOV1982IF	C111328 2409
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JANE T LAING	24MAR1747	MORAY, URGUHART			20NOV1981SL	M111442 0278
SHAND, ALEXANDER	MARGARET PALICE	21AUG1764	MORAY, BOHARR			07SEP1982SE	M111283 0681
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JEAN ENGLAND	02JUL1764	MORAY, SPEYROUTH			09APR1983OK	M111632 0300
SHAND, ALEXANDER	MARGT. ALLAN	18JUL1784	MORAY, DRAINIE			19AUG1981SL	M111302 1341
SHAND, ALEXANDER	WILLIAM SHAND/MARGT. YOUNG	03JAN1790	MORAY, DRAINIE	25JAN1983AZ	25FEB1983AZ	18MAR1983AZ	C111302 5055
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ALEXR. SHAND/JEAN ENGLAND	07FEB1790	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	23MAR1982OK	29MAY1982OK	23JUN1982OK	C111432 3200
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND/JANET LEAL	20DEC1795	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	23MAR1982OK	27MAY1982OK	23JUN1982OK	C111432 3232
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND/KATHRINE MORRISON	09APR1795	MORAY, URGUHART	18SEP1982IF	17NOV1982IF	09DEC1982IF	C111442 4527
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JAMES SHAND/CATHARINE WATSON	31MAY1797	MORAY, FORRES	30MAR19P JSL	09AUG1983SL	17AUG1983SL	C111372 7042
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JAMES SHAND/JEAN SCOTT	20MAY1790	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	23MAR1982OK	29MAY1982OK	23JUN1982OK	C111432 3565
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ALEXANDER SHAND/ANN COLTS	15JUN1805	MORAY, ELGIN	11JUN1982PV	25JUN1982PV	21JUL1982PV	C111354 5907
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ISABEL THOMPSON	05AUG1810	MORAY, NEW SYDIE			15JAN1981SL	M111302 0816
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JAMES SHAND/MARY HARRY	14JUL1815	MORAY, DRAINIE	26JAN1983AZ	24FEB1983AZ	18MAR1983AZ	C111302 5730
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JAMES SHAND/JANE NICHOL	08DEC1821	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	08SEP1981WA	28NOV1981WA	26JAN1982WA	C111434 1435
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ANN ANDERSON	05APR1824	MORAY, SPEYROUTH			21DEC1982SL	C111302 0939
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JEAN WIND	27NOV1824	MORAY, URGUHART			17SEP1981LG	M111442 0033
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ALEXANDER SHAND/ISABEL ASHER	06AUG1825	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	05SEP1981WA	27NOV1981WA	21JAN1982WA	C111434 0207
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ISOBEL ASHER	1828	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	20DEC1927MT	A170516 3622	07JAN1983SE	C111264 0364
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ALEXANDER SHAND/ANN ANDERSON	21OCT1828	MORAY, BELLIE	21SEP1982SE	10NOV1982SE	07JAN1983SE	C111264 0364
SHAND, ALEXANDER	ISABELLA MCKENZIE	18JUN1830	MORAY, ELGIN			25SEP1981G	M111355 0485
SHAND, ALEXANDER	JOHN SHAND/BARBARA WILSON	20AUG1831	MORAY, SPEYROUTH	05SEP1981WA	27NOV1981WA	21JAN1982WA	C111434 0435
SHAND, ALEXANDER	WILLIAM SHAND/MARY GARRON	06JUN1832	MORAY, SNODKAND	20FEB1982LD	03MAR1982LD	20APR1982LD	C111372 0522
SHAND, ALEXANDER	WILLIAM SHAND/ISOBEL DUNNAN	17OCT1835	MORAY, SPEYROUTH			20APR1982LD	A170524 0522
SHAND, ALEXANDER	WILLIAM SHAND/ISOBEL DUNNAN	27APR1835	MORAY, ST. ANDREWS-LHABBRYD	06MAR1982LD	18MAR1982LD	02APR1982LD	C111424 0400

How else, in the days before the internet, would we manage to compile as much as we did our extended families? One family of particular interest to me was that of James Shand & Ann Robertson, who I knew lived in the parish of Drainie, Moray all throughout the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch interface with search results for James Shand. The results list two entries for a marriage in 1849 in Forgue, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, both listing the spouse as Ann Robertson. The interface includes filters for Collection, Sex, Birth, Marriage, Death, Other, and Residence. The top navigation bar includes Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. The bottom of the screenshot shows the search criteria: NAME: JAMES SHAND, RELATIVES: ANN ROBERTSON, and the search location: FORGUE, ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND.

The snapshot above shows – in the new, online style of the old IGI – the supposed record of a marriage in 1849, in the parish of Forgue, Aberdeenshire. Living in Elgin, getting access to the Old Parochial Register for the parish of Drainie was an easy matter, the Local Studies Department of Elgin Library – now known as Elgin Heritage

Centre – held microfilm copies of each and every local OPR.

Being outside the local catchment area, the parish of Forgue was different, but I had a solution to that problem, with a visit to a Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where I could order a copy of the reel, and get the details I needed.

Imagine my surprise when I could not find the marriage I sought in the Forgue OPR. It was only then – and this shows my then lack of understanding of the composition of the IGI – I discovered the details listed came from two different sources: indexed records and user contributions.

The former was compiled as transcriptions directly from source material; the latter were names submitted to the Church for which no historical record source need be given.

The supposed record of an 1849 marriage in the parish of Forgue, Aberdeenshire came unfortunately from the latter.

As an aside, today we often hear grumbles about incorrect family trees posted online – this is not a new problem, incorrect family links litter the IGI.

Try as I might, I could not find a record of this marriage – not even in the parish of Alves, Moray, from where Ann Robertson hailed. I considered whether the couple had, indeed, ever married but threw out that idea when I saw the records of baptism of their children – for example, for their son, James Shand, in the parish of Drainie, in 1853, the OPR gives:

“James Shand, son of James Shand, farm servant and his wife Ann Robertson was born on the eleventh day of September 1853 at Lossiemouth.”

and, most significantly, makes no statement about illegitimacy or being a natural child – the Church, anyway, believed they were married.

I came to the conclusion – I thought, sensible at the time – James Shand and Ann Robertson were married, but married not in the Established Church of Scotland. My idea being their families had moved to the Free Church at the time of the Disruption in 1843.

As it happens, I now know the date and place of marriage for this couple – 5<sup>th</sup> July 1850, Alves, Moray – simply by paying attention to the details I saw on the birth certificate for their second youngest child, William Shand, born in the parish of Drainie, in 1861.

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1861 BIRTHS in the Parish of Duffus in the County of Elgin

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
100	William Shand	1861 September 15 <sup>th</sup> Duffus	M.	Mr. James Shand Farmer Ann Shand Mrs. J. Robertson	James Shand Father (Not Present)	1861 Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> At Duffus
		Buthill		1858 5 <sup>th</sup> July, Alford		Peter Grant Dist. Registrar
101	William Sandison	1861 October Third 6 <sup>th</sup> A.M.	M.	John Sandison Blacksmith Margaret Sandison M. P. Cook	John Sandison Father (Not Present)	1861 Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> At Duffus
		Burghhead		1840 30 <sup>th</sup> April Burghhead		James Bain Registrar
102	John McRay	1861 October First 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.M.	F.	John McRay Seaman Ann McRay Mrs. J. Dick	John Mackay Father (Present)	1861 Oct 5 <sup>th</sup> At Duffus
		Burghhead		1840 Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> Burghhead		Peter Grant Dist. Registrar

James Bain Registrar

I was content with my solution until the day I started looking for another marriage, about the same time, which might have been recorded in the Drainie OPR.

From another source – no, I can't recall where – I had recorded the date and place of marriage of John Shand & Isabella Fraser as 1847, Drainie. This time – 2022 – I had no need to rush to Elgin Heritage Centre to view the microfilm; I could access the record online at ScotlandsPeople.

No, I couldn't – the marriage did not show up as a hit however I searched the indexes. Fortunately, I knew Elgin Heritage Centre still had the microfilm reels available, so a visit was planned. I would simply load the reel of film, scroll forward to the unindexed part, and find my missing record.

No, I wouldn't – for the simple reason there is only one marriage recorded for the parish of Drainie from 1846 to 1854!

However, now I know a little more about what I'm doing, I knew I'd get confirmation of the place and date of the Shand & Fraser from a birth certificate of one of their children.

All of this set me thinking, what else I need is also missing – especially later on in the OPR range?

I already knew about problems with Knockando caused by the Great Fire of Archiestown in 1783, when the two earliest volumes of baptism and banns were lost – what other gaps might there be?

Fortunately, there's an easy way to find out – courtesy of ScotlandsPeople, a list of

the extant OPR is available at:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-registers/list-of-old-parish-registers>

List of the Old Parish Registers

Moray (Elgin)

**OPR**

**130. DRAINIE**

130/1	<b>B</b> 1631-1721	<b>M</b> 1666-1720	<b>D</b> 1703-21
130/2	<b>B</b> 1722-67	<b>M</b> 1722-67	<b>D</b> 1722-67
130/3	<b>B</b> 1768-1819	<b>M</b> 1768-1819	<b>D</b> 1768-1819
130/4	<b>B</b> 1820-54	<b>M</b> 1820-46	<b>D</b> 1820-51

**131. DUFFUS**

131/1	<b>B</b> 1629-94	<b>M</b> 1662-94	<b>D</b> 1662-94
131/2	<b>B</b> 1699-1733	<b>M</b> 1694-1800	<b>D</b> 1694-1715
131/3	<b>B</b> 1733-1819	<b>M</b> -	<b>D</b> -
131/4	<b>B</b> 1820-54	<b>M</b> 1821-54	

From that, I learn why I have a record of so few marriages for my fishing ancestors among the early settlers of Hopeman – there being a gap from 1800 to 1821, and my ancestors being among those families who moved from Ardersier from 1806 onwards! In the early days of my family research, I fell into the easy trap of believing records of births (or baptisms), marriages (or banns) and deaths would be complete – I know better now!

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## **The Redundant S**

By Doug Stewart

When digging around in the Knockando OPR, looking for clues to when my Milne ancestors might have taken over the farm at Upper Borlum, I can across a confusing – to me – record of a baptism from 5<sup>th</sup> May 1790:

Jean, daughter of Thomas Younie & Margaret Keil in Knockanreach baptised. Peter & James Milnes in Upper Borlume witnesses.

I have admit at first I assumed I had transcribed the entry incorrectly; but no, what I'd written was what showed on the microfilm I was reading. This reminded me of another entry, this time a marriage from 25<sup>th</sup> July, also 1790:

Isaac and Janet Cruickshanks parishioners married.

And all of which brought to mind a mistake I'd made when starting out on my family history travels in the 1980s. For this family, because this was the earliest record I'd found, I had assumed Isaac and Janet both had the surname 'Cruickshanks'. It was not until some years later I realised my mistake. The surname is "Cruickshank", and the redundant "s" being only present because this is how two people with the same surname would be recorded. The same, of course, applied to the baptism where the witnesses were Peter Milne and James Milne – with no redundant "s".

## The Croy Tragedy Part 1

By Stuart Farrell

There occurred on 29 August 1903 a case of murder at Croy when William MacLaren, an Army Reservist, killed Alexander Harper Mackinnon, Farm Servant.

The incident was reported in *The Inverness Courier* of 1 September 1903 as follows: 'A Nairnshire Tragedy. Farm Servant Charged With Murder. Alexander Harper Mackinnon, a farm labourer, residing at Cantraydown Cottages, Croy, died on Saturday afternoon under circumstances which have caused the Nairnshire Police to arrest on a charge of murder a labourer, William Maclaren, who was Mackinnon's cousin, and lived with him. Maclaren was yesterday brought before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Lightbody at Nairn and emitted a declaration.

It is stated that on Saturday Mackinnon came to Inverness to meet some Glasgow friends and returned to Culloden Moor Station by the evening train, having in his possession a large bottle and two gill bottles of whisky. On his way from the station he met his cousin, Maclaren, and the two men are reported to have been on good terms as they proceeded homewards. Mackinnon is said to have treated his cousin on several occasions to a drink. On arrival at their home both men were, it is alleged, under the influence of liquor. After supper there seems to have been a difference between Mackinnon and his wife, and she went outside, but later on, hearing the screams of her son, she returned to the house, the boy calling out that his father was dead. Maclaren said, "No, no." At the door Mrs Mackinnon spoke to Maclaren, and said, "You surely have done him no harm?" Maclaren replied, "I have done him no harm. He will be all right in a minute or two." On entering the room Mrs Mackinnon found her husband lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor. With the assistance of Maclaren she placed the injured man on the bed. Finding that nothing could be done for her husband, she sent Maclaren for medical assistance. He proceeded to Inverness, a distance of ten miles, and called on Dr Macfadyen, who, on hearing the case, advised Maclaren to report it to the County Police. On this being done by Maclaren, the police informed the Nairnshire authorities regarding the affair.

In the interval Mackinnon had expired, and Mrs Mackinnon informed Mr Smith, farmer, Cantraydown. He immediately apprised the Nairnshire police, and Constable Neil, Cawdor, proceeded to the house, and also notified the authorities in Nairn. Mr Lamb, Procurator-Fiscal, Dr Sclanders and Sergeant Robertson were early on the scene and investigated the circumstances, with the result that Maclaren, who had returned from Inverness, was arrested and brought to Nairn on Sunday.

Yesterday afternoon Maclaren appeared before Honorary Sheriff Lightbody. The charge preferred against him was – "That he did on the 29<sup>th</sup> August within the dwelling house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy and county of Nairn, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, and did beat him, and did murder him." Accused, who is a tall, strong fellow, of quiet demeanour, did not seem to appreciate the gravity of his position. He was represented by Mr Alex Bain, solicitor. After

emitting a declaration, he was remitted to prison pending further enquiries. In the course of the evening he was conveyed to the Inverness Prison.

A *post mortem* examination of the remains was conducted yesterday by Dr Sclanders and Dr Bremner, Nairn. It is understood that they found bruises on the head and body, thought to have been caused by a blunt instrument, and also that the unfortunate man's neck had been dislocated. Dr Wilson, Nairn, was present at the *post mortem* examination on behalf of Maclaren.

Maclaren, the accused, has lived with Mackinnon since April. He served in South Africa with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cameron Highlanders for two and a half years, and had previously been in the Soudan. He is 24 years of age. Deceased was a native of Darnaway, and is survived by a widow and five children.'

His wife, Christina Cross or McKinnon's statement gave the following information: 'I am the widow of the late Alexander Harper McKinnon, Farm servant, who resided at Cantraydown Cottages, in the Parish of Croy and County of Nairn. He came to the Farm of Cantraydown tenanted by Alexander Smith, Farmer, and my husband entered his service at the last term of Whitsunday. Before that my husband had been in the service of Hugh F. Rose proprietor of Holme Rose, at the home farm of Holme Rose. At about 11 am on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> inst, my husband came home to his dinner and appeared to be in a bad temper. I asked him what was wrong with him and he told me to go to hell. He then went back to the farm of Cantraydown saying he was going to see the Master as he wanted to go to Inverness to buy boots. He came back to the house about 12 noon and said he was going to Inverness to have a good spree to himself. He told me he had got £2 from his Master and before leaving the house he gave me £1. I told him I did not think he should go to Inverness and that I would tell his Master Mr Smith not to let him go. My husband then threatened to strike me and was prevented from doing this by the Accused William McLaren. About three weeks before we left Holme Rose the accused William McLaren who is a Reservist came to live with us and has stayed with us ever since. He was a relation of my husband I think but I do not know what the relationship was. About 12.30 my husband left the house, accompanied by son Alexander Paterson McKinnon aged 13 years and my daughter Chrissie Cross McKinnon, aged 11 years, to catch the 1 pm train at Culloden Moor Station. The Accused William McLaren was about the place the whole afternoon. About 8 pm my girl and boy came home and told me that my husband was coming along the road with the Accused William McLaren and that my husband was drunk. I went to look for them and walked along the Public Road to meet them. My husband was very drunk and was being assisted home by the Accused William McLaren. McLaren asked my husband if he was not going to give him a mouthful of whisky after taking him home. My husband replied "Not to a damned tinker like you." My husband however produced a quart bottle of whisky and he and McLaren were drinking it at the roadside. I went away and left them and after making some purchases from a travelling grocer's cart I went into the house to prepare supper for them. About nine o'clock my husband and McLaren came into the house. My husband was still very drunk and McLaren was under the influence of

drink too. McLaren said to me "the old devil is on for a row" and that we would need to be nice to him, meaning my husband. They sat down to their supper which they both took; but my husband was nasty and swearing at both McLaren and myself. After supper they finished between them the whisky that was in the quart bottle. I also saw my husband put two empty gill bottles upon the table. After they had drunk this whisky the Accused McLaren got very much the worse of drink. My husband and the Accused began to sing songs. After they had been singing for some time my husband lay down on the bed in the kitchen. The Accused McLaren then sang a song and this seemed to annoy my husband who rose and began to quarrel with him. I said they should not quarrel over a song and my husband caught me by the throat and scratched my chin. I got afraid and went out of the house. This would be about half past nine o'clock. About ten o'clock I heard my boy the witness Alexander Paterson McKinnon crying and he came to me and said that McLaren was at his father, and that the latter was lying on the floor. I screamed and ran to my door to get in. I was met in the door by the Accused McLaren who caught me and pushed me out and told me to stop outside. He told me that if I went into my house my husband would "finish" me. I said I would not stop out of the house and I would need to go into the house because he had been at my husband. He told me that he had pushed my husband and that the latter had fallen and was bleeding. He said I would get a fist if I went in and that he would lift my husband on to the bed and that I could come in then. I went in with him, into the house, McLaren went into the kitchen and I followed him. I saw my husband lying at the fireside with a pool of blood under his head. I said to McLaren "You were at my husband Willie and you have killed him." He said "Don't say that" When he said that he had a pocket knife, which was closed, in his hand. I took hold of my husband to lift him on to the bed and the Accused McLaren helped me. I noticed that my husband's face was covered with blood and the blood was pouring from his ears. I tried to get him to speak but he seemed quite unconscious. When I found my husband lying I felt his pulse beating; but I knew from his appearance that he was dying. I asked McLaren to go to Inverness for a Doctor and told my boy Alexander to go with him. When the Accused McLaren met me at the door and tried to prevent my getting into the house he seemed to be mad with drink. Every time the Accused McLaren drew his money he used to go on the spree and when he got in that state he would get quite mad and silly and did not appear to know what he was doing. He would run out of the house naked when he had drink and behave very strangely. When he was not in drink he was a quiet and nice fellow. When I asked the Accused McLaren to go for the Doctor he said he did not think there was any use as my husband was only in a drunken fit but afterwards he said he thought my husband was dead and that he had better go for the Doctor. The Accused and the witness, my son Alexander, left for Inverness about eleven o'clock. The kettle was on the fender in the kitchen and it was upset and after the Accused McLaren left I cleaned up the blood from the floor and dried up the water. When my husband was drunk he often used to say to me that I was with child to McLaren. He said this at least three times. He said this once when McLaren was present and McLaren said he was mad. My husband was about 45 years of age his father's name

was Peter McKinnon, who was a Sawmiller at Darnaway, in the County of Elgin and his mother's name was Annie Bain. The Accused McLaren and my boy came home from Inverness about 11 am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> inst. When the Accused came into the house he told me that he had made a wrong statement to the Police in Inverness. He said that he had told them he was out cutting sticks and that he heard some of the children crying and had gone into the house and found that my husband had fallen out of the bed and got hurt. He also said that he had made my son the witness Alexander McKinnon say the same. I told the Accused McLaren as he came back from Inverness that my boy had told me that he taken the poker to my husband., He said to me that my husband had the poker in his hand and that when they were fighting he had taken the poker from him.'

Alexander Harper Mackinnon was born c1850 at Maviston in the Parish of Auldearn, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive. The son of Peter Mackinnon (Born Tain 6 April 1804 baptised 9 April 1804, to Peter McKennon & Christy McLeod, died at Golford, Auldearn 13 May 1861) & Anne MacBean (Given as Bain in some later documents) (Born at Inverness to George MacBean and Helen Robertson, baptised 28 August 1812, died at Hillhead of Golford, Auldearn 21 January 1886) who had married at Inverness on 21 January 1839 where it was stated he was a Labourer at Green of Muirton, and her address was given as the same. Their children were: Helen born 25 December 1839 at the Sawmill of Kilravock, baptised 13 January 1840 at Croy; John born c1843, Croy and Margaret born c1843, Croy, possibly twins, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive; Peter Aeneas born 20 July 1844 at Abbey Street, Inverness, baptised 31 August 1844 at Inverness; and William born c1848, Golford, Auldearn, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive (He was the informant of his mother's death in 1886).

In the 1841 Census his parents were at Milltown, Croy where his father's occupation is given as Sawyer, aged 30, his wife Ann as aged 25 and Hellen aged 1. The 1851 Census finds the family resident at East Golford, Auldearn, where his father is listed as a Labourer, aged 42, wife Ann, aged 34, born Inverness, Helen, aged 11, Scholar, John, aged 8, Scholar, Margaret, aged 8, Scholar, Peter, aged 6, William, aged 3 and Alexander, aged 1. By the 1861 Census they are now resident at Wester Golford, Auldearn with Alexander being the only child still at home, listed as aged 10, scholar. The 1871 Census found Alexander listed as Soldier, unmarried, aged 20 as a Private in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders, born Auldearn in St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen. Records in the National Archives (WO12/9451) indicate his service number as 1473 stationed at Aberdeen, however his discharge papers have not survived. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders in May 1871 went to Edinburgh Castle, in 1873 to Aldershot, in 1874 to Shorncliffe, in 1876 to Dublin, in 1877 to Curragh, Ireland and in 1879 to Gibraltar. The 1881 Census shows Alexander at 17 Wilson Street, Nairn, aged 29, with occupation stated as First Class Army Reserve (Boarder), born Auldearn.

Alexander first married a Margaret Ross on the 5 August 1881 at the Free Church of Scotland, Nairn where Alexander's occupation was given as Stone-Quarrier (bachelor) aged 27 of 14 Wilson Street, Nairn, whilst Margaret's occupation was given as General Domestic Servant, aged 24, also of 14 Wilson Street, Nairn. Parents were given as Peter McKinnon, General Labourer (deceased) with wife of Ann McBean and Frederick Ross, Mason (Journeyman) (deceased) [Died 12 September 1861] and Margaret Fraser (deceased). Margaret died on the 28 October 1882 at 14 Wilson Street, Nairn of pernicious anaemia of 5 months.

He secondly married Christina Cross on 19 October 1883 at Newlands of Moyness, Auldearn, after Banns had been read in the Church of Scotland. Alexander's occupation was given as Stone-Quarrier (widower) aged 31, with Christina Cross, aged 21, occupation stated as Domestic Servant. Alexander's address is given as Hillhead of Golford, Auldearn whilst Christina's was given as Newlands of Moyness, Auldearn. Parents were given as Peter McKinnon, General Labourer (deceased) with wife of Ann Bain and Hector Cross (deceased) and wife of Christina McKenzie.

The 1891 Census listed them as resident at 31 Fraser Building's, Forres, Alexander McKinnon, 39, Farm Servant, born Maviston, Auldearn, Christina, wife, 36, John McKinnon, 6, Scholar, born Petty, Mary C. McKinnon, 2, born Petty, and Alexander P. McKinnon, 10 months, born Forres. The 1901 Census listed them as resident at Lochandunty, Ploughman's House, Petty, Alexander McKinnon, 49, Ploughman, born Auldearn, Christina, wife, 45, born Killernan, Ross-shire, (noted as feeble minded), John McKinnon, 14, Ploughman, born Petty, Mary C. McKinnon, 12, born Petty, and Alexander Paterson McKinnon, 10, born Forres, Christina Cross McKinnon, 8, Scholar, born Petty, and George Albert McKinnon, 6, Scholar, born Kirkhill, Inverness-shire.

His Death Certificate shows that Alexander, with occupation given as ploughman, aged about 49, was married to Christian Cross, son of Peter McKinnon (deceased) and Annie Bain (deceased) with cause of death given as 'supposed dislocation of neck from assault with a poker' at about 11 pm with 'no medical attendant'. Informant was an Alexander Smith, neighbour [Actually his employer]. Death was registered at Croy on 5 September 1903. Corrected entry gives age as 45, cause of death 'Injuries received when assaulted' reported by Dr Sclanders and Dr Bremner.

His widow Christian/Christina McKinnon nee Cross was born on 10 January 1862 in the Parish of Killearnan, Ross-shire to Hector Cross, Flesher (10 December 1808 – died at Ryefield, Killearnan 7 September 1865) & Christian Mackenzie (died at 51 Chapel Street, Inverness 23 October 1907) who had married in July 1858 at Inverness. On Hectors Death Certificate it is stated that his wife had formerly been married to a James Cameron. Her mother appears in the 1881 and 1891 Census at Albert Street, Inverness with her sister Mary, as Domestic Servants and in the 1901 Census at 30b Chapel Street, Inverness.

Noted in the Croy Parochial Board Minutes of 1903 that Application No.309 for Poor Relief was admitted by Auldearn, unfortunately Minutes for Auldearn Parochial Board for 1903 do not survive. She and family went to live at 30a Chapel Street, Inverness after event.

On the 19 November 1903, less than 3 months after her husband was killed, she married at the Church of Scotland at Strathpeffer, Edward John McCallum, Farmer (Born Harwick, Parish of Durness 19 August 1862 – 14 December 1940) son of Robert McCallum, Farmer (formerly a Shepherd) and Williamina Ross. The 1911 Census shows her as a visitor to her family in Rose Street, Inverness of Mary Cross, 51, Sophia Graham, 16, Eva Cross, 8, Christina McCallum, 48 and Robina McCallum, 6. Her husband Edward is listed at Shegra Lands, Eddrachilles, Kinlochleven living with his father, with their son Edward, 9 and her daughter Chrissie MacKinnon.

She died 10 August 1940 at 133 Balornock Road, Springburn, Glasgow, usual address of 65 Shamrock Street, Glasgow. Edward McCallum died at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow, with address of 3 Tarbert Street, Gourrock with occupation as Watchman. Stated by her son Alexander in his statement that there was a baby aged about 2 [birth not found - was this Edward recorded in 1911 Census with step-father? Possibly adopted?]

Statements (National Records of Scotland AD15/03/116 – transcript of statements lodged in Archives in Inverness) undertaken prior to trial included the following:

- 1 – Christina McKinnon (Wife)
- 2 – Alexander Paterson McKinnon (Son)
- 3 – Christina Cross McKinnon (Daughter)
- 4 – George Albert McKinnon (Son)
- 5 – Donald Mackenzie (Farm Servant, Neighbour)
- 6 – Colin Mackenzie (Farm Servant, Neighbour)
- 7 – Robert Munro (Farm Servant, Visitor)
- 8 – Alexander Smith (Farmer, Employer)
- 9 – James Neil (Police Constable)
- 10 – Alexander Robertson (Police Sergeant)
- 11 – Charles McDonald (Police Constable)
- 12 – Hugh Chisholm (Deputy Chief Constable, Inverness)
- 13 – Angus McLaren (Police Sergeant, Inverness)
- 14 – Donald Mann (Police Constable, Inverness)
- 15 – Alexander Sclanders M.D.
- 16 – Robert Nichol Brebner M.D.
- 17 – Declaration of accused
- 18 – Medical Report

**Part 2 in Next issue of newsletter**

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## Grigor Grant Mackintosh Part 2

By Stuart McIntosh

In the Moray & Nairn Family History Society newsletter of October 2023 I was allowed to tell the story of my two x Great Uncle, Grigor Grant Mackintosh. I concluded that history on him by writing: "Regrettably this is where our trail ends for now. Over the years I have simply been unable to discover what happened to Grigor and his wife Eliza after 1865."

Such is the nature of the MNFHS that a member reached out to me from another country who I have discovered is a cousin of mine and a direct descendant of Grigor. They prefer to stay out of the limelight but has kindly allowed me to use their research to conclude my story about Grigor.

The three main characters in the story are Grigor, his wife Eliza (nee Fraser) and her father John Fraser. John who was born in 1801, became the tenant farmer of Eastertown in Auldearn, which was owned by Hugh Brodie. The last I was able to report on John was in relation to him being the victim in an alleged fraud, when his son-in-law, Grigor was said to have forged cheques belonging to John for which Grigor was arrested in December 1864.

By 1871 John's eldest daughter Isabella had taken over the running of the farm at Eastertown and neither her husband Alexander Ross nor her father John Fraser were present by that time<sup>i</sup>.

Grigor's wife Eliza Fraser, born in 1844 continues to be elusive. There is a thirty-three-year-old Eliza McIntosh acting as a domestic servant for Robert Ross on a farm in Ardlach in 1871, but nothing to show this is Grigor's wife and this Eliza declares herself to be unmarried at that time<sup>ii</sup>.

So, what about the key figure, Grigor Grant McIntosh. We now know that he had emigrated to Canada sometime before 1880. Certainly, he had been there long enough to have struck up a relationship with a local girl, Mary Ann Waters who he married on 1<sup>st</sup> October that year at Christchurch, Aurora, Toronto, Canada<sup>iii</sup>.

The marriage register shows that Grigor gave his name as Gregory Grant McIntosh, aged 38, born in Scotland. We know that Grigor was born in September 1835, so was actually forty-five years old at this time. He states he is a Presbyterian and confirmed his parents were John and Christina McIntosh but does not provide a rank or profession. He states he was a bachelor at this time and not a widower. From that we may infer that this was a bigamous marriage.

My cousin has painstaking searched through a plethora of ships' manifests for that time but has not discovered details of his journey, which can only be narrowed down

to being sometime between 1865 and 1880. It is a possibility that he travelled under false name. As my cousin states: "A formal passport with signature and photograph was not introduced until 1915, and with the vast numbers of immigrants to North America in the 1800s, it would not be too difficult for someone as resourceful as Grigor to invent a new persona with some kind of false identification."

Mary Ann Waters declared herself to be thirty years old, having been born in Paineauville, Quebec, Canada to Irish parents, James Waters and Isabella Waters (nee Kenny). She stated she was a spinster and that her religion was Church of England.

Grigor, or as he more commonly used, Gregory and Mary went on to have two children in Port Huron, Michigan: Christina Elizabeth McIntosh, born 1<sup>st</sup> July 1881 and William John McIntosh, born 1<sup>st</sup> December 1882<sup>iv</sup>. Although he was born William John, he was later known and officially referred to as Gregory John McIntosh.

Gregory Grant (Grigor) McIntosh died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1887<sup>v</sup>. At his death his age was recorded as being forty, six years after he had married Mary when he was supposed to be thirty-eight. We know he was actually fifty-two years old. His widow, Mary passed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1916. They are buried in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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<sup>i</sup> Census, Auldearn 1871, 121/3/6 of 12

<sup>ii</sup> Census, Ardclach 1871, 120/6/5 of 9

<sup>iii</sup> Marriages (Schedule B), Ontario, Canada, 1826-1939

<sup>iv</sup> Michigan Birth and Christenings 1775-1995

<sup>v</sup> Gravestone of McIntosh plot at Ottawa Municipality, Ontario