

Highland

Family History Society

Clun Davidson

The Davidsons

Every Stone Tells a Story

Inverness Burgesses of 1812

The MacIvers and MacKenzies

Volume 41, Issue 2, February 2023



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Cover Photo: Clan Davidson Room at Tulloch Castle

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NEWS

Our Talks Are Back – on the afternoon of the 16th of March

We will be starting our talks again on Thursday 16 March at 2.00pm in the upstairs room in the Highland Archive Centre, Inverness. We look forward to the chance for HFHS members, and others, to meet again in person. Nick Hide, Membership Secretary of the Clan Davidson Association, will talk about “Some Davidson Connections in the Highlands & Northern Scotland”.

Our first talk for over two years will be accompanied by a sale of second-hand books, and some of our older stock. All our recent publications will also be available.

Our most recent publication features five graveyards in one volume: “Parish of Contin” includes the burial grounds at Lower & Upper Achnahalt, Garve, Kinlochluichart, and Strathconnon. It costs £6, excluding post & packing. You can order online by going to the HFHS stand on **GenFair**:

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

Details of all our publications are at: www.highlandfhs.org/publications/

We need your help to keep the Journal going.

Please consider writing for the Journal. Tell us about how you discovered genealogy; what tips you can pass on about family history research; what you have found out about the history of your family or of the clan to which you belong; or anything else you think may be of interest to fellow historians of highland families. Submissions can be a short note or a long story, preferably as an editable Word document.

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

DEATHS:

366. Mr D. L. Nicholson

2269. Mrs P. Skehan

2773. W. Cumming

2831. Mr I. Fraser

RESIGNATIONS:

978. Mr D. Boyd

1639. Mrs M. Kenyon

1889. Mrs D. Smart

1992. Mr A. Grant

NEW MEMBERS

2848 Ms G. Nineham

2849 Ms C. MacKinnon

HFHS SUBSCRIPTION RATES for year 01 Sep 2022 - 31 Aug 2023

Category	United Kingdom (PDF)	Overseas (PDF)
Ordinary	£12.00	£12.00
Institutional	£18.00	£18.00

Editorial

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Scottish genealogists are the luckiest in the world. Indeed, I say it every time I give a lecture on "Tracing Your Ancestors in Scotland" – as I do every year (or at least, in every non-pandemic year) in the United States, and have done in past years in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Why? Because we Scots—like our Celtic brothers and sisters in Ireland & Wales—have a particular interest in our ancestors. This is shown by our use of patronymic surnames (with the Scottish "Mac", the Irish "O" and the Welsh "Ap") and has resulted—in Scotland anyway—in vital records that provide more ancestral information than those in other countries.

Historically, English certificates of birth do not give the parents' date of marriage; their marriage certificates do not name both parents (only the father); and their certificates of death do not give the names of the parents of the deceased. The equivalent statutory records in Scotland have always given that extra information, and wives' maiden surnames are always given on our gravestones and in those old baptismal registers that identify the mother.

The luck of the Scots descendant trying to trace his ancestors does not stop there however. We have long been blessed with a centralised system of record-keeping which brought together in one building in Edinburgh all the essential genealogical information required to start constructing a family tree; the Statutory BMDs, OPRs, and Censuses. Then, for those that want to go further, the neighbouring building has a plethora of additional material, such as testaments from local courts, tax-rolls from government records and rent-rolls from estate papers (to name but three of the many useful sources there).

Finally, the electronic icing on the cake is the provision of so-much of this information to ancestral researchers around the world via *ScotlandsPeople*. When it was launched in 2011 it was far from being the first genealogical website. *Ancestry* goes back to 1996; *Family Search* to 1999; and *Find My Past*—then as *1837online*—to 2003; but *ScotlandsPeople* was pioneering in a different way. It was "official" (i.e. sponsored by the Scots Government) and, though initially provided by the creators of *Find My Past*, since the 2016 "revamp" it has been provided in-house by the National Records of Scotland [NRS]. So, it has been something for all patriotic Scots genealogists to cheer about.

On my first lecture tour of New Zealand and Australia in 2014, I was surprised by how few attendees—all enthusiastic genealogists, and most of Scottish extraction—had heard of *ScotlandsPeople*, and I was delighted to be able to introduce them to it. By 2019, when I made my second tour, a large majority of attendees knew of it, and many were using it, so I didn't have to cheer so loudly about it; and the same has been true in North America. *ScotlandsPeople* is therefore a success, and over the years it has gradually increased the number and variety of records it offers lucky Scots genealogists.

In that respect therefore, it's getting even better; but is it improving? The answer I'm afraid is no; indeed, in at least one important respect, it's going backwards. For many years they've had a problem with indexing surnames; particularly, but not exclusively, the "Mac" names borne by so many Scots. Their Spelling Variations option for surnames simply didn't work, even on the most basic level; i.e. equating MacKenzie with McKenzie. So you put in MacKenzie, and ended up with lots of MacQueens but no McKenzies; while McKenzie generated many McKanes and no MacKenzies. They obviously realised they had a problem; so what did they do? They dropped the Spelling Variations option altogether! Given that *Ancestry* and *Family Search* have long indexed Macs & Mcs together, why can't ScotlandsPeople (of all people!) make it work for them; or rather for us, their customers?

Many of the most loyal customers of ScotlandsPeople—i.e. those spending a lot of money paying to view multiple records online—have long been asking them to provide a subscription option; and, again, other services such as *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* have shown how that can be done. When this issue was raised, in pre-pandemic days, on the Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group—and then its successor, the Scottish Clan and Ancestry Forum (consultative bodies set up and chaired by the Minister or Cabinet Secretary responsible for such matters)—we were informed that this matter remained under review; but never, over a number of years, told why it could not happen. As ever, when a government agency refuses to give a straight answer, you fear the worst; in this case, that they made more money from their customers on a pay-as-you-go basis than they would with subscriptions.

That's the sort of approach you expect from big monopolistic businesses, rather than from a government agency; like *Find My Past* using their exclusive right to the 1921 census in England to force its users to take out a "premium" subscription just to access it. To be fair to ScotlandsPeople, they are making our 1921 census available on the same terms as our other censuses, so one cannot really accuse them of putting profits before service; but nonetheless, we do have to ask how much they—or their parent agency, the NRS—care about their customers. One of the most dispiriting aspects of the pandemic was not the closure of the ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh, but its failure to reopen as quickly and efficiently as many libraries and other archives (such as the Highland Archive Centre). All historians will understand the difficulties they had with their beautiful but cramped old building; but that's no excuse for failing to answer emails for weeks (literally) and then simply ignoring multiple polite questions and suggestions about how some resources might have been safely re-opened a little earlier. Of course, when you do get to the ScotlandsPeople Centre the front of house staff are usually wonderful; but that can't make up for a lack of consideration and communication elsewhere.

Graeme Mackenzie.



The Clan Davidson Room at Tulloch Castle

A Brief History...

Visitors to Tulloch Castle, Dingwall, which was the ancestral home of Chiefs of the Clan Davidson, can now see an interesting and attractive presentation of Davidson history.



This Clan Davidson Room was formally opened on 29 Sept. 2007 by the Association's President, Lord Davidson of Glen Clova, and local Councillor, Margaret Paterson.

It provides an important focal point for anyone wanting to know more about Davidsons from this region.

The Room was converted from a former derelict store room and now provides an interesting and attractive display of Davidson history and genealogical information using pictures, books, posters, and artifacts such as Davidson glass & china.



Tulloch Castle is now owned by Bespoke Hotels, who have fully supported the inauguration of this information centre, which is open to visitors to the hotel.

The above information and photos from the Clan Davidson Association website: www.clandavidson.org.uk

Clann Dhaibhidh

Chief: Grant Guthrie Davidson



The Clan Davidson [also known as Clan Dhail], is descended from David Dubh, possibly a son of one of the early Chattan chiefs. The Davidsons feature in the 14th century when they sought the protection of Clan Chattan, after the downfall of the Comyn family. Traditionally, the Clan Davidson has thought of the Badenoch area in the Upper Spey valley as one of its homelands. Today, we realise that it is most unlikely that all Davidsons are descended from a common ancestor. More recent research indicating the presence of early clusters of Davidsons in other parts of Scotland confirms this point.

Tulloch Castle near Dingwall was acquired in 1763 by a prominent Davidson family from Cromarty. Since that time, this family and their descendants have been taken on the role as Chiefs of the Clan Davidson.

From the website of The Clan Chattan Association:
[www. clanchattan.org.uk/clan-davidson/](http://www.clanchattan.org.uk/clan-davidson/)

Hail to McBain/MacBean



On 6 Aug. 2022, MacBeans, other members of Clan Chattan, and guests, gathered near the clan's ancestral home of Kinchyle, above Loch Ness, to greet a new chief. The photo shows the Lord Lyon declaring Richard McBain of McBain [3rd from left] to be the chief of Clan MacBean, watched by John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Captain of Clan Chattan [2nd from right], and the Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch [right].

Every Stone Tells a Story

by Stuart Farrell

During my course of visiting graveyards throughout the Highlands for the Highland FHS and of my own curiosity I have been photographing war graves and submitting them to the British War Graves website which offers photographs free of charge (<https://britishwargraves.co.uk>).

However I could not find one at Gilchrist by Muir of Ord for a variety of reasons - it was private and did not include dates! But recently as part of a new project of recording the stones there (to be published by the Highland FHS in 2023) I was helped by Phyllis Hannah, from Ross & Cromarty Heritage, who is a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and she pointed out the stone to me, and gave help with information from Scotland's People.

The grave I was after was to commemorate Trooper Roderick William Mackenzie, Service Number 14988083, Royal Armoured Corps, who died 14 April 1945, age 19 years; son of Alexander and Elizabeth Small Mackenzie, of Balvaird, Muir of Ord. The stone gives no indication of his death or that he served in the Army! His death certificate indicates he died at the Seaforth Sanatorium, Muir of Ord of TB and does not mention either that he served in the Army. He is not recorded on the Muir of Ord War Memorial.

William Mackenzie (41) and Elizabeth Small Wassell (30) - Born 24 July 1888 - had married on the 26 September 1918 at the National Hotel, Dingwall. William was the son of George Mackenzie, Shoemaker and Catherine Mackenzie, whilst Elizabeth was the daughter of Oliver Thomas Wassell, Insurance Superintendent, and Laura Buckley (deceased). Her mother's name is wrongly stated on the marriage certificate as Elizabeth!

Roderick was one of six children: Alexander (27 December 1919 - 1985), Oliver George (1922 - 27 January 1927), Roderick William (1925 - 14 April 1945), Elizabeth Margaret (1928 - 2011), Christina Jean (1934 - 2018) and Donald (? - ?). The two daughters are both missing from the headstone, along with Roderick's army service and date of death. But I feel I have managed to tell a little bit more of his story.



MacIver/MacIvor: A Sept of Clan MacKenzie?

This is the third part of a series about the Septs and Related Names of Clan MacKenzie, the first two parts of which (dealing with the names Clunes/Clunies, Cross, MacBeath/MacBeth, and MacBeolain) appeared in the Clan MacKenzie Society Magazines for 2020 and 2021.

MACIVER / MACIVOR

Also listed as Makiver, MacCure, Maceur, [alternate and phonetic forms], Iverson [Englished version], Iverach, Ivory [Englished versions of the Gaelic adjectival form of MacIver – i.e. *Iamharach*].

In Gaelic this name is *Maclomhair* for “Son of Ivar/Iver/Ivor”. *Ivarr* was a popular personal name amongst the Norse, and there were at least two clans in the western highlands and islands whose original surname appears to have been MacIvar.¹

The first, in the north of present-day Argyll (i.e. Lorn), is usually listed as a sept of the Campbells and was claimed by some of their 18th & 19th century shennachies to be a blood-branch of their clan (which is unlikely given its Norse name). Like other followers of the Earls of Argyll, many of the southern MacIvers eventually took the name Campbell, at first in addition to and later in place of their own surname.²

The second MacIver kindred is the clan in Ross & Cromarty that came to be regarded as a sept of the MacKenzies, though it has never been claimed as a blood-branch of Clann Choinnich. Some historians of the Lorn kindred have claimed the MacIvers in Ross were a branch of their clan, which is not impossible given their likely Norse origins and the fact that wester Ross was in medieval times considered to be a part of Argyll (the Macraes in Ross have an old tradition linking them with Lorn, which is also said to have been home for a while to one of the early MacKenzie chiefs when he was forced by a cousin to flee Ross). The fact that the earliest documented MacIver on Lewis was admitted to Aberdeen University in the 17th century as a Campbell might support that suggestion, and some later MacIvers on Lewis preferred to take that name rather than to use their own surname or to become a MacKenzie.³

The Ross-shire MacIvers were a substantial clan, with seats in MacKenzie country at Leckmelm (Loch Broom) and Tournai (Loch Ewe) on the mainland, and at Gress on the Isle of Lewis.

One of the modern holiday cottages at Leckmelm, Loch Broom, is shown right.



Photo from: www.leckmelmholidays.co.uk



Loch Thurnaig [Tournaig] and Loch Ewe. CC BY-SA 4.0 ©Spike

Sir James Matheson, who had bought the Isle of Lewis from the heirs of the Seaforths, reported that the census of 1861 showed MacIver to be the fourth most common name on the Isle of Lewis, after MacLeod, MacDonald, MacKenzie and Morrison.⁴

George Black says that since Iver was such a common Christian forename it would be impossible to identify the individual from whom the Macivers take their name. One MacKenzie historian however thought he knew who the namefather of the Ross-shire MacIvers was. Dr George Mackenzie, writing at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, tells us that the ancient inhabitants of Kintail – *the MacIvors, MacAulas, MacBollans, and Clan Tarlich* – were all of Norse origin, and claims that MacIvor in Kintail derived his pedigree from *Ivarus, the eldest son of Ragnald the Earl of Orkney*.⁵ There were two such earls: Rognvald Brusason who was earl jointly with Thorfinn Sigardsson from about 1037 to 1045, and Rognvald Kale Kolsson who was earl from about 1136 to 1158 (he’s better known as the Saint Ronald who built the magnificent cathedral in Kirkwall dedicated to his uncle St Magnus Erlendsson who was the Earl of Orkney from c.1105 to 1117).⁶

Clan Iver in Lorn are documented as early as 1292, but there are no contemporary records of the northern MacIvers until the late 16th century, though traditional accounts of events in Ross-shire in earlier centuries do feature them. Sir Robert Gordon, writing his history of the Earls of Sutherland in the early 17th century, tells of “...ane insurrection maid against the Earle of Rosse by some of the people of that province, inhabiting the mountains called *Clan-juer, Clantalvigh, and Clanleajwe*.” This led to a famous encounter between the men of Kintail and supporters of the Earl of Ross, led by the Munros and the Dingwalls, which is remembered as the Battle of *Bealach-ne-Broige* [“Pass of the Brogue”, i.e. Shoe] at which we’re told “*the Clan-Iver, Clantalvich, and Clan-Laiwe were almost vtterlie extinguished and slain*”. “Clantalvich” might appear likely to be Clan Tarlich – though a historian of the northern MacAulays says it stands for *Clan-t-aluigh* (i.e. Clan Aulay) – while *Clanleajwe/Clan-Laiwe* are the MacLays/MacLeays. The earliest historian of the Frasers, the Rev. James Fraser the Minister of Kirkhill, writing later in the 17th century, has a similar account of this battle, which he dates to

1374. He names the Kintail clans as *Clanfoir, Clangalrigh and Clanleave*, of which *Clanivoir and Clanleave* "... were almost utterly cut-off". However he names the leader of the rebellion – who had been captured before the battle – as *Donald Garve M'kiver*, and he goes to recount how the following year "... a fragment of the former clans, with some surviving M'kinnans ..." were chased by Alexander Fraser, the Master of Lovat (i.e. the chief's son) to Ardnagrask, near Beauy, where their captain, *Gilbrid Mackiver*, was killed. Reverend Fraser later tells us that in 1589 another *Donald M'kiver* and his brother John were Lovat's tenants in Ardnacrask, so that may then have been the seat of the clan in Easter Ross.⁷

The first MacIver in Ross to appear in contemporary records was a clergyman, *Evir McEvir*, who was presented by King James VI to the Vicarage of Fodderty in 1582. In 1603 a *Johne McEvir/Jon McIver* is recorded in a wadset agreement with a *Don^d Hessow* for the lands of Culkenzie in the parish of Rosskeen, and since it's later recorded that the Rev. Iver MacIver was a portioner of Culkenzie, John may have been his father. Iver MacIver was also the laird of Leckmelm in Wester Ross and the progenitor of the MacIvers known as the *Clann-a-Mhaighstir* (presumably because the Reverend Iver had a Master's degree). His son is recorded as *Imhear Mac-a-Mhaighshir* and appears as Iver McIver of Culkenzie when he was served heir to his father in Leckmelm in 1635. Culkenzie is in the parish of Rosskeen, and the 1644 Valuation Roll records the laird there as one Donald Macleay. A Donald Maciver is recorded in the same Valuation Roll as the laird of *Laicknailn* (i.e. Leckmelm), which was sold later in the 17th century by Donald's son Murdoch after he lost his fortune at sea. One of Murdoch's sons (Donald – said perhaps to have been illegitimate) had a family in Contin, and another possible son Evander (one of the Englished forms of the name Iomhar/Iver) settled in Thurso. The MacIvers in Tournaig and Gress are also said to have belonged to the Clann-a-Mhaighstir.



The Gress Land Raiders' Memorial and Trenches—built to commemorate the Gress men who struggled to obtain the crofting land and homes they had been promised when they joined-up to serve in the trenches of the First World War.

It was Iver MacIver of Tournaig & Gress – the first of this branch to appear on record – who was admitted as a student at Aberdeen in 1667 as *Evander Campbell, Insulan, Lewin* (i.e. Iver MacIver from the Isle of Lewis). His son William succeeded to Tournaig, though when he died without heirs in 1769 it was taken by his brother John who had succeeded to Gress, and the later generations in both Tournaig and Gress were his descendants.⁸

Another substantial family on Lewis were the *Clann-a-Bhaillidh*, the MacIvers in Tolsta, Ness, Stornoway and Coll. Their progenitor Duncan of Tolsta – remembered as *Donncha mac Chainneach vic Iain* (Duncan son of Kenneth son of John) – was said to have been a Bailie [i.e. Magistrate] at Ness, who had five sons: Alexander of Tolsta, Sheriff of Lewis (from whom is thought to have descended the mother of Sir Alexander MacKenzie the explorer); Donald; Kenneth who was known as *Maighstear Cainneach* from whom descended the Coll branch of this family; William; and Roderick.⁹

It's notable that most of the leading members of these MacIver kindreds in Ross married the daughters of MacKenzie lairds, thus tying their families even closer to the clan on whose lands they lived and for whom they became one of Clan Choinnich's most important septs.

NOTES

1. Alexander Macbain, *An Etymological Dictionary of the Gaelic Language* (Stirling 1911), 406.
2. *The House of Argyll* (Glasgow 1871), 12; Henry McIver, *Clan Iver* (1912).
3. *The Clan Iver historical and traditional* (Dingwall 1925).
4. F. W. L. Thomas, "Traditions of the Macaulays of Lewis" in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, New Series, No. 2 (1880), 370.
5. *Ibid*, 372.
6. Black, op. cit., 520; <http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/vikingorkney/earls.htm>
7. Gordon, *Earldom of Sutherland*, 36; Thomas, op. cit., 381; James Fraser, *Chronicles of the Frasers: The Wardlaw MS ...* (SHS, Edinburgh 1905), 83-4, 185.
8. Peter C. Campbell, *An Account of the Clan Iver* (Aberdeen 1873), 98-101; MacGill, op. cit., 171, No. 430; OPS II, 470; *Antiq. Notes I*, 348.
9. In addition to the information about this branch of the MacIvers on pages 101-5 of Peter Campbell's *Account of the Clan Iver*, I have a detailed genealogy of them sent to me in 1991 by their descendant John Macrae from Witham in Essex (which will eventually be deposited in the library of the Highland Family History Society).

The other Clan MacKenzie Septs & Related Names to be discussed in future issues of this Journal are: MacLeay; MacMurchy/Murchieson/Murchie; MacThearlaich/Charleson/Charles; MacVanish/MacVinish; Smart; Tuach; Kemp; Riach/Reoch; Tallach. The whole series will in due course be published in Volume Two of my collected Clan MacKenzie essays, "Cabarfeidh's Cousins". In the meantime, abbreviated versions can be found at www.clanmackenzie.net/septs.html.

Graeme Mackenzie.

The Rosemarkie Poor of 1843 – continued by Stuart Farrell



Statement by Mr John Grant the Session Clerk of Rosemarkie.

I am session-clerk of the parish of Rosemarkie. I keep the minutes and conduct the correspondence, and occasionally visit the poor at the request of the minister or an elder. It is not my duty to recommend parties to be put upon the poor's roll. I have reason to believe that many of those not on the roll are just as badly off as those on the roll. There are some individuals on the roll who were put on while in poor circumstances, and who have not, though now better off, been discontinued. The usual allowances to parties on the roll are 3s. a year, though in the burgh of Fortrose they are a little higher. I don't think parties receive more than 3s. a year from the mortifications in Fortrose. There are 559 persons in Fortrose. There are 49 on the poor's roll. I should think the population of Rosemarkie is about 350. The number of paupers 39. I kept a school-house here for seven years altogether. The number varied from 40 in summer to 70 in winter. The children in the town attended pretty regularly at all seasons of the year. The country children generally only attended in winter. The boys were generally employed in farm service, some herding, some driving one horse. They would be engaged by the half-year, and so I would not have them that half year. They would not come to me at all from the country till they were thirteen years of age, and I had frequently to begin teaching them to read at that age. These afterwards attended about half a year. The town children came to school at about five or six years old. Several of the town's children continued till thirteen or fourteen years of age. My school fees per quarter were, 2s. for reading only; 2s. 6d for reading and writing; and 3s. for reading, writing, and arithmetic. English grammar would be 6d extra; some of them would learn book-keeping. There were three or four instances of widows who could not pay for the school fees. I taught some of them gratis. They never assigned want of clothes as a reason

for not sending their children. In some cases, however, I had reason to believe that that was the reason why they did not send their children. The poor in Rosemarkie are getting worse and worse for the last six or seven years. A number of people were thrown out of employment in consequence of the failure of an enterprising individual who had a rope factory and salmon fishings, and also a farm to a considerable extent, and afforded employment to one half of the population of Rosemarkie. I have nothing to suggest on the poor laws.

Notes of Cases of Paupers Visited in the Town of Rosemarkie, Tuesday 20th June, and Thursday 22nd June 1843.

1. **Margaret Sinclair**, a deaf woman, aged fifty years, receives 2s. 6d a year. She resides in a house with four rooms, rent free, with a small garden attached to it, and lives with her sister, a widow with two children of the ages of twelve and ten, who receives 3s. a year. Margaret Sinclair can work a little. Her sister, likewise, is able to work, but said she could not get any work to do. They could not get a tenant for their rooms which were kept clean and in good order, and were well furnished.

2. **Henrietta Bremner**, unmarried, upwards of sixty, and in delicate health, receives 2s. 6d or 3s. a year; rent 16s. a year. Her daughter, aged twenty-four, lives with her, who, her mother said, was her only support on earth. The daughter does any kind of work which she can get; she plants potatoes in Alexander Fraser's farm. Their food is principally potatoes, and sometimes fish, but no oatmeal or milk. The house was clean, but poorly furnished. Her daughter pays the rent by working at harvest, or at the herring industry. [1841 Census, High St. - Henerdo Brmnor 58, Margaret Gillen 24, Helen Junor 75, Helen Robertson 4; 1851 Census, High St - Hendereta Bremner Widow 68 Pauper (Hemp Spinner), Margaret Bremner Daughter 42 Net Weaver]

3. **Widow Elder**, aged sixty, receives 3s. a year; rent 26s. a year, which is paid by her son, a ropemaker at Montrose. A daughter, aged twenty-one, lives with her, who said she could not get any work to do. Widow Elder's husband had been a farmer, paying £20 rent yearly. She had been three years ill, and was so feeble that although near the church she had not been able to go to it more than twice since harvest. She said that she was sometimes assisted by her grown-up children. The furniture of the house was scanty, but neat.

4. **Margaret Home**, unmarried, aged fifty, received 2s. 6d a year. She lives in a house for which she pays no rent, as it belongs to her brother. She lives alone, and says she is subject to headaches. She can work a little; spins, and does outdoor work. She lives principally on potatoes and gruel. She gets potatoes from a farmer, for whom she works at harvest. There was a cask in her house nearly half full of meal. The house had two rooms with earthen floor. The bed and furniture were of a very poor quality, but were clean; and she seemed cheerful and contented. [1851 Census, High St. - Margaret Home 62 Pauper (Spinster), Margaret Junor 44 Niece, William Walker 14 Nephew]

5. **Widow Leach**, aged seventy, receives 3s. or sometimes 3s. 6d a year; rent 23s. paid by her son, who is employed in salmon fishing. She lives alone. Her food is principally potatoes. She goes about sometimes, and gets a scone of bread from the farmers. Some of them are kind to her. She grows potatoes wherever she can get the ground. She has at present two quarters (twenty square yards), for which she pays 1s. a quarter, and likewise gives all the manure she can collect. Goes out and collects wood for fuel; seldom has coal. She sometimes gets tea. She has two married daughters; one the wife of a fisherman in Caithness, the other married to the schoolmaster of the Hastings Union Workhouse, who has five children. The house clean, with good furniture. Her husband had been an army pensioner. She is an Irish woman. [1841 Census High St. - Ann Leitch 66, Andrew Leitch 24; 1851 High St. - Ann Leitch Widow 76 Pauper Born Dublin; 1861 High St. - Ann Leitch Widow 84 No Occupation, Margaret Leitch Daughter 57 No Occupation]

6. **Margaret Fraser**, unmarried, aged -, receives 1s. 6d a year; rent 20s., which she has not paid; and she was obliged to leave her former house from not being able to pay her rent. She lives by herself, and has no relations. She is not able to do much work, having a complaint in her breast. She lives on potatoes, which she gathers going through the country. She depends upon her neighbours. Some of the farmers are kind to her; "but there are many poor in Rosemarkie." Her house dilapidated, and poorly furnished, but clean; it had two rooms.

7. **Ann Junor**, single woman, aged twenty-three, has been confined her bed three years with a white swelling; was able to get up six weeks ago. She lives with her father and mother who have no other children. They occupy their own house which has a small garden of ten yards attached to it, in which they grow some potatoes and cabbages. The father is an old man, lame and

infirm. The whole family receives 4s. in the year from the poor's funds. They live principally upon potatoes. Some mashed potatoes were prepared for their supper, and they had dinned on mashed potatoes. They said that they had generally no milk, and that they had not tasted oatmeal for a fortnight. When they have money they get fish. The daughter had frequently got soup from Mr Wood, the minister. The house had two rooms tolerably furnished.

8. & 9. **Isabella Finlay**, aged -, and **Janet Finlay**, aged -, two unmarried sisters, live in a house rent free. The life interest in the house had been left to Janet, who had been in service to the former proprietor. Isabella receives 2s. 6d a year from the poor's funds. The other had not got anything, but hoped soon to get on the roll. They both seemed healthy, but said they could not get work; that little was doing at Rosemarkie; that it was a very poor place. They had a small garden in which they grew potatoes. They live on potatoes, and sometimes get fish. They said "Our neighbours don't assist us, for we are all poor together." The house was very clean, and tolerably finished. [1841 Census High St. - Janet Finlay 50; 1851 Census, High St. - Janet Findlay 65 Net Maker, Isabella Findlay 61 Net Maker].

10. **Widow Sinclair**, aged seventy, receives 2s. 6d a year, was living for a few days in her son's house. Her daughter lived with her, who had been married, and had been deserted by her husband, and had one child five years old. Widow Sinclair's son, in whose house she was staying, was a salmon fisher She was spinning, and the daughter was making herring nets. The two together could earn 4d a day; but the work was very uncertain. Her son was unable to help her, having a wife and a family of his own. She had a son drowned five years ago who used to help her. She had some potatoes planted. The daughter works occasionally at harvest. [1841 Census Millers St. - Sarah Sinclair 69, Sarah Sinclair 30, Sarah Gordon 3, M McLean 65 born Ireland; 1851 High St. - Sarah Sinclair Widow 78 Spinner, Sarah Sinclair Daughter Married 43 Net Maker, Sarah Gordon Grand-daughter 13 Scholar].

To be continued.

What makes Rosemarkie Famous?

The Groam House Museum with its collection of Pictish carved stones, dating back to 700AD - a fragment of which (called "The Daniel Stone") is pictured right. See: www.groamhouse.org.uk



The Macintyre Missionaries in China

*David R. Macintyre
continues the story of the
family of his gt-grandfather,
the Rev. John Macintyre*



**John Macintyre and his wife
Catherine Sutherland Ross**

The Rev John Macintyre and his wife spent most of their adult life as missionaries in China. Their 6 children, all born in China (between 1877 and 1887), returned to Britain for their education so were separated from the parents for much of their childhood.

The Boxer uprising started in 1898 and those Macintyres who were in Manchuria at the time left China for the UK in 1900. The 4 girls and their parents arrived at Southampton on the Steamer *STUTTGART* in July of that year. The two boys may already have been in the UK; Hugh almost certainly was, as he was a student at Edinburgh University.

The whole family, parents and their 6 children—accounts of whom follow—are found in the 1901 census, living at 13 Pitt Street, Edinburgh.

1. William Ross Macintyre 1877 –1910[?]

William was born in China and his birth was registered in Newchwang, which as the local treaty port would have been the administrative centre for the region. I've no knowledge of his early education. However, there were other European ex-pat families with young children—diplomats, businessmen, and other missionaries—so it's possible that he attended school as a young child in Newchwang or, perhaps, Haicheng where the family was living. He could have received this early education “in-house” as there were schools attached to the churches. Missionary wives ran these schools for Chinese children, boys *and* girls. In those days, Chinese girls rarely received formal education within their own Chinese society.

I know, from conversations with my grandmother, that William's younger brother, (my grandfather), had returned to Britain for his secondary education at George Watson's (Boys) College in Edinburgh. I made an enquiry of the school's archivist and learned that William had, indeed, attended the school, being admitted to the college at the age of 9 in January 1886. However, the records don't indicate how long he remained at the

school. I don't think there was a boarding part to the school so this raises the question – where did William live whilst he was in Britain? My grandmother told me some years ago that the Macintyre children boarded with 'relatives'. She didn't enlarge on this.

William is found in the 1901 Census living in Edinburgh with the family at the time of the Boxer rebellion. He is about 25 years of age and his occupation is given as 'shipping clerk'. He must have returned to China sometime after 1901, as the next record we have of him is in a newspaper report of his sister's (Katharine's), wedding which took place in Newchwang, China, on March 1 1906: "The bride was escorted up the church aisle to the altar by her brother, Mr Macintyre of Tientsin" (William was acting in place of his father who had died 6 months previously).

I have a recollection (but no paperwork to back it up) that William worked in a Shipping Company in Tientsin (Tianjin). Tientsin was, and is, a major seaport, and former treaty port, in Northern China, and the gateway to the Chinese capital, Peking, now Beijing.

Family tradition has it that William was killed in 1910 (at the age of 33), in a railway accident in the United States or Canada. The circumstances are unknown but I have a theory that he was travelling across Canada on the Canadian Pacific Railway en route to, or from, China. Further research is needed.

I've not managed to unearth any more information about William. There is no indication that he ever married.

2. Katharine Sutherland Macintyre 1879-1952

Katie was born in China and her birth was registered in Newchwang. Katharine is found in the 1891 England census as *Katie McIntyre*, niece, age 12, scholar, living at James Smith's Darlington address, 20 Westbrook (James Smith was married to John Macintyre's sister Elizabeth).

This raised the possibility that Katharine was schooled in Darlington and lived in the town with her uncle and aunt. Darlington High School for Girls seemed a possibility. An online search revealed that the school had been founded in 1885 but closed in the 1920s, soon after the end of the Great War. I enquired of the Darlington Library and found the Library had copies of the school's magazines from 1900-1921. A search through these journals showed that Kate had attended the school prior to the first publication (1900) and had returned to China in the autumn of 1896.

A ship passenger list shows that she was back in Britain by 1900, having fled China with her family because of the Boxer uprising, arriving at Southampton on the Steamer *STUTTGART* with her parents and 3 sisters in July of that year. The 1901 census for Scotland has Katharine, 22 years old, living with her family at 13 Pitt Street, Edinburgh.



Katie Macintyre Leitch
[Courtesy of Jennifer
Fowler née Leitch]

Around about that time, Katharine wrote two letters to the Darlington High School magazine and both were published as “Old Girls’ News”. In her first letter, written from Niang Niang Miao, in China, in 1899, she says that her reason for returning to Manchuria was to help her mother and to teach her two younger sisters. She also assisted with the teaching of maths & music to Chinese boys.

The second letter, written in March 1901 from 13 Pitt Street in Edinburgh, is her account of the family’s last minute escape from the Boxers in China. It seems that, initially, the family was not troubled by the Boxers and there was pressure on them to stay from by the local Christians and

officials in Haicheng in case their leaving were to unsettle, and possibly cause panic amongst the local citizens. But, suddenly, they received an urgent message from Newchwang advising them to leave the family home “at once”, otherwise they would not be able to leave at all, as the railway was being continually broken and the road was infested with robbers which made cart travel impossible. So they packed essential clothing and provisions. Thinking the house would be untouched, they left everything else as it was.

The train for the seaport of Newchwang, due at Haicheng at 3pm on the day of their urgent departure, didn’t arrive until dark and they were further delayed until the following day “...as they dare not go in the dark”. The family managed to sleep in the train, despite warnings of attack by the Boxers. After setting off, there were further delays as repairs were made to the railway tracks. But, eventually, the family arrived safely at Newchwang. They learned later that their house was looted within a day of their leaving. Furniture and books were burned on bonfires and the bricks from the walls of the house ‘were carted away’.

A search through later editions of the magazine reveals further references to Katharine under “Old Girls’ News”:

March 1910 edition: “Mrs Leitch (Katie Macintyre) is home from China for a year; she has her little boy, two years old with her. As she lives in Manchuria she came back by the great Siberian Railway, the journey took just a fortnight and was a very interesting experience.”

March 1921 edition: “Mrs Leitch (Kate Macintyre), is home from China with her three children. We hope before she returns that she may be able to visit Darlington.”

Going back to Katharine’s younger adult life, the next we hear is of her marriage in China to William Orr Leitch (Resident Engineer, Imperial Railways of North China), at Newchwang, Manchuria, on March 1, 1906.



The Wedding of Katharine Macintyre & William Leitch.

Catherine S. Macintyre is seated beside the bride, dressed in mourning black. Standing behind her, and to her right, is her daughter, Lillian. To her left, is her daughter Elizabeth. Her son, William, is standing immediately behind her. Catherine's brother, Rev. Dr John Ross, who officiated, is standing second left.

[Photo courtesy of Quintin O. Leitch]

I have a copy of a newspaper cutting taken from a Chinese/English language newspaper which gives an account of the wedding, the participants and the guests. She was taken up the aisle by her brother, William. Her bridesmaids were sisters Bessie and Lillian. The wedding reception was held by Katharine's mother, Catherine Sutherland Macintyre, at Mr Edgar's residence "...placed at her disposal for the occasion".

There were three children born in China to Katharine and William Leitch:

Quintin, b 1908, Lillian b 1912, and John b 1915. Quin came to Scotland for his secondary education, as did John. Lillian Leitch was educated in Peking.

William Leitch retired from his post as Chief Civil Engineer and General Manager, Imperial Railways of North China in 1937 after 38 years service with the organisation. William and Katharine Leitch retired to Edinburgh to live at 1 Gordon Place. He died in 1948, Katharine in 1952.

3. Elizabeth Glen Macintyre 1881-1950

"Bessie", the Macintyres' third child, was born in China, her birth also being registered in Newchwang. I know, from a brief reference to Bessie in a letter dated July 1898 written from Haicheng by Rev John Macintyre to his brother-in-law, James Smith in Darlington, that Bessie was staying with the Smith family in Darlington. Bessie would have been 16 or 17 at the time. It's likely that she, too, was educated at Darlington High School for Girls.

There's no reference to her in the school magazines but she's likely to have left the school prior to 1900 when the magazines started to be published. She doesn't feature in the "Old Girls' News".

Other than the occasional mention of her in ship passenger list records of voyages made between Britain and the Far East from 1900 to 1930s, I have no knowledge of Bessie's missionary work in China. The last of her voyages was to Shanghai and that was in 1937, the year that Japan invaded China. Initially, the Japanese would have considered British citizens as neutral aliens but after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, when Japan entered the war as an ally of Germany, British subjects would have left China swiftly to avoid being interned. She may have travelled to Canada, possibly with her sister Lillian who was also in Manchuria at the time, but I have found no record of this. I don't know when she arrived back in the UK.

She never married. In her Scotland's People Death Register notice, Elizabeth Glen Macintyre (Bessie) is described as a retired missionary, who died at the age of 68 in Edinburgh, at 15 Findhorn Place, on 9th July 1950. Her usual place of residence is given as 16 Grindlay St, Edinburgh. The informant as to her death was her sister, Katharine S. Leitch.

To be continued.

Highlanders in Argentina & Frasers in Uruguay

A few weeks ago the HFHS received an enquiry from a lady in the United States whose 23 year-old emigrant ancestor Bella Fraser had gone to the US in 1889 having been abandoned as a baby in Croy, while her mother Jessie Fraser went to settle in South America. Bella had been fostered by another family of Frasers who had left for the US in 1887 and next to whom she settled in Massachusetts. Bella carried with her to the US two letters she had received from her mother in Uruguay after she had written to ask why Jessie had abandoned her; and that's the question her descendant is concerned with. Why, when, and how, did Jessie Fraser go to Uruguay—where she married a James Bray—and what happened to her after she went to Buenos Aires to keep house for a Dr William Walker from Ayrshire.

Quite a lot of information about early British settlers on the River Plate can be found online at the excellent website www.argbrit.org/. It appears that a thriving Scots community was established on both sides of the river (i.e. in Argentina and Uruguay) in the mid-19th century. Though they were mostly Lowlanders, a group of Highlanders created a settlement called *Colonia Nueva Escocia* near Concordia, up river on the Argentine side of the Plate. There were Frasers, however, in Buenos Aires and on the Uruguay side of the river whose origins are presently unknown; so it's possible Jessie went out with, or to join, one of these families.

I'd be interested to hear, therefore, from any members who had ancestors who went to Argentina or Uruguay in the mid-to-late 1800s; especially if they were Frasers or Walkers. Email Graeme@highlandroots.org.

Inverness Burgesses and their Incorporations 1812

Wrights

30 September 1774	Donald Munro, Wright
30 September	John Russell, Wright
7 April 1777	Colin Spence, Square Wright
16 June	Donald Fraser, Ditto
5 January 1778	Donald Fraser, Cooper
10 August	Alexander Maclean, Glazier
10 August	John Fraser, Square Wright
2 August 1779	William Fraser, Square Wright
13 September	William Imray, Cooper
31 July 1786	William MacDonald, Wright
25 September	Alexander Fraser, Wright
25 September	John Slorach, Cabinetmaker
30 April 1787	William Duncan, Wright
30 April	James Grant, Ditto
5 April 1790	Simon Fraser, Ditto
5 April	Thomas MacGregor, Wright
5 April	Alexander Bremner, Glazier
5 April	Duncan MacDonald, Sawyer
5 April	John MacPherson, Wright
12 September 1791	Duncan Munro, Cooper
9 January 1792	Hugh Mackintosh, Cooper
6 February	Alexander Fraser, Cooper
6 February	Alexander Davidson, Wright
24 September	John Davidson, Slater & Mason
22 September 1794	Donald Mackenzie, Cooper
22 September	Alexander Fraser, Wright
22 September	George Fraser, Wright
15 May 1797	Andrew Williamson, Cabinetmaker
2 October	Samuel Deadman, Wood Manufacturer
17 September 1798	James Munro, Cabinetmaker
11 September 1799	Duncan MacDonald, Glazier
16 September	David Reid, Wright
11 August 1800	David MacDonald, Wright
11 August	William Ross Junior, Cooper
23 March 1801	James Smith House, Carpenter

8 November 1802	George Mackenzie, Shoremaster
4 March 1804	Alexander Mackintosh, Cooper
19 September 1808	William MacDonald, Square Wright
October 1809	Alexander Jinkens, Cabinetmaker
14 September 1812	William Cameron, son of James Cameron
14 September	Alex Fraser, Wright & Cabinetmaker
14 September	Adam Hood, Wright
14 September	Colin MacArthur, Wright
14 September	John Mackintosh, Wright
14 September	John Rose, Wright
14 September	Donald Mackintosh, Wright
14 September	Duncan Grant, Cooper
14 September	John MacLean, Wright
14 September	Lachlan MacIntosh, Wright

Skinner

2 August 1779	John MacBean, Glover
18 September 1786	John Mackenzie, Skinner
12 September 1791	James Urquhart, Ditto

Tailors [Tailors]

7 April 1777	John Ross, Taylor
2 August	John Fraser,
2 August	John Mackintosh Junior
13 September	John Mackintosh Senior
21 June 1790	Kenneth Treasurer, Taylor
10 November 1794	Donald MacBean
29 September 1795	Donald Fraser, Taylor
12 August 1796	Finlay Campbell, Taylor
11 September 1799	Alexander McGillivray
16 September	Alexander MacDonald
10 August 1801	John Macrae, Taylor
25 August 1806	Kenneth Mackenzie, Taylor
4 October 1811	William Taylor, Tailor
28 September 1812	William Allan, Taylor

This list, which will be continued in the next issue of the Journal, was transcribed from the Inverness Town Council Minutes of the 22nd of September 1812.

Stuart Farrell.



Highland Archive & Registration Centre
Tasglann agus Ionad-Clàraidh na Gàidhealtachd

The Family History Centre
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Archives

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