



Moray & Nairn Family History Society

NEWSLETTER

Edition 48

July 2024

Welcome 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.

I finally found time to finish my book on the Nairnshire Militia (see over) with the Lord Lieutenancy's minutes giving much interesting detail of how substitutes and men were balloted for the Militia.

I also found time to transcribe the Minute Book of Auldearn Parish Council (see over) though sadly the minute books preceding this one and after don't survive, likewise the registers and applications don't survive (but this is common for many areas in the Highlands and Moray) but it does give a glimpse of the attitudes to claimants and may help give more insight into this I believe is an underrated source for family history.

A forthcoming publication, and I have managed to get time to work on them over the winter, will be a work relating to the parish of Deskford. Like nearly all our publications we try and have material not available on the web.

We have new publications and pdfs now of some of our books that are out of print – see our website for more details.

Recently I received the sad news that Keith Mitchell the Chairman of the Moray Burial Ground Research Group has passed away after a long illness. Keith and with his wife Helen, I had spoken to Keith a number of times and his passion for the recording of gravestones I would say surpassed my own.

To all take care,
Stuart Farrell
Chairman

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2024. Will members please submit articles to the Editor: newsletter@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

MNFHS Publications New Titles!

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FOR ALL TITLES AVAILABLE**

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

Nairn Voluntary Infantry Pay Lists & Officers' Returns 1798, 1808, 1809, 1810 &
1812 & Nairn Lieutenancy Minute Book 1819 - 1831
Compiled by Stuart Farrell 126 pages £8.00 Postage & Packing extra.

Parish of Auldearn Poor 1843 & Auldearn Parochial Board
& Parish Council Minutes 1874 - 1897
Compiled by Stuart Farrell 109 pages £8.00 Postage & Packing extra.

Help Required

I am researching a Rev. David Stuart of Virginia, born in Scotland around 1690. Legend has it that David Stuart was the illegitimate son of Charles Stuart, 6th Earl of Moray and a Lucy Erskine, son of David Erskine, Lord Dun. David Stuart was supposedly a Jacobite. I found a David Stewart from Forres on one of the Jacobite prisoner ships to the USA in 1716, having been captured at Preston. Rev. David Stuart had a brother-in-law in Virginia, the Rev. Alexander Scott (born July 20, 1686, Dipple, Elgin Parish; died 1783, Virginia). They married the Gibbons sisters (Jane and Sarah), from Wiltshire. Their brother was Sir William Gibbons, 1st Baronet Gibbons (died 1760, Barbados).

Rev. Alexander Scott was the son of Rev. John Scott, Rector of Dipple Parish (born 1651, Forres; died 1726, Elginshire/Morayshire) and Marjory Stewart (born 1652, Kirktown of Alvah; died 1696, Elginshire/Morayshire). Rev. John Scott was the son of John Scott, burgess of Forres (birth/death dates unknown). Marjory was the daughter of Walter Stuart of Ryland (1620-1668), who had at least two brothers, Thomas and Patrick (birth/death dates unknown). I've found several references to them in the Annals of Banff. Walter Stuart had a son, Rev. James Stuart, who ministered at Alvah and died unmarried in 1745.

I'm trying to tie the Rev. David Stuart into the family of Walter Stuart or one of his brothers. Anyone with information on either the Scott or Stuart families of the Forres area in this time period, please contact David Ford at hazmatfed@hotmail.com.

The Croy Tragedy Part 2

By Stuart Farrell

The initial court proceedings were held at the Castle, Inverness, were reported in the *Nairn County Press & Advertiser* of 3 October 1903 as follows: 'The Croy Tragedy – The first or pleading diet of the High Court of Justiciary was held in the Sheriff Court-House, at the Castle, at Inverness, on Saturday, when William MacLaren, an army reservist, was charged with murder. Sheriff Grant presided. Mr James Anderson, Procurator Fiscal, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Forsyth, solicitor, represented the accused. There were only one or two persons in the Court besides the officials and the press representatives. The accused is a tall soldiery-looking man, and did not appear to seriously realise his position. Since his arrest he has been confined in the prison of Inverness, and in the interval his appearance has somewhat altered. He has allowed a beard to grow. The charge against the accused is as follows:- "William MacLaren, prisoner in the prison of Inverness, you are indicted at the instance of the Right Hon. Andrew Graham Murray, His Majesty's Advocate, and the charge against you is that, on 29th August, 1903, within the dwelling-house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy, County of Inverness, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, farm-servant, you did assault the said Alexander Harper Mackinnon, and did beat him, and did murder him." Sheriff Grant to accused – You have been served with an indictment at the instance of His Majesty's Advocate, charging you with the crime of murder. Are you guilty or not guilty? Mr Forsyth, solicitor – He pleads not guilty to the charge of murder, but he pleads guilty to culpable homicide. Sheriff Grant – Do you wish me to record that plea? Yes, my lord. Mr James Anderson, Procurator-Fiscal – I accept the plea. Sheriff Grant – I adjourn the case to the second diet at Aberdeen on the 7th October. The accused was then returned to prison.'

The proceedings were reported in the *Inverness Courier* of 9 October 1903 as follows: 'The Croy Tragedy. Maclaren Sentenced. A special sitting of the High Court of Justiciary was held in Aberdeen on Wednesday. The cases that were down for disposal were both committed out of Aberdeenshire, one a case of murder from Nairnshire, in which a plea of culpable homicide had been accepted, and the other a case of indecent assault from Banffshire. There was in consequence very little interest on the part of the Aberdeen public in the proceedings, and very few people were in attendance in the Court, or even assembled outside the Courthouse buildings, as is invariably the rule when local cases are being tried. Lord Kincairney was the presiding judge, while Mr Robert L. Blackburn appeared as Advocate-Depute, assisted by Mr Alan Carnegie, advocate. Mr W. Mitchell, advocate, was Counsel for the accused in the Banffshire case, and Mr Charles Lippe, advocate, was Counsel for the accused pleading guilty to culpable homicide. Mr Horace Slight was at his usual place as clerk of Court. Mr J. Ogilvie Kemp, advocate, was also present.

Lord Provost Walker, accompanied by Baillie's Taggart, Glass, Esslemont, and Geo.

Brown, and Mr Wm. Gordon, town-clerk, were present, and occupied the Magistrates' seat on the right hand of the presiding judge. Punctually at 10.30 Lord Kincairney entered the Court, accompanied by Rev. Alexander Brown, West Church, who opened the Court with prayer.

The accused, William Maclaren, was then brought into the dock. The charge against him was that, on 29th August last, with the dwelling house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, he did assault the said Alexander Harper Mackinnon, did beat him, and murder him.

Statement For Accused. Mr Lippe, advocate, appeared for the accused, and explained to his lordship that the accused having pleaded guilty to the crime of culpable homicide, he desired to make a statement in mitigation of sentence. There were various grades of culpable homicide, and he hoped to be able to show that the present was not in the serious grade. The accused, who was an old soldier, having come home from the South African War, went to some friends in Nairnshire, and he entered into the family of the deceased while looking for work. He lived in his family for some months, and lived on amicable terms all along until 29th August, when the deceased man had to go to Inverness on business. Mackinnon returned at five o'clock in the afternoon, and according to arrangement, Maclaren went down to the station to meet him and accompany him home. Unfortunately, when Mackinnon arrived he was very much under the influence of drink. The accused was sober, and had had no drink up to that time. Mackinnon bought a bottle of whisky, and he and accused drank a considerable amount of it on the way home. When they arrived at deceased's house at 8 o'clock they were very much under the influence of drink, particularly Mackinnon, but there was no quarrel between them, and they were still on very friendly terms. Mackinnon's wife laid supper, and they partook of it together, and consumed the rest of the whisky. All this time the accused and deceased had been very good friends, but unfortunately Mackinnon and his wife were not on very good terms, and when Mackinnon was under the influence of drink he was apt to be rather harsh with his wife, and on this occasion several quarrels took place between them. About ten o'clock the deceased lay down on the a bed in a closet off the kitchen, with his clothes on, and shortly after, his wife, who had occasion to go to the closet, found deceased there. He commenced wrangling with her, and assaulted her so much that his wife rushed from the bed closet and went to the prisoner, who was at the fireside, and asked him to go and give her husband a thrashing. Accused thereupon ran into the closet, and on his way picked up a poker lying on the fireside, and with this poker he struck the deceased several blows on the arms and shoulders, and evidently on the head. The blows, he did not think, were serious blows. The weapon itself (which he produced) – a small, bent poker, about 15 inches long, with a turned circular head) was not a very murderous-looking weapon. On receiving the blows, the deceased, from the condition he was in, fell, his head coming into violent collision with the hard concrete floor. The medical evidence showed that the immediate cause of death was dislocation of the spinal nerve, caused by the fall on the floor, and not by the blow. When accused saw that Mackinnon had been hurt, he and his wife laid him on the bed, and he went to

Inverness for a doctor to attend to him. By that time, however, Mackinnon was dead. He desired to draw his lordship's attentions to the prisoner's past life. He was 25 years of age, and when he was 17 joined the army. Prior to that he had been a farm servant in Inverness-shire, and he had a letter from the farmer with whom accused was engaged, stating that he lived on the farm for seven or eight years, and became cattleman. He was well behaved, and attended to his work, and was obliging and very good to his mother. When he went abroad on active service he always sent sums of money to his mother. He was of sober habits.

After leaving the farm he joined the Cameron Highlanders, and went through the Soudan, in which he gained two medals and two clasps for his services in that campaign. He afterwards served in the South African War honourably, and gained other two medals and two clasps, and was invalided home from enteric fever. Mr Lippe also read a letter from the Commanding Officer of the Cameron Highlanders, detailing the services of accused, and stating that he served honourably with the regiment, and that his only fault was that he was rather inclined to take drink.

With the actual crime itself, Mr Lippe said, he desired to say that at the time, although the accused and the deceased man were under the influence of drink, particularly deceased, the drink which incapacitated accused was drink brought by Mackinnon, that the weapon which was used, though an ugly one, was not necessarily a murderous one, that accused had no intention to inflict serious injury, that the attack was entirely unpremeditated, and that there was no malice. In the circumstances he hoped his lordship would make the sentence as consistent as possible with the plea which had been tendered.

The Advocate-Depute said the only point on which the evidence of the Crown differed from what had been said on accused's behalf was with regards to the especial cause of the quarrel between deceased and the prisoner. His learned friend had indicated that the prisoner was championing deceased's wife against her husband. He had no evidence of that; it might be so, or it might not. But the precognition he had made of the deceased's wife showed that prisoner and deceased began to quarrel between themselves. She then left the room, and had been out of the room for half-an-hour when the blow was struck. Otherwise he entirely agreed with what had been said by prisoner's Counsel.

The Sentence. Lord Kincairney, in passing sentence, referred to the indictment, which charged prisoner with assaulting deceased and killing him. The charge against him now was not one of murder. It was stated by his Counsel that he had no intention of inflicting serious bodily injury on Mackinnon.

He referred to the various points urged by Counsel on accused's behalf, that there was a quarrel between deceased and his wife, that both deceased and prisoner were intoxicated, and that the weapon used was not a murderous one, and that the death of deceased was partly attributed to the fall of deceased which was caused by the blow. With regard to the nature of the weapon used, Lord Kincairney (examining the poker) said the weapon was extremely heavy for its size, and was certainly a formidable weapon that might inflict great injury. He did not know how prisoner struck Mackinnon, whether with one end or the other of the poker, but the blow must have

been a more serious one that he intended.

In the circumstances of the case, he thought he was entitled to deal with accused's case with great leniency. Of course, this was a serious case; accused had struck Mackinnon with a poker, with the result that death occurred. Prisoner himself had gone for a doctor after striking deceased, though he was unfortunately too late, and that was a circumstance in his favour. Looking to the circumstances, he did not think the crime was one which demanded a severe sentence. He there pronounced sentence of 18 months imprisonment.

Counsel for prisoner – Mr C. E. Lippe, advocate instructed by Mr James Ross Smith, S.S.C., Edinburgh; Mr C. Downie Lumsden, advocate, Aberdeen; and Mr James Forsyth, solicitor, Inverness.'

We have been requested to state, on behalf of Mrs Mackinnon, that there was no quarrel between her husband and herself on the night of his death. He did not assault her, and she did not ask Maclean to give him a thrashing. She was not in the house when her husband and Maclean had the quarrel which ended in the attack on her husband. The account of the quarrel between the men, as given by the advocated for the accused, was, Mrs Mackinnon says, incorrect in these particulars.'

A slightly contrasting report of the initial court proceedings had been reported in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* on the 8 October 1903 as follows: 'High Court of Justiciary. Sitting in Aberdeen. Alleged Murder in Nairnshire. A sitting of the High Court of Justiciary was held in Aberdeen Sheriff Courthouse yesterday. Lord Kincairney was the presiding judge. His lordship drove in a cab to the Court-House, where the heralds, in their uniform of scarlet and gold, with their silver trumpets, together with two constables, were in waiting to receive him. A large crowd of people had assembled in Union Street to see the judge on his arrival.

There was no fanfare of trumpets, and Lord Kincairney walked quietly, and without any of the usual ceremony, along the Court-House vestibule to his room in the court buildings, there to don his judicial vestments. Admission to the courtroom was strictly regulated, and apart from the gentlemen cited to serve as jurymen, there were comparatively few persons present. Mr R. L. Blackburn, advocate depute, was early in his place; as was also his assistant, Mr Alan Carnegie, advocate. The counsel were Mr Charles Lippe, formerly of Brander and Lippe, Aberdeen (who received congratulations from many old friends); Mr W. Mitchell, and Mr J. Ogilvie Kemp. Mr George A. Slight was clerk of court. Punctually at half-past ten o'clock the judge, preceded by the officer bearing the mace, entered the courtroom, his lordship's entrance being heralded by a fanfare of trumpets. His lordship was accompanied by Rev. Andrew Brown, West Church; Lord Provost Walker, and Baillies Taggart, Glass, Esslemont, and George Brown. Mr Littlejohn, sheriff clerk; Mr Gordon, town clerk; Mr Robert Lamb, procurator-fiscal for the city; and Chief Constable Anderson were present. Rev. A. Brown opened the court with prayer.

The Croy Case. The first case called was that in which William McLaren was charged with Murder. Accused, guarded by two constables, was brought into court through the trap door leading from the cells below.'

A statement on behalf of Christina McKinnon appeared in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 9 of October 1903 – ‘Letters to the Editor. The Nairnshire Tragedy. Sir, - We have been consulted by Widow Mackinnon with reference to certain of the statements made to the court on behalf of the accused on Wednesday, and in order that these allegations may be contradicted on her behalf. Our client therefore desires us to point out that the version of the lamentable circumstances as given to Lord Kincairney by the Crown is alone the correct one, namely – “That the prisoner and deceased began to quarrel between themselves. Mrs Mackinnon then left the room, and had been out of the room for half an hour when the blow was struck.”

Widow Mackinnon has had grief enough and to spare over the fatal result of the tragedy, and she only desires to emphasise that the allegation of there having been any dispute between her late husband and herself is absolutely and cruelly groundless. We accordingly ask you, in justice to our client, to be good enough to insert this letter of explanation in your columns to-morrow. – We are, etc. MacGillivray and Munro, 42 Union Street, Inverness, 8 October, 1903.’

William McLaren's service papers on Find My Past (National Archives Ref. WO97/5428/174) indicate that he was born 1878 in Berwick-on-Tweed, but I have been unable to find his birth listed on Free BMD or Familysearch. In his statement to police McLaren stated that he was a native of Sollas, North Uist; but I have been unable to find him here either.

His Army Papers indicate he enlisted as No.3839 in the 1st Cameron Highlanders at Inverness on 1 December 1896 where he stated he was 18 years and 8 months old with former occupation as Ploughman. Described at 5ft 9½in tall with auburn hair, blue eyes and Presbyterian by faith. Next of Kin stated as Catherine McLaren (Mother), Smithton, Culloden.

Service sheet shows he served at home until 27 March 1897, then was stationed at Gibraltar until 3 October 1897, stationed in Egypt till 2 March 1900, then in South Africa from 10 October 1902 returning home on 1 April 1903, he was discharged on 23 October 1903 ‘in consequence of his having been convicted by civil power of culpable homicide’. Served a total of 6 years and 327 days in the Army.

Fought in the Nile Expedition of 1898 taking part in the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and in the South African War at the battles of Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittsburgh. For this he was awarded the Khedives Egyptian Sudan Medal with clasps “The Atbara” and “Khartoum”, The Queen's Sudan Medal, The Queen's South African Medal with clasps Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Witsburgh, Cape Colony and the King's South African Medal & clasps 1902. Had also been awarded one good conduct badge in December 1898. Noted that he was convicted of fraudulent enlistment into the Scots Guards as Private 1390/05 and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment hard labour by civil powers on 21 November 1905, though location not stated. [In 1905 Scots Guards were stationed at the Tower and Chelsea, London]

Not located in 1881 Census. In 1891 Census at West Dalziel Farm, Parish of Petty, listed as Catherine B MacLaren, 48, Farm Servant Agricultural Labourer, born North Uist with son William B MacLaren, 11, Scholar, born England.

On the 4th February 1908 William McLaren went on trial at Aberdeen High Court (National Records of Scotland Ref. AD15/08/153 – Case No.1) for ‘Assault to Effusion of Blood with intent to Rob and previous conviction’. McLaren had assaulted a Miss Lydia Mary Clark (41) on the Nairn to Croy Road on Saturday 16 November 1907. It was noted by the Judge that McLaren in February 1906 had been given two months hard labour for theft and in August 1907 three months imprisonment for theft by housebreaking. He was found guilty and sentenced to six years imprisonment. In the 1911 Census William is listed as being an inmate of Peterhead Prison, aged 31, occupation of Farm Labourer, born Berwick. Unknown what happened to MacLaren after he left Peterhead Prison.

Overall it seems that whether it was the song that started the quarrel between Mackinnon and MacLaren and/or his wife, no statements of witness’s seem to have been read out in court or that the wife or MacLaren were questioned in court, which seemed to be over and done with very quickly. Both parties seem to have been both drunk, and by the wife’s statement Mackinnon believed that McLaren was having an affair with her, and that Mackinnon had lifted his hand to his wife, which seemed he was not unaccustomed to doing.

It was stated by the wife and in the second newspaper article that MacLaren was a cousin of the victim, but I yet have been unable to ascertain what the actual family connection was. Why was his death recorded by a neighbour and not his wife, and why no mention of the children who were witnesses, especially the son who said he saw McLaren strike his father first? That they both had served in the Army may have been the reason MacLaren was living with Mackinnon or was it because of the family connection, however whatever the reason it is unlikely we will ever know the true circumstances of the Croy Tragedy.

THE LANDS AND PEOPLE OF THE BLACK ISLE

Bruce B Bishop FSA Scot

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Christina Mackintosh (1833-?) – my second great grandaunt

By Stuart McIntosh

Having been born on 16th August 1833 and she had lived with her parents at first in Leopold Street in Nairn and then with them at Blackpark Farm in Auldearn. It was at the farm in June 1861 that she married a soldier called James Lynch, which was reported in the local newspaper thus:

MARRIAGES - At Blackpark, Auldearn, on 11th inst., by the Rev. John Bisset, U.P. [United Presbyterian] Church, Nairn, Bombardier James Lynch, Royal Artillery, drill instructor to the Nairn Artillery Volunteers, to Christina, second daughter of Mr John Mackintosh, farmer, Blackparkⁱ.

James Lynch had been lodging with Christina's brother John, at 10 Leopold Street, Nairn just two months earlierⁱⁱ. John, who was to die just five weeks after the festivities, was a sergeant in the Second Company of the Nairn Artillery Volunteers for whom John Lynch was the drill instructor. James had been born in Ireland in 1824 so was thirty-seven and Christina approaching twenty-eight when they married. In the 1840s Britain was afeared of a possible invasion by a foreign enemy and there was a demand for an enlarged armed force to protect the home nations. However, the turbulent political state of Britain meant that the Government were reticent about arming the working classes. The 1857 Indian Mutiny and a heightened concern about the cross-channel tensions dictated the clamour for a permanent Volunteer Force to be established. This would be the forerunner of the Local Defence Volunteers, the Home Guard deployed in the Second World War and the more recent Territorial Armyⁱⁱⁱ.

It was 12th May 1859 that the Secretary of War issued a circular to the Lords Lieutenant authorised the formation of the Volunteer Force. There was stipulation that "Volunteer Rifle Corps as well as Artillery Corps and Companies in Maritime Towns in which there may be Forts and Batteries" could be enrolled.

Nairn Artillery Volunteers was an auxiliary unit of the British Army from 1860 to 1908, having been formed on 10th April 1850^{iv}. The drill hall and armoury were situated at Raglan Hall, described in 1869 as "a commodious building of two storey high, [the] upper is used as the hall and the lower storey as a dwelling house. It is in indifferent repair and the private property of Lieutenant Colonel Finlay, Commandant of the Nairn Volunteers".^v

Christina and James were living at Leopold Street after their marriage where, six months after the wedding, on 16th December 1862 Christina gave birth to their first child, a son called James after his father^{vi}. The child's father, James who was a Bombardier in the Coast Brigade of the Royal Artillery when he married had since

been promoted to Corporal by the time of his son's birth. Sadly, the boy only lived for fifteen days and died at their home on New Years Eve^{vii}. To compound their grief further the local newspaper on 7th January 1863 carried the birth announcement immediately above the declaration of the death^{viii}.

On 6th November 1863 Leopold Street saw a second birth to the couple, another son who they also called James^{ix}. Just two months later tragedy struck again when, on 18th January 1864, the baby died^x.

In June 1864 the local newspaper was reporting that the Nairn Artillery Volunteers had two batteries with a total strength of fifty-six men including ten in the band. The drill instructor was James Lynch. (J. Mackintosh was in the band, Hugh Mackintosh was a Corporal, Charles Macintosh was a gunner – not established a connection)^{xi}. Ten months later, with Christina and James now living at Cumming Street, the couple had another child on 19th November 1864. This time it was a girl who they called Christina, after her mother and as her maternal grandmother was commonly known.

The family remained at 4 Cumming Street, Nairn for the next six years. It is situated near to The Links in Nairn. Today one would travel along King Street in a northeasterly direction to the roundabout and turn left at the United Reformed Church into Marine Road and first right into Cumming Street. It was named after a former Provost of Nairn, Sir Alexander Penrose Cumming-Gordon (1749-1806) who had succeeded to his father's Scottish estates at Altyre in 1775. Two years earlier, on 9th September 1773 he had married Helen, the daughter of Sir Ludovick Grant^{xii}. By 1866 James Leach had been promoted to Sergeant and on 6th August that year Christina gave birth to a second daughter whom they initially named Margaret^{xiii}. On 2nd February 1867 the name was corrected on the birth register to include the middle name Elizabeth^{xiv}. Tragically Margaret only lived for six months and died on 4th May 1867^{xv}. On 12th April 1869 Christina gave birth to a fifth child, a son they named Augustus Cameron^{xvi}. He was a poorly baby and died three months later, on 25th July^{xvii}. It was around this time that James was pensioned out of the Royal Artillery. In just eight years of marriage since 1861 Christina and James had enjoyed five births but suffered the death of four of those children in infancy. On 14 April 1870 a sixth child was born to the pair, whom they named Maria Evelyn^{xviii}. After the birth of Maria, the family are shown to be living at 2 Charles Place, Nairn, which is on the junction of Marine Road and Cumming Street and so may be the same property but renamed.

At Charles Place on 25th October 1871 another daughter was born. Originally James registered her as Jessie Hall Lynch but by April 1872 it was formally altered to Theodosia Wexford Lynch. Not a common name, Theodosia derives from the Greek, meaning Devine Gift or Gods' Gift.

In 1872 The Education (Scotland) Act 1872 made elementary education for all children between the ages of 5 years and thirteen years mandatory in Scotland^{xix}.

In 1874 James Lynch advertised his services offering to exercise local children^{xx}.

Exercises for children – Sergt James Lynch, late Drill Instructor, Royal Artillery, will undertake the drilling of Gentlemen's children, at their own residences in the following exercises, viz: - Extension Motions, and Positions Back Stick Exercise; Club Exercise; Sword Exercise; Marching, &c. Charges Moderate. Apply at No. 9 Douglas Street.

At a public meeting of Nairn ratepayers held on Tuesday evening, 4th April 1876, the issue of truancy was raised when an audience member asked how many of 637 children of school age were not attending school. The response was to say, "very few", which was disputed by several of the attendees. The provost Leslie said: "I am sure you will not find twenty in Nairn not at school, except those who are necessarily detained by sickness or other causes." Mr (James) Lynch, the Compulsory Officer said: "to the best of my knowledge there are very few not attending school, and these have been reported." Adding to this, Board Member, Mr C. B. Mackintosh said: "We have a compulsory officer, and he is using every effort to keep the children at school"^{xxi}.

On Monday, 13th January 1879 the Nairn Burgh School Board reported that some dissatisfaction was expressed at the way the duties of Compulsory Officer were being discharged by James Lynch and the Board agreed to give him one months' notice of his services being discontinued^{xxii}. However, on Monday, 20th January 1879 the Board dispensed with the services of James Lynch as compulsory officer^{xxiii}.

At a meeting of the Nairn Parochial Board held on Tuesday, 3rd May 1881 acknowledgement was given to receiving a letter from Dr Aitken dated 25th April which provided details of the death of James Lynch the former drill instructor at Nairn, who been confined in the Inverness Asylum^{xxiv}. James Lynch had died on 23rd April 1881 at the District Asylum in Inverness. He was shown to be a "Pauper Lunatic" having been diagnosed with dementia sixteen months earlier, so around the beginning of 1880. His usual residence was listed as Mackenzie Steel, Thurso^{xxv}. At the time of James' death, his wife Christina was renting a room at Rose Street, Inverness, living there with their daughters, Christina, Maria and Theodosia^{xxvi}.

ⁱ Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 12 June 1861, p.3 of 4

ⁱⁱ Census, Nairn 1861, 123/5/9

ⁱⁱⁱ Scottish Archive Network, 1st Nairn Volunteer Artillery Corps

^{iv} Frederick 1984, Litchfield & Westlake 1982

^v Nairnshire Ordinance Survey Name Books, 1869, vol 7, OS1/22/7/63

^{vi} SR Births, Nairn 1862, 123/145

^{vii} SR Deaths, Nairn 1862, 123/92

^{viii} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 7 January 1863, p.3 of 4

^{ix} SR Births, Nairn 1863, 123/139

^x SR Deaths, Nairn 1864, 123/8

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- ^{xi} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 22 June 1864, p.2 of 4
- ^{xii} History of Parliament (online), Cumming Gordon, Alexander Penrose
- ^{xiii} SR Births, Nairn 1866, 123/93
- ^{xiv} SR Corrections, Nairn 1867, RCE 123/00 001 66
- ^{xv} SR Deaths, Nairn 1867, 123/17 & Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 6 March 1867, p.3 of 4
- ^{xvi} SR Births, Nairn 1869, 123/43
- ^{xvii} SR Deaths, Nairn 1869, 123/89
- ^{xviii} SR Births, Nairn 1870, 123/38
- ^{xix} Corr 1990, pp.291-298
- ^{xx} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 8 July 1874, p.1 of 4 & 22 July 1874, p.2 of 4
- ^{xxi} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 5 April 1876, p.4 of 4
- ^{xxii} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 15 January 1879, p.3 of 4
- ^{xxiii} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 22 January 1879, p.2 of 4
- ^{xxiv} Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties, 4 May 1881, p.3 of 4
- ^{xxv} SR Deaths, Nairn 1881, 098/179
- ^{xxvi} Census 1881, Inverness, 098/6/10 of 38