

Highland

Family History Society



A Davidson from Golspie

My Grandfather Tulloch's Story

Looking for Ancestors in Rent Rolls

Clann Ualraig: The Highland Kennedies – Part Two

Volume 42, Issue 2, February 2024



highland family history society

Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd

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Cover Photo: Aldourie Castle on the shores of Loch Ness

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EDITORIAL

What a winter we've had in the Highlands. In the last two weeks we've gone from some of the coldest days for years – with more snow here on the east coast than I can remember for a long time – to the highest temperature, on the west coast, for any January on record. It's one of the ironies of "global warming" that it brings with it, on occasions, such cold. But this winter's lows do follow all the extreme highs that we had in the summer of 2023; and that's the point. Anyone who's paid any attention to what the scientists have been telling us about the climate change the human race has brought on itself will know that the most dangerous aspect of it is the instability and extremes that come with it as the oceans warm.

A particularly nasty fate may await our descendants in the northern Highlands of Scotland where for centuries we've been protected by the Gulf Stream from the sort of temperatures experienced by most of the world this far north (Stornoway is on the same latitude as the south of Alaska and the Hudsons Bay in Canada). This is because, when all the ice has gone in the newly warmed Arctic so, again, somewhat counter-intuitively, the warmth of the Gulf Stream will disappear (since it's generated by the sinking of cold water in the Arctic, which then travels south deep in the ocean to resurface as warm water in the Gulf ready to flow back north by the British Isles). Then it'll be goodbye to the palm trees in Plockton and the semi-tropical wonders of the gardens at Inverewe, and up here in the Highlands we'll all have to get used to the sort of cold our enterprising cousins experienced when they first set foot on the continent of North America.

The point about a continental climate, as opposed to a maritime climate, is that it's one of extremes, and the more time I spend in North America, the more I am amazed at the hardiness of the Highland Scots who first settled there; whether it was in the freezing cold wastes of northwest Canada or the stinking hot swamps of the southern United States. While I've never experienced the sort of cold that fur-trading Highlanders endured whilst over-wintering in Saskatchewan, I have felt the heat and humidity that cotton-planting Highlanders endured in mid-summer Mississippi; indeed, I've been to a Highland Games there in August. We, the spectators were fine, so long as we stayed in our tents cooled by huge commercial fans; but pity the poor boys and girls out on the field in their kilts, running and throwing in 104 degrees Fahrenheit and 98 percent humidity.

So, we really don't have a lot to complain about here in the maritime moderation of the Highlands, especially as the days begin to lengthen again and we look forward to spring (with snowdrops blooming by my front door). That means a new season of HFHS talks, and an AGM in April when we really could do with some more volunteers willing and able to help with running the society. How about it?

Graeme Mackenzie.

NEWS

Talks and Book Sale

We will be holding our next talk on Thursday 15th February at 2.30 in the Highland Archive Centre, Inverness. We will again have a sale of second-hand books and some older stock as well as all our new & recent publications being available.

Talks for the coming season will be:

15 Feb.	Philip Ross	Scottish Witchcraft Trials
21 March	Colin McKenzie	The Joy of Book Collecting
18 April	Norman Newton	Hunting Ancestors in Connecticut and New York

The talk on Thursday 18th of April will take place after the Society's AGM, which will start at 2pm.

MI Books – Special Offers

The following A5 Monumental Inscription Books reduced from £3 to £1: Ardersier Cemetery, Daviot Churchyard, Easter Suddie, Fortrose, Geddes, Killearnan Churchyard, Kilmuir (Black Isle) and Kirkton of Ardersier.

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/>

Details of all our publications are at:

www.highlandfhs.org/publications/

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

NEW MEMBERS

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James Davidson, Merchant and Shipowner from Golspie, Sutherland.

Nick Hide

This article is a follow-up to the excellent talk Nick gave the Society in March of last year on "Some Davidson Connections in the Highlands & Northern Scotland".

When James Davidson died on 9th December 1845 at Golspie, Sutherland, he was a wealthy man. He left behind his second wife Elizabeth Proctor Cunningham, three children from his first marriage and an infant daughter from the second marriage. The couple had only been married a year. The value of his estate was c£10,000, as listed in the lengthy Inventory taken just after he died. This total included ownership or shared interest in three listed ships, various stores such as barrels of herring, household contents, life insurance policies, lists of people who owed him money and cash. From other sources, we catch glimpses of his career, but somewhat surprisingly, we still didn't know much about him, or where he came from in Scotland, or who his parents were until recently. We didn't even know his age, as he was away from home at the time of the 1841 census.

In 1833, at the time of James Davidson's first marriage to Elizabeth Margaret Duncan, and again in 1844, when he married Elizabeth Proctor Cunningham, he is described as 'Cashier, Rhives Office'. One of the oldest properties in the village of Golspie is called 'Rhives House'. Completed in 1840, this property is noted for its distinctive crow-step gables and Scottish baronial drum tower. This property may possibly be the same as that referred to as the 'Rhives Office'.



Rhives House, Golspie

Apart from his merchant and ship owner roles, we have found a report which confirms he was the county clerk and cashier in the office of the Duke of Sutherland's factor. The report shown below includes an interesting reference about James in his role as cashier. He recounts having received forty-year bank notes which had the appearance of being very little circulated. These items sometimes turned up when tenants paid their rents. We also find him listed as the Golspie agent for the Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Davidson, James, Esq.—(Analysis of his Evidence.)

—Is county clerk, and cashier in the office of the Duke of Sutherland's factor, and takes charge of the district branch of the Sutherland savings' bank at Golspie, whose operations extend to all persons within the district. There are two other district branches in the county. It was established, under the auspices of the Duke of Sutherland, on 24th of December 1833. Statement of the deposits received and paid in the district of Golspie. There has been no distress among the depositors in the bank, who are chiefly domestic and farm servants, shepherds and some small lotters. There are some in this county who keep their money locked up in their own chests. Has received bank notes (when collecting rents) which were forty years old, which had the appearance of being very little circulated. Friendly societies cannot deposit money in our savings' bank. There are three friendly societies in Sutherlandshire; one in Golspie, one in Dornoch, and one at Helmsdale. The poor people in Sutherlandshire are properly provided for, are well looked after, and here have many resources. Fish very cheap, II. p. 288.

In October 1846, a public roup was held at Golspie to auction the Household Furniture and other Effects belonging to the late James Davidson. The advertisement for the event listed the many items to be sold consisting of "The Dining-Room, Parlour and Bedroom furniture consisting Mahogany Tables and Chairs, Sideboards, Splendid 6 octave F.F Square Pianoforte by Collard and Collard; Four-Posted and other Bedsteads.....also a splendid Mahogany Office Bookcase and Desks, Copying Press, Telescopes, Silverplate, Books, Paintings etc. An excellent (duty free) Stanhope Pony Gig and Harness and iron plough, two excellent Milk Cows and a small Shetland Pony". Clearly a man of some means. It must have been quite a sale.

We originally thought that James Davidson had been buried alongside his first wife Elizabeth Margaret Duncan in the Golspie graveyard. The monumental inscription includes details of this wife and two of their children who predeceased him. We thought, that his family failed to commission an inscription for James when he died in 1845. We knew that his second wife, Elizabeth Cunningham, moved to England and died in Surrey.

New Information:

As result of recent research provided by Malcolm Bangor-Jones, a Sutherland based researcher, we are now able to link this James Davidson to a well-documented Davidson family from Rothes, Morayshire. Initially, we were looking for information about George Davidson, a mason, who undertook road and bridge works in Sutherland in the 1820s and earlier. There was a reference linking this George Davidson to Rothes, Morayshire. Within the Rothes churchyard, there are two large flat gravestones with details of several generations of this Davidson family, including details of George Davidson, the mason who died in 1852, and his son James who died at Golspie in 1845. (The MRGRG Survey of the Rothes Graveyard includes full description of these items).

The recent research has also brought to light the circumstances of James Davidson death in 1845. Newspaper reports state that “Mr Davidson, of the Dunrobin Office, Golspie has been found drowned in the sea, at that place, with his pockets filled with stones”.

His burial was not straightforward. His family initially intended that he should be buried in the churchyard at Golspie, but the parishioners objected and his wife had to make alternative arrangements for him to be buried in the family grave at Rothes. We do not know the circumstances which may have caused James Davidson to take his own life. There are reports that he was severely depressed, and being quoted as saying “everything has gone against me of late”. A very sad ending



**Davidson family grave at Golspie graveyard
(Golspie History Society provided this photo...
I have been meaning to visit & take my own photo)**

Grandad Tulloch's Story

Peter Cullimore



Alec Tulloch 1897-1971

My grandfather Alexander Tulloch, known as Alec, was born on 12 June 1897 in Inverness. His birth certificate declares him to be illegitimate. It reveals the father as a namesake, "Alexander Tulloch, Crofter" and the mother as "Catherine Fraser, Domestic Servant". But according to my late mother, the surname Tulloch was fictitious. Someone in authority had chosen it because it was common locally and therefore offered an effective way to disguise the identity of the child's real father – allegedly the 4th Duke of Sutherland.

I was sceptical when my mother, Joan Cullimore (nee Tulloch), told me her family secret a few years ago. This tale of a tryst between a duke and his maid sounded very romantic, but too implausible to be true. However, I eventually downloaded a copy of Alexander's birth certificate from the National Records of Scotland. On careful examination, the father's signature did look a bit odd. It's written in slightly clearer, darker ink than the rest of the certificate, which was always filled in by the registrar. It looks like a different pen was used for this signing, whereas other parental signatures in the same register of births show no contrast in the shade of ink or the pen used.

There is a strong counter-argument that 'Alexander Tulloch' really did exist and produced a son with Kate, only for the baby to be categorised as illegitimate because the couple were unmarried, or he was already married to someone else. However, the weight of evidence leaves a suspicion that my grandfather's birth certificate was indeed tampered with, in order to make a subtle insertion without it being noticed.

I was now hooked, burning with curiosity to find out a lot more. So, in retirement my wife and I took a holiday in north-east Scotland during the summer of 2017, for me to begin further research into my Highland family history. Here is a summary of what I discovered.

My great-grandmother Catherine Fraser (known as Kate) was born on 15 November 1872 in the parish of Petty, near the Culloden battlefield just east of Inverness. Her birthplace was a cottage on the A96, in the hamlet of Newton, and it's still standing. The birth certificate names Kate's parents as James Fraser, a blacksmith, and Jane Fraser (nee Campbell). They had married at Petty on 28 June 1872, which means that on their wedding day Jane was already four months pregnant with Kate.

Kate had an older brother, William Alexander Fraser, who was aged four at her birth, and a sister Jane, two years younger than her. When she later gave birth to my grandfather in 1897, Kate was twenty-four and still single, working as a maidservant at Dunrobin Castle. It was quite normal for girls of that era to enter domestic service in their teens, often as young as thirteen. In 1891, the Census for that year tells us, both Kate (Catherine) Fraser and her sister Jane were employed as servants in the household of Robert J. MacBeth in Fairfield Road, Inverness. They were then aged eighteen and sixteen respectively. So, by the time of my grandfather's birth in 1897, when Kate had moved on to Dunrobin, she was quite experienced in domestic service.

The Castle had originally been a medieval fortress, then was expanded and modified, from the late 17th century onwards, in an exotic style with multiple pointed towers, resembling the most extravagant French chateau. This huge fairytale edifice still dominates the coastline at Golspie, about fifty miles north of Inverness, and looms over the village from its outskirts.

Here the story gets even murkier and more tangled. Just below the signature on my grandfather's birth certificate, the address given for the alleged father, Alexander Tulloch, is "Balchraggan, Kirkhill". This is a township about nine miles west of Inverness, and in the 1891 Census, an Alexander Tulloch, aged twenty-two and described as a "general labourer", was indeed listed as living there with his namesake father.

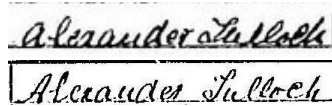
A neighbouring property was known as Cabrich, and it is given in 1899 as the home of this Alexander Tulloch (now thirty and described as a crofter) when he married Margaret Fraser at the Hotel Victoria, Inverness. The couple had a son, Alexander William Tulloch, at Cabrich the following year (seven years after my grandfather Alexander "Alec" Tulloch had been born in Inverness).



Dunrobin Castle

388	Alexander Tulloch	1891	Alexander Tulloch Crofter	Catherine Mather	1891	June 29 th
189	Alexander Tulloch	St. John's	Robert Mather	Alexander Tulloch	Walter Tulloch	1891
	John Mather	Robert Mather	Demetrius Mather	Robert Mather	Robert Mather	1891

Alec Tulloch's birth certificate. Compare the alleged father's signature on it (right top) with that of the father of Alexander William Tulloch in Cabrich in 1900 (right bottom)



All this may appear on the face of it to prove there really was a crofter named Alexander Tulloch who fathered my grandfather when still a bachelor, therefore scotching any likelihood of the married 4th Duke of Sutherland being responsible. But, if you compare the father's signature on Alec's birth certificate with the one on Alexander William's, they are significant differences (particularly the way in which the first letter of the name Alexander is written). They appear to have been written in two different hands by two separate people, not by same individual. It points to an even cleverer subterfuge than you would ever imagine, effectively framing a real Alexander Tulloch as my great-grandfather to divert attention from another, rather important, man.

Dunrobin Castle had been home to the Earls and then Dukes of Sutherland, one of the richest and most powerful aristocratic families in Britain, since the 13th century. They owned vast swathes of Highland territory, plus several estates in England that included other grand houses in Staffordshire, Shropshire and London. Earlier in the 19th century, the 1st Duke of Sutherland and his wife Elizabeth became leading figures in the 'Clearances'. They carried out a notoriously ruthless mass eviction of tenant crofters from the Sutherland estates, which encompassed much of the northern Highlands. Thousands of subsistence farmers were deprived of their livelihood. The crofters were forced off the land and into new housing on the coast. The Sutherlands and other big landowners wanted to create pastures for large-scale sheep farming. Lettings to graze sheep were more profitable because they enabled much higher rents to be charged.

In contrast to the first Duke, his descendant Cromartie Leveson-Gower, 4th Duke of Sutherland [pictured right from a portrait in Dunrobin] was an amiable but rather dull man, interested



mainly in hunting, the new railways, and running Dunrobin's household accounts. His wife, Millicent Fanny St Clair-Erskine, on the other hand, was a clever, strikingly tall and beautiful woman. She was fifteen years younger than Cromartie and the daughter of a Scottish earl herself. They married in 1884 on her seventeenth birthday. Millicent became widely celebrated as a glamorous society hostess in late Victorian and Edwardian London. She presided over glittering parties, balls and receptions at the Sutherlands' palatial London residence, Stafford House. It was the largest and most splendid in the whole city. Now called Lancaster House, it's a government property still used by the Foreign Office for wining and dining overseas royalty, political leaders and other important guests visiting Britain.



Sargent's portrait of the Duchess of Sutherland

The Duchess was also very prominent as a philanthropist and social reformer in Sutherland and the Stoke-on-Trent potteries, where she battled to improve workers' education and health. Despite some critics nicknaming her 'Meddling Millie', she gathered many admirers among both rich and poor. The artist John Singer Sargent painted a stunning portrait of her. But her finest hour was to come later, when Millicent spent most of the First World War helping the wounded in battle. The Duchess set up her own ambulance unit in occupied Belgium, followed by another in northern France with a field hospital close to the Front. She led a team of nurses treating an endless stream of wounded soldiers.

By the time my illegitimate grandfather Alexander, or Alec, was born in 1897, the Duchess of Sutherland was thirty and she and the 4th Duke had three children of their own. Another had died in infancy. But their relationship was one of mutual affection and tolerance, rather than a genuine love match and they had little in common. My source for much of this information about the couple is a biography of the Duchess by historian Denis Stuart, published in 1982.

It was still not uncommon for a wealthy upper-class man to sleep with a maid and get her pregnant, although the affair would be hushed up if possible, beyond their inner circle, to avoid a public scandal. Someone, perhaps the Duke of Sutherland himself, appears to have quietly arranged and paid for his servant Kate Fraser's child to live with a foster family, who were relatives of hers in Inverness.

The 1901 Census records Alexander Tulloch as a four-year-old “visitor” to 83 King Street, Inverness. His occupation is given as “scholar”, so he must have just started school – perhaps the only schooling in his entire childhood. The household was headed by Ann Fraser, aged fifty-seven. She appears to have had four teenage or adult sons and daughters of her own living with her. They are listed as William (22), Betsy (17), Margaret (15) and Alexander (14). There were two other children in the household, named as Alexander Beaton and Mary McLean (both 7). This small whitewashed house near the centre of Inverness must have been overcrowded – and confusing with three Alexanders living there! Perhaps they called my grandfather ‘Alec’ to distinguish him from the rest. Ann (or Annie) Fraser, now foster parent to Alec, was in fact Kate’s stepmother. Annie Maclean had married Kate’s father James Fraser after the early death of his first wife Jane in 1878. However, James had subsequently died himself, leaving Annie a widow. Incidentally, his own father was a farmer called Alexander Fraser, who perhaps inspired the choice of that first name for my grandfather.

Kate’s whereabouts in 1901 can only be a matter of speculation. Perhaps she continued in her job at the Castle, but Dunrobin has no record of its past servants. However, she resurfaces in 1904 on a marriage certificate. It records that on 1 November, Catherine Fraser (aged 30 and a “domestic servant” living in Golspie) married Dugald Watson (42) at Sybil Road, Golspie. There is some confusion about him. According to my mother, he was a gamekeeper on the Sutherland estate and called John, rather than Dugald. But Kate’s marriage certificate names him as Dugald and describes him as a “domestic gardener”; perhaps helping to look after the impressive gardens at Dunrobin.

My grandfather was seven when he was removed from his foster family in Inverness and returned to live with his real mother Kate. It probably happened about the time she married Dugald in November 1904, creating a sufficiently respectable family for the boy to move in with. There is no record of where they lived but it’s likely to have been Golspie at first. Kate and Dugald then produced two children of their own. Their son John Watson was born in about 1906 and daughter Christina in 1910, both in Golspie. It’s possible that the family had accommodation in the Castle if Kate and/or Dugald were still Sutherland employees.

However, in 1911, or just before, the family moved fifty miles west to Loch Assynt, another part of the Sutherlands’ vast Highland estate. Assynt had been one of the first areas to be cleared by the 1st Duke a century earlier and remains very sparsely populated today. According to the 1911 Census, Dugald was now living with his wife Catherine Watson in a remote farm, known as “Tumore”. They shared it with their son John Watson (aged 5), baby daughter Christina Watson (11 months) and Alexander Tulloch, a thirteen-year-old described as a “boarder”. Kate must previously have

conceived a child who died, because the Census records her and Dugald having had three children, of whom only two survived.

The 1911 Census also lists another household at Tumore, although only one cottage seems to exist there now. Here lived the McRae family – Donald McRae (24 and a “gamekeeper”), his wife Ada (32), their baby daughter Maggie (5 months) and their servant Margaret Matheson (16). My mother told me the Watsons lived in a gamekeeper’s cottage, but perhaps she got this slightly wrong and in fact Donald was the gamekeeper, not Dugald.

According to my mother, Grandad led a miserable life with the Watsons, particularly at the hands of his stepfather. Dugald was a drunkard who used to beat or threaten him and often made the boy ride long distances on horseback to fetch him new supplies of whisky. Young Alec had little or no schooling at this time.

Then in about 1912, aged fourteen or fifteen, Alec was mysteriously removed from his family in this isolated Highland spot and taken to London, where he was given a job as personal valet to Prince Louis of Battenberg. Prince Louis was Lord Mountbatten’s father and Prince Philip’s grandfather. He would soon become First Sea Lord, in charge of the Royal Navy and at the height of his career. Someone very influential, with connections at the highest level, was clearly responsible for the sudden and dramatic rise in my grandfather’s fortunes. The obvious candidate is the 4th Duke of Sutherland, who it seems wanted to do the right thing for his unacknowledged son. He died not long afterwards in 1913.

It’s worth bearing in mind that Prince Louis had an illegitimate daughter of his own, resulting from a brief affair in 1880 with the actress Lily Langtry. He then contributed towards the child’s upkeep. The Duke and he must have known each other as both were involved in the exclusive London social scene, in which the Duchess of Sutherland played such a central role. If one member of their aristocratic old boys’ network asked others for a favour, they would always rally round. “Noblesse oblige”, to quote Bertie Wooster, was the shared code of behaviour. So it’s no surprise that Prince Louis of Battenberg took young Alec on board to help out a chum in a spot of bother. For Alec, however, it must have been a huge culture shock, which transformed his life for ever.



**H.R.H. Prince
Louis of Battenberg**

The story of Alec Tulloch's new life will be told in the Journal's next issue

Clann Ualraig

Part Two

Graeme Mackenzie continues his account of the Highland Kennedies from his talk given in September 2023

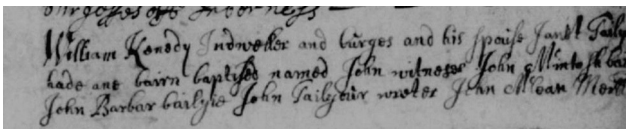


Photo of Fort William lane from www.kennedydna.com/

Many of the smaller clans in the Highlands, whatever their origins, were continually subject to the push-and-pull of local politics, particularly when it came to balancing loyalty to their immediate lairds – the owners of the lands on which they lived – and to the feudal superiors of those lairds. In the case of Clann Ualraig, their immediate lairds were the chiefs of the two branches of Clan Donald with whom they lived (Glengarry and Keppoch), and their overlords were the Gordons of Huntly who had probably been responsible in the first place for planting the Highland Kennedies in Lochaber. Matters became yet more complicated for Clann Ualraig as the Camerons expanded their influence in Lochaber, and some of them found themselves living on Lochiel's lands. Unfortunately for them, the Camerons and the MacDonalDs did not always see eye-to-eye on politics and religion; and of course, the Camerons were always at daggers drawn with the Macintoshes, who also held lands in Brae Lochaber and who were often allied with the Gordons.

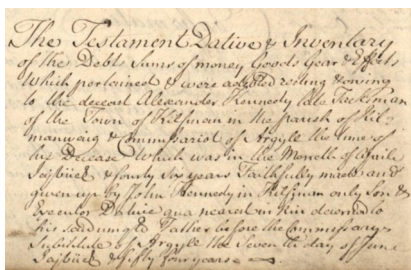
Angus Kennedy of Leanachan Mor, who was the chief of Clann Ualraig in the 1660s & '70s, disappears from the record after 1683, and his son Neil appears thereafter as chief, particularly in 1684 when he was accused by the Privy Council of being among those who "do daily infest, trouble and molest the peace of the Highlands". The following year, he and Coll MacDonell of Keppoch were the subject of a complaint to the Council by Lachlan Macintosh of Torcastle; but in 1691, he and Alexander Kennedy of Leanachan Beg followed Keppoch in submitting to the government.

It's around this time that we begin to find more records of Kennedies elsewhere in the Highlands. It's in 1694 that the first of them appear in the Inverness OPR, when the merchant William Kennedy and his wife Janet Taylor had their son John baptised [as shown below].



Since William Kennedy was also recorded as a merchant in Nairn, he may have been descended from the Thomas Kennedy who was Laird of Blackhills in the early 1600s. Also in 1695, a *Neil McCoil VcEwen Kennedie* and his son *Rorie* are recorded as tenants in Camuserracht on Loch Rannoch, where this family were known as Clann Gillanders on account of their claimed descent from a member of the Leanachan family called Gille-Andres or Andrew.

In 1701 Neill Kennedy of Leanachan Mor was accompanied in a transaction recorded in the General Register of Deeds by Allan Kennedy in Leanachan Mor, and we assume he was Neil's successor – and therefore probably his son – since in 1712 and 1722 he gets discharges from Gordon's factor which are recorded in the Huntly rentals. In 1722 he is alongside an Alexander Kennedy who may have been the Alexander Kennedy who was "of Leanachan Beg" in 1696. No further records have so far been found of any Kennedies in the Leanachans until 1760, and the leadership of the clan in this period appears to have been assumed by the Kennedies in Laggan Achadrom, and particularly by the Tacksmen of Kilfinnan (or *Killianan* as it sometimes appeared), a township at the northern end of Loch Lochy.



Argyll Commissary Court NRS/CC2/8/49/4

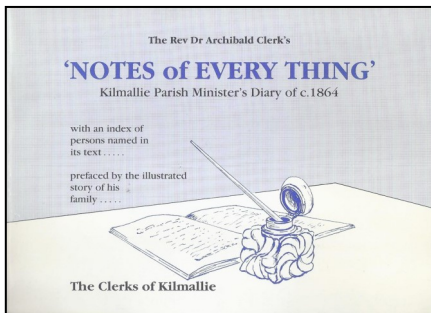
In 1738, Alexander Kennedy of Kilfinnan was given a bond for £1,200 Scots Money by John Macdonell of Glengarry. The fact that Kennedy could advance that sort of money to Glengarry shows that he was a very prosperous tacksman. The debt was registered by Alexander's son, John Kennedy in Kilfinan in 1754 following Glengarry's death; and the inventory drawn up at the time [shown above] tells us that Alexander had died in April 1746, which must mean at or in the aftermath of the battle of Culloden.

The aftermath of Culloden produced a wealth of records as the government catalogued the Jacobites who'd surrendered and the tenants living on the Highland estates which they confiscated and subsequently administered. After Glengarry's men had surrendered to Lord Loudon at Fort Augustus some 15 Kennedies pledged to disarm themselves and to "oblige ourselves to appear and to doe all that in us lyes to be forthcoming the one for the other all at His Majesty's pleasure ...".

A British army detachment was quartered at Laggan Achadrom, and they were still there four years after Culloden chasing horse thieves and deserters. In 1750 the Captain commanding this detachment reported on a John Kennedy who had obviously eluded him, saying that he was nicknamed "Bricke or Pocke or Poccitted" and that he lived "at the bank of the River Glaster near Killenann about one mile to the westward of Laggan and a little to the northward of Loch Lochky" and that he was "... the most subtle, most desperate, and most famous Thief in the Highlands." In that same year a Mary Kennedy and three MacDonells in Munerigie on the northern shore of Loch Garry were charged with resisting His Majesty's forces and rescuing one John Macintosh who had been seized for wearing Highland Dress. A year later a John Kennedy in Glengarry was arrested for bearing arms. In 1752 John Breck Kennedy was sentenced to death for murder, while Evan Dow Kennedy in Glengarry was released from prison on caution after having previously escaped from custody.

The names of many other Kennedys who were processed in these years in the High Court and the Sheriff Court of Inverness can be found in the records of these courts held at the Highland Archive Centre, including the likes of *Duncan McEan vain Kennedy*, a tenant in Clunes (presumably the Clunes in Lochaber), who was sentenced in 1763 to banishment & transportation for cattle rustling, and his brother *John McEan vain Kennedy* who obtained a letter of reprise from London after being convicted of theft.

A 1762 rental of Glengarry lists 13 Kennedys, including one Duncan, in Laggan Achadrom. These are presumably only the tenants - with many more sub-tenants going unmentioned - since the court records show three Duncan Kennedys from this area who also got into trouble with the law around this time. In 1762 a Duncan Roy Kennedy in Kinloch of Glengarry was set free after being held for unspecified offences. In 1764 a Duncan Bain Kennedy in Kilfinnan was the subject of letters in the High Court; and the year before that, *Duncan Dow Kennedy alias MacGille-easpick Ban*, also in Kilfinnan, was sentenced to banishment for 14 years for cattle stealing.



Also around this time Angus Kennedy, who would in due course become the Tacksman of Leanachan, was born. The Reverend Archibald Clerk, the Minister of Kilmallie, who knew Angus well in his later life, tells us - in his "Notes of Everything" - that Angus was an only son, but of whom we don't know.

Since Angus of Leanachan named his eldest son John, we may speculate that he himself was the son of the John who was in Kilfinnan in 1758 and whose father Alexander of Kilfinnan had probably died at Culloden; but we can't be sure about that. The Huntly rentals show that a John Kennedy shared the tenancy of Leanachan Mor and Achinashian in 1770 with an Alexander Kennedy who was Gordon's forester. It seems very likely that the latter was the Alexander Dubh Kennedy, deer forester in the service of the Glengarry family, who, according to his gravestone in the Kilfinnan burial ground, died on the 10th of April 1812 aged 60.

The 1778 Huntly rentals show two John Kennedys sharing the tacks of Leanachan Mor and Achinashine, with 10 other Kennedys in the former and 4 in the latter. An Alexander Kennedy and a Ewen Kennedy appear as tenants in Leanachan Beg. Again, these rentals only give the tacksmen and tenants, and the actual number of Kennedys in these townships was probably considerably more - as later lists show. According to Somerled MacMillan, two hundred and forty Kennedys were baptised in the parishes of Kilmallie and Kilmonivaig between 1773 and 1860.



Glen Spean: Leanachan & Achnacochine in relation to Keppoch

The largest concentration of Highland Kennedys at this time however seems to have been in upper Speyside, in the parishes of Alvie, Kingussie & Inch, and Laggan. They connected, through Glen Spean with Achnacochine & Leanachan, and over the Corrieyearack Pass with Abertarff & Achadrom; and, once again, they were parishes in which the Gordons had historic influence.

One of the most intriguing members of the clan from Speyside was the Rev. John Kennedy, who I first came across in the Inverness Burgh Register of Deeds - held at the Highland Archive Centre [HAC] - which contains a tack granted in 1786 by Fraser of Lovat to the Rev. John Kennedy and Lt Evan Macpherson for various lands in the parish of Boleskine & Abertarff.

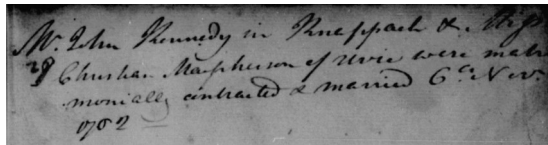
The Baillie of Dunain papers in the HAC contain some material relating to the Glengarry estate, including a letter of 1789 from Lady Glengarry to her solicitor Campbell Mackintosh, telling him he will need to obtain sight of the leases of Leek & Invervigar which Rev. Mr Kennedy & Mr Ewan McPherson obtained from Mr Fraser of Lovat, "that these gentlemen may be warned out in due time from those farms now the property of my son".

Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, in his notes about the parish of Boleskine & Abertarff, tells us that Lt Evan Macpherson belonged to the Ovie family and relates an amusing story about how, in 1795, he went on the run from his creditors; all the way down to the Abbey of Holyrood House in Edinburgh. What was intriguing about the Rev. John Kennedy however is not that he was about to be warned out of the lands he'd leased just three years before - since the Glengarrys were warning out most of their tacksmen and tenants at this time (and Fraser-Mackintosh's "Antiquarian Notes" list them) - but that he does not appear in the Fasti; the complete list of Church of Scotland ministers since the Reformation. So, who was he, and what happened to him?

These questions became even more intriguing when I discovered comments about him in the Gordon Castle Muniments in the NRS. They were made by Gordon's factor on Speyside in a letter of July 1775 to James Ross enclosing a recommendation from Andrew Macpherson of Benchar that Rev. John Kennedy should be proposed for the impending vacancy in the parish of Kilmonivaig. After stating that in his opinion Mr Kennedy had no merit of his own, he goes on to say that "... the parish of Kilmonivaig is a place that no man of merit, or one who has the least chance of being provided for otherwise, will accept of, but as a temporary settlement ...", and he concludes that "... Mr Kennedy will always hang as a dead weight about us till he is provided for ...". It seems therefore that John Kennedy does not appear in the Fasti because he was never able to get a position; and that turned out to be the case, at least in Scotland. He had better luck however elsewhere, as I discovered searching the General Register of Deeds [GRD] in Edinburgh.

A document registered on the 23rd of September 1776 records the appointment by the Rev. John Kennedy of Alexander Clark, a writer in Edinburgh, as the factor for his affairs since he was about to leave Scotland. This very revealing deed also tells us - in relation to the financial affairs that his factor was to take care of in his absence - that John Kennedy was married to Elizabeth Macpherson, the only daughter of the deceased Evan Macpherson of Laggan, and that his father was an Alexander Kennedy. Unfortunately, this document doesn't tell us where overseas the Rev. John was headed; but a deed of 1780 - this time recorded in the Inverness Sheriff Court Register of Deeds (a record sadly still held in Edinburgh) - reveals that he had gone to East Florida, and it contains a lot more detail about his family back in Scotland.

It concerns a dispute between his parents (Alexander Kennedy and Elizabeth Macintosh in Knappach, Kingussie) and his brother-in-law, Donald Macpherson of Laggan, about any inheritance due to his now deceased wife, Elizabeth Macpherson, and the “custody, education and management of Elizabeth Kennedy, the only child now existing” of their marriage. A search online found a history of East Florida as a British Province (by Charles Mowat) which says that in 1777 Rev. John Kennedy was appointed Schoolmaster and Assistant Minister in Saint Augustine, East Florida, by the colony’s Governor, James Grant of Ballindalloch; and that he remained on the books there as a teacher until June 1785. Mowat remarks that he doesn’t seem to have been active there after 1782; and that would be because he had returned to Scotland, where, on the 6th of November 1782, he was married again, in Kingussie, to Christian Macpherson [OPR 102/1 below].

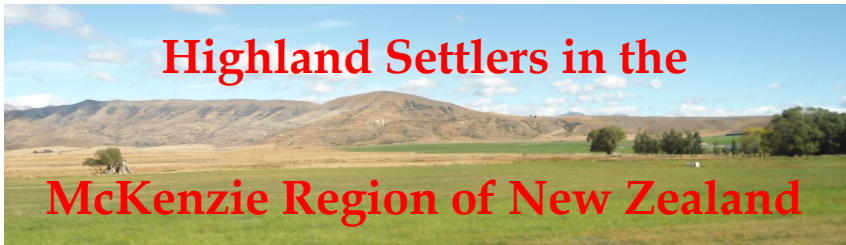


Their marriage contract was recorded in the Inverness Sheriff Court Register of Deeds on 23 Feb 1784, and it tells us that Christian was the 2nd daughter of Hugh Macpherson of Uvie, and that one of her brothers was Lt Evan Macpherson of the 16th Regiment of Foot; i.e. the Lt. Macpherson with whom the Rev. Kennedy had the lease of lands from Lovat in 1786.

Rev. John Kennedy & Christian Macpherson had a son, James Alexander, born in 1784 in Knappach, and another son, Duncan, born in 1785 in Perth. These are the only children born to the Rev. John recorded in the OPRs, but we know that he had another son by Christian Macpherson called Hugh; presumably named for her father. The information about him comes from the Trust Disposition & Settlement the Rev. John made in 1801 and had recorded in the GRD. It tells us that he was then “late of East Florida, now residing in Glasgow” and that he had been married a third time – to a Jean MacDonald – with whom he’d had another daughter called Jean.

The last record of the Rev. John Kennedy is also in the GRD, and it records, on the 17th of March 1803, a bond of credit extended to him by the Bank of Scotland in 1790, when he was still the Tacksman of Auchteraw in Boleskine. It is presumed this bond was registered then because the Rev. John had recently died; and he was certainly dead by the 24th of May 1806 because on that day a tack by Lovat of some of the lands the Rev. John had previously leased says that he was “the now deceased Mr. John Kennedy”.

Clann Ualraig: The Highland Kennedys will be continued in the next edition of the Journal.

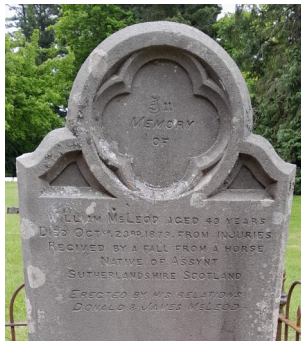
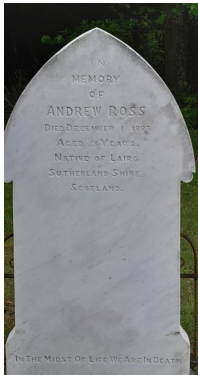


Highland Settlers in the

McKenzie Region of New Zealand

David Brown of Newcastle upon Tyne recently sent us this communication:

A couple of weeks ago I was in NZ and stopped at the historic Burkes Pass graveyard in the McKenzie Region of South Canterbury [pictured above]. Numerous gravestones gave places of birth from England and Scotland but these 3 mentioned specific Highland origins so I thought they may be of interest to your and your members. The fact that the area is called the McKenzie Region speaks volumes as to the Highland link to the area. The details on William McLeod's stone are quite poignant, many other stones detailed people dying through drowning and "accidents", a reminder of how brave the initial European settlers must have been.



Editor's Note: The Region was named for James McKenzie—variously described as a “freebooter” or “outlaw”—who emigrated to Australia in about 1849 and then on to New Zealand. He worked as a drover in Canterbury before moving to Otago where he applied for a land grant. In March 1855, he was caught stealing 1,000 sheep from Levels Station, north of Timaru. After escaping his accusers, he walked 100 miles to Lyttelton, where he was caught by the police and sentenced to five years hard labour. He twice escaped from prison before being pardoned after serious flaws were found in the police inquiry and trial. He sailed for Australia in January 1856, and nothing certain is known of his later life.

The Future of M.I. Books and the Highland FHS.

Falling sales, rising costs and the web have made the Highland FHS Committee reconsider its future in the production of Monumental Inscription books. Despite two websites related to inscriptions in the Highlands seemingly no longer running (Fearn Peninsula Graveyards Project and Highland Memorial Inscriptions – both could not be accessed in September 2023) other sites, whether free or on a subscription basis, who have limitations or are incomplete, they impact us and MI books. We even have some MIs on *Find My Past* which has limited sales.

A site being incomplete is something we are addressing. Currently work is underway in recording those sites done by the former *Kilmorack Heritage Group* where stones noted as ‘unobtainable’ do have inscriptions but need careful cleaning and time. However, I can also admit that some of my own work is ‘incomplete’ where permission was not given to excavate any stones.

But what of the future? Despite inaccuracies on websites or companies selling PDFs of images and text, and again which sometimes have limitations, producing printed matter is a race against time of more and more stones being added to the web. The Committee have therefore made the decision to limit the number of copies of any new publication available for sale to 40 copies. From this year also the Committee have decided not to reprint any existing MI books and once stock is sold out, it will only be available as a PDF; though Chapel Yard, Inverness, with over 400 copies sold is one we will likely continue.

But it's not all bad news. We will, despite falling sales and the above decisions, continue to produce new material and hopefully update some of our MI books where there are new stones and extensions not covered in the original publication. But all of this takes time, and we still have lots of sites to do; and, of course, all these decisions are subject to review by the Committee at a future date. So, if you are concerned about this get in touch, or start ordering from current stock. We'll keep you informed of any changes to this policy.

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

Stuart Farrell, Secretary, Highland FHS.

Monumental Inscription Books published by the HFHS

Burial Place	County	Memo-	Pub-	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
Beaully 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

Early Highland Censuses

[Highland Archive Service](#)

Highland Archive Service holds the Sutherland county population return for the 1811 census (reference M/SUTH/12/5/a) and the county population returns for the 1811, 1821 and 1831 censuses for Golspie, Assynt and Farr (reference M/SUTH/12/5/b-c). Transcriptions of these records have been published as:

- 'Population lists of Assynt 1638-1811' (Malcolm Bangor-Jones, 1977)
- 'Population lists of Strathnaver, Strathy and Strath Halladale 1667-1811' (Assynt Press, 2000)

HFHS SUBSCRIPTION RATES for year 01 Sep 2023 – 31 Aug 2024

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



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