

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Journal No. 155 • May 2020



ANESFHS members rehearsing for local-area group meetings online. Top: some Edinburgh Group members. Bottom: Southern Ontario Group organisers meet the editor.

Membership Details

New members pay the annual rate, and your subscription runs for exactly one year from the date on which you join. Further details are available on our **website**. Membership of the Society entitles you to receive the quarterly Journal. There is a discount for e-members who opt to download the Journal digitally instead of receiving printed copies.

Family membership is available for two named persons at one address. Please nominate one surname for registration purposes.

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As website renewals are processed automatically, renewing via the website greatly assists our hard-pressed volunteers. Thank you.

ANESFHS website and Members' Forum

In order to get the most from your Society membership, you should register on our new website. Go to www.anesfhs.org.uk and click on the Register link at the top right of the screen. For further assistance, please visit www.anesfhs.org.uk/how-to-register

Once you have registered, you can access our growing list of very useful members-only features:

- All our Journals from 1979 onwards
- Monumental Inscription look-ups for many North-East Scottish graveyards
- A Members' Forum for exchange of ideas, assistance with "brick walls", and much else.

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We may occasionally send e-mails to Society members only, concerning Society membership, appeals for volunteer help or promotional information, using the e-mail address you have provided. You may choose to unsubscribe from these e-mails. For further details of data protection, please contact the Society in writing.

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Society Reports, News and Information**Editorial**

During Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed, ANESFHS brings you “normal service” as best we can manage through our Journal, our website and our various social media. We hope you and your families are all well and have not been affected directly by the virus. We are delighted that our excellent printers, McKenzie Quality Print Ltd of Dyce, have stayed operating with a skeleton staff (they also supply sanitising-product labels) and have been able to bring out this issue of the Journal on schedule. They deserve big thanks.

Meetings of our local-area groups are going ahead wherever possible – now as e-meetings. Keep your eye on the Society’s website “Events” pages; and you can e-mail local-area group organisers to find out the latest. See also the Diary page in this Journal.

We’re all learning new things – often about IT. I’m grateful to Dave Anderson (no. 7696), the Society’s “retired” but always-overworked IT guru, for the following explanation. When you read our Journals online (as JPEG images), all Web addresses are underlined but are not clickable links. But, when you download a Journal as a PDF file, any Web addresses in it appear as clickable hyperlinks that will take you to websites mentioned.

This does, of course, rely on each URL appearing correctly. I apologise for a typo in Journal 154 (Feb 2020, p. 15): the link should be <http://bit.ly/FromellesANESFHS2019>.

I recently stumbled across a handy feature of the scotlandspeople.gov.uk/ search screen that I’d not known about. Say you’re in the Statutory registers, and you’ve found a death entry and now want to check for any marriage. Instead of paging back up and selecting “Marriages” and retyping details of the name, just go to the bottom left-hand corner of the screen. Below the search “buttons”, there are options to search other parts of the Statutory registers. Select “Search Marriages records” – and it will display and will search on the *name* details that you’d last keyed in (though you still have to refine by county, date etc.). The same applies *within* pre-1855 Church registers. It can save you some time.

Each Journal has the Record of Ancestors chart of a member who has given permission. While a “full” chart is ideal, a chart at any stage of work-in-progress is always good to see. Large gaps can be inevitable, especially for ancestors born illegitimate. If you’d like your chart to feature so that members may spot connections, I’ll welcome it. To maximise any North-East Scottish content, you could choose to work back from an ancestor. You might also like to write an accompanying article about aspects of the research involved.

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Ivor Normand

No. 4161

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Research undertaken in North-East records, also at the
National Archives of Scotland and New Register House
All enquiries welcome

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Tel. 01561 361500

Meet the Gang: Bert Lawrie

In the “Good Old Days” when our Family History Centre was also open on Tuesday and Friday evenings, Violet and Paul used to mention Bert Lawrie (no. 17901), who came in on Tuesdays to do his own research but was always willing to help others if things got busy. Everyone was delighted, therefore, when Bert retired in 2014 and was able to join the team as one of our volunteers!

Bert was born in Lanarkshire in 1950 but moved to Aberdeen at the age of 2. He attended Middlefield School and then Hilton Academy. He denies categorically that he was spoilt, being the only boy in a family of five. In fact, he claims he suffered terribly from having to wear his older sisters’ hand-me-downs. His school uniform was usually a blouse (disguised as a shirt) which was alright in winter worn under a V-necked jumper but was embarrassing in summer! It got worse as his sisters grew older and started to develop. Poor Bert! This sartorial confusion has remained with him. He confessed how he’d once gone down to the Scotland’s People Centre in Edinburgh and only realised on the bus leaving Aberdeen that he was still wearing his slippers! Nothing daunted, he continued his journey and spent what must have been a very comfortable day at the SPC!



On leaving school, Bert was a youth worker at the St Catherine’s club, and then qualified at Moray House in Edinburgh as a community worker. Returning to Aberdeen, he joined the VSA, with responsibilities for the welfare of older people. He then became a training manager and ended up working with VSA for 35 years. He is married to Lesley, and they have two daughters. He is a devoted and involved grandfather to his two grandchildren.

Bert’s father was one of 13 – and, despite extensive research, Bert has found what seems to be an insurmountable brick wall (we all seem to have one of those!). He traced the family back to great-grandparents in the Lanarkshire village of Bargeddie – and then ... nothing. He found their death certificates but no trace of the family in census returns, and no marriage or birth records. He surmises that his great-grandfather simply didn’t fill in census returns – perhaps because he was illiterate, or more likely because the family was from Ireland at a time when there was considerable mistrust and suspicion in the Glasgow area of people with an Irish background. He hopes, like all of us, that one day records will be released which will explain and clarify the mystery.

Bert continues to help others with their research. He is very pro-active in the Society, and has a clear vision of how we should be proceeding. He was instrumental in setting up the Broad Street Project – an initiative to document some families and businesses recorded in Aberdeen’s Broad Street in 1911. Following a chance meeting with a local councillor, Bert organised us and co-ordinated the information we discovered. It’s been a fascinating and revealing documentation of a former way of life in the historical centre of Aberdeen.

Bert is an invaluable team member: he sees what needs to be done, and has organised the refurbishment of our “shop front” and the admin area in 164 King Street. I find Bert is very much a “what you see is what you get” person. He speaks his mind, and you know he will do what he says he will do! He would make an excellent Chairman and would lead the Society with enthusiasm and vigour. All we have to do is persuade him to take it on!!

Refurbishment Work in Progress ... Interrupted!

Phase 1 of our King Street Family History Centre renovation project was completed in November 2018. The research and kitchen areas on the ground floor were refurbished, the toilet was made disabled-accessible, and a stairlift was installed down to the library.



Phase 2 involves our back office/stockroom in no. 164, where some volunteers' work is done. After various hitches, this phase was just starting when we had to close King Street for the duration of the Covid-19 restrictions. Everything is now on hold.

The project manager and organiser is Bert Lawrie. Here he is, all ready to go! We look forward to whenever we'll be able to resume work on this project, as well as on all our normal volunteering and our various services to members.

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Barbara Lamb (Centre Manager) No. 20206

—oOo—

Unidentified Receipts

Our detective stories usually involve family-tree mysteries, but this one is financial. Two payments seem to have been duplicated, leading to possible overcharging.

Were you in our Family History Centre at King Street on Monday 17th February? Around 2pm, did you pay for a purchase, or purchases, using your credit/debit card? These were:

- **£8.25** (at 14:10 and 14:11; no identifying merchant slip for either payment);
- **£11.85** (at 14:14 and 14:15; identifying merchant slip for second payment only).

The timeframes suggest duplication of both payments. If it may have been you, could you please check your bank card statement in case we have inadvertently overcharged you?

My apologies for this, but I hope you can shed some light on this issue. Thank you.

jane.cameron@anesfhs.org.uk

Jane Cameron (interim treasurer)



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Members' Meetings

Marjory Harper, "Adventures in the Archives"

Exploring themes from Aberdeen city and county history

15th February 2020

Prof. Harper is Chair in History at the University of Aberdeen and is Visiting Professor and Senior Researcher in history at the University of the Highlands and Islands. Her main area of research is the Scottish diaspora, and she has written many books and articles on the history of Scottish migration around the globe. She was involved in creating the Scottish Emigration Database, a free online tool containing the records of 21,000 people.

This talk originated from an online Masters Programme on archives and how to use them, exploring tools to unlock stories of people and events in the social history of an area. The sources she recommended are: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives; Aberdeen University; Aberdeen University Special Collections; NHS Grampian Archives; Grampian Police records; private collections; and local newspapers. The *Statistical Accounts of Scotland* and the National Records of Scotland are also useful sources for researchers.

Posing the question "What is an archive?", she described it as a collection of documents or records, written or verbal, providing information about a place, people or institutional policies. Archives are generally unpublished and unique, often in manuscript form and catalogued. The resources she covered in the talk were on schooling, the poor, and health.

Education

Before 1872, schooling was considered important as a ladder of expectation to improve pupils' chances, with a school in every town, and leading to university for some. The Kirk Session covered fees for poor children. In the rural lowlands, schooling was nearest to what was expected, but schooling was more difficult in the scattered Highland regions. By the 19th century, the Argyll Commission Report (1865–8) led to the Education (Scotland) Act 1872. Schools became state-controlled, with 5–13-year-olds receiving compulsory education – and this has resulted in a solid paper trail for researchers since then.

Logbooks and admission registers give an insight into life in the parishes. Head teachers were instructed to give a dispassionate and accurate report, e.g. First World War casualties of former pupils, or friction between teachers. The Fraserburgh School logbook reports on a dispute between headmaster and teachers, which resulted in a row in front of the pupils. The School Board decided that the head's pugilistic approach had caused the friction. For Glentanar School between 1873 and 1941, logbooks note absentees in the country area at certain times of year due to pupils being needed on farms or as beaters for grouse shooting on the local estates. Infectious diseases such as diphtheria and measles were logged.

During the Great War, logbooks report pupils knitting scarves for the armed services, giving up school prizes for the money to be spent on the soldiers, and collecting sphagnum moss for wounds; also visits to schools by soldiers, and postcards sent. During the Second World War, the Glentanar School logbook reported teaching evacuees, 33 of whom were from Glasgow. The school was almost set on fire when the cleaner didn't dispose of live cinders properly. She left the job, but no replacement was found. In 1940 there was a report on the war's progress, and in 1941 a report of fixing protective lace on windows.

Our speaker's aunt was a teacher in Disblair School, Newmachar; and Prof. Harper spent time there with her aunt, who bought the school when it closed. She used photographs that were in the school, and the logbooks, for researching her own family history. The impact of bad weather on school attendance was reported in the logbooks; and during the severe winter of 1947 a pupil had to sleep in the school.

Parish welfare

Pre-1845 poor-relief records can be found in Kirk Session records. A Royal Commission was set up, leading to the Poor Law Amendment (Scotland) Act 1845. The Act set up Parochial Boards in each parish to administer poor relief; and poor-relief registers were introduced in 1865 and can generally be found in local archives. They can provide details of age and place of birth of paupers. Poorhouse records for the North-East are held by Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Archives, but most of those for Aberdeen were destroyed in the Second World War. Paupers requiring assistance had to undergo moral evaluation. The need for poor relief sometimes arose from extra-marital behaviour which had resulted in illegitimate children: 20% of children born in Banffshire in 1866 were illegitimate.

Economic downturns, including the collapse of the herring trade, in the Buchan and Moray coastal areas resulted in an increase in the need for assistance. In 1924, Elizabeth Noble's husband had gone to America to seek work as a barrel-maker, leaving her destitute, and she had to apply for poor relief, which Logie Coldstone parish had to pay. The General Register of Poor in this parish had a higher percentage of recipients than most parishes. Agnes Harvey (62), a beggar from Ireland, applied for poor relief. In 1872, a four-year-old child was abandoned in Glen Muick, and Logie Coldstone had to pay for him. Also in the 1845 Parochial Board Minutes, Logie Coldstone furnished destitute women considered too feeble to work with a house and garden, but to receive assistance they had to work – spinning, knitting stockings and making small crafts.

Health

Pauperism and ill-health often went together. The 1845 Act made it compulsory for parishes to pay for the insane poor and in times of epidemics. There were four big cholera outbreaks in Scotland in the mid-19th century. Woolmanhill Hospital in Aberdeen opened in 1742, but because it was also a landowner, the records such as minutes and annual reports are very good. Royal Cornhill Hospital opened in 1800 as the Lunatic Asylum, but the records for the hospital were a casualty of neglect, as they were housed at the Cornhill site and were lost from the repository there.

Scottish diaspora and migration

Useful information on family members who emigrated from an area can sometimes be found in cemetery records, MI records, burial registers and gravestone records. Private family collections are also rewarding. In 1866, 26 Logie Coldstone people, mainly Farquharsons and Fletchers, emigrated to Chatham, Ontario, because of correspondence they had received from previous migrants. The archives of Haddo House, the home of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, reveal the history of members of the family emigrating from their home in Aberdeenshire to the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, Canada. For access to private collections, you should first contact the National Register of Archives (Scotland), who will contact the owner of correspondence for permission.

Police archives are another source of interesting information. Suffragettes' activities in North-East Scotland included replacing golf flags on the Balmoral golf course. Caroline

Phillips, a very active local member of that group, may have been involved. The king was in residence and asked for the matter to be dropped. Also, in 1891 in Tarland, Deeside, a “Wanted” poster shows the image of a man who was a well-known thief in the area. The local archives also contain reports of bombing in Aberdeen during the Second World War.

This was a very interesting and sometimes entertaining talk, interspersed with examples of many real-life cases. It was followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

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Kit Corall

No. 1000

—oOo—

Moray/Banff Group Report

“Finding Family in Old Newspapers” was the topic for our February meeting. The British Newspaper Archive had just added 31,000 more pages online from the *Elgin Courant and Moray Advertiser*, so it was a good time to be tackling this subject. There are also seven Aberdeen-based newspapers available, including good coverage of the *Press & Journal*, and four Banffshire newspapers. We looked at different ways of accessing information by filtering place and date, and also by entering different search words. It’s an excellent way of adding background and depth to your family history. We certainly came up with some interesting bits and pieces!

Everyone worked hard in our “Reading Old Handwriting” session in March. The excellent www.scottishhandwriting.com/ website offers free tutorials which can be downloaded. These are divided into different centuries and different types of documents, such as parish registers, Kirk Session records, court records and others. Each document comes with a transcript so that results can be checked. With a wide variety of documents downloaded, everyone set to work to decipher their chosen exercises.

Sadly, our April and May meetings had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown, and we can’t be sure when we will be able to resume our meetings in the Library. However, as other ANESFHS local-area groups are now doing, I hope we can hold an online meeting in June using Zoom. Our scheduled topic, “Family mementos”, would lend itself nicely to such a meeting, as individual members can show a treasured memento for everyone to see, and can give a short talk about it. I’ll send a Newsletter round before long, but in the meantime we’ll all need to get in a bit of Zoom practice!

I hope you’re all keeping well in these uncertain times. Take care!

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Mary Evans

No. 1975

—oOo—

Edinburgh Group Report

Chris Paton, “Down and out in Scotland: researching ancestral crisis”

18th January 2020

Chris is an experienced and prolific researcher, writer, broadcaster and blogger. His talk was given previously to our Glasgow Group, and a short report appeared in Journal 142 (Feb 2017, p. 10). He covered a lot of ground – and fortunately we didn’t have to scribble like fury, because he has kindly made a four-page handout available online. It can be downloaded via tinyurl.com/DownOutScot, and is based on part of his book, *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry through Church and State Records* (Pen & Sword Books, 2019).

Any of six main areas of tragedy and hardship may have caused your ancestors to appear in records: family and relationships; law and order; poverty; debt; medical problems; and “them and us”. Most sources discussed are accessible at the National Records of Scotland (www.nrscotland.gov.uk) and via local archives, much of which is catalogued at the Scottish Archive Network (www.scan.org.uk).

Illegitimacy was recorded on Scottish birth certificates from 1855 until 1918. Some death certificates also noted the deceased’s illegitimacy. In pre-1855 OPR records, a child was “natural born” or “born in uncleanness” to unmarried parents, versus “lawful” when born to parents married to each other. Always consult the parish’s Kirk Session records to see what went on when the parents were hauled up. Mothers could pursue paternity cases in the civil courts (or a Kirk Session could refer a case to the courts). After 1860, a judgment in a mother’s favour would lead to an appended entry to the birth register via the Register of Corrected Entries. Southern counties, and Aberdeenshire, are on scottishindexes.com.

To uphold law and order, different criminal or civil (or burgh or other) courts handled all variety of matters (see handout). Poverty was a major reason for ending up in records. The first Scottish Poor Law was enacted in 1579; then in 1587 responsibility for the care of the poor passed to Kirk Sessions. In 1845 came the Poor Law (Scotland) Amendment Act, whereby poorhouses were established and administered by parochial boards. See www.workhouses.org and www.myainfolk.com for lists of poor-relief record locations.

Recovery of debt has generated some of the most detailed records in Scotland. Processes included Kirk discipline, letters of horning, warrants of poinding, *cessio bonorum* and (from 1771) sequestration. Check www.thegazette.co.uk for notices of debtors. Medical issues include the cause of death on a death certificate. Check the Hospital Records database at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk (UK-wide, though there is a closure period).

Finally, “them and us” is Chris’s shorthand for records dealing with “the people and the establishment”: the Reformation, the Covenanters, the Civil War and the Killing Times, the Jacobites (forfeited-estates papers, e.g. Exchequer Rolls), the Clearances, Chartism and the vote, suffragettes, self-determination and so much else.

With luck, you should be reading this Journal soon after our Edinburgh Group’s next meeting. Our annual Members’ Day, on 2nd May, will have taken place online. It’ll be a new adventure – and a report will appear in the next Journal. We hope things will be back to what passes for normal by September, or indeed well before that.

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Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

Glasgow Group Report

Mary Evans, “Tackling Your Brick Walls”

15th February 2020

Mary is the convener of our ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group and is a very accomplished genealogist, researcher, writer and speaker. The date of our meeting coincided with the worst of Storm Dennis (a week after Storm Ciara), but we were hugely impressed and grateful that Mary went to great lengths to keep the show on the road. She travelled down from Elgin the day before, stayed two nights, and returned home on the Sunday. No brick wall is strong enough to hold Mary back. In those adverse circumstances, 22 members

was a decent turnout on the day, and we were well served with a highly informative presentation via the Kirk Lounge's new electronic wall-screen. Many thanks, Mary!

Her very well-illustrated presentation has previously been given to our Edinburgh Group (see Journal 147, May 2018, p. 5) and to our Aberdeen-based members (see Journal 153, Nov 2019: Janet Byth's more thorough report, pp. 4–5). Society members can access these, along with our entire back run of Journals, by logging into the ANESFHS website.

Our next meeting, on 16th May, is a Q&A problem-solving workshop on the same theme: "Breaking down brick walls", inspired by Mary's talk. Our usual venue is (of course) closed during Covid-19 restrictions – but The Show Must Go On, following Mary's good example. Our annual Members' Day will take place online, and I'll send out the usual invitation, but now to a Zoom meeting at the scheduled time. Don't be shy; give it a try.

Stay sane; and keep up to date with details on the Events pages of our Society's website.

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Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

London-Area Group Report

29th February 2020

This was our first scheduled meeting of ANESFHS's London & South-East Area Group. Our meetings are from 12 noon until 2pm in the Church of Scotland hall, Russell Street, in London's Covent Garden (use side door on Crown Court). Beforehand, I was nervous – what if no-one turned up? What had I done? We had had lots of people sign up to the idea. I needn't have worried: we had 24 people turn up, and received 11 apologies.

We had a good discussion about what we would like to do and what actually is feasible! Everyone was keen to know which names were being researched, and of course the place, so we had a session where we all said who we were, giving the main names and places in our research – lots of oohs and ahs, and I have folks from there ... etc. It was lovely, and everyone was quite animated and excited by it; we had a couple of people discover they are related ... I will find out more about this and let you all know. Many people have visited our Society's HQ in King Street, Aberdeen, and were telling others how brilliant everyone up there is and who to talk to about what.

We set dates for the year (all Saturday afternoons, 12 noon to 2pm):

16th May 2020 – now taking place online if we can arrange to do so.

19th September 2020

21st November 2020.

We all have varying degrees of expertise, so we are going to look at different research websites and a whole lot of "How to ...". This was meant to begin at the May meeting, but it may now kick off in September and even run into the November meeting.

We broke for lunch at 1pm, and everyone helped make the tea and wash up, and generally chatted to each other. It was 2pm before we knew where we were, and time to go!

I have to say that, although understandable in the current climate, I am fair scunnered that we have had to cancel the May meeting – but I can't wait for September, and am happy for anyone else who wants to come along to get in touch (Twitter: @sjclark30).

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Sheena Clark

No. 19190

Brisbane-Area Group Report

15th February 2020

We had 17 at the meeting, with four apologies. It was the first time for six attendees, and so we thank the ANESFHS social-media team (well done and thank you, Susan and John), as well as thanking the Editor for featuring our reports and progress in the Journal.

We introduced ourselves, explained our research interests, and briefly discussed how we are going to run the group: fairly casually, but not wasting people's time, and being courteous and supportive of people's differing levels of experience. Jenny Davidson offered to make us something delicious for each meeting (\$1 each towards costs). Val, Cameron and Dale will rotate timekeeping/ facilitation duties, and Robin is taking notes.

Ann Swain (no. 200) gave a fabulous presentation on Scottish wills and sasines. Ann explained the difference between testaments (a collective term to describe all documents relating to the executry of a deceased person). Every testament contains a list of the person's property – which may be a brief list or a long list of items with valuations. Some testaments (the minority) also contain a will, with a statement from the deceased person about how they want their assets distributed after their death. Where there is a will, the document is known as a *testament testamentar* (equivalent to English probate). If there is no will, it is called *testament dative* (equivalent to English letters of administration).

Very few Scots left testaments, largely because few had extensive assets until relatively recently. Ann pointed out that even as late as 1961, only 43% of Scots left testamentary evidence of any sort. However, valuable heirlooms continued to be passed down within families (just in a manner that circumvents the need to pay legal fees).

Ann also highlighted how an instrument of sasine (*say-zin*) was used to record the transfer of ownership (sale or inheritance) of land or buildings. These can be useful because they often identify relationships within families. However, sasines only exist in relation to property ownership, whereas most Scots rented the property they lived in and are not mentioned in the sasine register (held at the NRS in Edinburgh). We all found Ann's talk very informative and can't wait to jump on a long-haul flight to check out sasines.

After a very chatty morning tea, we had a few people provide a "show and tell" where we saw some great photographs and artefacts from our Scottish ancestors and had flashbacks to primary school, but with a much more supportive audience. I was too interested to take decent notes on what was presented, and by whom. Sorry!

We ended by suggesting topics for future meetings. The current list is: illegitimacy and Kirk Session records (Katrina/Dale); archival research (Robin/Val); search techniques (*or* rubbish-detection when using Google?); resources in/on Aberdeen; newspaper resources (Kate B); self-publishing a family history (Max *in absentia*). I thank everyone for coming along – and if you have any further suggestions for our events, let me know.

Our group has a private Facebook group, ANESFHS Brisbane – search FB and send us a join request. Posted on our FB page, we also have a Word document with all our surname interests, which FHSs we belong to, and which family-history software we use.

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Robin Price No. 18058

Melbourne-Area Group Report

15th February 2020

Mary Jo kindly hosted, Julie chaired our meeting, all attendees contributed to afternoon tea – and I thank Des for being the scribe. Some members were having trouble accessing our group's blog. Solutions were briefly discussed; and we will also consider using Facebook provided that security of information can be assured.

Peter demonstrated a single-screen program into which a Gedcom file can be uploaded (www.learnforeverlearn.com/ancestors), giving one-page summaries of direct descendants and/or direct ancestor trees, and the ability to add country flags to entries, thus giving a visual presentation of how families are dispersed worldwide.

DNA

Various comments were exchanged on DNA (most of which went over the scribe's head!). The consensus was that it is useful to submit your results to a selection of companies to assist in verifying matches. It is important to keep the original downloaded ZIP file and to work only with copies each time it is required, because once it has been extracted and used the information is no longer reliable.

Mary Jo has had success in tracing ancestors who had previously been difficult to locate, by constructing family trees of DNA matches and connections, then triangulating results. Although this was a significant amount of work, it was effective.

Publications

John offered copies of the *Scots Magazine* from the early 2000s, containing interesting articles often based on a particular family or location. John had found that these became less useful following some changes to the publication format after 2006 or so. He also displayed a professionally bound volume comprising published articles, documents, letters and extracts from family bibles etc. which he had collated over many years. The volume was a grand and enviable achievement.

Gwen reported that courses offered by various institutions on compiling family history can be very useful and often revealed some surprising sources. As an example, an innovative method of presentation was through publishing a recipe book in which the recipes were interspersed with detailed stories of the contributors' families and their origins.

Janet showed two historical booklets featuring Stonehaven. One contained details of businesses and their proprietors, and the other was a collection of photographs titled *Views of Stonehaven* and printed by James Rioch, 5 Market Square, Stonehaven.

Ross exhibited a family heirloom, being a silver pocket watch dated 1796 and attributed to "Gartly, watchmaker and jeweller in Stonehaven". John Gartly (1750–1829), clockmaker, made the clock tower in Aberdeen. Ross is at a brick wall, unable to verify who Gartly's parents were. Descendants are proving hard to trace, as there were only three daughters, so the Gartly name did not appear to survive beyond that generation.

David (originally from Stonehaven), who is searching for Episcopalian information, asked for source suggestions, as he is having difficulty finding pre-1855 parish records. It was suggested that published information on the subject may be available from historical book suppliers. For such books, Ross has found that Wordery (based in the Channel Islands) can be an alternative source to Booktopia (and sometimes less expensive).

Peter showed miniature medals from his ancestral connections to military service in the India/Afghanistan conflict c. 1878–80. An ancestral silver snuffbox originated in 1831 in Birmingham and is said to have been presented by Queen Victoria. He also possesses a magnificent black opal brooch which was apparently given to his ancestor in lieu of a debt.

RootsWeb will be shutting down and so won't be used as the forum for ANESFHS. Now forums can be accessed via *aberdeen@groups.io* or <https://groups.io/g/Aberdeen>.

melbourne@anesfhs.org.uk

Julie Fleming

No. 22166

—oOo—

Southern Ontario Group Report

25th April 2020

Thanks to the Journal editor's diligence, a new ANESFHS Southern Ontario Group was created this past winter. Thirty-two members responded to the idea, followed by a flurry of e-mails from which a planning committee and a survey developed. The survey results provided goals and planning objectives for our committee and our new Group. The first concrete result was a catalogue of Members' Interests which we shared around. Some members have made family connections with each other. Here are two example lists:

Susan Brouwer (no. 20475; *sasbrouwer@rogers.com*):

McPherson	Aberdeen/Torry	1829–1920
Pirie	Drumblade, Huntly, Auchterless, Oyne, Forgue	1800–1945
McKay	Laig, Sutherland, Aberdeen	1800–1915
Buchan	Peterhead, Crimond, Rathen, Lonmay	1750–1900
Tait, Gow, Murdo	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
Mair, Stephen, Pirie, Wood	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
Balloch, Horn, Chapman	Auchterless, Huntly, Drumblade, Forgue	<i>ditto</i>
Thomson, Watson, Clarke	Aberlour, Inch	<i>ditto</i>
Massie, Innes, Spence	Gamrie, Boyndie, Marnoch	<i>ditto</i>
Whyte, Charles, Mathieson	Monquhitter, Culsalmond	<i>ditto</i>

Dr David Joiner (no. 16651; *david.joiner@sac.on.ca*):

Joiner	Forgue, Huntly, Belhelvie, Banchory Ternan	1800–1912
Robbie	Peterculter, Skene	1733–1915
Robb	Buchan, Huntly	1800–1922
Mearns	Keithhall and Kinkell	1800s
Spence	Boharm, Gartly, Forgue	1769–1862
Taylor	Forgue	1800s
Scroggie	Skene	1800s

The survey clearly identified a wish to share ideas on researching methods and resources – and it was our intention to address those ideas at our first meeting. Covid-19 introduced a virus into those plans, so we went to Plan B. At short notice, Christine Woodcock, a noted Ontario genealogist, kindly offered to present a webinar on “Online and offline resources for Scottish research” in lieu of our meeting. This webinar allowed members to watch the presentation at home on their devices – either live, or accessing the recording later. We were very fortunate to have Christine available to save the day for our initial venture.

Our big challenge is finding a location for meetings to suit our members in an area that stretches 300 km north-to-south and nearly 500 km west-to-east. This webinar was a good start, though it doesn't allow for the benefits of having a face-to-face meeting.

Christine's presentation satisfied the requests of many of our members for resources. It also addressed an issue for several of us who had planned trips to Scotland and ANESFHS HQ this summer but will now not be able to do so. Christine outlined a multitude of key general and specialist online sources that can be accessed from our homes. She identified sources related to the lives and times of our ancestors, including occupations, social issues and geographic setting. The resources cover all of Scotland, and most can be applied to the North-East. Overall, there were more than enough sources to keep researchers busy for this period of isolation – and next winter as well. The question-and-answer period at the end of the webinar did not materialise, but participants were given an opportunity to ask Christine questions via e-mail after the webinar.

Our Group's programme is officially under way, albeit with a few glitches. Technology may play a role in future (e-)meetings, if only to overcome issues of imposed isolation, geographic distance and winter. We look forward to our first face-to-face meeting.

Rod Coates	No. 18349
Lorna Weber	No. 21787
John McLean	No. 5641

—oOo—

Events in 2020 (we hope!)

As this Journal goes to press at the end of April, governmental Covid-19 restrictions are still in force and are expected to be for some time to come. It's impossible to predict when things may start returning to "normal", or whether events will be able to take place even if they're officially allowed to go ahead.

I've spent time contacting as many organisers as possible of the events that we normally attend. The general response has been: "Sorry, we've made no decisions yet re cancelling – we're waiting for further governmental rules". Nevertheless, here's our wish-list, with the proviso that any event is subject to cancellation at any time. Keep your eye on the websites: ANESFHS's, of course, and for each event where applicable.

A big annual event which we always enjoy attending with our ANESFHS bookstall is the Family History Show at Knavesmire Stadium, Race Course, York. This is now postponed until June 2021 – but the organisers intend to hold an online version of this year's on the original date, 20th June 2020. See thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/ for how to take part!

ANESFHS will (be delighted if we can still) have a stall at these events in 2020:

- 27th June, 11am–4pm Grampian Postcard Club Fair, Bennachie Visitor Centre
- ~~11th July, 9am–5pm Echt Show (echtshow.co.uk) – now cancelled for this year!~~
- 1st August, 10am–5pm Aboyne Highland Games, The Green (aboynegames.com)
- 2nd August, 10am–5pm Provincial Book Fair, Victoria Hall, Station Square, Ballater
- 5th Sept., 9:30am–5pm Braemar Highland Games (braemargathering.org)
- 25th Oct., 10am–4:30pm Provincial Book Fair, Aberdeen (venue TBA)

Help is already arranged with the bookstall at these events. As always, we'd love to see you there anyway. No idea yet about Doors Open Day (normally in September); and note that Lanarkshire FHS are not having their usual big event in Motherwell this year.

ABERDEEN & NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **Year ended 31 December 2019**

Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Total
	General Fund	100 Club	Funds
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
Voluntary income:			
Covenants and Gift Aid	6,783	-	13,652
Donations	4,939	-	8,882
Legacy income	10,000	-	-
Annual fees	-	1,497	1,426
Investment income:			
Interest received	876	-	694
Incoming resources from charitable activities:			
Subscriptions	60,113	-	62,781
Publication sales	12,593	-	15,601
Research and queries	3,146	-	4,278
Other incoming resources:			
Other income	426	-	496
	£98,876	£1,497	£100,373
			£107,810
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable activities			
Direct charitable expenditure	69,732	637	98,743
Depreciation	6,346	-	5,708
	£76,078	£637	£76,715
			£104,451
Net incoming resources	22,798	860	3,359
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	322,952	4,464	327,416
Total funds carried forward	£345,750	£5,324	£351,074
			£327,416

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS **Year ended 31 December 2019**

3. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED – CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GENERAL FUND

	Direct Charitable Expenditure	Depr'c'n	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Publication cost of sales	4,706	-	4,706	8,180
Printing Society Journal	15,463	-	15,463	15,365
Postages and Journal distribution	10,727	-	10,727	11,246
Stationery and office supplies	2,847	-	2,847	3,914
Insurance, heat, light and telephone	8,786	-	8,786	5,675
Rent	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
Rates	2,728	-	2,728	1,970
Equipment repairs and maintenance	(160)	-	(160)	363
Meeting expenses	1,653	-	1,653	1,655
Conference and course expenses	-	-	-	51
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	2,681	-	2,681	2,950
Advertising	276	-	276	50
Internet and IT expenses	625	-	625	988
Accountancy fee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Professional fees	-	-	-	3,328
Bank and credit-card charges	1,637	-	1,637	1,782
Sundry expenses	6,379	-	6,379	8,245
Building and library repairs	4,385	-	4,385	25,270
Depreciation	-	6,346	6,346	5,708
	£69,732	£6,346	£76,078	£103,740
100 CLUB				
Building and library repairs	-	-	-	-
Prizes etc.	637	-	637	711
	£637	£-	£637	£711

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ANESFHS Financial Report for AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting was scheduled for 21st March 2020 but fell victim to Covid-19 restrictions and will take place at a later date (TBA). What follows is the Financial Report that was prepared in time for the scheduled meeting.

Full audited copies of 2019 accounts are available (via jane.cameron@anesfhs.org.uk) by e-mail. Although the office of Treasurer remains vacant, we continue with a Finance Team of dedicated volunteers sharing out and fulfilling all the functions.

Main points on the pages of accounts (see opposite) are as follows:

Page 5 – income

Membership subscriptions are down only slightly on previous years, with an increasing number of new (and old) members opting for the cheaper digital membership (e-Journal).

Gift Aid income (from 2018) is almost halved on the previous year, but 2017 was unusual in including the successful Granite Roots appeal. However, it may be worth considering ways of promoting Gift Aid among UK membership.

Research income is also down on previous years, but FindMyPast income (from sharing MI data) is proving to be a nice little earner. We thank Gavin Bell (no. 4085), who has organised the forwarding of selected MI data to the FMP organisation.

We also received a welcome legacy of £10,000 from the estate of Dr William P. Brown (no. 12384) in March 2019. See Journal 151 (May 2019, p. 12) and the article pinned to the board in our Research Centre at King Street (when we reopen).

Sales of publications, either in our Centre or by post, continue on a downward trend – a reflection of the times?

Page 9 – expenditure

Publication costs have been much reduced this past year, with a concerted effort made to rein in costs, mainly because books are not selling. The digital age has had a considerable impact, with increasing reliance on online information.

Stationery, office supplies, printer cartridges etc.: we thank our procurement officer, John Urie (no. 9338), who has an eye for a bargain/best value and ensures that such items are secured at reasonable cost.

He has also put his skills to use in negotiating with suppliers over better deals for fuel and insurance. Charges in these areas (also light and telephone) have noticeably increased over the past year. Business rates are also up, though we do have some concessions as a charity, e.g. Business Stream exempt courtesy of Scottish Government legislation 2015.

Building repairs and maintenance for 2019 reflects the day-to-day upkeep of the building, unlike the previous year, which included the refurbishment of our Centre. Note that refurbishment is now extending to the back office and will be reflected in next year's accounts. The Granite Roots appeal was designed specifically for the refurbishment and upgrade of computer systems. Approximately £40,000 remains in the GR account.

“Sundries” covers research costs, refuse collection, alarm and security costs, cleaning, maintenance of fire extinguishers, volunteer training costs, IT software, book fairs and Research Centre sundries (refreshments and consumables).

Our thanks go to our auditors – previously Williamson & Dunn, but now taken over by Campbell Dallas – for very prompt delivery of audit. Special thanks go to Andrew Horne (no. 19096), our resident accountant (retired but still active), who prepares the end-of-year accounts for audit. We also thank all other volunteers involved: new team members Linda Davie (no. 11027) and Teresa Shewell (no. 4883), plus Bill Rodger (no. 8458), Pat Black (no. 18074), Jane Cameron (no. 9680) and secretary Ronald Leith (no. 39), as well as Sheila Symons (no. 13157), who processes the monthly Direct Debits for membership subscriptions. Their assistance is very much appreciated.

treasurer@anesfhs.org.uk

March 2020

—oOo—

Library Report

Two recent additions to the Society library:

***Aberdeen: An Illustrated Architectural Guide*, by W. A. Brogden. Edinburgh: Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, 2012. ISBN 978-1-873-19066-1. £16·00**

Dr Brogden is an architectural historian who has been involved with the restoration and conversion of several buildings in Aberdeen. His book was first published in 1986, and this is the fourth revised and updated edition. It's more than just a guide to the city's buildings, however. The introduction gives a brief history of the city, and explains how Aberdeen has changed and developed over the centuries of its existence. The book is divided into sections, each of which concentrates on a particular area of the city. Each section starts with a more detailed description of that particular area and its history, and this is followed by specific details of the individual buildings.

It's a very useful guide if you've ever walked past a building in Aberdeen and wondered when and why it was built, or if you're interested in a particular area of the city, or in a particular architect.

When you're researching your family history, you will often find that the houses your ancestors lived in are no longer there, but this guide will at least give you an idea of what the area was like at the time.

***The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Tartan*, by I. Zaczek and C. Phillips. Wigston: Southwater, 2013. ISBN 978-178019-275-6. £11·99**

Iain Zaczek and Charles Phillips are established writers with backgrounds in history and art history, and with a particular interest in Scottish history. This updated edition of their book is much more than just a list of different tartans.

The first part is a history of tartan – inextricably bound up with the history of Scotland itself. The Wars of Independence, the Jacobite risings, the Clearances, regimental tartans, the suppression of tartan and its subsequent revival – all these and more are covered.

The second part gives the history of all the clans and major Scottish families and their associated tartans. The book finishes with the background to the modern and international tartans which have been produced and the reasons behind them.

This encyclopaedia is beautifully illustrated throughout. It's a fascinating book to dip into and will inspire you to delve deeper.

library@anesfhs.org.uk

Margie Mellis

No. 2090

100 Club News

The 100 Club gives our members the opportunity to win a cash prize while also supporting the Society's work. All you need is a UK bank account, wherever you live. The fee for each number held is £12 per annum and is payable annually, in May, by banker's order.

The payout is always 50 per cent of the income, and there are four prizes in the monthly draw (1st 20 per cent, 2nd 15 per cent, 3rd 10 per cent and 4th 5 per cent of the income). **You must be a current member of the Society.** If you decide not to renew your ANESFHS membership, please **also cancel** your standing order for the 100 Club.

The draw takes place monthly, and **we now pay winners via online banking. We need to be kept up to date with any changes to 100 Club members' bank-account details.** Winners are also announced in the Journal. For further details, please see the current Information Booklet on our website. If you'd like to join, then please e-mail me (below).

	1st prize Mem. No. (£25·00)		2nd prize Mem. No. (£18·75)		3rd prize Mem. No. (£12·50)		4th prize Mem. No. (£6·25)	
Feb	Elizabeth F 38 Allan	10763	Jacqui 138 Farmer	20728	Robert 117 Munro	15062	John A 111 Lumsden	14999
Mar	Michael 110 Kennedy	15552	Janet A T 120 Brown	15008	Margaret 95 Vieira	3106	Kenny 20 Harrison	13946
Apr	Iris Baxter 91	3014	Norman G 90 McPherson	3986	Robert 7 Mathers	1540	Norma M 15 Boston	14252

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Teresa Shewell No. 4883

—oOo—

Publications List Update

Please note that King Street is closed until further notice during Covid-19, and volunteers are working as and when we can to fulfil orders. The Society's website ("Publications" tab) has a list of all publications that we produce or sell, and tells you how you can order. Meanwhile, these publications are new in stock:

Moray & Nairn FHS

AJ320 Boharm Free Church, baptisms 1844–56; Boharm War Memorial and Boharm Roll of Honour; and Poor Register for the Parish of Boharm, 1845–80. £8·00 210gms

Scottish Genealogy Society

NS034 Huntly Free Church, births and baptisms 1839–53 and 1867–1900, and marriages 1841. £4·00 120gms

NS035 Edinkillie Parish Church, baptisms 1855–1917. £4·50 120gms

NS036 Strachan Free Church, Kincardineshire, baptisms 1836–1924. £4·00 120gms

NS037 Maryculter Free Church, baptisms 1853–95 and marriages 1854–84; and Banchory-Ternan Free Church, baptisms 1855–86. £3·00 110gms

Local History: NE Scotland

LA317 Banffshire People & Lands Pt 17: Parish of Cullen prior to 1750. B Bishop. £6·00 160gms

LA318 Banffshire People & Lands Pt 18: Parish of Cullen 1750–1850. B Bishop. £6·00 120gms

- LA319 Banffshire People & Lands Pt 19: Parish of Fordyce (Portsoy) £6·00 120gms
prior to 1774. B Bishop.
- LA320 Banffshire People & Lands Pt 20: Parish of Fordyce (Portsoy) £6·00 120gms
1775–1850. B Bishop.

jean.shirer@anesfhs.org.uk

Jean Shirer

No. 14

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Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Joiner Family Christening Gown and the Mystery Countess: Update

In Journal 154 (Feb 2020, pp. 36–37), we shared the challenge of discovering the identity of a mystery countess who had given a christening gown to the family of George Joiner and Elizabeth Jessie Robbie, my great-grandparents. George Joiner died in June 1911 at Clayholes, Inchmarlo, and is buried at Banchory Ternan Cemetery; in 1915 his widow Elizabeth followed some of her children to Canada (including my grandfather Edward Joiner, who had emigrated in 1912), where she died in December 1939 at Highland Creek, Ontario, and is buried at Tillsonburg Cemetery, Oxford County.

Responses from two different sources seem to confirm that the woman in the photograph may be the Countess of Caithness, London-born Lilian Higford (1873–1933).

Charles Buchan at Auchmacoy House, Ellon, says the woman in the photograph reminds him of a charcoal sketch he had seen of his great-grandmother, the Countess of Caithness. Prof. Peter Reid (member no. 8855), at Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University, is certain that the woman in the photo is the same Countess of Caithness, Lilian Higford. In 1893 she married Norman Macleod Sinclair (1862–1947, son of the 16th Earl of Caithness), who in 1913 underwent a legal change of surname to Buchan after the death of his cousin Louisa Buchan, 15th of Auchmacoy. In 1914, Norman succeeded as 18th Earl of Caithness and 13th Baronet Sinclair of Canisbay. Norman and Lilian had five daughters.

Peter also points out that the patron of ANESFHS is Lord and Lady Caithness's grandson, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, a former Lord Lyon King of Arms and a co-founding member (no. 33) of our Society.

david.joiner@sac.on.ca

David Joiner

No. 16651

Two men walking home from a party decided to take a short cut through the graveyard. Halfway through, they were startled to hear a tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows. Shaking with fear, they were relieved to find an old man with a chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones.

“You scared us half to death, mate,” said one of the men. “We thought you were a ghost. What are you doing working here so late at night?”

“Those fools,” the old man grumbled. “They spelt my name wrong.”

Diary

9th May 2020

ANESFHS Melbourne Group e-meeting
Autumn e-meeting
 2pm–4:30pm online via Zoom; contact
melbourne@anesfhs.org.uk

~~**16th May 2020**~~

~~**ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting**
Register of Corrected Entries
 2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace~~

16th May 2020

ANESFHS Brisbane Group e-meeting
Autumn e-meeting
 10am–12:30pm online via Zoom; contact
brisbane@anesfhs.org.uk

16th May 2020

ANESFHS London-area Group e-meeting
Websites, and “How to ...”
 12 noon–2pm online via Zoom; contact
london@anesfhs.org.uk

16th May 2020

ANESFHS Glasgow Group e-meeting
Members’ Day: breaking down brick walls
 2pm–4pm online via Zoom; contact Ivor on
glasgow@anesfhs.org.uk

6th June 2020

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group e-meeting
Family mementos
 2pm–4pm online; *moray.banff@anesfhs.org.uk*

20th June 2020

Family History Show – now online
 Usually at York Racecourse (ANESFHS has a bookstall), and now postponed until 2021 – but see <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

8th August 2020

ANESFHS Melbourne Group meeting
Winter meeting
 2pm–4:30pm, Baillieu Library, Melbourne University

15th August 2020

ANESFHS Brisbane Group meeting
Winter meeting
 10am–12:30pm, Brisbane City Council Library, Indooroopilly Shoppingtown, level 4

5th September 2020

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting
Bring along a brick wall
 2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

12th September 2020

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group meeting
A monumental miscellany – MIs and more
 Gavin Bell
 2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place

19th September 2020

ANESFHS London-area Group meeting
Topic TBA – see website and next Journal
 12 noon, Church of Scotland hall, Russell St, London (use side door on Crown Court)

19th September 2020

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting
Topic TBA – see website and next Journal
 2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

3rd October 2020

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting
Bits of Latin and other necessary vocabulary
 2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

3rd October 2020

ANESFHS Glasgow Group meeting
The Stewarts and Gordons of Birkenburn
 Gary Lawrie (ANESFHS), genealogist
 2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen’s Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow

17th October 2020

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting
Topic TBA – see website and next Journal
 2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

7th November 2020

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting
What can your DNA tell you?
 2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

7th November 2020

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group meeting
Going beyond names, dates and places
 Ken Nisbet (SGS), genealogist
 2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place

14th November 2020

ANESFHS Melbourne Group meeting
Spring meeting
 2pm–4:30pm, Baillieu Library, Melbourne University

21st November 2020

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting
Topic TBA – see website and next Journal
 2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

Queries

155/1 *TOR(R)IE / AULDTHASH / ALCHASH*: James Torrie or Torie, from Dundurcas in Moray, was 17 in 1775 when he enlisted in the 71st Fraser Regiment via the Duchess of Gordon. He was probably the James bapt. on 23 Jul 1758 to James Torie and his wife Jean Auldthash in Gateside of Upper Shalloch, Dundurcas, near Rothes. Of five witnesses, three were named Auldthash: James, Catharine and Elisabeth (probably the mother's siblings; relationships not stated). James snr and Jean were m. 21 Jan 1757 in Rothes & Dundurcas; her surname is "Alchash" then and at her probable b./bapt. in 1727 in Keith, Banffshire (as the third of eight chn in 20 years to James Alchash and Barbara *McWILLIAM*). Shalloch is also in Boharm parish, Banffshire.

James Torrie jnr returned with the 71st in 1784 and m. Christian Kirk on 29 Feb 1784 in Stirling. Records in Nova Scotia seem to suggest that he and his wife went there to join a group of the 71st who were allocated land at Guysborough, NS.

Does anyone relate to this James or his brother Alexander (1761–1822, d. Perth)? And were there any siblings other than these two for whom baptism records exist? Was Alexander also in the military?

edbrumby@live.com

Ed Brumby

No. 7506

155/2 *MacDONALD / WALLACE / JACKSON*: James Macdonald (b. 11 Apr 1876 Tarves) had twin bro^s Alexander and John (b. 30 Jan 1875 Methlick), s/o Skye-born roadman Alexander Macdonald (1835?–1905) and Eliza Wallace (1838–1939; m. 1874), who lived at Craighall and Keithfield, Tarves. James was a commercial traveller when he m. Mary Joss Jackson, 28 May 1905 in Glasgow. They lived in the North-East.

In the 1911 census and on his d. cert. (10 Jun 1931, Corean Cottage, Ellon), James is described as a photographer. This is affirmed by his grandson, Andy Munro, who had it from his mother Annie Evelyn (Lena, née Macdonald, 1917–2015). James is not in Richard Torrance's *Photographers in NE Scotland to 1914* (2001). Is anyone researching this family and/or can suggest records of photographers in that area?

betty.jomac@gmail.com

Betty Jordan

No. 18139

Instructions for Queries

Queries are accepted from paid-up Society members free of charge. Non-members should donate £1.00 per query (or postage stamps). Up to four queries per person will be accepted per calendar year. The parts of a multi-part query count as separate queries. Each query will show the submitter's name, e-mail address and membership number. The query service is intended for ancestor research and *not* as a finding service for recent or living relatives. We will omit parts of a query which we consider too recent, or which have no North-East Scottish content.

If you have asked the Society for research, you'll receive an answer eventually. Please don't duplicate requests by asking for research on the same question as a Journal query.

In each Journal, we include all the queries that are ready. Queries received close to our publication date will appear in the following Journal.

If you resubmit or update an old query, *please annotate it accordingly*. Journal queries should be sent separately from other correspondence, with your name and membership number on each request, to: queries@anesfhs.org.uk

155/3 *GEDDES*: My 5g-gf Alexander Geddes was b.c. 1728 at “Sanston”, Aberdeenshire. He was a Jacobite, in the Glenbucket Regiment, and was captured in Dec 1745 at the second siege of Carlisle. By Oct 1746, he was a prisoner at Chester, further south in England. In Jul 1747, he was transported to St Mary’s County, Maryland, USA on the *Gildart* with 81 other rebels. After serving his indenture, Alexander married and moved to Stafford County, Virginia, where he furnished supplies to the Continual Army during the American Revolutionary War. He d. 1786. His dau. Margaret Geddes *RATCLIFFE* was my 4g-gm.

I discovered a map at the National Library of Scotland online, published in 1745, which has a Sandton in Aberdeenshire. The NLS also has a Gazetteer of Scotland (1803) which does not mention a Sandton or Sanston. A 1790 map of Scotland (davidrumsey.com) shows Sandton near Huntly. In a Google search for “Sandton Aberdeenshire”, the result was Castle Hotel, “originally known as Sandton” (from the hotel’s history on its website). Was Sandton a village or estate near Huntly?

Are there any Geddes family historians/genealogists who know of a family that is missing an Alexander? Or of an Alexander Geddes who was captured and banished to the Colonies in 1747?

msmarimac@gmail.com

MaryAnn Clifford

No. 22844

—oOo—

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Record of Ancestors

Membership No: **16783**
 Name **Danny CORDINER**
 Address **Edinburgh**

Your Father's Father

Date 28 Oct 2018 (rev. 30 Mar 2020)
 e-mail danielcordiner@btinternet.com

3 **John Cameron CORDINER [III]**

Born 1 Jan 1914
Place Boddam, Peterhead, ABD
Married 1942
Place Peterhead, ABD
Died 16 May 1986 (72)
Place Rafford Manse, Moray
Occup. Minister of Rafford & Dallas

Your Father

1 **Bryan John CORDINER**

Born 9 Nov 1950
Place Inverness
Married 1970
Place Forres, Moray
Died 25 Mar 2001 (50)
Place Edinburgh
Occup.

Your Father's Mother

4 **Margaret COBBAN**

Born 27 Dec 1913
Place Peterhead, ABD
Died 1991 (77)
Place Forres, Moray
Occup.

You

Daniel CORDINER

Born
Place
Married
Place
Occup.

Your Mother's Father

5 **James MANN**

Born 1916
Place Paisley, Renfrewshire
Married 1944
Place Forres, Moray
Died 1997 (78)
Place Forres, Moray
Occup.

Your Mother

2 **Patricia Pearson MANN**

Born 1950
Place Forres, Moray
Died
Place
Occup.

Your Mother's Mother

6 **Doris Inglis SANGSTER**

Born 1924
Place Forres, Moray
Died 2008 (82)
Place Forres, Moray
Occup.

To all Society members:

If you have found new information since you first sent in your chart - or especially if you have *never* sent a chart in! - then please send in your latest version, with extension sheets as required. Don't worry about gaps, but try to fill in as many names, dates and places as you can.

Please send your chart to charts@anesfhs.org.uk, or by post to Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, 158-164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD.

		15	John Cameron CORDINER [I]		
			<i>Born</i> 30 Aug 1856	<i>Place</i> Roanheads, Peterhead	
			<i>Married</i> 1878	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD	
			<i>Died</i> 21 May 1938 (81)	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD	
				<i>Occup.</i> Fisherman	
7	John Cameron CORDINER [II]	16	Helen STEPHEN		
	<i>Born</i> 1885		<i>Born</i> 25 Jan 1857	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD	
	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD		<i>Died</i> 25 Jan 1932 (75)	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Married</i> 24 Feb 1911			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD				
	<i>Died</i>	17			
	<i>Place</i>		<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i> Stonecutter		<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	
8	Christina DICKIE		<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Born</i> 1884 (Christian)			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Boddam, Peterhead, ABD	18	Mary DICKIE		
	<i>Died</i> 1948 (63)		<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Aberdeen		<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i> Domestic servant (Feb 1911)			<i>Occup.</i> Domestic servant	
		19	James COBBAN		
			<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i> Old Deer, Aberdeenshire	
			<i>Married</i> 1859	<i>Place</i> Lonmay, Aberdeenshire	
			<i>Died</i> 1875 (43)	<i>Place</i> Lonmay, Aberdeenshire	
				<i>Occup.</i> House carpenter / wright	
9	George COBBAN	20	Catherine PENNY		
	<i>Born</i> 1874		<i>Born</i> abt 1836	<i>Place</i> Birse, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Place</i> Kininmonth, Lonmay, ABD		<i>Died</i> 1908 (71)	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Married</i> 24 Oct 1895			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Longside, Aberdeenshire	21	David SOUTAR (reputed)		
	<i>Died</i> 1957 (82)		<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Bullers of Buchan, Cruden		<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i> Gardener		<i>Died</i> by 1895?	<i>Place</i>	
10	Maria PENNY			<i>Occup.</i> Mason	
	<i>Born</i> 1874	22	Ann(ie) CAMPBELL	(m. 1878: Alex'r PENNY)	
	<i>Place</i> New Deer, Aberdeenshire		<i>Born</i> abt 1852	<i>Place</i> New Deer, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Died</i> 1969 (94)		<i>Died</i> 1916 (65)	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Place</i> Maud, Aberdeenshire			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i>	23	James MANN		
			<i>Born</i> 1869	<i>Place</i> Muirkirk, Ayrshire	
			<i>Married</i> Q4 1889	<i>Place</i> Carlisle, Cumberland	
			<i>Died</i> 1941 (71)	<i>Place</i> Glasgow	
				<i>Occup.</i> Loco. engine driver (1901c)	
11	Alexander MANN	24	Martha BULMAN		
	<i>Born</i> 1890		<i>Born</i> 1871	<i>Place</i> Carlisle, Cumberland	
	<i>Place</i> Glasgow		<i>Died</i> 1957 (86)	<i>Place</i> Glasgow	
	<i>Married</i> 1915			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Paisley	25	Henry Edgar PEARSON		
	<i>Died</i>		<i>Born</i> 1859	<i>Place</i> Kirkconnel, Dumfriesshire	
	<i>Place</i>		<i>Married</i> 1882	<i>Place</i> Glasgow	
	<i>Occup.</i>		<i>Died</i> 1941 (83)	<i>Place</i> Glasgow	
12	Susan Thomson PEARSON			<i>Occup.</i> Lorryman / van driver	
	<i>Born</i> 1886	26	Isabella THOMSON		
	<i>Place</i> Glasgow		<i>Born</i> 1861	<i>Place</i> Armadale, West Lothian	
	<i>Died</i> 1964 (77)		<i>Died</i> 1932 (71)	<i>Place</i> Glasgow	
	<i>Place</i> Glasgow			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i>	27	William SANGSTER		
			<i>Born</i> 1857	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	
			<i>Married</i> 1894	<i>Place</i> Fyvie, Aberdeenshire	
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	
				<i>Occup.</i>	
13	Andrew SANGSTER	28	Sarah DUGUID		
	<i>Born</i> 30 May 1894		<i>Born</i> 1870	<i>Place</i> Fyvie, Aberdeenshire	
	<i>Place</i> Aberdeen		<i>Died</i> 1918 (47)	<i>Place</i> Aberdeen	
	<i>Married</i> 22 Sep 1914			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Elgin, Moray	29	David WILLIAMSON		
	<i>Died</i> 27 Aug 1977 (83)		<i>Born</i> 1857	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Forres, Moray		<i>Married</i> 1894	<i>Place</i> Rafford, Moray	
	<i>Occup.</i>		<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	
14	Johnina WILLIAMSON			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Born</i> 1894	30	Johnina McKENZIE		
	<i>Place</i> Rafford, Moray		<i>Born</i> 1875	<i>Place</i> Rafford, Moray	
	<i>Died</i> 14 Sep 1962 (67)		<i>Died</i> 23 Jan 1966 (90)	<i>Place</i> Forres, Moray	
	<i>Place</i> Forres, Moray			<i>Occup.</i>	
	(Cluny Hill gravestone)				

Articles

My Favourite Heirlooms

In 1967, my husband and I and our two very young children were on our way from Manitoba to Ottawa, Ontario to take up a new posting. We decided to cross the border into Minnesota and stop at a town named after my great-grandfather, Joseph Pelland. (The Pellands were of French ancestry and had settled there in the late 1800s.)

We stopped at a tavern to have lunch, and I asked the waitress if there were any Pellands still in town. She asked why – and, after I told her my history, she immediately got on the phone to tell a lady that some long-lost relatives were at the tavern, and could they come and visit? We were given directions (it was a very small town). When we drove up the driveway, a lady stepped onto the porch. She resembled my grandfather so much!

She turned out to be the daughter of one of my grandfather's brothers. She invited us in, and we had a lovely chat – but we couldn't stay long, as we had to reach our destination quickly. As we were about to leave, she said: "Wait a minute, I have something for you".

She brought out a small gold-rimmed pickle dish and an old eggcup. She said that they had belonged to our ancestor, and she wanted me to have them. I have treasured them ever since, and I occasionally give them their intended uses. I think this lucky encounter is what got me started researching our family tree.

mariblack8@telus.net

Marilynne Black No. 22232

—oOo—

Two Jolly Stories

(1) Spital Dairy

My 2g-grandfather George Jolly was baptised on 2nd November 1816 in Caldham in the Kincardineshire parish of Marykirk as the fifth and last illegitimate child of David Jolly and Ann Bremner. David and Ann didn't marry. David died in 1846 in Aberdeen and will have his own story in a future article. Ann married James Gove and died in 1863, aged 73, in Aberdeen Poorhouse on Fonthill Road, close to their home in Hardgate. She is buried in Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, and is commemorated on the stone of lair 1226, along with 2g-grandfather George. Back to a baptism in 1708 at Bervie in Kincardineshire, Jane's line has also been recorded as Brebner, Bremer, Brimmer, Brymer and Brebner.

George married Jane Stewart on 1st December 1843 in Gilcomston Free Church Manse, Old Machar parish, Aberdeen. Jane (baptised 22nd July 1819 in Aberdeen) is recorded, in the 1841 census and at marriage, as a servant living and working at Aberdeen Lunatic Asylum. Founded in 1800 and renamed Aberdeen Royal Lunatic Asylum in 1813, it occupied the present-day Royal Cornhill Hospital site. Jane was one of 14 female servants who cared for the day-to-day needs of patients at this progressive institution. The staff included superintendent Thomas Hodge, a resident physician, two matrons, nine keepers and a porter. The 70 female and 55 male patients ranged in age from 17 to 80, most of the females being servants. The males were from all walks of life, including clergyman, advocate, farmer, sailor, teacher, surgeon, agricultural labourers and a grocer.

Jane would have given up this work to start their family, Mary Ann being born on 29th January 1845. There followed seven other children over the next 14 years: George jnr,

Ann, Elizabeth (died in infancy), Margaret, Elizabeth, William and Thomas. William (my great-grandfather) features below in the second story.

George snr had been a farm servant in Nigg parish, just south of Aberdeen, and he was probably seeking more regular work in the growing city. They settled in the Ferryhill area of Aberdeen, next to Wellington Suspension Bridge gatehouse, and George worked as a labourer at the nearby James Abernethy & Co. foundry. They would have seen the building of the railway in the late 1840s and early 1850s, as this area, being next to the River Dee, was where many arches and retaining walls were being built. This is probably the reason why they moved to The Spital, as their home would have been demolished.

George would have walked to the foundry until he could find work closer to home. In the 1861 census, George was a foundry labourer, Jane was a dairy cow-feeder, and they lived at 81 The Spital in Old Aberdeen, which was separate until incorporated into Aberdeen by Act of Parliament in 1891. By 1871, George and Jane lived at 48 Causewayend, Aberdeen, and both were cow-feeders looking after the Sunnyside Farm herd and working in the dairy. In the 1881 census, the Jolly family had moved to 4 St Peter's Place, Spital, and George was a dairyman; and by 1885 the cow byres were next door to their home at 51 Spital. The 1891 census shows them living at Spital Dairy, both aged "75", with their daughter Mary Ann and granddaughters Maggie, aged 15 (child of Margaret Jolly and an unnamed father), and Williamina, aged 7 (child of Elizabeth, who remained unmarried). Williamina was brought up by Elizabeth's sister Margaret (born 1852).

George and Jane, now being elderly, would have had help from the daughter and the two granddaughters to run the dairy. This area was still quite rural, and the farm is recorded as Sunnyside Farm from about 1851 until the First World War. The 40–50-acre farm had a market-garden area as well as pasture fields for the dairy cows, and it was tenanted by Peter McRobbie until his death in 1885. George died aged 76 and was buried in Nellfield. Incidentally, Peter's son John, who was an MD, registered George's death certificate on 9th August 1893. The tenancy was taken on by Thomas Milne, and the Jolly connection with the farm would have ceased just before the turn of the 20th century. The City of Aberdeen Land Association acquired the farm for recreation, and it became a municipal park that included bowling and putting greens. It is not known when this occurred; and to this day it is still open for the community, and is called Sunnybank Park.

It has been recalled by one of George's great-grandsons, Norman Mutch, and by a great-granddaughter, my mother Mary Morrison Reid (née Jolly), that my great-uncle Thomas and my grandfather George Jolly helped to deliver the milk during their childhood in the late 1890s. Jane went to live at 43 Urquhart Road with her daughter Margaret Walker, and died there on 7th June 1905, aged 87. She is also buried at Nellfield. Urquhart Road was Aberdeen's first municipal tenement housing scheme, constructed in 1897.

(2) Firhill Well

My great-grandfather William Jolly was born on 19th April 1857 in the cottage at Firhill Well, Aberdeen, the sixth child of seven to George Jolly and Jane Stewart. The "Well" was created from a spring of water adjacent to Sunnyside Farm steading, and in 1937 Firhill Well was moved about 100 yards to be in what had become the municipal park.

The exact location of the cottage in relation to the well is not clear, but they must have been close. Alex Munro states in *Landmarks of Auld Aberdeen* (1985): "This well was at one time the favourite resort of the youth of both sexes, and on a summer evening its stone

benches might often have been filled with young and old enjoying their Gibberie and caller drink”. The Silver City Vault website states: “The Firhill Well stood at the bend of a lane leading from what has become Sunnybank Road to Bedford Road. It takes its name from being located near a fir-clad hill. It is not known who built the well, but it was in existence as early as 1799.” “Gibberie” is a corruption of “gingerbread”, which was baked by Robert Murray of Castle Street. A lady called Baubie Courage was granted the monopoly to sell the gingerbread. The “Gibberie Wallie”, or Firhill Well, was about 100 yards north-east of Sunnyside Farm. Nowadays, this footpath is called Firhill Lane.

William Jolly married Jane Ann Nicol on 7th May 1875 at 23 Hutcheon Street, Aberdeen, and they raised nine children, living mainly in the Spital area. Jane died on 10th May 1903, and William lived a further 35 years. He was admitted to Aberdeen City District Asylum in Newmachar parish on 13th November 1938, aged 81, suffering from hypostatic pneumonia, and died five days later. The hospital was built in 1904 and eventually closed in 1994. It was known as “Kingseat”, and over its lifetime it was extended and altered to cater for other medical services. At the time of William’s death, pauper patients were treated there. Responsibility for the hospital had been transferred in 1930 to Aberdeen Town Council. William had been living in Kings Crescent, which is a continuation from the Spital. He was a labouring gardener in his early years, but he became a stonemason’s labourer some time after 1875. This photograph of him, aged about 70, shows how to carry a granite block by harnessing it on your back – a testament to his resilience, and a tribute to the porridge or brose he would have eaten before going to work!



The other photograph was taken in the mid-1890s and is the only known photograph of my great-grandmother, Jane Ann Nicol. She is seated along with her husband, William Jolly. The children are probably Mary Ann, Georgina and Alexander.

To think that my parents, Robert Gordon Reid and Mary Morrison Jolly, had no idea of the “Jolly” coincidence as, in the spring of 1959, they purchased 10 Hermitage Avenue – and just over the fence at the bottom of this garden is where the original Gibberie Wallie or Firhill Well used to be!

Acknowledgements

University of Aberdeen (Grampian Archives)
 Alex Munro, *Landmarks of Auld Aberdeen* (1985)
 The Silver City Vault
 National Library of Scotland



Applying for a Teaching Post in 1843

The Situation of one of the MASTERS of the GRAMMAR SCHOOL of Aberdeen, vacant by the death of the Rev. James Watt, will be filled up by Comparative Trial; and Candidates for the Office are requested to appear within the Town-Hall of Aberdeen, upon TUESDAY the 5th day of September next, at 10 o'clock fore-noon, for the purpose of undergoing an examination of their qualifications; at the same time, they are desired to bring along with them sufficient Testimonials of their moral character, and of the previous employment in which they have been engaged.

The Duty of the Situation is to Teach the Elements of the LATIN Language, together with HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY, to the Pupils of one of the Classes, for the first three years of their course at the School.

By the Deed of Dr Patrick Dun, those of the surname of Dun, and sons of the tenants of the Lands of Ferryhill, if found qualified for the place, are entitled to a preference upon the Funds of his Mortification to the School.

The Yearly Salary, with the School Fees, and other particulars, may be learned on application to the Town-Clerk.

By order of the Magistrates and Council,

JOHN ANGUS, Town-Clerk

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Aberdeen, 14th August, 1843

This advertisement, from the *Aberdeen Journal* of 23rd August 1843, raises interesting points. The Rev. James Watt, whose death in July 1843 led to the vacancy, had been one of the three undermasters at Aberdeen Grammar School from 1803 to 1835. Each taught a year group of pupils for three years, moving up with the boys, before handing them over to the Rector for the fourth and fifth years. At the time of his appointment, James Watt displayed “superior knowledge in Latin literature” and was considered “sufficiently worthy, learned and qualified”. “Wattie”, as his pupils called him, may have shown superior knowledge, but his poor discipline ensured that his classes were very rowdy, with much use of the tawse. As he retired after 32 years in the same post, his teaching had probably become stale and unlikely to appeal to young boys aged eight years and upwards.

As a burgh school, Aberdeen Grammar School came under the Town Council, who appointed its schoolmasters – unlike a parish school, where the heritors (local landowners) were responsible for the school building and for paying the schoolmaster. They might in theory be responsible for appointing him too, but this was often shared with, or delegated to, the Kirk Session. After all, the man appointed usually doubled as Session Clerk and maybe also precentor. The Presbytery would then give its final approval. Information for burgh schools is found in the Council Minutes, hence this advertisement signed by the Town Clerk, whereas details of a parish schoolmaster’s appointment and salary come from Heritors’ records, if they survive, or Kirk Session minutes.

Aberdeen Council Minutes contain a detailed examiners’ report dated 5th September 1843. Only one candidate is mentioned, but it is not clear whether he is named because nobody else applied, or because he was the successful candidate. There was certainly not one called Dun in this case. He cannot have been the only one shortlisted, as the advertisement makes it clear candidates did not need to apply in advance, but just to turn up on the day. The one candidate was James Ogilvie A.M. (Artium Magister, now M.A.) – like James Watt, licensed by the Church of Scotland – “who has acted in the School as an Assistant

Teacher for about seven years past". He had been appointed an interim teacher in 1837, standing in first during Robert Forbes's retirement and then James Watt's. In these years, he was entitled only to the fees paid by his pupils, not to any salary. A permanent appointment could be made only after James Watt's death. Candidates needed to bring with them details of previous employment and "Testimonials of their moral character". Testimonials are now thoroughly discredited, although they were still expected to be produced when I started teaching. More surprising in our eyes is the emphasis on moral character, so beloved by the Victorian era. Qualifications and moral character, yes, but nowhere is any concern shown about teaching ability, which is by no means guaranteed by the other two. The careers of both James Watt and his long-term colleague, Robert Forbes ("Chuckle" to his pupils), demonstrated what could happen when little or no account was taken of the candidate's ability to engage pupils or to exercise proper discipline.

The examiners were three professors – of Natural Philosophy (Physics), Mathematics and Greek – with Dr James Melvin as Rector. It may seem surprising that professors of these subjects were thought appropriate for examining someone who was to teach principally Latin, with History and Geography very much a sideline; but these three had themselves no doubt had a solid grounding in Latin. Dr Melvin was described on his gravestone in St Nicholas' Churchyard as *vir eruditissimus latinitatis* and was recognised as the greatest Latin scholar of his generation. James Ogilvie was an internal candidate, although not yet an undermaster, so Dr Melvin must have been well aware whether he was a competent teacher or not and been well placed to express his view as examiner. The examiners certainly did not let the candidate off lightly, as the report makes clear.

They required him to translate passages of Latin prose and verse at sight

to analyse and construe portions of them, to answer such critical & other questions as the passages suggested, to state such questions as he would think it necessary to put regarding them to Scholars in a Grammar School, along with the answers which he would expect to receive from the best Scholars, and the remarks which he would think it proper to make for illustrating the passages in the fullest manner.

In addition, he was asked to scan some Latin poetry, explain the different kinds of verse involved in it and answer questions on the "general principles of Prosody", also to translate in writing passages from English into Latin and Latin into English, and answer questions on "the Grammar of the English language, on Ancient and Modern Geography, on Roman literature and on History". As was customary at the period, the whole examination was conducted orally apart from the written translations. Its content reflects the narrow and to modern eyes absurdly academic nature of the education provided at the Grammar School at this period. Remember that his pupils would be aged eight upwards, although each year group contained a wider spread of ages than would be found in any school nowadays.

The examiners were happily able to find James Ogilvie "eminently qualified" and so "unanimously recommend him to the Magistrates and Council as in all respects well fitted to fill the office now vacant". The report goes on to state the salary: £27 6s 8d sterling per annum, to be paid twice yearly at Martinmas (November) and Whitsunday (May), the first payment to be made on 20th December coming for the previous half-year. Payment for six months *in arrears* was not as bad as it sounds, as his pupils would have to pay their quarterly fees of 10s 6d to him at the beginning of each quarter.

The schoolmaster's salary was to be paid from Dr Dun's Mortification. Dr Patrick Dun was Principal of Marischal College in the early 17th century. His will expressed his belief in the importance of supporting teachers at grammar schools, considering that "competent means [should be] provydit for maintenance of maisters of the said schools, to the intent that, with the greater allacritie and cheirfulness, they may attend ther charge, and be the more painfull [i.e. painstaking] and vigilant, in training upe the youth". So, he mortified – or bequeathed – to the Town Council the lands of Ferryhill, specifying that the rent from this land was to be invested until it produced a sum large enough to buy land of an annual value of 600 merks, which would then provide "for maintenance of four maisters within the grammar-school of the said burgh of Aberdeen, perpetually in all time comeing".

Eventually the lands of Gilcomston were duly bought, but the Council's failure to observe properly the terms of the Mortification deprived later schoolmasters of the higher salaries they should have received. If James Ogilvie were to become unable by reason of old age or infirmity to carry out his duties properly, the Council retained the right to appoint another man in his place, who would then be entitled to the pupils' school fees as well as £10 from James Ogilvie's salary, leaving £17 6s 8d by way of pension.

It is instructive to compare attitudes to the appointment of teachers in an earlier age with current practice today, although the emphasis on qualifications and moral character without any attention paid to practical teaching undoubtedly meant that some candidates were appointed – and remained in post for many years – who should have been filtered out. But it would be naïve to think that the same can never happen today.

Sources

Aberdeen Council Minutes

Aberdeen Journal

H. F. Morland Simpson (ed.), *Bon Record: Records and Reminiscences of Aberdeen Grammar School* (Aberdeen, 1906)

Walter Thom, *The History of Aberdeen* (Aberdeen, 1811)

rkphilip1@gmail.com

Rosemary Philip

No. 4652

—oOo—

Getting the Most from My DNA

A version of this article would have been delivered as one of the short talks to our Edinburgh Group Members' Day meeting on 2nd May if that had gone ahead at our usual venue.

Little did I know when I tested in May 2015 just how useful my DNA results would be. I was sceptical but encouraged by the progress my wife had made with hers. We both tested at Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>) and found the results to give us so much more than estimates of our ethnicity.

The big breakthrough on my paternal line was finding a fourth-cousin match in the USA who had a sketchy tree. Looking for more information about her grandfather led me to a 3x great-uncle who had emigrated to Canada about 1830. I could then confirm which of two couples with the same names in Dailly (Ayrshire) were my 3g-grandparents (John Johnstone and Mary Kennedy). This opened up many further lines to investigate – rich in history, as it turned out that this Mary was from a cadet branch of the Ayrshire Kennedys.

Over time, my test brought me in touch with five fourth cousins on my mother's side. Each of us descends by a different line from the family of John Ross and Helen Munro

from Strathrusdale. It is reported that plans were laid at their wedding in 1792 for the first action in Easter Ross to resist the introduction of sheep farming, later to be known as “the Year of the Sheep”. None of us knew of each other’s branches – and all our relationships have been confirmed by DNA. This would have been impossible otherwise, given the loss of parish records in a fire, and 60% of families in the area being called Ross!

I have had less success with my family lines in Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire (Blacklaws, Cheyne, Fiddes, Henderson, Ma(s)son, Lawson and Walker). We need more people to test and work their trees further back – please.

The number of matches I had at the outset was daunting – and many more people have tested since then (now over 15 million). I made a spreadsheet starting with my larger matches, logging the size of the match, relevant surnames and locations and mutual matches. Patterns and clusters gradually emerged.

Matches are now much easier to manage thanks to the new tools that Ancestry provides, allowing better searches, colour-coding and identification of possible matches who share “Thru-Lines” to common ancestors. I might not have needed that spreadsheet.

I can’t emphasise enough how useful it is for your relatives to test. They will have matches with your more distant relatives that you do not, and their match list will help you to determine research priorities. In particular, older relatives’ DNA helps you to narrow down your searches and can assist you in working that generation or two further back.

You may find truths which you or your matches find difficult to handle – and you need to be careful. I discovered a family secret: that my granny’s cousin, brought up as her sister, had had an illegitimate son to a married man in 1921. That child was born within a few months of my father. The child went to the USA with the man’s wife 10 years later to join him. I contacted his daughter (a big third-cousin match), tactfully, hoping that she would be interested in her Scottish heritage – but to no avail. I should have played a longer game, as she may well have been disturbed to find out that her grandmother was not actually her grandmother by blood.

My wife’s anonymised story (on Susie Douglas’s bordersancestry.com/blog/archives/04-2019) about US “cousins” highlights deep questions about identity. In her story, several generations in Wyoming grew up believing they had Scottish roots. Sadly, for them DNA has proven that this was not the case.

Have priorities for working through your matches, but don’t neglect the smaller matches. I have found relatives as close as third cousins on Ancestry at 6 centiMorgans. In contrast, some of my bigger matches are quite distant, such as a fifth cousin once removed at 92 cM and a sixth cousin at 38 cM. **Clustering tools, for example Shared Clustering** (<https://github.com/jonathanbrecher/sharedclustering/wiki>) or **DNAGedcom** (www.dnagedcom.com), can help you to narrow your research focus.

Loading your DNA onto other sites (www.GEDmatch.com, FamilyTreeDNA.com, MyHeritage.com etc.) opens up further matches. These also enable **chromosome matching**, which is useful in determining where your matches with little or no tree details sit in your tree or are more distant in time. Using a tool such as **DNAPainter.com** can help you to compare matches across the different sites, and the crowd-sourced **Shared CentiMorgan Project tool** (dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4) can help you to work out probable relationships among your mystery matches.

These other sites *supplement* my work on Ancestry. I have many, many more useful matches there than on these other sites. I have contributed the cM sizes of 100 confirmed matches to the database of the Shared CentiMorgan Project. Of these, 17 cousins are on My Heritage, FTDNA or GEDmatch, but only seven come only from one of these sources. Thus, over 90% of my confirmed matches are on Ancestry.

Because I have a brick wall on my paternal line around 1730, I recently decided to do a Y-DNA test with FamilyTreeDNA. These tests trace the Y inheritance of males, which is passed from father to son over the generations. The results can identify matches on the paternal line within the timespan of genealogical records, but many others will relate to more distant ancestors. For me the test did not provide an answer to my quest, but it has given me something further to explore. This involves the tale of the ill-fated *Henry and Francis*, which carried Covenanters from Leith in 1685, and what became of the survivors who lived in the “Scots colony” of East New Jersey.

If you think conventional genealogy is addictive, using DNA matches is all the more so! As with the *Henry and Francis*, this can bring wider history to life and take you to lots of interesting places, such as to Lowland and Highland Scotland during agricultural improvement and the Clearances, to Ulster during and after the Plantation, and to colonial America and westward expansion. It turns out that my biggest group of matches is descended from three siblings who joined the Mormons and emigrated to Utah. Some of their sons practised polygamy ...

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Serendipity, Alchemy – and Good Old-fashioned Research

Over the past few years, the hunt for my North-East roots has been underpinned by three things: serendipity, alchemy and standing stones. These three were going to be the title of this article – but, to paraphrase Rabbie, the best-laid plans can sometimes gang aghley!

I’m only a quarter North-East: see Journal 147 (May 2018) for my mtDNA story (pp. 20–21) and Record of Ancestors chart. My maternal grandmother, who died when I was two, was a Howitt with ancestors mainly from “Aiberdeen an’ twal mile roon” but also back to Bourtie parish. Serendipity struck in 2012 when a friend and I toured the “North-East Arts Open Doors” venues. A Karen Howitt was exhibiting her book illustrations and artwork, based on the standing stones in the North-East (karenhowitt.com). We’ve yet to establish any relatives in common; but her drawings are evocative in catching the clarity and acuity of these important ancient symbols. I wonder if my earliest known Howitts/Howats, living in 1695 at Standing Stones farm near Dyce, looked at these stones with the same sense of awe for what they represented? Or did these just get in the way of their ploughs?!

In the early years of my family-history interest, the basic structure for my tree came from the prosaic gathering of known facts from relatives, plus my own early memories, old photos and memorabilia. Visits to the Scotland’s People Centre confirmed known facts and provided more – but, frustratingly, little significant progress. Retirement, a laptop and home Internet opened up a new phase – and the “armchair detective” got to work. My husband’s and my far-flung family trees posed many challenges and grew haphazardly.

However, as family-tree diagrams can mean little to younger relatives, my aim now is to convert known facts, with relevant illustrations, into story form in an e-book for my

family. This is one such story, focused on finding the North-East Scottish roots of my English-born husband Jim Jordan's Macdonald cousins from South Wales.

Since the early 1960s, I'd visited the Jordans in Cwmbran, so I'd heard their family stories – but only in 2017, after the last cousin died, did I start to follow up how Jim's Welsh Macdonald cousins had come to have this Scottish name. I'd known there must be some North-East connection, because his cousin Hector (1916–75) and family had regularly made the long trip north for holidays. Hector was the third of four children – but their father, John, had died suddenly in 1921 when they were all still young, and so details had been hard to come by. One story was that John had had a twin (James? or Alexander?).

Hector's niece in Wales gathered some family documents and made a flying visit to us in Scotland. A door cracked open: I now had three photographs of Hector's father, John Macdonald, (1) as a chemist in one of his shops, dispensing a potion, with the traditional labelled bottles and drawers behind him; (2) apparently on an elegant day out shooting, complete with cocked rifle, collar and tie, long white raincoat and trilby hat (food for thought there!); and (3) this studio portrait at a younger age in Bristol.



The 1922 National Probate Calendar shows that John left only £129 4s to his widow. Did he not make any profit in his two shops? Or was he a “canny Scot” who managed to put profits back into the business which then passed straight to his widow?

Documents in the family's possession confirmed John's application to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to register for exams. One was signed by James Bremner, Druggist & Chemist of 16 Market Square, Oldmeldrum, where John worked as his apprentice. John's occupation was thus confirmed – but the alchemy story doesn't end there. Serendipity kicked in too. The name Bremner with an Aberdeenshire connection rang a bell. My neighbour “through the wa' and doon the sterr” (as my Glasgow folks used to say) is a James Bremner with a hint of a North-East accent, so I half-jokingly asked if he had a Bremner, a chemist from Oldmeldrum, in the family. Yes, indeed, his grandfather: serendipity and alchemy all in one go! My neighbour was most interested to see his grandfather's fine signature on the 1897/1900 parchment form. James Bremner's story is interesting in its own right and could make a good Journal article in the future.

These are the Macdonald family's official documents of John's career:

1894, 31st October: “Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., from Richard Bembridge, Registrar, to Mr J. McDonald. Sir, I beg to inform you that you have passed the FIRST EXAMINATION, and are duly registered as an Apprentice or Student.”

1897 “To the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Declaration to be signed by and on behalf of a candidate previous to his presenting himself for the minor examination; John Macdonald, **1897**, engaged during the 3 years with (signed by) James Bremner, Chemist & Druggist, Oldmeldrum; Witness my hand this 8th day of June **1900**.” Mr Bremner's signature is clear.

1900, 28th December: Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Board of Examiners for Scotland, 36 York Place, Edinburgh: formal letter to attend for the Minor Oral

Examination: “Be good enough ... to present yourself here on that date at 1.30 o’clock p.m. precisely ... signed J. Rutherford Hill, Assistant Secretary”.

1901, 4th January, Edinburgh: Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain: certificate for John Macdonald “that he is duly qualified to be Registered as a Chemist & Druggist”, signed by chairman G. Newsholme and eight examiners (whose signatures someone has overwritten at a later stage).

With other findings, I now had enough evidence – or so I thought! – to map out the life and times of one who had hitherto been merely the husband of a paternal aunt, Constance Jordan (1892–1951), elder sister of my husband’s father Ernest James Jordan (1904–42).

At this point, my story becomes a cautionary tale. You can imagine the difficulties of identifying the correct John Macdonald in the north of Scotland. Well, I had been rather preoccupied with the traditional Scottish naming patterns, and I’d assumed that a cluster of familiar forenames in a family must betoken a connection. I must also admit to having relied overmuch on inaccurate/inadequate census transcriptions in the likes of Ancestry without always cross-checking against original records. In mapping out the life of “my” John Macdonald, I had mixed up two individuals! A resourceful fellow member of our proactive ANESFHS Edinburgh Group helped me to find the way out of this fankle; and I’m grateful for the opportunity now to present the life and times of the *correct* John!

I’d first arranged my chronology in the usual order, but it makes better sense to present it going back in time, starting with latest known events and working back to unlock earlier puzzles. In the 1911 census in Cwmbran, John has the middle name of McLennan – but this occurs nowhere else. They were a very political family, and in 1917 John changed his name by deed poll to John Ramsay Macdonald. Was this name-change merely homage to a fellow socialist? Or could the Labour politician and prime minister, James Ramsay Macdonald (1866–1937), also born in North-East Scotland, have been a relative? It is one question that remains unanswered for now.

Scottish naming patterns *can* be helpful when researching a popular surname but are by no means a firm guide. In addition to John and his family, there were other Macdonalds not far away in South Wales with a Hector, an Alexander and a James, but no Douglas. I feel there must be a relationship, but my limited hunt has not yet been successful.

In summary, here is the reverse chronology:

1921, 10th September: death of John Ramsay Macdonald (age “42”) at Cwmbran. This left widow Connie with four young children: Crystal (9), Alexander (6), Hector (4) and Douglas (2), living in a flat over one of their shops which she ran as a general store.

1917: official document (cost 10/-), stamped and dated 23rd May, to change his name by deed poll to John Ramsay Macdonald. Did John have a Red Clydesiders connection? Son Hector later became a Labour councillor and leader of Cwmbran Town Council.

1912 (1st quarter): John married Constance Jordan (Newport district, Monmouthshire).

1911 census: John McLennan Macdonald, aged “32” and born in “Aberdeen”, is a boarder in Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Monmouthshire. The household is James Henry Jordan (1861–1932), his wife Ellen and their six living children, aged from 23 down to 7. The second daughter is Constance, aged 19, whom John marries a year later. The eldest son is William (21), an ironworks labourer – presumably a work colleague of

John Macdonald, who is shown with the same occupation. How that squares with being a qualified chemist is another mystery for now.

1901 census, Craighall, Tarves, Aberdeenshire: John Macdonald (“24”), single, chemist b. Methlick; father Alexander (62), roadman b. Stenscholl, Inverness-shire [Staffin, Isle of Skye]; mother Eliza (52), b. Methlick [née Wallace]; servant, Barbara Marshall.

1891 census, Craighall, Tarves: parents are 53 and 42 – but John McDonald is 16 and has brothers James (14) and Alexander (also 16)! Each of the three is a “Scholar” (father is a roadman). So, John *did* have a twin – but Alexander (junior), while James was a younger brother.

1881 census, Craighall, Tarves: the parents are 41 and 32, while John McDonald is aged 6, born in Methlick parish (as is Alex), and James is 4, born in Tarves parish.

I had somehow missed those 1881 and 1891 entries. For 1881, I’d fastened on a family in Aberdeen! It was a complete red herring – as proved by my fellow Society member, who also traced a John McLenaghan McDonald (b. 1879 in Old Machar) down to 1911 just to eliminate that line of enquiry. (In my defence: in one recent 14-month spell, I had two long-term hospital stays and six general anaesthetics. With a downsizing house-move on top, and some boxes *still* not unpacked, my formerly good memory and organisation have been letting me down of late. Some readers may recognise the syndrome!)

“Oor” John Macdonald had evidently knocked two years off his real age by 1901, and another two by 1911 when he’d have been 17 years older than his future bride. His birth was confirmed: 30th January 1875 in Methlick parish as the younger twin of Alexander. So, John was really 46 when he died, not 42. The family had moved to Tarves parish by 1876 when brother James was born.

Another clincher was finding the death of the twins’ father, Alexander Macdonald snr, in 1905 (informant: son John). The family, still in Tarves parish, had now moved to nearby Keithfield. Hector in Wales had given his house the same name! How I wish I’d asked more questions when relatives were still alive. It could have made things so much easier to find out. Still, it’s fun doing the research, even if not always straightforward.

In 2012, Hector’s widow, Rosemary Macdonald, aged 92, came up from Wales by train to holiday with us and to visit Hector’s cousin Lena in Wick for the last time. Lena’s son took a final photograph of us four outside her home. Lena’s father was James Macdonald, the younger brother of the twins Alexander and John.



John Macdonald’s sons (left to right): Douglas (1919–43), Alexander (1914–86), Hector (1916–75)

Despite the distance in miles, family ties are strong, so such meetings are precious events. I never saw Lena or Rosemary again, but I do remember their chatter and laughter, still both adamant that there were twins somewhere in the family. At last, I’ve identified them!

Death of Alexander Joss: Manslaughter vs Sheep-stealing

My 2g-grandparents, William Joss and Helen Littlejohn, were married in Kincardine O'Neil parish, Aberdeenshire, in 1864. They had 12 children who made it to adulthood and whose lives took different directions. The eldest was my great-grandfather, William jnr – and he and his line are proving the most difficult to research. As a consequence of circumstances in my grandmother's and my father's lives, I had no contact with extended family until I started researching in earnest – and quickly discovered 200+ descendants of William Joss and Helen Littlejohn. Several living descendants are current ANESFHS members, some of whom have had items in recent Journals. So, there may yet be more tales emerging in future issues!

This is the story of William snr and Helen's eighth child, Alexander Joss, born on 9th August 1877 at Redmyres, Portlethen, Kincardineshire. In 1891, Alexander was a farm servant at Cowiehillock, Echt. In 1901, he was at Cassie Cottage, Kemnay, with his brother George and family, working in the granite quarry. In January 1907 while still unmarried, Alexander had a daughter, Mary Jane (Molly), born at 63 Hutcheon Street, Aberdeen, to Mary Jane Steele. Both parents registered the birth, but Alexander was living at 20 Glebe Street, Falkirk. His brother Charles was a police constable in the area.

In June 1907, Alexander and his brothers Joseph and Frank sailed for Boston, USA, on the SS *Corean*. The passenger list states that all three (and a friend, Alex Glennie) were bound for Cheyenne, Wyoming, to seek work as shepherds. Alexander had been living in Manchester, England, where he was an Asylum Attendant. Joseph and Frank appear in the 1910 US census working on sheep farms in Wyoming, but there is no sign of Alexander. In 1911, Mary Jane Steele is a cook in the employment of Dr Mowatt of Queen Street, Aberdeen. Molly and her uncle John are boarders at 26 Summer Street, Aberdeen.

Mary Jane Steele and daughter Molly Joss sailed on the *Athenia*, departing from Glasgow on 25th May 1912, bound for St Catharines, and disembarking at Montreal. The manifest is stamped "British Bonus Allowed" against Mary's name (see explanation on next page).

On 1st June 1912, Mary and Alexander Joss were married in Homer, Ontario. His brother George and family were now farming there. The marriage certificate recorded that Alexander had been resident since 1st June 1910 in Hamilton, Ontario. The family then moved to Roland, Manitoba, where their son Alexander jnr was born on 14th June 1913. Roland is a fertile farming area about halfway between Winnipeg and the US border, and presumably they were allocated farmland as settlers under the "British Bonus Allowed" scheme. They lived in the area for only a short time before uprooting again and settling in New Zealand. Family recollection has it that Alexander found Canada too cold.

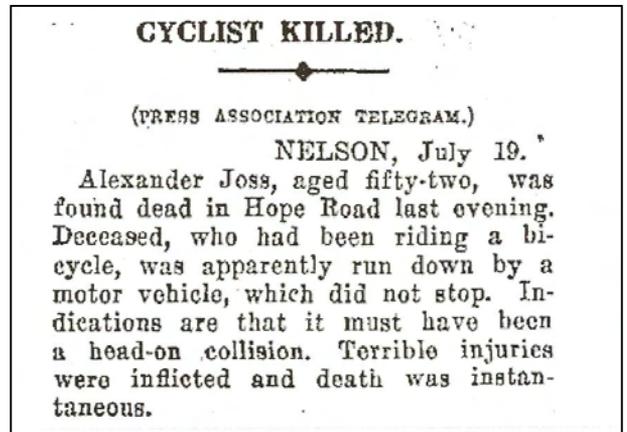
A third child, Elizabeth, was born on 10th September 1914 in New Zealand; and Edna, their youngest, was born on 21st January 1920. A letter from a Steele relative recalls that Mary and Alex Joss had come from Canada to live at Belgrove, near Nelson in the north of the South Island, next to friends Harold and Frances Hunt. Mary needed help with her two eldest until Elizabeth was born, so her sister Annie came to live with them until her own son Jack was born. Later, the Joss family moved to Marsden Valley before buying the small farm at Ranzau, Hope, where Alexander was a mixed farmer.

In 1928, disaster struck: Alexander was killed in a road accident. "Papers Past" is an excellent website for historical NZ newspapers – several of which reported on this fatal

accident and its aftermath. The first image below is from the *Press* of 20th July 1928. (Alexander was in fact aged 50.)

At the time of his death, the family had been "16" years in New Zealand, his occupation was farmer, and according to the coroner he died of a haemorrhage. He was buried on 28th July 1928 in the cemetery at Richmond near Nelson.

The hit-and-run driver was later brought to trial. Alexander's policeman brother Charles Joss, who had by now settled with his family in New Zealand, was called to the scene of the accident



NELSON, Monday.

Albert Edward Walker was to-day committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter, in that he did "by omission to perform a public duty" cause the death of Alexander Joss.

The Coroner's Court was then opened, and Mr. Maunsell, S.M., announced that his verdict was: "That deceased died of hemorrhage cause by injuries received through being run down by a motor lorry driven by Albert Edward Walker while deceased was riding or pushing a bicycle along the main road between Hope and Richmond, from the south."

affairs. Charles Joss and a family friend, Samuel Wells, stood guarantors. The widowed Mary now had a 15-year-old son and daughters aged 21, 12 and 8. Descendants of two of the children (Alexander and Mary) still live in New Zealand – several of them in the Hamilton area of Waikato in the North Island.

British Bonus scheme

"British Bonus" was a subtle marketing tool used by the Canadian government, as the laws of the time in many European countries forbade open encouragement of immigration by any foreign country. It originally included:

1. To pay a limited amount, not exceeding in any case \$50, to the class of "returned men" (not exceeding age 50) to Europe towards recouping their expenses on sufficient proof furnished of success in bringing immigrants to Canada.
2. To pay a bonus to steamship agents in the UK of \$5 for each adult settler on land, of 18 years and over, on certificate of booking and shipping such settler to Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of British Columbia, and, on certificate of a Dominion Lands Agent, to be furnished as proof of such settler.

in his capacity of Police Constable for the area, and went on to give evidence. The image alongside is from the *Auckland Star* of 18th September 1928, headed "Manslaughter Charge. Sequel to Cyclist's Death. (By Telegraph – Press Association.)"

Even more newspapers were now reporting on the case. The article below appeared in the *Auckland Star* of 8th December 1928. The sentence for a charge of negligently causing a human death was evidently only half that for one charge of sheep-stealing!

Following Alexander's untimely death, his wife Mary sought probate to wind up his

PRISONERS SENTENCED

CARELESS MOTORIST GAOLED.

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

NELSON, this day.

In the Supreme Court Albert Edward Walker, guilty of negligently driving a motor car and causing the death of Alexander Joss, was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

Frederick Sowman, on two charges of sheep-stealing, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

3. To pay a bonus of \$10 to each homesteader (head of a family), and \$5 for each member of such family at the adult age of 12 years and over, with an additional \$5 to any such member of a family who might within six months after arrival in Canada become a homesteader on settlement on land in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of British Columbia, proof being furnished by the certificate of a Dominion Lands Agent.

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Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd (1841–79)

born at Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire; died at Isandlwana, KwaZulu-Natal

North-west of Lumphanan lies the parish of Leochel Cushnie. It was at Craigmill, a farm of 50 acres, that Peter Shepherd and his spouse, Mary Ann Dewar, had a son, Peter junior, on Wednesday 25th August 1841. Craigmill lies on a north-facing slope 750 feet above sea level across the valley from Eninteer, home of Leochel Cushnie's most famous resident, Henry Gray, former Highland Games Heavyweight Champion, who carried the smaller of the two "Dinnie Stanes" 54 ft across the stage of Aberdeen Music Hall in 1953.

Peter senior had been born in 1800 at Newton of Auchlossan, Lumphanan, son of Robert Shepherd, also a farmer, who died there in 1841. Robert was born in 1766 at Meikle Tillydrine, Kincardine O'Neil parish, birthplace also of his younger brother, William, my 3g-grandfather. Peter junior's early years were spent at Craigmill along with his elder brother William, younger sister Mary Ann and brother James (b. 1848). In later life, Peter was an active member of the Presbyterian Kirk. Instrumental in stimulating this interest would have been the long-standing minister at Leochel Cushnie, the Rev. Dr Alexander Taylor, DD (1806–72). He had arranged and supported funding sufficient for Peter to attend university.

At 19, Peter was a medical student at Marischal College, Aberdeen, lodging at 37 Bon Accord Street. He graduated MB CM in 1863, and on 30th September 1864 he joined the Army Medical Service. He was sent to the Cape in South Africa and was quartered near Grahamstown. He was later posted to Ireland and then India, but ill-health necessitated his return home. He was given a post at the Royal Herbert Military Hospital, Woolwich (opened in 1866), where he was promoted to Surgeon Major on 30th September 1876.

At Woolwich was an Aberdonian, Colonel Francis Duncan, an MA graduate of Marischal College in 1855. He was a career artillery officer with an interest in the principles of battlefield ambulance transport. Peter Shepherd was concerned with the skills of British stretcher-bearers in the army medical department. Their interests coalesced, but Peter was the person who coined the English term "First Aid for the Injured". He was the main influence in establishing First Aid as a major theme in the work of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. By 1875 it had developed its own wheeled transport called the St John Ambulance, and by 1877 the volunteer St John Ambulance Association was formed as a civilian reserve for the Army Medical Department. Surgeon Major Shepherd and a Dr Coleman conducted the inaugural first-aid class using the comprehensive first-aid curriculum that Peter had developed. His St John First Aid Classes had an examination of competence at the end of the course, a certificate being given to the successful. As a recipient of such a certificate in 1961, I had no inkling that its introduction was at the behest of my great-grandfather's second cousin!

Within months of Peter Shepherd's pioneering classes, two civil disasters occurred where the use of first aid, by the many who had been trained in it, ensured that lives were saved. One was the sinking of the *Princess Alice* on the River Thames on 3rd September 1878. Although 600 died, many others were saved by the judicious use of first aid. Peter prepared a first-aid manual for the Order of St John of Jerusalem Ambulance Department for use by the Metropolitan Police and other ambulance classes, entitled *Aids for Cases of Injuries or Sudden Illness*. Before he had time to revise the work, he was summoned back to South Africa, travelling on the *Conway Castle*, to his appointment as Senior Medical Officer with Lord Chelmsford's 3rd Column.

Cetshwayo (1826–84), son of Mpande, was the last great King of the Zulus, reigning from 1872 to 1879 and raising an army of 40,000. He was the nephew of Shaka, a brilliant commander (reigned 1816–28). Traditionally when fighting, Zulus stood 100–200 feet from the enemy and then hurled their long spears. Fine if it killed an opponent – but, if it missed, the opposition could hurl the spear back. Shaka introduced the assegai, four feet long with a two-foot blade. It was a stabbing spear and, at close quarters, a devastating weapon. The British allied with the Boers to claim undisputed territories in Zululand. At his coronation, Cetshwayo had allegedly promised to disband the Zulu military force; this he did not do. Consequently, early in 1879 the British invaded Zululand. Among the force was Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd in charge of the Royal Army Medical Service.

Isandlwana, KwaZulu-Natal

Wednesday 22nd January 1879 was a portentous day. At 2:29pm GMT, a total eclipse of the sun occurred in Zululand – and Surgeon Major Shepherd would by then be dead. The British force, encamped to the east of the rugged basaltic peak of Isandlwana, comprised six companies, plus two companies of Natal Native Carbineers. They were lined out in an arc from west to south-east, with the actual camp behind them to the west. This included the Medical Camp Hospital, containing Surgeon Major Shepherd, 18 members of the Hospital Corps and his servant Boy Green.

The opposing Zulu force comprised at least 20,000 men in a formation known as the “Buffalo Horns”. The central section, the head of the “Buffalo”, included the most fearsome Zulus. The Zulus enacted a pincer movement, one horn pressing from the north going southwards and the other driving northwards from the south-west. The soldiers and carbineers were trapped and the slaughter was immense. When the soldiers ran out of ammunition and attempted to use fixed bayonets, the Zulus piled corpses on the bayonets and weighed them down. Assegais were applied with dexterity and ferocity. The Zulus infiltrated between companies and wiped them out. The exceptional bravery was recognised and respected by the Zulus banging their assegais on their shields. The dead were disembowelled, not as an act of desecration but to release the spirits of the dead. Zulus dressed themselves in redcoat uniforms and raided the medical stores.

There is no account of what happened to Surgeon Major Shepherd during the battle. It must have been frenetic, with little chance to deliver effective care. Realising that the battle was a massacre, the only hope was to evacuate some injured to try to reach the comparative safety of Rorke's Drift some eight miles distant. The injured were loaded on to wagons, and Peter accompanied them on his pony. The Zulus attacked, dragged the injured out and slaughtered them all. Alone, realising that he could do nothing to help, Peter headed for the Fugitives' Drift (or trail) on his pony. The abandoned wagons were

found days later at the saddle beyond Isandlwana Peak, just 400 yards from where the Camp Hospital had stood. This was a bloody battle, a massacre: an uncertain number of Zulu died, perhaps 3,000 representing a sixth of the force. Combined losses on the British side were 1,329 men, which included almost half of the Native Carbineers. Every one of the 67 white officers, including Peter, was killed. Only 74 white soldiers survived – eight per cent of the original force.

Many of the Native Carbineers had fled, but not all. Trooper Andrew Muirhead gave an account of what had happened to George T. Macleroy, and a *Natal Paper* account was reproduced in the *Aberdeen Evening Express* of 15th March 1879.

Trooper Macleroy was wounded after he left the battlefield heading towards Fugitives' Drift. His strength finally ebbed from him, and he fell from his horse. Muirhead dismounted, but could do nothing. He saw Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd fast approaching on his pony. He stopped him. After a brief examination, Peter concluded that the trooper was beyond help. As he was remounting his pony, an assegai struck him in the back, killing him. Muirhead remounted and escaped.

Confirmation of Peter's death came from his fellow medic, Surgeon Major Reynolds, who at Rorke's Drift recognised the pony ridden by a Carbineer as that of Peter. Peter died about 1:30pm, an hour before the eclipse – but exactly where?

Lord Chelmsford and his half of the army had been on a wild-goose chase to find the main Zulu force, which had passed behind them. They did encamp at Isandlwana late on the 22nd, but no attempt was made to bury the dead. It was only in May that troops were sent for this purpose. Because of the hardness of the ground, seven to ten corpses were placed together and covered in rocks which were later white-washed. Time was spent locating corpses all the way down the Fugitives' Drift. The bodies of Surgeon Major Shepherd RAMC, Major Smith RA and Lt Anstey were identified and the latter returned to England, but the burial cairn wasn't marked. Trooper G. T. Macleroy's body was found and the burial cairn marked. It seems likely that Peter was interred within a 20-yard radius of Macleroy. When we visited in 2016, we found a potential cairn on the way to Fugitives' Drift. It was a moving experience to see the battlefield, nearly 140 years later, unchanged apart from the white-washed memorial cairns.

Rorke's Drift

Later on 22nd January, survivors of Isandlwana heading for Rorke's Drift, eight miles distant, included Natal Carbineers, most of whom didn't stop but headed off. There was feverish activity to enhance the defences, but there were only 120 able-bodied men, 15 walking and 20 bed-bound patients. Facing them were some 2,000 Zulu. A fearsome assault began, and the attackers died in their hundreds. Surgeon Major Reynolds created a first-aid station on the veranda at great personal risk to himself, and performed heroic surgery. Two battles in a day were too much for the exhausted Zulu; they fell back, the last shot being fired at 4am on the 23rd. At dawn half an hour later, the Zulu had gone. Amazingly, only 15 soldiers died in the battle, and two of wounds later. The Zulu lost at least 350 with 500 injured; some of the latter may have been executed.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to 11, including all three officers: the greatest number ever bestowed for action in a single battle to a single regiment. No posthumous awards were made, as was the custom then. The award of the supreme medal for bravery to so many might have been an attempt to “bury the bad news” of the massacre at Isandlwana,

rather than suggest that unbelievable acts of bravery were performed – but nevertheless such acts were performed. It is humbling to think that, had Peter Shepherd reached Rorke’s Drift and survived that further action, then he too might have earned a Victoria Cross, since his application would have been no less than his junior colleague, Surgeon Major Reynolds, on whom it was bestowed. Peter’s selfless sacrifice is alluded to in the inscription on a memorial brass plaque at the Royal Victoria Hospital Chapel at Netley:

In memory of PETER SHEPHERD MB, University of Aberdeen, Surgeon Major Her Majesty’s Army : born Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire, 25th August 1841; who sacrificed his own life at the Battle of ISANDLWANA, Zululand, 22nd January 1879, in the endeavour to save the life of a wounded comrade. Erected by his brother officers and friends.

Peter’s legacy

The “Shepherd Memorial Gold Medal” was founded in 1879 as a prize in surgery at Aberdeen University to perpetuate the memory of Peter Shepherd. As a medical student, I was aware of its existence – little realising its link to my family. My worthy recipient classmate in 1968 became a cardio-thoracic surgeon and performed Canada’s first heart transplant using cyclosporine.

Peter was born on a Wednesday and died on a Wednesday. Probate was granted on 16th May 1879 to his brother James Shepherd, a merchant of Mosley Street, Manchester, for under £800. James was the only sibling to have descendants, of whom some are still alive. Peter was the first doctor in my entire family and one of the first to attend university. He had received financial help from family and friends. The *Aberdeen Journal* of 13th February 1879 emphasised that “The first use he made of his earnings was to remit home, to all who had helped him during his university career, every penny of what they had advanced to him”. A man of high character and promise, it is fitting that his memory is perpetuated in the Gold Medal.

Before his death, Peter compiled “A Pocket Memoir for the Troops in Zululand”. This was a folded card, in a linen-reinforced envelope, that was sent out with the troops in May 1879 in the second invasion of Zululand so that they would know how to treat injuries and wounds. It was, in effect, a précis of his 1878 book, *Shepherd’s First Aid to the Injured*, edited by Bruce, which appeared in 1885, 1887 and 1889, with subsequent editions by Cantlie. This was all under the auspices of the St John Ambulance Association and has never been out of print to this day. By today, over a million St John First Aid Certificates have been awarded over four continents, reflecting the pioneering work of Peter Shepherd. His legacy lives on, and yet the simple gravestone inscription at Leochel Cushnie doesn’t mention it – probably just as this modest crofter’s son would have wished.

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—oOo—

My Eureka Moment: How Mum and Dad Met

Imagine yourself in the Reading Room of what used to be known as the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh – a high vaulted ceiling, beautiful woodwork, lots of old documents, and a hush as all the serious researchers pore, heads down, over their old texts, some of which are in Latin, some in Secretary hand, a few in English. It is August 2012, and I’m

there researching my mother's family, of which I knew very little indeed, since any records and memories we had were disposed of during a dysfunctional stage in our family. Everything in the Reading Room is quiet, peaceful, studious, respectful. Such conversations as are needed are done in soft undertones.

I had established (from census returns) that my grandfather, John Hay, worked for the North British Railway as a factor, and I had in front of me a huge leather-bound volume – the ledger listing all the staff of the NBR, their job titles, dates and their salaries over the years, one page per section. I reached the Estates Department, in the years 1920–30, and there suddenly at the top of the page was John Hay – not just a factor, but The Factor, the head honcho, the big white chief, responsible for all the property in Scotland belonging to what had by 1923 become the London & North-Eastern Railway. Wow.

He had a department of about 20 people looking after the stations, hotels, goods yards, railways lines, bridges, houses and all the other land and buildings needed to run a large railway. I scanned down the page vaguely. Then, suddenly, there at the bottom of the page, an extra short entry:

Jessie K. Hay started 1st Aug 1926 Aged 18 Salary £139 p.a.

I stared at the entry in disbelief. "It's my Mum!" I shouted in total surprise and shock. The peace of the Reading Room was well and truly shattered. The very patient staff of the Reading Room hurried over to tell me to be quiet. Other readers looked up, mouths wide open. Eventually, many abandoned their own work and gathered round to hear the story. No-one in our family had any idea that Mum had worked for the LNER. She had left school at the height of the Depression, and now it seemed her father had given her a junior job – her first job.



Mum would have been in the office when this handsome lad, the new Traffic Apprentice, a Cambridge graduate, walked in. Dad



had been sent to start at Eskbank station near Edinburgh and would have reported to a manager in the LNER's Waterloo Place offices. I can just imagine all the young female clerks muttering "Cor!" under their polite breaths as he walked in. Seven years later, Mum and Dad were married – and, as was the practice then, Mum left the LNER. The entry in the house magazine says she was given a chiming clock as a leaving present, and a short speech was given. It goes on to report, discreetly, that "Miss Hay replied suitably"!!

We had no family memory of how Dad and Mum had met.

I have since discovered that my mother's branch of the very large Hay clan came from the Lords of Yester (south-east of Haddington), who became the Marquises of Tweeddale. Our ancestor was Edmund, the second (technically illegitimate) son of John, 8th Lord of Yester and 1st Marquis, and his (subsequently) second wife Margaret. The 14th Marquis is, I believe, the current heir. The lineage is traced back to the 1200s, assuming other historic family trees are correct.

My Eureka Moment: Scottish Origins Confirmed

My Eureka moment came in 2004 in Towie churchyard, Aberdeenshire.

In 1989, my aunt Marjorie had given me my great-grandparents Edward Claxton and Elizabeth Grassick's marriage certificate. She also gave me this photograph of Elizabeth aged 19, on which was written that she was born in 1851 and died aged 39. They married on 3rd February 1877 in church in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. He was a jeweller aged 25, and she was 26. My aunt didn't actually ask me to find out about Elizabeth.



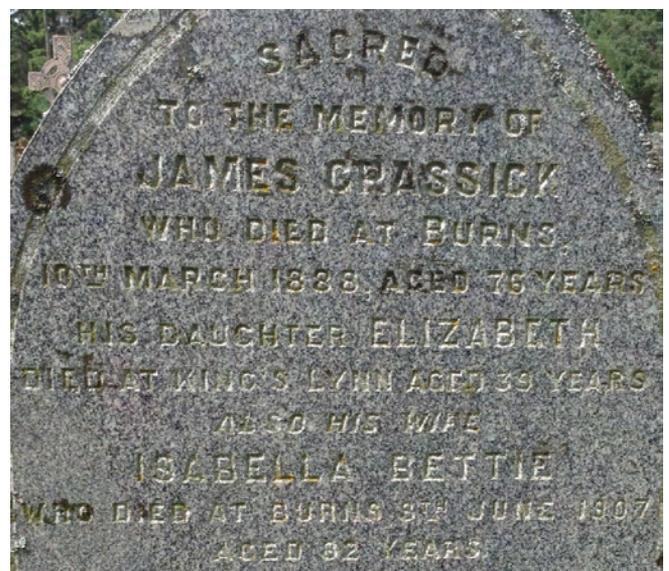
I already knew my great-grandmother was named Grassick and that she came from Scotland – but that was it. I now had her first name; and my aunt told me that Elizabeth was one of seven children, that she had nursed rich people, and that my grandmother Agnes Claxton had been just seven years old when her mother Elizabeth died. It was not surprising therefore that we knew so little about her. The certificate showed that her father was James Grassick and he was an implement manufacturer. My aunt had been to her grandmother's grave in a churchyard on the outskirts of King's Lynn.

In the 1871 census, Elizabeth Grassick was a servant living in Aberdeen with a family named Moir. If she was 19 when the photograph was taken, she must have gone to England soon afterwards, because the photographer's studio was in Norfolk.

A colleague at work had the 1881 census on CDs, so he searched for James Grassick for me and came up with a small number of families with James Grassick as the head. One of them, living in Towie, was said to be a blacksmith, which seemed to fit with "implement manufacturer". He was aged 69, living in Waterside, Towie, with wife Elizabeth, son John (32) and daughters Mary (18) and Isabella (14). Elizabeth herself was on the 1881 census in England, but – as was common then – her birthplace was just shown as Scotland. I searched on the Internet but could not find a baptism for Elizabeth Grassick around 1851.

In 2004, I went to the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh and was again unable to find Elizabeth's birth/baptism. I did find baptisms for her brothers John (b. 1848) and James (1853) – all three born prior to compulsory registration in 1855. I did find an Elizabeth Grassick aged six months in the 1851 census, and the same family in 1861 with Elizabeth aged 10, with father James Grassick, a blacksmith in Towie. However, I didn't *know* if she was my Elizabeth.

My husband and I drove up to Towie the next day and began a search of the headstones in the kirkyard. My husband called me over to one on the far side. I could not believe my eyes! The inscription read: "Sacred to the memory of JAMES GRASSICK who died at Burns 10th March 1888 aged 75 years; his daughter ELIZABETH died at King's Lynn aged 39 years; *Also his wife* ISABELLA BETTIE who died at Burns 8th June 1907 aged 82 years." (Generally, Isabella's name is shown as Beattie rather than "Bettie".)



I stood there in tears. It was as if the information was there just for me. There could be no doubt this was the correct family. Elizabeth is *not* buried there, and on the face of it there is no reason for her name to be on that gravestone. I immediately rang my aunt Marjorie to let her know I had found her grandmother's family. She said that she had hoped that I would, and that was why she had given me the marriage certificate.

I have a lot more information about the Grassick, Wattie and McHardy families, in some cases back to the mid-18th century, but haven't done so well on the Beattie side. When I last visited King Street (from Shropshire), I submitted two Record of Ancestors Charts: one starting with me, and one starting with Elizabeth Grassick. I'm amazed at the amount of information there is about Strathdon, Corgarff and Glenbucket families on the Internet. I have visited the area three times and absolutely love it there.

Elizabeth was one of seven siblings, as my aunt thought. The eldest, John, a blacksmith like their father, went to Kildrummy, and he and his wife are buried there. Several of his children went to Canada. I struggled to find James initially, but now know he married in England and they went to live in Dublin for some time, had several children, then the family went to Australia. Alexander disappears after 1871; I guess he emigrated, but I've not been able to identify him. Sister Mary had an illegitimate daughter, Emily Wattie, fathered by a cousin, John Wattie. Emily seems to have lived with him at Mill of Newe in Strathdon, and remained there after he died. Mary never married, and died in Aberdeen, where she had been a cook. Isabella died aged 22 in 1889 after giving birth to a daughter. Youngest brother William lived at Burns, a farm on the outskirts of Towie. He is also in Towie churchyard (stone 262 in the MI booklet); and his daughter Lily, who died aged 3, is in the same grave as her grandfather James.

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My Eureka Moment: Chartist Discovery

When I was a child, my grandmother told me that an ancestor of hers had spoken at a big meeting in London in the pouring rain, subsequently caught pleurisy and died. As she came very much from a North-East Scottish working-class background, and her family was poor, I didn't think this story sounded very likely.

Many years later, when I was studying Modern British History at Aberdeen University, the topic at one point was Chartism. In a textbook by the noted historian Asa Briggs, I found a list of Scotsmen who had been Chartists. One of the names was James Shirron. My grandmother was a Shirron by birth. This man was her grandfather – my 2g-grandfather! This was my Eureka! moment.

I subsequently did a great deal of research and discovered he had been a Chartist leader in Aberdeen and was the first delegate sent to represent Aberdeen at the National Convention in London. He held several positions of importance – not bad for a young tailor from Turriff – and yes, the big meeting at Kennington Common in London in April 1848 was held in pouring rain. He died later that year, in November, aged 28, not of pleurisy but of erysipelas. There are obituaries to him in several newspapers, including the *Aberdeen Herald* and the *Scotsman*. This man is an inspiration to me. There is much more I could say, but I have kept this brief, as I know space is limited.

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Prospective articles and other items should have genealogical and North-East Scotland content. Articles, extracts or images may also be published on the Society's website or may be re-used in subsequent ANESFHS Journal editions. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail.

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