

Highland

Family History Society



A Golspie Churchyard Stone

Iain Beag MacAndra – Clan Chattan archer

A 1777 MacGregor letter home from America

Ross-shire Born Soldier: David Bain McLeman

Volume 42, Issue 4, August 2024



highland family history society

Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd

Scottish Charities No. SCO15987

HFHS Journal, Volume 42, Issue 4, August 2024

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Cover Photo: A Clan Chattan Gate in Badenoch

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EDITORIAL

I have been struck as I compile this issue of the Journal by the power of coincidence. As soon as I reached the point in Patrick Anderson's article on the Ross-shire born soldier, Lance Corporal David McLeman/MacLennan, where Colonel A. F. Mackenzie unveils the Avoch War Memorial – on which Patrick had first spotted his subject's name – I realised the Colonel featured in another item that had been submitted for this issue; the listing of the MIs in the burial ground of the MacKenzies of Ord, of whom the Colonel, who died in 1935, was the last of a line stretching back to the early 17th century. Since the first MacKenzie of Ord was a great-grandson of a 16th century chief of the clan, his line could actually be traced back to at least the 15th century.

The great grandfather of John 1st of Ord was *Eoin Chillfhinn* (John of Killin), who succeeded to the chiefship as a minor and was therefore subject to the tutorship of his uncle *Eachann Ruadh* (Red Hector), the first MacKenzie of Gairloch. Under the old Celtic system of collateral succession, Hector Roy, as he is usually known, would probably have been the successor to his brother *Coinneach a' Bhlàir* (Kenneth of the Battle), and it's usually thought he may indeed have aspired to that position. His nephew John, when he came of age, certainly appears to have harboured suspicions about the loyalty of Hector's successor, John "Glassich", who he had locked up in Eilean Donan with his brother John "Tuach", never again to see the light of day.

The Clan MacKenzie sept of Tuach are assumed to be descendants of *John Tuaoch Mac Heachin Roy* (as he appears in the Applecross MS History), a connection I've been investigating recently on behalf of a Tuach descendant in Oregon, USA. Last week I went down to Edinburgh for the day to continue that research in the National Records of Scotland, where quite by chance – and this is my second coincidence – I ran into Dr Aonghas MacCoinnich (whose name in English would be Angus MacKenzie) who had popped over from Glasgow, where he teaches at the University, to check some references for a student from his home island of Lewis. When I told him what I was doing there, he said he thought he had some notes on the Tuachs which he had jotted down whilst looking for other material on the MacKenzies; and, lo and behold, what he later sent me was, probably, the answer to the very question which I was failing to find myself that day in the NRS.

My research into the Tuachs has also benefitted from help provided by Jonathan McColl since, as Chairman of the Dingwall Museum Trust, he has extensive notes on prominent families in that ancient Royal Burgh. They include the Tuachs, who were lairds in the 17th century of nearby Logiereich, and two generations of whom were Town Clerks of Dingwall. Some of their descendants may well feature in Jonathan's talk to the Society in October – the first of the new season – which would be another coincidence.

Graeme Mackenzie.

NEWS

Talks and Book Sales

The first two talks of the new season will be:

17 October – Jonathan McColl – ‘The Early Censuses of Dingwall’.

21 November – Anne Fraser – ‘Clan Chattan’.

The talks are held at 2.30pm upstairs in the Highland Archive Centre.

We will again have a sale of second-hand books and some older stock as well as all our new & most recent publications being available.

Details of all the books published by the Society can be found at:

www.highlandfhs.org/publications/

Most recent MI Book published by the Society:

“Kilmorack – Kilmorack Burial Ground, Kilmorack Cemetery and Struy Churchyard”. Over 900 stones; 152 pages; £12 ex P&P.

You can order all our books online at the HFHS stand on **GenFair:**

<https://genfair.co.uk/supplier/highland-family-history-society-comunn-sloinntearachd-na-gaidhealtachd-65/>

Free Church Books – Stock Clearance

All Free Church books now with free P&P. Some have limited stock so buy soon.

Email Address for articles, enquiries etc: HighlandFHS@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS

2897. M. Morrow.

2900. Mr. P. W. Anderson.

2898. Mrs. D. Sherwood.

2901. S. Urquhart.

2899. Mrs. L. Jackson.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The new financial year for the Society commences 1st September 2024 and this is the annual reminder to members that your membership subscriptions are now due. The action you need to take, if any, depends on the method you use to pay your annual subscription. Each member will fall into one of the two categories 1 or 2 below.

NB. For UK members and Overseas members, there are now only two rates: Ordinary Membership at £12, and Institutional Membership at £18. All members will receive the Journal as a PDF sent by email.

1. If you pay your subscription by Banker's Order, make sure your bank sends the appropriate amount to the Clydesdale Bank plc [Sort Code 82-65-18 and Account Number 20290121]. If you have been paying the Senior rate of £8 or Family rate of £16 previously, please change the amount to £12.

The above account details can also be used to pay using online banking.

2. If you are used to paying by cheque (Sterling cheques only) please pay your subscription as soon as possible and preferably by 15th October 2024. Write to: The Treasurer, Highland Family History Society, Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness IV3 5SS. Please include a note of your address.

The Society has a 'stand' on GENfair, the Online Family History Fair and Genealogy Bookstore. This has been very successful for us as many members joined the Society for the first time using this method, and it is also an easy way of renewing your membership. In addition several members and non-members have purchased publications using this secure system of payment.

If you have a credit or debit card, and have access to the Internet, you can use this facility to renew your membership. This will be of particular benefit to overseas members who do not have a sterling bank account and at present incur additional charges either in obtaining a sterling cheque or a bank draft. Using GENfair also saves postage and you will receive online confirmation that your subscription has been paid. To use this service: -

1. Go to www.highlandfhs.org
2. On Home page, click on Membership
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If you do use GENfair and are a UK tax payer please remember to tick the Gift Aid box to enable us as a Charity to claim from HMRC.

Ross-shire Born Soldier

By Patrick W. Anderson FSA Scot.

Several years ago my wife and I holidayed in Ross and Cromarty and we stopped to look at the Avoch War Memorial near to the Parish Church; an obelisk that lists the many casualties of the Great War and the 1938-1945 War. The Memorial front records "To the Glory of God and in Affectionate Remembrance of the Men of Avoch Parish who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 - Their Name Liveth for Evermore."

There are 54 casualties of the Great War listed on the memorial and they record the names of each casualty with his Rank, Regiment/Corps etc. I noted a number of Highland Regiments listed and by chance I found out that one of the casualties named on it—*Corporal D. B. MacLeman, Scots Guards*—had served in the Northumberland County Constabulary.

I commenced some research on him and found that the Imperial War Graves Commission (nowadays the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) recorded him as: Private 6657 David Bain MacLennan who died on 14th September 1914, whilst serving in the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards. He was 27 years of age and is listed on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing, in the Seine-et-Marne Department in France. The record showed that he was the son of Alexander & Catherine MacLennan of Rosehaugh, Avoch, Ross-shire, and husband of Elizabeth Sim Miller of Boldside, Fishing Lodge, Galashiels. I noted that he was not listed on the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, so I began the research necessary to be able to submit a file to the Trustees of that Memorial.

I found that on 6th June 1887 at 4am, David Bain McLeman was born at Bog of Afterflow, Avoch, and that his parents were Alexander McLeman (General Labourer) and Catherine McLennan or McLeman. I then found the 1891 Census for Avoch and found Alexander McLeman and his wife, Catherine had five sons and a daughter. David Bain McLeman was the youngest, aged just 4 years. The 1901 Census records the McLemans residing at the same address with four sons including David Bain McLeman aged 13 and a scholar. It would appear that on 23rd November 1906 he attested for service in the Scots Guards, enlisting at Inverness, and was allocated the service number of 6657. His details were entered by the Colour Sergeant as

David Bain McLennan, aged 19 years 6 months, and a height of 5ft 10 inches, and occupation Farm Servant. He signed the form D. B. MacLennan but his "Mac" was changed to "Mc" on the form.

On 5th December 1906, he was posted to 1st Battalion Scots Guards in London and qualified as a Marksman with a machine gun qualification. The 1911 Census for England shows Private David Bain McLennan, of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, in Egypt, and he is recorded as being 24 years of age. He was promoted Lance Corporal during that year, and on 2nd January 1913 returned to the UK where, in November 1913, he transferred to the Army Reserve. He was paid a gratuity of £7.



Photo courtesy of Northumberland Police Archives

David MacLennan informed the Army he intended to apply for the London Dock Police or Glasgow Tramways, but instead was appointed to the River Tweed Police as a Water Bailiff before applying to become a PC in the Northumberland County Constabulary. On the application form to join this Force he recorded that he was a River Tweed Police Officer, aged 26 years 7 months, and was 5ft 10 inches in height.

On 6th March 1914, David Bain MacLennan, aged 26 years, married Elizabeth Sim Miller, aged 22 years, at their home address of Boldside, Galashiels, according to the forms of the United Free Church of Scotland. He is recorded as being a Constable on his Marriage Certificate, and on 16th March 1914 he was appointed Police Constable 285 in the Northumberland County Constabulary and stationed at Morpeth Police Headquarters. He was a 3rd Class Constable on appointment. He was stationed at Police Headquarters to carry out the training period for a new constable. On 1st May 1914 he was posted to Wallsend to take up Police Duties in the County Police Force.

On 5th August 1914, the day after War was declared on Germany, he was recalled to his old Regiment, the Scots Guards, joining at Inverness as Private 6657 McLennan, in the 1st Battalion. Once again the Army spelt his name as McLennan. He was posted to Aldershot as part of the 1st (Guards) Brigade, 1st Division, and on 13th August 1914 embarked for France, landing at Le Havre. He was again promoted to Lance Corporal.

The publication, *The Scots Guards in the Great War 1914-1918* records "That night (13th) the French XV111th Corps was on the right of the 1st Brigade, the rest of the 1st Division on the left, on a line passing through Moulins and Oeuilly to Bourg. The battle of the 14th September began at 3am, in rain and mist, when the 2nd Infantry Brigade advanced to seize the Chemin des

Dames, with its right directed on the village of Cerny beyond it on the farthest side of the ridge, looking down on the valley of the Ailette. Its left was directed on a point a mile west of Cerny. Covered by this attack, the 1st (Guards) Brigade was to move leftwards through Moulins, which was to be passed about 7.30am, and then turn northwards over the ridge through Cerny-en-Laonnais, down to Chamouille on the farther side of the Ailette valley on the direct road to Laon. The leading troops of the 1st Brigade reached Vendresse about 7a.m. The day had broken in thick mist and rain, which, once troops were in action, rendered almost inevitable the mixing of units through losing direction.



Avoch War Memorial

Picture by

Mr John W Bruce, Dingwall.

www.rossandcromartyheritage.org

The 1st Brigade was coming into action on the left of the 2nd, with the 1st Coldstream Guards on the right. The 3rd Brigade was in reserve at Moulins. The Coldstream Guards, on the right of the 1st Brigade, as they mounted towards the plateau from Vendresse, found themselves in a terribly steep and thick wood, and by the time they reached the top found that the battalions on their left, the Black Watch and the Camerons beyond them, had found a clearer way and were already in position. Between the right of the Black Watch and the left of the 2nd Brigade, the Coldstream Guards found room. Everywhere on the ridge there was a confusion of companies and battalions which could not be avoided in the mist in unknown country.

The mist lifted about 10.30am. The 1st Scots Guards sent two companies as escort to the guns at the Tour de Paissy; the other two acting as Brigade Reserve. Soon after 1pm, a German counter attack on the 1st & 2nd Brigades drove back the troops to the right of the Camerons, exposing the right flank of that battalion, which suffered heavy losses. A gap had developed between them and the Black Watch and into this was sent the two reserve companies of the Scots Guards. They deployed, under cover of the Troyon ridge, about half a mile west of Vendresse. Each had two platoons in front and two in support. They were heavily shelled, but had few casualties before the crest was reached. They then extended and pushed forward by rushes. One shell burst in the front of the Right Flank Platoon, wounding 2nd Lieutenant E. D. Mackenzie and killing or wounding several NCOs and men. Another killed Sergeant Royall and seven men. The leading platoons went on, under heavy rifle and machine gun fire, but without many casualties, until they came in touch with the Camerons on the right and the Black Watch on the left, both of whom had already suffered severely and could get no farther forward.



Captain Sir V. Mackenzie (R. F. Company) then sent back a message explaining the situation; but two minutes later received an order which had crossed his messenger, saying that no advance was to be made beyond the hedge about 200 yards behind the village of Chivy, where his company already was. Some 200 yards in front of him was thick wood. In this position the Right Flank remained, helping to repel the counter attacks which were made up until about 3pm.

At dusk the fighting was over for the day, and the company was ordered to withdraw and rejoin the rest of the battalion on the Troyon Ridge. The rest of the Left Flank had been withdrawn at dusk to the general line. This had been the heaviest fighting the 1st Scots Guards had yet had, and their losses for the first time were really serious. Killed: Major J. T. Carpenter-Garnier, 2nd Lieutenant Compton-Thornhill, 2nd Lieutenant Inigo-Jones, and 16 other ranks. Wounded: 2nd Lieutenants E. D. Mackenzie, J. Stirling-Stuart, and 86 other ranks. Missing: 12 other ranks.

The Roll call after the battle on the 14th September 1914 would have recorded that Lance Corporal MacLennan was one of the casualties of that day: Killed in Action. On 21st January 1915, Elizabeth Sim MacLennan, widow, was sent to her home address the soldier's effects of £2.16s.7d and later a War Gratuity of £5. These payments are recorded in the Register of Soldiers' Effects for each casualty. Recorded also is the entry "no Children."

The first newspaper account, in *The Southern Reporter* for 3rd June 1915, records a long list of Officers and Men under the heading of "Gala Roll of Honour—Officers and Men who have made the Greatest Sacrifice." This list of NCOs & Men includes the name of Private D. B. McLennan, Scots Guards.

During 1918 the Medals that would have been awarded to Lance Corporal 6657 David Bain McLennan, Scots Guards, were sent to his widow, Mrs E. S. MacLennan. They were the *1914 Star*, the *British Victory Medal* and *British War Medal*, as well as the *1914 Clasp* "awarded to those who served under fire or had operated within range of enemy artillery in France or Belgium between 5th August and 22nd November 1914". The Victory and British War Medals were awarded to him as a Private in the Scots Guards, but the *1914 Star* was awarded to Lance Corporal David Bain McLennan of the Scots Guards, "Killed in Action" 14th September 1914.

The Scots Guards book of the 80 volumes issued by HMSO listing all the soldiers who died in the Great War records: Guardsman 6657, David Bain McLennan; born Avoch, Ross-shire; enlisted Inverness; residence Avoch; killed in action 14th September 1914 in France & Flanders theatre of war.

MAJOR	E. MACKINNON.	R. A. M. C.
SERGT	B. MACLEMAN.	COLDSTREAM GUARDS.
CPL	D. B. MACLEMAN.	SCOTS GUARDS.
L/CPL	W. VASS.	H. L. I.
..	W. SKINNER.	SCOTTISH RIFLES
PTE	J. H. BISHOP.	K. O. S. B.
..	J. MACDONALD.	K. O. Y. L. I.
..	K. C. MACKENZIE.	SCOTTISH HORSE.
PIPER	W. MACKENZIE.	ROYAL FUSILIERS.
PTE	H. MACLEMAN.	R. A. M. C.
..	M. MACRAE.	ROYAL SCOTS.
..	G. MANN.	TANKS CORPS.
..	J. REID.	GORDONS.
SERGT	T. O. ROSS.	D.C.M. CANADIANS.
PTE	A. R. DUNN.	..
..	L. MACINTOSH.	..
..	A. MACLEMAN.	..
..	R. MACLEMAN.	..
SAPPER	D. ROSS.	..

On 15th September 1923, Colonel A. F. Mackenzie CMG, MVO, unveiled the Avoch War Memorial which records fifty four casualties of the Great War including:
CPL D. B. MacLeman, Scots Guards.

I submitted a file on L/Cpl David Bain MacLennan to the Trustees of the Scottish National War Memorial and in due course received a communication from Lt Colonel Roger J. Binks, Secretary to the Trustees, informing me that he had been accepted as a Casualty of the Great War.

The Roll of Honour for the Scots Guards would list him as: MacLennan, David Bain, Guardsman 6657, Scots Guards, 1st Battalion. Birthplace Avoch, Ross-shire. Date of Death 14th September 1914, France & Flanders. Killed in action. Other Details: Originally MacLeman.

I am so pleased that the Trustees of the Scottish National War Memorial accepted that Guardsman David Bain MacLennan should be recorded on the Roll of Honour within the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle, under the Scots Guards 1914-1918, and included in the casualties listed on their website.

Author's Notes:

One of David Bain MacLennan's elder brothers, Piper 1914 Kenneth McLennan (MacLennan), of the 1/7th Highland Light Infantry was recorded in the London Gazette on 11th March 1916 when awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for Gallantry on the 21st July 1915, at Gallipoli, "when he advanced with the attacking line playing his pipes, to the great encouragement of the men. When his pipes were shattered by shrapnel, Piper McLennan, with great bravery and coolness, tended and dressed the wounded under heavy fire."

Another of David's elder brothers: Private 147203 Alexander MacLennan, 78th (Manitoba Regt.) Canadian Infantry, was killed in action on 14th October 1916 aged 37 years. He is listed on the Vimy Memorial in France and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour at Edinburgh Castle.

The *Morpeth Herald & Reporter* for 17th September 1920 recorded the unveiling of a Bronze Tablet at the County Police Headquarters listing MacLennan, David B., L Cpl. Scots Guards, Killed in Action.

On 5th October 1925, the Galashiels War Memorial was unveiled by Field Marshal The Earl Haig. This memorial lists 639 war dead including among the Scots Guards: Pte D. B. McLennan.

A Mackenzie Burial Ground

Recorded by HFHS member A. McInnes.

This small burial ground is situated near Ardnagrask by Muir of Ord.

1. Olive wife of Col. A. F. MACKENZIE of Ord died February 1936.
2. Colonel Alexander F. MACKENZIE C.M.C., M.V.O., of Ord late of the A & S Highlanders and Seath Highlanders died 15th June 1935. Direct male representative of House of Kintail and Chief of Clan MACKENZIE. Triath cloinn coinnigh.
3. To the glory of god and in loving memory of Anna WATSON wife of Col. A. F. DOUGLAS-HAMILTON, VC, 79th Q. O. Cameron Highlrs, died 15th February 1945. And in thankful remembrance of her inspiring courage loyalty and cheerfulness. God is my hope and strength.
4. In ever loving memory of Lady Ethel Theophila died 17 Feb. 1941. Beloved wife of Sir Buchanan SCOTT, KCIE, FLE. "With Christ which is far better."
5. In ever-loving memory of Camilla Beatrice, only daughter of Lt. Col. A. DOUGLAS HAMILTON, V.C., 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and Mrs A. W. DOUGLAS HAMILTON who died 23rd May 1957, aged 61 years. St. Matthew, XI.v.23.
6. In memoriam Elia Beatrice FRASER-TYTLER 4th January 1894 -13th November 1951. "Here lies a most beautiful lady".
7. In loving memory of Dora Elizabeth died 20th May 1991, aged 92. Wife of Lt. Col. R. A. L. FRASER-MACKENZIE killed at El Alamein 26th October 1942.

Editor's note:

It's interesting to see that Colonel Alexander Francis MacKenzie of Ord [No 2 above] is claimed to have been the Chief of Clan MacKenzie. The previous chief, James Fowler MacKenzie of Allangrange, had died without male heirs in 1907, and no chief was then recognised by Lord Lyon until the present Cabarfeidh's father, Roderick Blunt Mackenzie, Earl of Cromartie, in 1979.



Ord House, which is now a hotel

Iain Beag MacAndra

By Neil Macdonald

Whilst looking into my family history, the archer Iain Beag MacAndra came up. He was otherwise known as John Macandrew of Dalnahatnich, and his remarkable story was told in The Northern Scot, in 1895.

“Dalnahatnich is a wild mountainous glen three miles west from the village of Carr-bridge, and fifteen miles south of Inverness. The Dulnain, the largest tributary of the Spey, winds its way through the glen. In the twilight of Highland civilisation, when might was right, Lochaber reivers made periodic raids on Strathspey, and in driving their foray of cattle passed through Dalnahatnich along *Rathad mor na meirleach*, or the road of thieves to their mountain fortresses in the wilds of Lochaber. Frequent conflicts took place between the cattle stealers and Strathspey men. No man, however, proved so deadly an enemy to the Lochaber men as little John Macandrew of Dalnahatnich.

John was dwarfish in appearance and deformed in body, but possessed extraordinary muscular power, and was the most expert archer of his time. He used his bow and arrow so effectively that at different times a score of Abridh thieves licked the dust. Macandrew’s reputation spread through Lochaber, and he became a marked man.

On one occasion the Lochaber thieves made a raid on Strathdearn, some five or six miles north of Dalnahatnich. They turned out in great numbers, and were under the leadership of an arch-reiver named Auchluacrich, whose memory has been preserved by the poetic muse and tradition in Lochaber.

The Strathspey and Strathdearn men were determined to make a desperate attempt to prevent the removal of so many cattle from their glens and straths, and united they met Auchluacrich and his fellow thieves at Kyllachy, an estate owned at present by the Lord of the Court of Session bearing that name.

The struggle was fierce and protracted, but Macandrew signally distinguished himself on this occasion. But for the deadly shots of the archer the Lochaber men would for a certainty have won the day and driven before them the Hocks of cattle they had collected. When the fight was hottest and Macandrew taking down a man at every shot, Kyllachy shouted in Gaelic ‘More power to your arm, little John Macandrew of Dalnahatnich, you are doing the work of a score of men.’ Hitherto Macandrew’s name was not known in Lochaber, and the archer, on hearing the words of encouragement uttered by Kyllachy, replied, ‘A thousand curses on your glib tongue, one-eyed Kyllachy’.

It was after the struggle in Strathdearn that the Lochaber men, on discovering his name, determined to kill the archer. Seven Lochaber men were deputed by their countrymen to visit Dalnahatnich and slay the brave archer. None of them knew him by sight, and when they reached his house they found Mrs Macandrew baking oaten cakes, and her husband seated at the peat fire. The reivers asked for Macandrew, and the wife, suspecting the object of their visit, struck her husband a slap on the head, and abruptly ordered him to go in search of his father.

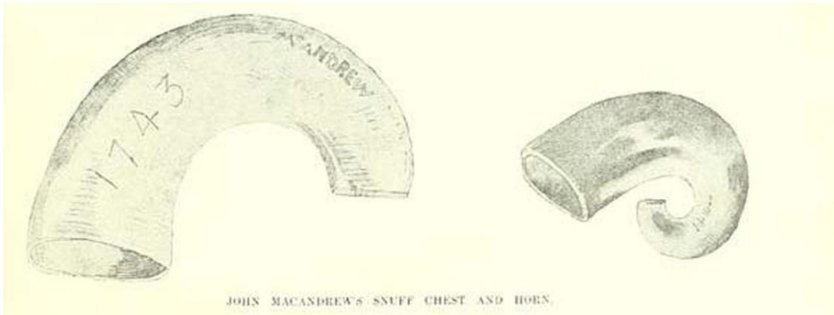
When Macandrew got outside his wife handed him through the window of the "butt" end his bow and a quiver of arrows. He then took up his position on a large pine tree commanding a view of the door, which I believe is still there, and sent in a message to the thieves that if they wanted to see little John Macandrew, now was their time. They rushed to the door, and as each man crossed the threshold, an arrow laid him low on the green sward. The seventh man escaped for some distance, but eventually he too shared the fate of his brethren. One version of the story is, that the seventh man was allowed to go home to tell the fate of his countrymen, but this is not correct, as his grave may still be seen.

The reivers were buried as they fell, and Strathspey men, as a warning to Lochaber men, placed rude tombstones over the graves. The story smacked so much of the mythical that the writer twenty years ago took the trouble to place it in the region of undisputed fact by resurrecting the remains of two of the graves. The anti-septic properties of the soil had preserved in some degree the remains, and two skulls and thigh bones were excavated. The plough has since then turned up the ground where the graves are, but they are still pointed out. The tree too from which the archer had shot the fatal arrows was until recently, and perhaps is still to be seen.

The walls of Macandrew's house were rebuilt forty years ago, and the house put into a habitable state. When this singular occurrence of killing the cattle thieves took place, the local chronicler does not say, but the date fixed by tradition is about the end of the eighteenth century."



Dalnahatnich today – photograph supplied by Neil Macdonald

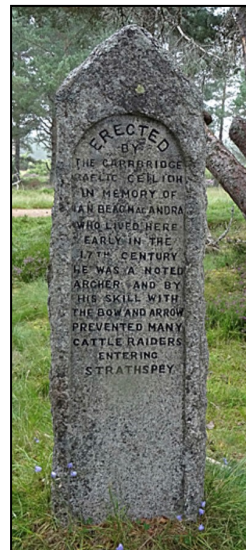


I then looked at where he lived at Dalnhatnich, and on the ScotlandsPeople website I discovered that my great-great-grandmother Margaret Mackenzie was born and lived there in 1807. She had siblings Andrew, Christian, and Lachlan, and their parents names were Alexander Mackenzie and Isobell Vass or Vause. I'm not sure when they left that address but they were gone by 1820, as per the birth register of Lachlan, born in that year at Dell, Abernethy. Alexander Mackenzie died in 1871, and his wife Isobell in 1863.

Margaret Mackenzie bore a son, Lachlan, to David Rose, in 1846, although they never married. Lachlan Rose came to be in possession of a ram's horn and a snuffbox, owned by Iain Beag [pictured above]. The ram's horn, roughly inscribed *J McAndrew 1743*, and the snuffbox had been possessed by the great-great-grand-father of Lachlan Rose, who in Macandrew's time—according to Lachlan Rose's own calculation—lived about 1720 in a small croft in the Aetin. His name was Alexander Mackenzie, and these heirlooms of the Highland archer were carefully preserved in the family. The place called the Aetin is only about a mile from Dalnhatnich. The Mackenzies were related to Macandrew, but what the relationship was is impossible at this time to determine.

Macandrew's remains repose in the churchyard of Duthil, but no stone marks his grave. There is no doubt though about his burying place. Lachlan Rose, died at Drumchork, Coylumbridge in 1922. The whereabouts of the ram's horn and snuffbox are unknown.

A memorial stone to Iain Beag, which is shown here, stands in the opposite bank of the River Dulnain to Dalnhatnich.



Peter/Patrick MacGregor: A Letter Home from 1777

Ed Brumby

Editor's Note: The author sent this as "Filed in Chedabucto \ Peter McGrigor". Since few of our readers would know what is meant by Chedabucto (it's a place on the north east mainland of Nova Scotia, in the county of Guysborough), and some might not appreciate that in 18th century Scotland the names Peter and Patrick were interchangeable, I have exercised editorial discretion with regard to the title.



After thirty years of research into the 71st Fraser Highland Regiment in the American War of Independence, it never ceases to amaze me that a newly found document seems to pull in pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to form an interesting piece of information.

Details of battles are part of the 71st history, but it was men who fought and information on their struggles is a rarity. It is even rarer when men wrote home and the letter survived. Literacy was not high in those days. You can imagine my delight when I found a letter from Patrick McGrigor to his cousin Mr Grigour McGrigour at Boat of Cromdale.

A Pat McGrigor, aged 19, from Cromdale, Inverness-shire, is listed in the Duchess of Gordon's recruits for Captain Hamilton Maxwell (NRS, GD44/7/1 where he is listed as sick).

Recruiting Sergeant Peter Thomson's Account for expenses from 7th Dec to 23rd Feb 1776 has a bill from Thos. Malcolm for attending Pat McGregor while sick (NRS GD44/47/1/17).

He was aged 19 in Dec. 1775, five foot eight in height, light coloured hair, blue eyes, fair hair and was a labourer. His height was well above the five foot four average and he would probably have been selected for the light infantry or grenadiers.

He wrote to his cousin Mr Grigour McGrigour at the Boat of Cromdale, Forres from Amboy, near New York on the 29th of April 1777 saying he was in Patrick Campbell's Company (NRS, GD248-434-6-32).

The letter is very difficult to decipher and I have left the spelling as per the original. I have put in suggestions for some words. It looks as if the post office had difficulty finding his cousin. It reads as follows:

Mr Grigour Mcgrigour
At the Boat of Cromdale
and Calr? [Cairn?] Of ???dnay? [Cairdny?]
post master ???ivrd [delivered?]
Countie of Inverness
North Britian
Forres
No? will relive? at Invs try fforess [Forres]

amboy Nir new york April 29 - 1777

Dear Cousen after informing you of my well being as I hop you and all my other friends ar I tak this operetuniety of writing you wherby you may kno that I never recved no leater from you sins I left you althou I wrot you from Perth & next from glasgow wherin I strictly charged you to wriet me the first opportunity but if I do not recive one answer of this you may be shour I never will wriet you again for it semes out of sight as saith the proverb is out of miend you will leat my honered mother kno of this ashoun as it comis to hand and all my friends also I have no strange news to inform you only ther ar every day coming in heir and every other plas the Kings Trups ar in the Rebels in general or a pargal? of the gratest & couards ever was befor in arms and it is generally belived a few months will will put ye an end to this war for thy ar uorsted at every hand and leving them in all plases so that it is imposibel for them to stand and be so good as leat John Kays mother know he is in good halth and also Charels Grant who is in the same compiny with me which may be a very good opotunity for you and his father to menghon [mention?] each other in your letters if you ar so kiend as to writ/ and the or all well if any friends enquir for them the foloing persons Alexr mcquin [MacQueen?] James Do [MacQueen?]
Having nothing mor dear Cousen of moment I remain with the gratest affection my deer your Loving Cousen whiel in hef?
[signed] Patrick McGrigor

PS kno we had a hard ingagement sea? at for four ours and a half and althou ??? had 10 large guns and us only four Swivels and no wiend the paievat raling about us with tendrs? our ship boldly foght her the above menchond osime? On thir cost although no ship had been in Co for three weeks we have oftion ingaged them on land and its litel to the Rebels prophet for we sent thousands of them to [document torn] graves and the 71 has never had above 15 killed at [document torn] engagement
NB when you ar pleasd to writ direct to me in Capt Patk Cambels Co 3 battalion 71

The propel? of this has been the most bewiked in the world for fulenes of breed has been thir ruin for it may justly be said that amereae [America] is the garden of the woredl as will be aknoleged by al Juyeys [Jerseys] ever has been hier her Black servents levis [lives] better than many of your Lairds dos [does] – direct to New York or Easwher? [elsewhere?]

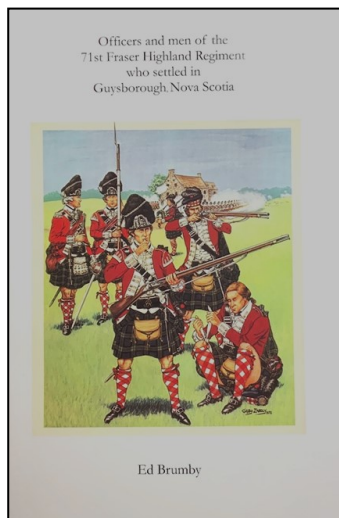
NRS, GD248/434/6/32 [Seafield Muniments, Grant Correspondence]

I know from records that Peter/Patrick was at Beaufort in South Carolina and survived the battle of Savannah. He died some time after January 1781. The final battle of Yorktown was in October 1781 so he was unfortunate not to survive till the end of the war. If he had, he would have spent two years in captivity.

What is also nice about his letter is that he gives news of John Kay, Charles Grant, James and Alexander MacQueen. I have not been able to find his other letters, but hopefully one day I will and they will add more pieces to the jigsaw puzzle.

I don't see John Kay or Charles Grant, James McQueen or Alexander McQueen on the Duchess's recruit list. I only have a few other lists of recruits. It is difficult to trace the genealogy, but hopefully this article may produce some response.

As he says, Ed Brumby has been researching the 71st Fraser Highlanders for a long time, and some years ago he had this book published which was available from the Guysborough Historical Society. Unfortunately, it now appears to be out of stock – but anyone interested can check with www.guysboroughhistoricalsociety.ca



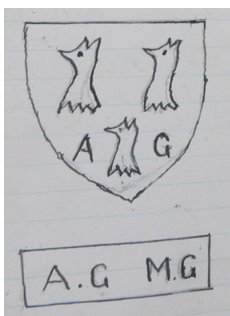
A Golspie Churchyard Stone

Stuart Farrell

The following story of a stone in Golspie Churchyard is from a notebook held in the Highland Archives in Inverness (Ref. HCA/D133/6) of notes on a number of gravestones in the churchyard.

Upright stone fixed to east side of Chapel. Inscription:

Heir lyes ane honourable man who died the yeir of God 1626 and being of age 88.



The notebook makes the following statement:

“This stone which has only been raised to its present position, perhaps about forty years ago, and was originally lying flat on the ground below, commemorated Adam Gordon, styled of Golspie - Kirkton. He was the only and illegitimate son of “Maister Adam Gordon of Feral” who was third son of Adam Gordon of Aboyne, 1st Earl of Sutherland, who married Elizabeth Countess of Sutherland. “Maister Adam” was killed at battle of Pinkie 1547. Sir Robert says he left “only a bastard son” (Earldom P. 88)

Adam who was born 1538 and who “died verie in March 1626”. He married Christina Murray daughter of Hugh Murray of Aberscross, whose initials curiously do not appear on the stone, if she was buried below it with her husband. By this lady he had :-

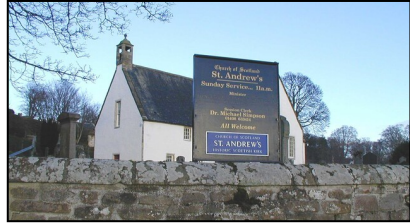
1. Alexander Gordon of Golspie Kirkton
2. Adam G. in Culgower
3. Hugh G.
4. Gilbert G.
5. John G. a natural son
6. Elizabeth G.
7. Jane G. m Wm Suthd in Caln Kildonan

(Balloch’s Gordons in Sutherland, 72-73).

Alexander Gordon of Golspie Kirkton, the eldest son of Adam, is also undoubtedly buried here with his wife Margaret Gordon, daughter of John G. of Backies as shewn by the initials cut in the square panel under the shield. Their family was :-

1. John Gordon
2. Robert m Jane dau of Patrick of Craigton
3. Adam m Jean dau of Mr Adam Anderson minister of Kildonan
4. Margaret m Robert Calder
5. Christian

There is no record of when Alexander died. He was implicated in the attack on the Sutherlands of Duffus at Skibo Castle; Sir Robt Gordon having to stand caution for him in £500, Aug 2, 1621, to desist from annoying them (Privy Council Register).



In 1626 Sir Robt Gordon (P. 400) bought the lands of Golspie Kirkton from Alexr. Gordon.

In 1583 Adam Gordon in Culgower at the gates of the Castle (Dunrobin) took seizure of the earldom for the Earl (John). In 1570, Richard Maddir, Chaplain of the Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew of Gospye, with the consent of the Patron, Alexander Earl of Sutherland, then a minor, of Barbara Sinclair C [Countess] of Sd. his wife and of the Earl, Curators Robert Bishop of Caithness and Alexander Sutherland of Duffous, for certain sums of money paid to him by Gilbert Mill and for other favours, granted to Gilbert in heritage his Chaplaincy of Golspe with its lands, fields, Crofts &c.

In 1575, Feby 16th, Sir Richard renewed this grant of the Chaplaincy to Gilbert Milne who on 23 Feby took seison of the same. Witnessed by William Mackinzik in Golspie Kirkton.

In 1583, March 15, Gilbert Milne fear [Feuar] of the town & lands of Golspie Kirkton with this yearly revenues of the town & lands of Drummoy extending to 40 shillings, and the privilege of the ferry boar if Unis, in fulfilment of a contract with Adam Gordon of Culgower dated at Dornoch 3 March 1582, with the consent of Edward Kennety the son of John Kennetie burgess of Banfe, Chaplain of the Chaplaincy of Saint Andrews of Golspy and with the consent of the same John tutor of his son Edward and of the patron Alexr E of Suthd, granted to Adam Gordon & to his wife Christina Murray, the Dau of Hugh Murray of Aberscross and to the heirs got between them, with remainder to Adams heirs whomsoever, the town & lands of Golspy Kirkton, with the annual rent of Drimmoy extending to 40 shillings Scots; and the privilege of the ferryboat of Unis, with the rest of their pertinents belonging to the Chaplaincy of St Andrew of Golspy Kirkton in the Earldom of Suthd & Sherrifdom of Inverness for a certain sum of money paid to him by Adam in his necessity, to be held of the Chaplain and of the Earl & of their successors for the yearly payment of £10 old ferme with 16d in Augmentation, seisin taken on the lands of Golspie Kirkton to be sufficient for the whole. This grant is signed by Gilbert Mylne Edward Kennayte Chaplain of Golspy & Alexander Earl of Sutherland

In 1626 the same Adam with the consent of his eldest son Alexander Fear of Golspie Kirkton & of his wife Margaret Gordon for the sum of 2500 marks

Scots paid to him by Sir Robert Gordon of that ilk baronet tutor of Sutherland sold to Sir Robert & his heirs, the "Chaplane landis of the towne & landis of Golspie Kirkkton, with houses biggingis yairdis, tofts, crofts, annexis, connexis dependencies, paitis, pendicle & pertinends thereof usit & wont, togeddis with it Annuclreutis of the towne & landis of Drummoy extending to the somme of fourtie shillings monie yearlis to be up lifted & tane furth of the saidis landis of the Drummoy, with priviledge of the passage boit and port of Unis, with all and sindrie their pertinents quhatsumerir pertening to the Chaplain of Sanct Andro of Golspie Kirkton to be held of the superior.

Sir Robert says there was a peel or tower at Golspie Kirkton.

Although this is now apparently the oldest stone with a date to be seen in the churchyard, Earl John who died in 1460, The Countess of his son Earl John, (the daugr of the Lord of the Isles), drowned ty Ferry Unis about the same date her husband Earl John who died 1508, were all buried at Golspie Kirktin. The monument of the Countess "with a ston curiouslie carved" was extant in 1630.

The son of Gilbert Gordon of Garty & his wife "Isobell Sinkler" was buried here 1567. Sir R. G., p 147, says "whose sudden death and manner thereof together with the tokens which were found & remarked upon his body in the church of Golspy at his burial gave even then a full assurance unto all men that Isobell Sinkler was the author of Earl John his death".'

It's unclear whose notebook this was. The Rev. James Maxwell Joass, Minister of Golspie, was a prominent geologist and antiquarian in the late 19th century and died in 1914. So it could have been his. However, within the notebook are entries dated 1917 and 1921. Could it have been his nephew John Joass, who was an architect staying with his uncle at Golspie Manse when the 1891 Census was taken, and continued the interest of his uncle?

Anyway there are over 50 stones recorded in the notebook for Golspie, but with a few other stones from Dornoch, Clyne and Edderton to name a few places. A few more do give details such as above, and I will submit these for future issues of the journal. It's hoped that the Highland FHS can do a survey of the gravestones at Golspie in the coming years and it will be of interest to see how many inscriptions noted in this notebook now are no longer extant or readable.

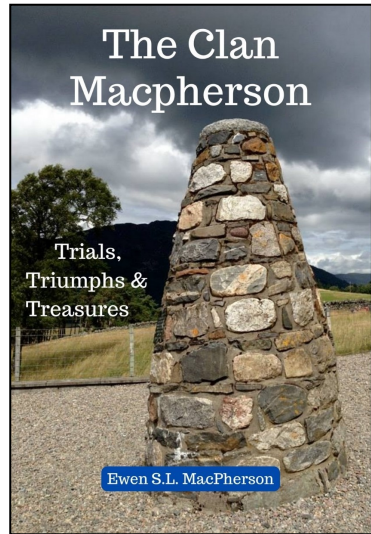


Photo from <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG31411>
Cemetery, St. Andrew's Church, Golspie

Cover Story



The gate with the Clan Chattan cat on the cover of this issue can be found near Newtonmore in the heart of Macpherson Country, and leads into the enclosure in which stands this monument to Cluny Macpherson of The '45.



The Clan Macpherson

Trials,
Triumphs &
Treasures

Ewen S.L. Macpherson

Ewen MacPherson, a past Chairman and present Vice President of the Clan Macpherson Association, is one of the Trustees of the Clan Macpherson Museum, from which his book can be purchased for £20.

www.clanmacphersonmuseum.org.uk

Monumental Inscription Books published by the HFHS

Burial Place	County	Memo- rials	Pub- lished	Price
Abernethy Churchyard	INV	439	2012	£7.00
Advie Churchyard	INV	147	2012	£6.00
Alness Old Churchyard	ROC	659	1996	£6.00
Alvie Churchyard	INV	203	2014	£6.00
Ardersier Cemetery [A5]	INV	371	2009	£1.00
Avoch Old Churchyard	ROC	651	2006	£4.00
Badenscallie Churchyard	ROC	270	2016	£6.00
Beauly Priory & St, Mary's Chyd	INV	430	2023	£8.00
Brachlich Cemetery, Gollanfield	INV	200	2003	£3.00
Carrbridge Cemetery	INV	332	2022	£6.00
Chapel Yard, Inverness	INV	2802	1999	£12.00
Clachan Churchyard, Lochbroom	ROC	298	2017	£6.00
Contin Churchyard	ROC	410	2015	£8.00
Corrimony Burial Ground	INV	95	2020	£4.00
Cromdale Churchyard	INV	365	2011	£6.00
Croy Churchyard	INV	367	2002	£3.00
Dalarossie Churchyard	INV	221	2011	£6.00
Dores Churchyard	INV	427	2004	£6.00
Dundonnell & Gruinard BG	ROC	200	2023	£5.00
Dunlichity Churchyard	INV	315	2010	£6.00
Easter Suddie Burial Ground [A5]	ROC	209	2004	£1.00
Fodderty & Kinnettas Burial Grounds	ROC	1635	2022	£10.00
Fortrose Cemetery and Cathedral [A5]	ROC	450	2005	£1.00
Geddes Churchyard [A5]	NAI	156	1995	£1.00
Glenconvinth Churchyard	INV	154	2021	£6.00
Greyfriars Cemetery, Inverness	INV	132	2002	£3.00
Invershin Burial Ground	SUT	142	2020	£4.00
Kilmore Old Churchyard, Drumnadrochit	INV	496	2007	£6.00

Kilmuir Cemetery (Black Isle) [A5]	ROC	239	2006	£1.00
Kinlochluichart, Contin (Garve, Achnahalt etc)	ROC	487	2023	£6.00
Kiltarlity (Tomnacross & Old) Churchyards	INV	769	2022	£8.00
Kiltearn Burial Ground	ROC	830	2020	£8.00
Kirkhill Churchyard & Kirkton of Buncrew	INV	651	2022	£8.00
Kirkton of Ardersier Cemetery [A5]	INV	393	2003	£1.00
Laggan Churchyard	INV	344	2021	£6.00
Lochend Burial Ground	INV	129	2004	£3.00
Logie Wester Burial Ground	ROC	273	2021	£4.00
Moy Churchyard	INV	174	2008	£3.00
Nonikiln Chyd	ROC	181	2023	£4.00
Old High Churchyard, Inverness	INV	476	2004	£5.00
Petty Old Churchyard	INV	476	2002	£6.00
Rosemarkie Churchyard	ROC	575	2004	£5.00
St Clements Cemetery, Dingwall	ROC	689	2002	£7.00
Ullapool Burial Grounds	ROC	577	2020	£8.00
Urquhart Old Churchyard (Black Isle)	ROC	937	2006	£5.00
Urray Old + Urray West Churchyard	ROC	495	2016	£6.00

MACPHERSON POSTSCRIPT—the Ingenious Sir Aeneas in Pennsylvania

William Penn granted the power to hold manorial courts to the Free Society of Traders, whose 20,000 acres he erected into the manor of Frank, and to Dr. Nicholas More, whose 10,000 acres were to be called the manor of Moreland. ... Besides these and the tracts reserved for the Proprietary himself, over which, of course, he could hold court, there were several blocks of 10,000 acres, and even some smaller ones, subsequently laid out as manors for certain of his relations. ...

Every tract of 10,000 acres belonging to one owner came to be spoken of as a manor ; and it is likely that Penn contemplated erecting as such, when peopled, even the tracts of that size of persons outside of his family: witness his direction in 1701 for a license of that kind for the Growdons' 10,000 acres or even for Joseph Growdon's 5000. **In a deed of 1685 to Eneas Mackpherson alias Chatone of Inveressie in Scotland, esquire, for 5000 acres, the Proprietary erected them into a manor to be called the manor of Inveressie, with power to hold manorial courts; but claim under this deed, being made for the first time to the later Penns, was rejected.**

Charles Keith, "Chronicles of Pennsylvania..." (Philadelphia, 1917), Vol. 1, 75.



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Scottish Charities No. SCO15987

ISSN 0262-6659