

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Journal No. 169 • February 2024



*Burnbanks Village from the air, taken in 2016 with a camera on a drone
(Photograph by kind permission of Barry Craig, a former Burnbanks resident)*

Membership Details

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

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

From 1st January 2020, the 12-month subscription rates (choose printed or e-Journal) are:

Ordinary membership:	£25·00	Ordinary digital (e-Journal only):	£18·00
Family membership:	£30·00	Family digital (e-Journal only):	£24·00

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You can pay online at our website (PayPal: account or cards), by post (now cheque only; **no cards**), by Direct Debit, by Internet Banking, or in person at our Family-History Centre. Members who are UK taxpayers may sign a **Gift Aid** declaration (forms supplied on request) and so increase the value to the Society of their contributions by 20%.



Internet Banking:

Bank: Virgin Money (Clydesdale Bank plc), 62 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1WD

Account name: ABERDEEN & NE SCOT FAMILY HIST SOCIETY [*please note change*]

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

ANESFHS website and Members' Forum

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulations, 2018

Members' details are stored on computer for administration and research purposes only, and will not be lent or sold to a third party. We require only your name and address – all other details are optional.

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

Journal of the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society

Issue 169, February 2024

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Society Reports, News and Information

Notice of Society AGM, 20th April 2024, Aberdeen

The ANESFHS Annual General Meeting will take place at 2pm BST on Saturday 20th April 2024 at Fountainhall Church Centre, Aberdeen, and simultaneously online. Notice has already been given on the Society's website. The AGM will be followed by a talk; see the website's "Events" page, where you can register for the online link by logging in.

The Editorial contains an apology for the delayed production of this Journal.

—oOo—

Chairperson's Report

After my plea in Journal 168 for a **Treasurer** to oversee our Finance Team's operations, we were delighted when Margaret Stevenson (no. 17155) came forward to offer her skills and experience. We are very grateful that Margaret has kindly decided to benefit the Society by adding to her commitments in this way!

Margaret is local to Aberdeen, has already had many useful conversations with relevant volunteers in our Research Centre and online, and is looking forward to helping our Trustees and Finance Team in fulfilling their obligations. Our long-serving Treasurer (recently Acting Treasurer), Jane Cameron, is now at last able to step back and enjoy a well-deserved retirement, with our grateful thanks for all her diligent work on our behalf.

There's a now outmoded expression: "too many chiefs and not enough Indians". For too long, the Society has found itself in the opposite predicament: we have willing volunteers for a lot of tasks, but we lack enough people at organisational levels, namely team leaders, Society Trustees (a.k.a. Committee members), and members who like to Make Stuff Happen and Get Things Done. A glance at the last page of each Journal shows several vacancies, and indeed a flick through any Journal shows a few names cropping up in many different capacities. We need to spread the load!

By the next Journal, we hope to have had the time and opportunity to set out in more detail where we are and where we'd like to be. Meanwhile, if you spot an opportunity to help the Society in a more organisational role, we're all ears and would love to hear from you.

chairman@anesfhs.org.uk

Bert Lawrie No. 17901

—oOo—

Editorial

Further to the Chairman's report in this issue, we are delighted to reveal that Elaine Petrie is the "Journal Team" alongside Ivor Normand. Elaine has in fact been helping behind the scenes for several issues now, and her growing involvement means that it makes sense to announce this. Ivor is extremely grateful for all Elaine's assistance and initiative.

Ivor's recent overcommitments elsewhere left no time to concentrate on Journal matters. For this Journal's late arrival, Ivor apologises to all members, especially to volunteers who had to field members' puzzled enquiries, and to Elaine for all her offers of help that were late in being taken up. You'll be pleased to know that the next Journal is on schedule to appear in the month on the cover!

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Elaine Petrie (No. 22949) and Ivor Normand (No. 4161)

Research Centre Report

Hello from 158 King Street. The Centre has been getting busier over the past few weeks, which is great for our volunteers as it gives them something to get their teeth into. We have quieter times, especially in the afternoons, but this allows us to get some of our new volunteers up to speed with all our resources. The first few occasions of working with a client/member can be quite a bit daunting but, once that hurdle is cleared, it gets easier.

Visitors from overseas have been appearing more frequently and are usually surprised at the resources available at our Centre. Some have already been taking part in our various online public meetings and have come in to say hello before heading off to tour kirkyards or sites where their relatives once lived. There is something moving about walking where your ancestors walked: even I who live in the area find it evocative to visit where my families lived and worked, and I can only imagine what it is like for visitors from afar.

If you are in the area, please drop in and say hello – the kettle is aye on the hob.

barbara.lamb@anesfhs.org.uk

Barbara Lamb (Centre Manager) No. 20206

—oOo—

Meet the Gang! Profile: Sheena Smith

One of the nicest results of the lifting of Covid restrictions is that we have had a wonderful influx of new volunteers! For several years, we appealed for more helpers in the Centre – and in 2023 our appeals brought particular success. One of our newest volunteers is Sheena Smith. For many years, Sheena attended Saturday meetings and always chatted happily afterwards with Committee members and other visitors. Thankfully for us, she decided that she would like to come and help other researchers in the Centre – and now she helps us on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Sheena was born and brought up in Fraserburgh, where her father worked as a builder for a local firm. Her mother, however, came from Sunderland in north-east England and had met her husband when stationed in Lossiemouth during the Second World War. On leaving Fraserburgh Academy, Sheena came into Aberdeen to train as a nurse at what was then known as the “Sick Kids”. She started work there and became a Staff Nurse. She loved her job, especially working with babies, and decided to train as a midwife. After a further year training in Stirling, she returned to Aberdeen and took up a post at the Maternity Hospital, where her particular interest was the neonatal unit. She became Ward Sister at the Sick Kids and later worked nights for five and a half years, until she was persuaded to transfer to Foresterhill Hospital and later to Robert Gordon University, where she became a Clinical Tutor. She then became a Clinical Teacher and qualified as a Nurse Teacher. After taking early retirement, she worked two mornings a week in the craft shop in Broomhill Road.



Like many of us, I guess, Sheena always assumed that her ancestors came from a particular area and never moved away ... never did anything of note ... never did anything exciting ... quite boring, really! When a cousin asked if she had any knowledge about

their mutual great-grandfather, Sheena found herself on a genealogical journey via Dunoon, Dublin, Edinburgh and eventually Fraserburgh, where he had become a teacher of music at the Academy. Perhaps the moral is never to underestimate your ancestors! Some of them had far more adventurous lives than we give them credit for!

Sheena has quickly become an integral part of our team and is always willing to go the extra mile. She is happy to admit that she's still learning, and is anxious to discover new resources in the Centre and new websites. We are delighted that she has joined us, and look forward to working with her for a long time to come.

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Liz Foubister

No. 6129

—oOo—

Lorna Simpson (1927–2024)

We were sad to discover recently that one of our early members and stalwart volunteers, Lorna Simpson (no. 1756), had died earlier this year. Lorna had spent the last few years in Rubislaw Nursing Home and had become unaware of people and places. She was 96 years old and had led a full and active life until comparatively recently.

Lorna Dunbar was born on 15th October 1927 in India, where her father was serving as RSM with the Gordon Highlanders. The family returned to Aberdeen, where her father took up a post at Woodend Hospital, and Lorna was educated at the High School for Girls. She became head girl there before attending Aberdeen University, where she studied psychology, graduating in 1950. She gained a teaching diploma and was appointed to the staff at Aberdeen College.

Lorna married George Simpson in 1953, and they had daughters Jane and Anne four years apart. Lorna told me she was one of the first professional women in Aberdeen to employ a series of au pair girls and to continue working after having a family. I gather she faced a certain amount of criticism from her more conservative colleagues who felt that a woman's place was in the home!

She is remembered with great affection by her former colleagues in the Psychology Department. I contacted one of her colleagues, who wrote this about Lorna:



When I joined the department, Lorna was an established lecturer much valued by her colleagues. As I came to know her better, it was impressive to see her thoroughness in the preparation for the teaching she undertook. Lorna taught in areas which were the foundations of a psychological understanding of education and teaching, rather than those emerging notions which were fashionable but as yet marginal rather than central.

In the wider picture, she was the secure base of the team and always pleased to offer us advice or guidance based on her sharp perception of issues and personalities.

Lorna and George were a couple who had a very positive life balance and were the most agreeable and generous of friends, hosting parties in their home which were long remembered by those who were there.

I met Lorna when I joined the ANESFHS volunteer team in 2000, and we quickly became good friends. I was amazed at the amount of work she did correlating, indexing and cross-referencing the Ancestor Charts in our library. These have been a wonderful source of information and inspiration to many researchers, and I shall be eternally grateful to Lorna for her care and meticulous attention to detail in updating the charts.

Over many years, Lorna also wrote Journal reports of our Aberdeen members' meetings. She was also a valued and long-serving member of the Society's Committee until retiring at the AGM in 2010, from which the above photograph is taken.

Despite her problems with mobility, I never remember any task being too much for her, and she was unfailingly cheerful and positive at all times. She had a wonderful sense of humour and a warm, welcoming personality, which endeared her to all who met her.

We pass our sincere condolences to Lorna's family and close friends.

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Liz Foubister

No. 6129

—oOo—

Society Bank Account Name

If you pay by BACS, FPS or Giro, the Society's new bank-account details have been shown on the inside front cover of each Journal since No. 166, May 2023.

Unfortunately, the "Account name" line still showed an old abbreviation for the Society's (rather lengthy) official title. For an exact match when paying over the Internet, please use this version, as shown on the inside front cover of this Journal onwards:

ABERDEEN & NE SCOT FAMILY HIST SOCIETY

If you have received this Journal by post, its address label was generated automatically on 1st February 2024 as per the normal schedule, so it still shows the old account name, which should be disregarded. It will be corrected for the May Journal. We apologise for these small but important and annoying oversights, and for any confusion caused.

Please note: card payments can only be made in person at our Centre or online via PayPal. You cannot ring us and pay over the phone, and nor can you e-mail your card details to us.

membership@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheila Symons

No. 13157

—oOo—

Discover with me your ancestral roots in Aberdeen & NE Scotland!

Walk in your ancestors' footsteps, see sights they saw, breathe the air they breathed

I am a professional, qualified tourist guide, fully insured to drive and guide you



Elma McMenemy, Blue Badge Tourist Guide
Member of the Scottish Tourist Guides Association



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Members' Meetings

Lorraine Stewart, "The Scotch Colony of New Kincardineshire"

21st October 2023

We were deeply grateful to genealogist and Society member Lorraine Stewart (no. 8726) for recording her talk in advance. A storm warning and flood alert across the North-East meant we had to switch to an online-only meeting format at short notice. Heroically, although the flood warning included Lorraine's home town of Stonehaven, she rose to the challenge and even joined us online for a live question-and-answer session.

And what a fascinating talk it was. Some years previously, she had come across a booklet in the local library called *The Scotch Colony: the story of 1873*. It described the setting-up of a colony in New Brunswick, Canada, settled by a group of Scots immigrants principally from Stonehaven and Kintore. Over time, she has set about piecing together the details of this venture and the fate of the travellers who set out together to create a New Kincardine.

A local sea captain, William Brown, had observed emigrants forming bonds on the three-week journey across the Atlantic, but that this potential support network was diffused when they all dispersed to their destinations on landing in the New World. He realised: "If these lone emigrants can do well for themselves, would not the planned migration of a large group of people to a pre-selected area be even more successful?"

Together with Robert Stewart, a local farmer, and David Taylor, editor of the *Stonehaven Journal*, William Brown set up a company designed both to secure land for settling and to recruit a band of willing settlers who came from the same area and thereby shared the same culture and outlook. The aim was to ensure that the new land would seem homely and welcoming because the settlements would have familiar names and the homesteaders would enjoy a more independent, prosperous footing than they had experienced in the farms they were leaving behind: "Even the poorest member of our party will at once become his own laird, receiving with the title of his farm all the rights and privileges of independent proprietorship".

Hundreds signed up for this adventure between 1873 and 1874. But alas all was not what they expected. Most of the plots had not been properly cleared and had incomplete cabins. Some settlers soon returned to Scotland, while others persevered. In due course, around 30 families received compensation from the government for the hardship they experienced on their arrival. Those who stayed eventually prospered, and ultimately the area became known as the Scotch Colony and proudly celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023.

Lorraine has been able to trace what happened to many of the individuals who set sail with so much hope in their hearts. She tracked them through census records and newspaper reports and has acquired family photographs from some of their descendants. These really helped to bring their stories to life.

One of the most striking records is David Duncan's diary, describing the train journey from Stonehaven to Glasgow and the subsequent sea voyage on the vessel *Castalia* to New Brunswick. The compiler, aged 14 at the time, had lived in Carron Terrace in Stonehaven. His father, William, was a woolspinner who left his job in the Carron Woollen Mill to take up farming in New Brunswick. David eventually married Kate Chapman, the daughter of another settler, and moved to Washburn in Maine where, according to the Scotch Colony

website, he “was manager of a saw mill business” and was also “postmaster (1922–35), newspaper correspondent, tax collector, and played the trombone”. He was Washburn’s oldest resident when he died aged 89 in 1947.

Two babies were born during the first voyage out to New Brunswick, with one being named Castalia after the vessel she was born on. The family did not take well to their new home, and Castalia’s parents, George Morrison, a stonemason and crofter, and his wife Helen Donald, took the family back to Scotland in 1877. Castalia married Alexander Robertson, a traction engine proprietor, in 1904 in Inverurie, and she died in Kintore in 1966, aged 93.

In one sense, Captain Brown’s aspirations for a close-knit supportive community were realised. The original New Kincardineshire settlers may have spread out in different directions, but a vibrant community grew up over time and, as their website demonstrates, took a pride in the early days of the settlement, celebrating a 50-year anniversary in 1923 and holding a range of different community events to mark the 150th anniversary last year.

And Lorraine’s sterling efforts to overcome storms and floods proved that the determination and dedication that the New Kincardineshire settlers needed is still alive and well in “old” Kincardineshire!

The following hyperlinks are live within the PDF version of the Journal, accessible in the Members’ area of the ANESFHS website:

[David Duncan 18/4/73 Stonehaven Notebook A Voyage from Glasgow to St. John’s on board the screw-steam ship Castalia | Scotch Colony 1873 \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Scotch Colony, New Brunswick, Canada | Including the communities of Kincardine, Bon Accord, Kintore, and Upper Kintore](#)

If you are trying to trace family members who emigrated from Scotland to this or other parts of Canada, the following site may be useful:

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/journal@anesfhs.org.uk>

Journal Team



From left to right:

David Duncan,
Annie Duncan
(Durepo),
Harry Duncan,
Mary Duncan
(Umphrey),
Catherine Chapman
(Duncan),
Bessie Duncan.
(Married names in
brackets)

Photo: © Kris C
Headley Reprinted
with permission.

Ian Burnett and Linda Grant, Aberdeen Bereavement Services

18th November 2023

Ian Burnett and I spent a pleasant afternoon at the Fountainhall Church Centre, where Ian gave a presentation, humorously titled “Dr Death? A Matter of Grave Concern”, on the graveyards of Aberdeen to members of the audience in the room and online.

Ian has spent 32 years as Bereavement Services Officer for Aberdeen City Council. Before that, he spent eight years as an operational chargehand and gravedigger at Springbank Cemetery, Airyhall, Aberdeen. His present role entails all aspects of cemetery management: authorising and overseeing the installation of new memorial headstones; assisting operations to identify graves for interment; assisting members of the public with enquiries; arranging National Assistance Funerals; and collaborating with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I am the Assistant Registrar for Bereavement Services, and Ian and I work alongside the Bereavement Services Registrar, Mairi Duthie.

Ian summarised the 17 cemeteries which Aberdeen City Council is responsible for, and gave brief histories of each cemetery and highlighted notable graves. Particularly interesting graveyards include Dyce Cemetery (previously known as Chapel of Fergus), which has ancient Pictish relics and a section of war graves (mainly of airmen), including 11 German soldiers whose planes were shot down over Aberdeen. The Grove cemetery contains the most northerly Hebrew section devoted to the Jewish community – permission must be given by the Rabbi in Edinburgh in order to be interred here. This is also the last cemetery that the City Council took responsibility for, in February 1984.

Ian touched upon Nellfield’s murky past while it was owned by the Bakers’ Incorporation – dark deeds that would eclipse anything Burke and Hare got up to! It is worth looking at archive copies of local newspapers from 1899 and 1900 for the details. Springbank Cemetery in Airyhall, which had its first burial in 1884, has its own dark secrets, with instances of grave-deepening which caused a minor scandal.

St Mary’s Chapel in Stoneywood is a little-known cemetery just off the Inverurie Road – there is evidence here of the church-building materials being reused in farm buildings. Legend has it that a nearby house in the grounds of the old chapel started to brew beer which quickly became famous for its excellent qualities. Many people came to sample the excellent, sweet-tasting beer but were less happy when they learned that the water was coming from the cemetery’s well!

We covered the damage done to both St Peter’s and Trinity Cemetery in the Second World War, including “spang marks” (machine gunshot damage) that can still be seen today.

Ian also covered Memorial Safety in the graveyards, with a warning about unstable gravestones (including the process for the laying flat of unstable monuments) and a reminder about the importance of transferring the ownership of lairs. The Bereavement Services Team can be reached at [**burials@aberdeencity.gov.uk**](mailto:burials@aberdeencity.gov.uk) with any queries about memorial safety, transfer of lair ownership or any other Bereavement Services matters.

After the talk, we had a lively question-and-answer session with input from the audience both in person and via Zoom. Thanks go to ANESFHS for having us, and to everyone who took part – we hope to collaborate again in future.

lindagranti@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Linda Grant

Joe McLeod, “Rediscovering Burnbanks Village”

20th January 2024

We greeted the new year with a lively talk from member Joe McLeod (no. 21957), whose book *Burnbanks Village* was published in 2021 and reviewed in Journal 160 (Aug 2021, pp. 18–19). Joe has become a popular speaker locally, thanks to his cheery manner and the enormous amount of personal detail he has been able to compile about folk associated with Burnbanks in the past.

But *where* is Burnbanks? It’s a question that has puzzled folk, including many who think they know the area round Aberdeen well. It is a tiny coastal hamlet, a settlement of 22 houses that is now more or less on the edge of Altens Industrial Estate between Nigg and Cove as you go south out of Aberdeen city.



The houses are fresh and modern, set almost in a circle with a grassy green as a central focal point. But this belies the fact that some of the houses are over 200 years old. They were owned by the Sinclair family of Altens Farm and were rented to the householders, many of whom originally made their living by fishing. The sea was always a factor of life in Burnbanks: the earliest record Joe has found mentions a boat from Burnbanks having to be rescued in a gale in 1805. The Old Parish Records for the families there confirm connections with the nearby villages of Durris, Portlethen and Downies – a fact easily confirmed by the number of surnames common across these villages. The last two were also primarily fishing villages.

The population in the 1841 census was 53, but by 1881 it had risen to 120. There was no mains electricity or water supply, or indoor toilets – not so uncommon in rural settings in the 1950s – but the houses were never improved or upgraded. The local council acquired them in 1966 but classed them as unfit for habitation and offered the remaining residents alternative accommodation. The families gradually drifted away, and by 1980 there was only one resident remaining.

In the late 1980s, a project was put in place to see the site redeveloped – and, instead of razing all the old properties, the developers, Scotia Homes, agreed to reconstruct the remaining buildings, which are classified as category C-listed.

Joe said the “new” residents often discussed the history of the village and collated stories and information. He has acquired a wonderful photograph, taken in 1921, of six children sitting in front of one of the cottages. He has since been able to identify and name all these children, and also has a modern version of the photograph taken in 2011 at the same spot with 11 local children. When these photographs appeared in a local paper, more stories flooded in, resulting in what now seems a life’s mission to fill in the story of Burnbanks as it was – and is.

Joe has collated all the incidents he can find which mention a connection to Burnbanks, and has followed up the family stories of those involved. A number of Burnbanks men are mentioned on the Nigg War Memorial, and Joe provided lots of background information. Among the most powerful of his stories is the account of the crew of the SS *Norwood*, a passenger vessel sunk by a German U-boat under the command of Ernst Rosenow. James Coutts was the cook on the *Norwood*, and his daughter featured in the 1921 children’s photo. Joe’s aim is to track down photographs of every one of the 18 crew members, and

so far he has all but eight in the bag. There were other Burnbanks men who were skippers on First World War minesweepers, so Joe has plenty of research lines to keep him busy.



Joe's treasured model of the first trawler to be named *Burnbanks* (built in 1905 at Hall Russell Shipyard, Aberdeen)

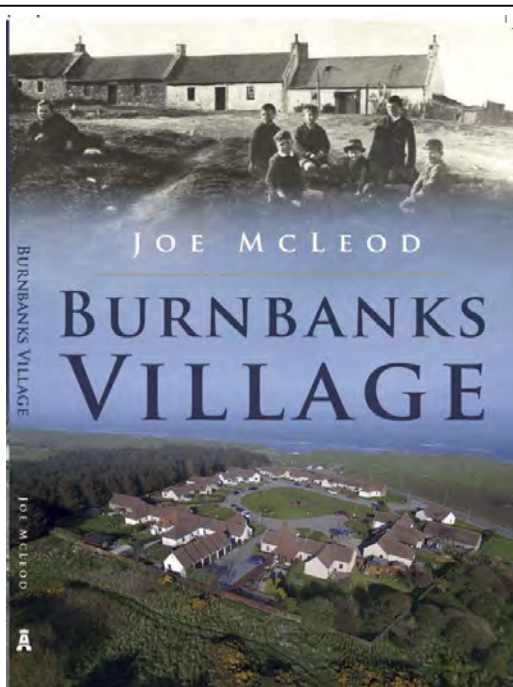
A striking aspect of the talk was the enthusiasm Joe has to honour the memory of these lost seamen and past villagers. They are not his relatives, but he has made huge efforts to keep their memory alive, and ultimately that's quite a heartening thought.

You can order a copy of Joe's book direct from him via his website or e-mail address, given below. The price of the book is £15, plus £4 postage.

<https://burnbanksvillage.co.uk> joe.mcleod9@gmail.com

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Journal Team



Burnbanks Village lay in various stages of dereliction and was finally abandoned in the early 1980s, leaving shattered ruins and roofless shells. It was resurrected in 1992 – and now, over 30 years later, it is a fantastic place to live, with a deep community spirit.

Published in 2021, this book features stories about life in the old village. There were shipwrecks, accidental or sudden deaths, an alarming number of suicides, a heartbreaking incidence of cholera, and casualties of war. Villainy, thefts, assaults, fights and bigamy all feature, as well as births, marriages and deaths.

Alongside the often darker history of the village, there are many human stories of families living healthy and happy lives, albeit in basic conditions.

<https://burnbanksvillage.co.uk/> £15 plus £4 postage

Buy now while stocks last!

Moray/Banff Group Report

With our alternating face-to-face and online monthly meetings well under way again, we met in November in Elgin Library on our usual first Saturday of the month.

Having been on Zoom throughout the pandemic, and then moving to alternating meetings, we looked at both angles: “What have we missed and what have we gained? How can we get the best out of both for our future meetings?”

While we all agreed that we had missed our Library meetings and were pleased to have them reinstated, we were all enthusiastic in agreeing that we had thoroughly enjoyed being able to open our meetings online to members from far and wide. We had all felt the benefit of not only getting to know so many more fellow-enthusiasts but also being able to make the most of a much wider range of expertise and experience.

There was no doubt in our minds that we wanted to continue with Library sessions and with our online meetings, so we were happy with our present arrangement of face-to-face one month and online the following month. We agreed that some topics lend themselves better to the Library meetings while other topics work very well online; and there was considerable discussion about possible topics for both.

No sooner had we agreed this than we met online *and* in person in December! We met as usual on the first Saturday, online, celebrating the fact that it was our 30th online meeting and asking ourselves: “What have we learned along the way?” It has been particularly interesting for both sides – those of us here in Moray, and those whose ancestors had moved away, perhaps to a distant country – to see the family-history research from both angles. We locals have been able to help those further away with local knowledge about resources and about local history and geography, while help has been offered about resources and look-ups in other parts of the world for those who still live here but who have family members who had left Moray.

The following Saturday saw 17 of us meeting up for a very enjoyable Christmas Social at Threaplands Garden Centre. We had previously opted for Afternoon Tea on these occasions, but with the December nights drawing in early and the ever-present possibility of some seasonal bad weather, we decided on a Christmas Lunch session instead. The meal was delicious and the company was great, so a good time was had by all!

For our January meeting in the Library, we had opted for “Family Heirlooms” – and it was a fascinating session. We nervously eyed a huge sword which had seen action with a family member in the Napoleonic wars, and we learned about not only the legal side but also the illegal side of whisky-distilling. School certificates, photographs and scrolls also made their appearance, along with other treasured possessions.

We planned to use the same topic for our February online meeting, hoping to see not only some more local items but also what our emigrating ancestors chose to take as mementos of their families and their lives here in Moray. A report of our February, March and April meetings will appear in the next Journal (May issue).

As ever, keep an eye on the Society website’s Events pages for syllabus updates.

Glasgow Group Report

Buzzy Garden, “Family History in Samplers”

10th February 2024

Family historians who have samplers in their archives are extremely fortunate. Buzzy Garden, who chairs our Glasgow Group of ANESFHS members, shared her enthusiastic knowledge on the subject and illustrated her talk with many varied examples to show what a rich source of genealogical information samplers can be.

Samplers were typically for young girls to practise their sewing skills, possibly for future work in domestic service. No examples survive from the 16th or 17th centuries in Scotland. They were created from the mid-1700s, gradually becoming less popular towards the end of the 1800s. Samplers are very similar and instantly recognisable as such, following the same layout and using many common motifs (a stylised house, peacocks, other birds, animals, flower, trees, crowns). A piece of religious or uplifting text may be included. But a quick glance shows differences in fabric and quality of the workmanship, as well as the unique nature of the family-history content as evidenced by the initials. A most useful feature is that the girl stitched her name, age and the date her work was completed.

Borders with zig-zag or curved lines interspersed with flowers were often stitched in red and green, the traditional natural dyes used in early Scottish samplers. Within the borders are horizontal bands, usually starting with lines of the alphabet and numerals. As you look down these lines, family-history details, usually just initials, begin to appear – and then it all becomes fascinating! Each line often gives details of “Ma, Da and the bairns”; father’s family, mother’s family, sometimes aunts, uncles and siblings. If deceased by then, a person’s initials are stitched in **black**. Mystery initials can reveal people who do not appear in Kirk records, but perhaps can be found in earlier OPRs and later censuses.

Samplers were preserved in different ways. Some were framed and treasured while others, perhaps unfinished or with many errors, were stuffed in the back of a drawer. This led us on to discuss how to conserve, clean and display a sampler if you are happen to have one.

Following this online talk, our audience had questions for Buzzy – and a very interesting discussion ensued, with members taking the opportunity to consider possible significance of some motifs and to share their own stories and samplers. Indeed, prompted by this subject, one sampler had been retrieved from the dusty attic. No doubt it will be looked at with renewed interest in the light of Buzzy’s talk.

For many people, samplers are simply very beautiful wall art, but for family historians they have so much more to offer.

(report by Kate Clark, No. 934)

Editor’s note: See also Journal 103 (May 2007), where you will find a Glasgow Group report on a talk on samplers by Rebecca Quinton.

Our next Glasgow Group meeting takes place **in person only**, on 11th May: our annual Members’ Day, which is a chance to share family-history stories through fabric and stitchery. Come to “show and tell” any pieces you have, such as household linen, a piece of tartan or a photo of a sampler. The star attraction of Members’ Day is always Graham’s intriguing, unique and educational(!) quiz. We look forward to seeing you there.

Edinburgh Group Reports

Paula Williams, “Using the National Library of Scotland Map Collection”

11th November 2023

Paula Williams works in the Maps section of the National Library of Scotland and has a magnificent job title: Curator – Maps, Mountaineering & Polar Collections. She lived in Aberdeen and Deeside for almost 10 years and maintains links with the area, so we were delighted when she agreed to give us an introduction to using maps for family history.

Paula dealt with how to access the maps, and focused on resources particularly relevant to the North-East but began with a helpful introduction to the history of maps made of this area and of all of Scotland. It was curious to see the earliest examples from 1560 and 1590, where the outline that is so familiar to us from weather reports and Google maps was barely recognisable. The earliest maps, by Timothy Pont, were used by Joan Blaeu in compiling his ground-breaking atlas published in Amsterdam between 1662 and 1672. Meanwhile, Scottish towns were being mapped from 1661 (Aberdeen) by John Gordon.

In 1724, after the first Jacobite rising, General George Wade was despatched north to survey the Highlands with a view to creating a better system of roads that would make it easier to put down potential rebellions. This was followed up by the Roy Military Survey after the second rising was put down in 1746.

By the later 1700s, estate maps were being drawn up so that landowners might improve their lands by adding drainage, or make them more productive by enclosing arable land into larger parcels. Fine examples were produced by the Edinburgh land surveyor, John Home (e.g. Assynt, 1774). Land surveyors also created county maps which were then aggregated into John Thomson’s *Atlas of Scotland* (1832).

Finally, these led to the comprehensive coverage that we know and love, with the introduction of Ordnance Survey maps that cover the country, carried out periodically in the 1850s and 1880s and then onwards. Paula demonstrated for us how the NLS website allows the user to view the different editions of the Ordnance Survey Sheets as overlays and to compare them with overhead satellite views.

She reminded us that the NLS puts on talks end events which can be booked through the NLS website: <https://www.nls.uk/>. These resources include some video recordings of previous talks, among which is “Everything you can do with online maps”, a talk from October 2018, which provides a useful introduction to the service by Chris Fleet, Senior Curator. Another useful feature can be found for researching houses and building history at <https://maps.nls.uk/guides/houses/>.

In the typed Zoom Chat, attendees shared other useful links such as a Factsheet for maps that can be generated by the Special Collections service at the University of Aberdeen, found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/collections/documents/guides/qghcol054.pdf>.

Happy mapping!

Andrew Nicoll, “Historic Environment Scotland Resources”

27th January 2024

Our January meeting was online-only, with guest speaker Andrew Nicoll, who is Deputy Head of Archives for Historic Environment Scotland (HES), presenting his talk live. He

explained that the HES archives don't hold records on individuals, as the organisation's prime focus is on recording the buildings and landscape of Scotland. He recommended four main websites; and examples were shown of the various types of records held.

The following collections on **Canmore** can all be found using that website's Collection Search function (<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/search>). There are papers from some historians of monumental inscriptions (MIs), including the papers of Betty Stuart Farrell and of Betty Willsher. Both of these collections include photographs of gravestones. Canmore also holds the papers of Ian Millar, a kirkyard monument historian, although these are not yet available online. HES recognised that many historic buildings of both national and local importance were being demolished or changed, and that photographic evidence should be collected. As a result, the Canmore site includes the records of the Scottish Countryside Commission for Scotland, the Records of List "C" Buildings Survey, and the National Buildings Record.

Among the non-photographic items is a collection of sales catalogues relating to Scottish estates; and Andrew showed an example from May 1901 of the sale of the Dunnottar Estate at Stonehaven which listed the farms, their acreage and the buildings on the farms. HES also holds the papers of Prof. John R. Hume, an economic and industrial historian.

Andrew showed a photo of King's Works, a foundry in Aberdeen, taken in May 1971, which included some of the employees at work. Canmore also has a large collection of aerial photographs, including the RCAHMS Aerial Photography Collection. Andrew also recommended consulting the website **Britain From Above**.

If you're interested in architecture, HES also holds the records of George Bennett Mitchell & Son, architects, Aberdeen. The records of Duncan & Munro, architects in Aberdeen, are not yet online, and Andrew recommended checking the Aberdeen City Archives catalogue for these. For further photographic material, Andrew also recommended the websites of **SCRAN** (www.scran.ac.uk) and **Pastmap** (www.pastmap.org.uk/map).

Andrew advised that at some point HES will move from its current archives at John Sinclair House in Edinburgh. Researchers are always welcome, but it is sensible to contact the archives before visiting (archives@hes.scot).

Report by Kenneth Nisbet (No. 55)

edinburgh@anesfhs.org.uk

Elaine Petrie (No. 22949) and Ivor Normand (No. 4161)

—oOo—

London Group Report

17th February 2024

We met as usual in Crown Court Church Hall. The Gaelic-language services in London are held in the church four times a year, so it was apt that our speaker today is involved in these services and is a long-time member of our Group. Chris Hood (no. 9698) spoke on "How to elude family historians: Duncan Robertson DD".

Duncan Robertson founded the Gaelic Chapel in London. There is some information on the Gaelic Chapel and his involvement, but little is known about the man himself, as Chris suggested from the title of his talk. As Chris told us, Duncan

- was born, married and died before statutory registration and census returns
- had no notice that exists of his graduation from any university

- appears to have had no surviving descendants or DNA links
- has one of the commonest names in Scotland
- has one of the shortest entries in the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*
- never mentioned family origins in anything published.

Duncan died in 1825 in Pimlico and is buried in All Saints churchyard in Fulham, London. He is thought to have been 58 years old.

Our next meeting, on 25th May, is “Bring a Brick Wall”. See the Events section on the Society’s website for more details.

london@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheena Clark No. 19190

—oOo—

Southern Ontario Group Reports

Anne Williams, “Archives of Ontario: Materials with a Scottish Connection”

25th November 2023

Anne Williams is Senior Archivist with the Archives of Ontario, and we had around 44 people join us for her excellent online presentation. At one time, Scottish emigrants were the third-largest ethnic group in Canada, so the Archives of Ontario hold a reasonable amount of material on them.

Anne began by explaining the abbreviations for different materials in the collection, making it easier for us to understand where these materials had originated. She showed good diagrams and charts to help us visualize how the collections are sorted and filed.

The oldest document in the collection is a record from 1522 documenting the sale of land owned by a Magnus Mowat in Scotland. Anne explained how the Toronto Emigrant Office assisted many Scots coming to Ontario and that the Archives of Ontario has related records for the 1865–83 period. She then gave us resources to search for Crown Land records and Land Registration records. Next to be explained were the Warrants relating to Land for Scottish Emigrants and the different Fonds in the archives.

The Archives of Ontario also hold photographs, Gaelic poetry, newspapers with a Scottish connection and some unpublished genealogical studies and family trees. Anne shared a list of books relating to Scottish emigrants to Ontario as well.

She also explained how to prepare for your visit with questions about who and what you are actually researching. Anne went through step-by-step instructions on how to search the Archives of Ontario website, with many great examples and diagrams.

Anne concluded by explaining restrictions you may come across, as well as discussing research guides, other online records, hours of operation, how to view microfilms and film footage, and the care and handling of materials.

We had an excellent question and discussion period afterwards, with many people posing queries and sharing helpful information. For those overseas, Anne said that the website also has links to local researchers who can conduct investigations on their behalf. Some of our participants also volunteered to trade research hours with those in other countries.

Anne thoughtfully provided a slide summary with links for those interested in the Archives of Ontario.

“My Ancestor was in the News – Good or Bad”

10th February 2024

We had about 30 members participate in this entertaining online presentation on some of our ancestors. Seven members presented, with good discussions afterwards and, as always, helpful tips and website suggestions in the typed Zoom Chat.

Rod Coates talked about his ancestor, John Huie, a merchant from Rothiemay, Banffshire. John emigrated in 1765 to Jamaica – and *Pugh's Hereford Journal (British Chronicle)* of 19th July 1781 had a story about how Spaniards landed at Mr Huie's wharf in Trelawney, Jamaica. They stripped him of his clothes, left him on the beach, and carried off a Black man and a free person of mixed ancestry. Rod concluded with how he came to find this particular ancestor and the article about him.

Next, David Joiner presented an obituary of his 3x great-uncle that filled a page-length newspaper column. James Joiner was born in the “Kingdom of Forgue” and worked with horses as a groom and coach driver. James served local doctors for almost 50 years and had a special affinity for medical issues. Folks in the Banff area would often turn to him instead of a doctor or a dentist. One particularly charming detail was how he was driving a doctor on a country road when they came upon an injured man needing stitches. Since the doctor lacked silk thread, James suggested using a hair from the horse's tail to stitch him up – and that worked just fine. James even performed veterinary surgery in a doctor's absence. When he died in 1904 in Banff, he was mourned by many in the area.

Alex Sutton followed with an excellent presentation on Margaret Simpson Rennie. She had married William Rennie in October 1894, but William soon seems to have gone to South Africa and abandoned the marriage. In October 1900, Margaret had a son, but in not naming the father she declared that she was unmarried and the son was illegitimate. She was accused of falsely registering the birth, as she was in fact a married woman. This was a serious offence that could have earned transportation to a penal colony – but the Sheriff sympathized with her, and she was only given two weeks' imprisonment. She divorced her husband in 1902 and ended up married to a shepherd in the Falkland Islands. Later, she returned to her home city of Aberdeen, where she died in 1960.

Susan Brouwer then presented on several generations of a family. In August 1866, her 2g-grandmother Euphemia Keith Buchan appeared before the Kirk Session at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, with John Tait, the father of one of her children (already deceased) and of the one she was 6½ months pregnant with. Only six days later, John married a different woman, Georgina Foster, which likely did not go down well with Euphemia's family. There was a newspaper article about John Tait assaulting Euphemia's brother George Buchan, with George's wife Helen Bain looking on. The next story was about George and Helen's daughter Helen Buchan dying of alcohol poisoning at just 15. Then there was a story about how John Tait jnr went to demand his wages shortly after his father's death. His mother Georgina was with him, and they no doubt needed the money. John jnr must have lost his temper and assaulted the boss, as both he and Georgina earned their choice of fine or imprisonment. Meanwhile, Euphemia had married John Harvey and had a large family. They apparently struggled, as they ended up in Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, at St Margaret's Cottage, which was a type of orphanage. Several of the children were left there after Euphemia died. Her widower John Harvey must have been despondent, as the next news article tells of his body washing ashore in Nigg Bay, back near Aberdeen.

Euphemia and John Harvey's eldest son, another John, was in the news when his fishing trawler hit an underwater mine and blew up. Not all was bad news with this family, as one of the children who lived in the orphanage, Margaret M. Harvey, came to Canada and met Francis, son of painter George F. Hargitt. George and his brother Edward, another artist, came from Edinburgh. Francis settled near Woodstock, Ontario, and was an artist and hobby farmer. The Hargitts were in the news, and their paintings can be found online.

Maureen Kerrigan, in Scotland, presented on her ancestor Robert Cumming, who seemed to have a problem with the drink and was in several newspaper stories for theft and drinking-related offences. Maureen had found a reference to him being in an asylum in Perth in 1874; and finally in 1900 he was found in a bad state. At first they thought he was drunk, but it turned out that he had empty vials of laudanum and rat poison on him. He perished from drinking this concoction in April 1900 at Crieff, Perthshire.

Paul Hudson, in England, spoke next on the descendants of Jean Benzie. Jean's family came from the Premnay and Inch areas of Aberdeenshire and are in Paul's tree. They emigrated to Australia, and Jean's daughter Jane married Thomas Curnow. An online search for Thomas Curnow turned up some incredible stories of the famous Kelly Gang in Melbourne, Australia. Thomas and Jane were detained by the gang, who were planning to derail a train carrying the police who were chasing the gang. Thomas was able to escape the locked room where they were being held, and alerted the train's crew to stop in time. The police on board were notified, leading to the gang's eventual downfall.

Rob Will has written a soon-to-be-released book about his ancestor Margaret Keith, widow of Charles Will who was 23 years her senior. After he died, she lived with James Carle, by whom she became pregnant. James, who was not happy about the pregnancy, was seen beating her and drowning her in a river. In June 1800, the story of this killing is in the Peterhead news, as is the following trial in September. James ended up having the murder charges removed. Rob also mentioned there was a poem written by the Rev. John Skinner about Margaret's life and tragic death.

Many of these stories brought to life the harsh conditions that our ancestors had to cope with and how they dealt with those circumstances. Good or bad, it was interesting to hear all of the stories that were shared with us.

Our next meeting, on 27th April at 13:00 EST (18:00 BST), has author Malcolm Archibald on "A Wild and Rough Lot", about whaling out of Dundee, Aberdeen and Peterhead.

ontario@anesfhs.org.uk

Susan Brouwer No. 20475

co-organizing with Rod Coates (No. 18349) and David Joiner (No. 16651)

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

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

Mrs. Margaret Davidson, CSFHS, Grampian Ancestry Research
6 Bayview Road, Inverbervie, Montrose DD10 0SH
E-mail: grampian.ancestry@btinternet.com
Tel. 01561 361500

Library Report

The Church of Scotland was once one of the most powerful forces in Scottish life. But its influence has declined, and today membership has fallen dramatically. Many of its clergy are near retirement age, and there are far fewer new ministers coming through the ranks to replace them; its buildings, increasingly expensive to maintain and heat, are half empty. It's no longer financially viable to keep all the buildings running, and the Church of Scotland's rationalisation programme has led to mergers of church congregations, with the "redundant" church buildings being put up for sale.

In Aberdeen and the North-East, as elsewhere in Scotland, these church buildings are often significant works of architecture, built by leading architects such as Archibald Simpson, John Smith and A. Marshall Mackenzie. They are very much part of the local history of an area, and in this Journal you will find an appeal from the Scottish Churches Trust for volunteers to record these recently closed buildings before they are turned into offices, bars or nightclubs, flats or houses.

The standard reference work to Aberdeen churches is Alexander Gammie's *The Churches of Aberdeen*, published in 1909 by the Aberdeen Daily Journal. Gammie lists all the churches in Aberdeen, often with illustrations, and gives their history and their ministers. It's a book we constantly refer to in the Society Library, and is known affectionately as "Violet's bible" (after Violet Murray, one of the Society's best-known volunteers, who died in 2011). Her knowledge of Scotland's convoluted church history was legendary. If you're interested and want to know more, a book which helps explain this history in detail is J. H. S. Burleigh's *A Church History of Scotland* (Oxford University Press, 1960). It has a very useful, if complicated, chart at the end which sets out the divisions and reunions of the Scottish Church from 1690 to 1929.

One very important event in the history of the Church of Scotland was the Disruption of 1843, when about 450 ministers broke away from the Established Church to form the Free Church of Scotland. The circumstances of the Disruption as described by the men who took part in the struggle are the subject of Thomas Brown's *Annals of the Disruption: with extracts from the narratives of ministers who left the Scottish Establishment in 1843* (MacNiven and Wallace, 1892). It gives details of the experiences of individual ministers in their separate parishes – narratives written immediately after the events, telling what it was that led them to separate from the State, and the difficulties encountered by the churches in taking up their new position.

If your ancestor was a minister of the Church of Scotland, you may find his details in the seven volumes of Hew Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae: the succession of ministers in the Church of Scotland*. We have two editions: one published in 1866–71 by William Paterson, and a newer edition published by Oliver & Boyd (1915–28).

I've concentrated here on the Church of Scotland, but our Church History section contains information on other Christian denominations – the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Roman Catholic Church, for example, as well as other religious groups such as the Quakers or Society of Friends. There are histories of individual churches too.

Much of the personal information about our ancestors comes from church sources – baptisms, proclamations, misdemeanours recorded in the Kirk Session records – and the books in this section can help put these sources into context.

ANESFHS Research Team Relunched

The Society's Research Team had recently dwindled to only a few volunteers, what with lockdowns and their after-effects, but we are glad to report that some new volunteers have joined Joyce Irvine's team and are busily catching up on old research requests, fielding new requests and eagerly awaiting *your* research requests.

Society members can e-mail the address below, or can also log in to our website to use the Members' Forum, where they can ask questions, read comments and post answers. Our Research Team volunteers, working from home or from our Centre in King Street, are among those who respond most frequently.

Remember that you can also attend any of our local-area Group meetings online, or in person (or a hybrid of the two), where you will always find friendly fellow members who are keen and willing to share their knowledge. We look forward to being able to help you.

research@anesfhs.org.uk

Research Team

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100 Club News

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

The payout is always 50 per cent of the income, and there are four prizes in the monthly draw (1st 20 per cent, 2nd 15 per cent, 3rd 10 per cent and 4th 5 per cent of the income).

If you decide **not** to renew your ANESFHS membership, please **also remember to cancel your Standing Order for the 100 Club**. Only **you** can cancel your own Standing Order. If cancellation is not requested, the transaction will continue.

The draw takes place monthly, and **we now pay winners via online banking**. **We need to be kept up to date with any changes to 100 Club members' bank-account details**. Winners are informed personally and are announced in the Journal. For further details, please see the current Information Booklet on our website.

	1 st prize No. (£18·60)		Mem. No.	2 nd prize No. (£13·95)		Mem. No.	3 rd prize No. (£9·30)		Mem. No.	4 th prize No. (£4·65)		Mem. No.
Nov	103	Kathleen McLeish	17352	28	Helen Strachan	22873	70	Karen Yeoman	7283	122	Elizabeth Foubister	6129
Dec	123	Sue McFarlane	15807	88	Amelia Horn	3667	28	Helen Strachan	22873	95	Margaret Vieira	3106
	(£20·80)			(£15·60)			(£10·40)			(£5·20)		
Jan	16	Alan Byatt	4899	56	Alison Kerr	1602	20	Kenny Harrison	13946	28	Helen Strachan	22873
Feb	99	Teresa Shewell	4883	139	Dorothy Smith	14618	122	Elizabeth Foubister	6129	18	Angus Burn MBE	19808
Mar	18	Angus Burn MBE	19808	84	June Melvin	834	121	Margaret McDowall	18020	35	Patricia Mcdonald	11372

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheila Symons No. 13157

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Thanks to the Society

I joined ANESFHS fairly recently, and the February 2024 Aberdeen hybrid meeting was the first online Society meeting which my partner and I have attended. We found it really interesting, and to have these attachments sent afterwards (speaker's handout, and other useful information uploaded to the typed Zoom Chat) is to have the icing on the cake. Thank you and your colleagues for this.

On the occasions when we have visited the Society's Research Centre in Aberdeen, we have enjoyed much help and a friendly reception. Thank you to all the volunteers.

callumc831@gmail.com

Malcolm Christie No. 23837

—oOo—

Members' Stories

Aberdeen "Swimmin' Mannie": Feedback and Connections

We received an update from David Paterson (no. 6475) regarding feedback he has had on his article in Journal 168 (pp. 18–21). It turns out that, after his demobilisation from the army in 1919, James Pirie applied to become a trainee with the Canadian Mounted Police. Despite his athletic physique and his experience as a cavalryman, he was rejected because he was too short. That's one man the Mounties didn't get!

Also, a relative has pointed out that James's brother William (known in the family as Eddie) was in the Observer Corps of civilian volunteers, and not in the ARP.

David also reports that Brenda Reid (now Cattanach), whose Record of Ancestors chart appeared purely by coincidence in the same Journal as David's Pirie article, contacted him with a curious connection, as she "has a certificate signed by James Pirie for swimming, diving and life-saving".

Brenda further relates that "My father's youngest sister, Alice Reid, was a domestic science teacher in North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, and, like Connie [Pirie, David's wife], also trained at the Do' School in King Street". They did not meet, as Alice (born 1919) studied there some eight years before Connie. Alice married an islander, George Macdonald, uncle to Rory and Calum of the band Runrig, so Brenda has direct family connections with them. Brenda adds: "My brother Iain and I went up to Aberdeen in June to see the musical based on their songs".

David adds a further coincidence in that both he and Brenda's husband were "men of trees", as Mr Cattanach was Forest Officer for Solihull Council, and David retired as a Principal Silvicultural Research officer for Uplands in the Forestry Commission at Roslin.

David is sure there must be more folk who can recall being taught swimming by James Pirie. We'd be happy to hear your recollections of your experiences at the Middle Pool.

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Journal Team

Articles

Military Men of Kirkmichael and Tomintoul

As a member of Moray Burial Ground Research Group (MBGRG), I have spent many hours recording Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) in various cemeteries. Each place is different, giving a social history of the surrounding district.

This article is adapted from material I have previously had published in MBGRG Newsletter 26 (Dec 2017, reproduced with permission), and in the local paper to advertise MBGRG's publication *Churches & Churchyards of Kirkmichael, Tomintoul Parish Church & St Michael's* (available to buy from www.mbgrg.org), and from a piece I wrote in that booklet. Stone numbers given below relate to this publication.

The Kirkmichael and Tomintoul area had a rich history of people travelling far and wide with the military and also to work. There are references to several Fencible regiments. The raising of Fencibles Corps in the Highlands was first proposed in 1759. Recruitment took place at various times from then until 1799. There were 29 battalions of Fencibles in Scotland, including the Clan Alpine, Strathspey and Gordon Fencibles.

The Fencibles were British Army regiments raised in the UK and in the colonies for defence against the threat of invasion during the Seven Years War, the American War of Independence, the French Revolutionary Wars, the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812 in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They were composed of local volunteers, commanded by regular army officers, and usually confined to garrison and patrol duties. They had no liability for overseas service.

Other regiments mentioned on MIs are Lovat Scouts, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Royal Army Medical Corps, Bengal Staff Corps, Bengal Infantry, Royal Artillery, Gordon Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders, several Regiments of Foot, and Grenadier Guards.

Stone 86 in Kirkmichael Churchyard records the death of Captain Robert McGrigor of the Clan Alpine Fencibles and 14th Battalion of Reserve, aged 79. He died at Delavorar on 5th October 1816. Three sons are mentioned on the same stone:

- Lieut. Peter McGrigor, 17th Reg. of Foot, "killed at the head of the Grenadiers of that regiment at the storming of Fort Chumera in the East Indies in the 26th year of his age"
- Lieut. John McGrigor of the 88th Regiment, "killed at the attack on Beunos Aeris in the 17th year of his age" (spelling as that on stone)
- Lieut. James McGrigor, "H.P. 84th Regt, died at Delavorar in the 32nd year of his age".

One of the most decorated men buried at the Parish Church of Tomintoul is Robert Grant, M.D., R.N., C.B., born at Blairnamarrow on 4th September 1842. He attended Aberdeen University and entered the Royal Navy as an assistant surgeon in 1868.

He rose through the ranks and became Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleet in 1901 before retiring in 1902. He served on shore with the 88th Regiment during the Kaffir war of 1877. In February 1879, he tirelessly tended to the smallpox patients of HMS *Boadicea* and was specially promoted to Staff Surgeon in recognition of this. He landed during the Zulu war in 1879 and accompanied the Naval Brigade to Port Durnford, and was mentioned in despatches.

Continued on page 24

Record of Ancestors

Membership No: **6462**
 Name **Irene McCafferty**
 Date 12 Mar 2021
 e-mail irene.mccafferty@anesfhs.org.uk

His Father

3 **Robert MORRISON**

Born 15 Dec 1895
Place Keith, Banffshire
Married 23 May 1924
Place Glasgow
Died 16 Mar 1975
Place Regina, Sask., Canada
Occup. Railway signalman; farmer

Your Father

1 **George MORRISON**

Born 24 Jun 1927
Place Renton, Dunbartonshire
Married 12 Jan 1963
Place Thornliebank, Glasgow
Died 13 May 1998
Place Glasgow (Victoria Infirmary)
Occup. Merchant seaman; lorry driver

His Mother

4 **Margaret RENNIE**

Born 27 May 1894
Place Glasgow
Died 31 May 1954
Place Glasgow (Royal Infirmary)
 Domestic servant

You

Irene MORRISON

Born
Place Glasgow
Married
Place Glasgow
Occup. Facilities manager

Her Father

5 **George BAILLIE**

Born 25 Sep 1904
Place Aberdeen
Married 2 Apr 1926
Place Glasgow
Died 25 Feb 1891
Place Glasgow (S General Hosp.)
Occup. Underground station master

Your Mother

2 **Euphemia Marshall
Cunningham BAILLIE**

Born 10 May 1927
Place Prestonpans, East Lothian
Died 23 Jan 2015
Place Glasgow (Victoria Infirmary)
Occup. Book-keeper

Her Mother

6 **Mary Barnett Mellis DUNLOP**

Born 19 Aug 1901
Place Pollokshaws, Glasgow
Died 7 Jan 1963
Place Glasgow (S General Hosp.)
Occup. Dye worker

The member whose chart appears here has given permission for it to be printed in the ANESFHS Journal.

Form designed by:
Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS,
 158-164 King Street,
 Aberdeen AB24 5BD.

		15	Alexander MORRISON (reputed)		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	after 3 Jul 1875	<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>
7			George MORRISON		
			<i>Born</i>	1841-45	
			<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray	
			<i>Married</i>	3 Jul 1875	
			<i>Place</i>	Fife-Keith, Keith, Banffshire	
			<i>Died</i>	4 Sep 1925	
			<i>Place</i>	Fife-Keith, Keith	
			<i>Occup.</i>	Labourer; thatcher; van driver	
8			Mary Ann YEATS		
			<i>Born</i>	1848-50 (bapt. 14 Apr 1850)	
			<i>Place</i>	New Deer, Aberdeenshire	
			<i>Died</i>	23 Oct 1910	
			<i>Place</i>	Fife-Keith, Keith, Banffshire	
				Domestic servant	
		16	Jessie McBEATH		
			<i>Born</i>	1817-21	<i>Place</i> Elgin, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	26 Dec 1889	<i>Place</i> Garmouth, Moray
					<i>Occup.</i>
		17	Alexander YEATS		
			<i>Born</i>	1809	<i>Place</i> Auchterless, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Married</i>	30 June 1839	<i>Place</i> Methlick, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Died</i>	9 Mar 1888	<i>Place</i> Fife-Keith, Keith, Banffshire
					<i>Occup.</i> Blacksmith (journeyman)
		18	Mary SINCLAIR		
			<i>Bapt.</i>	28 Sep 1810	<i>Place</i> Tyrie, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Died</i>	21 Dec 1881	<i>Place</i> Fife-Keith, Keith, Banffshire
					<i>Occup.</i>
		19	William RANNIE		
			<i>Born</i>	4 Feb 1828	<i>Place</i> Dufftown, Banffshire
			<i>Married</i>	13 Dec 1861	<i>Place</i> Tarves, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Died</i>	27 Apr 1904	<i>Place</i> Dyce, Aberdeenshire
					<i>Occup.</i> Farm servant
9			Alexander Greig RENNIE		
			<i>Born</i>	15 Dec 1867	
			<i>Place</i>	Barthol Chapel, Tarves	
			<i>Married</i>	28 Aug 1891	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Died</i>	7 May 1937	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Occup.</i>	Motor mech'c; haulage contrctr	
10			Annie McCULLOCH		
			<i>Born</i>	11 Sept 1872	
			<i>Place</i>	Glass, Banffshire (part)	
			<i>Died</i>	17 Jun 1894	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Occup.</i>	Domestic servant	
		20	Margaret CONNON		
			<i>Born</i>	1837-39	<i>Place</i> Fraserburgh
			<i>Died</i>	3 Jun 1900	<i>Place</i> Dyce, Aberdeen
					<i>Occup.</i> Domestic servant
		21	David McCULLOCH		
			<i>Born</i>	24 Mar 1836	<i>Place</i> Glass, Banffshire (part)
			<i>Married</i>	22 Jun 1861	<i>Place</i> Rothes, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	1 June 1895	<i>Place</i> Drumblade, Aberdeenshire
					<i>Occup.</i> Farmer
		22	Jane THOMSON		
			<i>Born</i>	chr 1841	<i>Place</i> Rothes, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	after 28 Aug 1891	<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>
		23	Robert BAILLIE		
			<i>Born</i>	23 Aug 1856	<i>Place</i> Prestonpans, East Lothian
			<i>Married</i>	27 Sept 1878	<i>Place</i> Prestonpans
			<i>Died</i>	15 Oct 1929	<i>Place</i> Prestonpans
					<i>Occup.</i> Fisherman/merchant seaman
11			George BAILLIE		
			<i>Born</i>	11 Nov 1878	
			<i>Place</i>	Prestonpans, East Lothian	
			<i>Married</i>	29 Dec 1899	
			<i>Place</i>	Aberdeen	
			<i>Died</i>	8 Dec 1949	
			<i>Place</i>	Haddington, East Lothian	
			<i>Occup.</i>	Fisherman	
12			Margaret McLEOD		
			<i>Born</i>	1881	
			<i>Place</i>		
			<i>Died</i>	13 Jun 1916	
			<i>Place</i>	Aberdeen	
			<i>Occup.</i>	Fish worker	
		24	Mary Bird CUNNINGHAM		
			<i>Born</i>	12 Dec 1857	<i>Place</i> Prestonpans
			<i>Died</i>	7 Feb 1947	<i>Place</i> Prestonpans
					<i>Occup.</i>
		25	Norman McLEOD		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	after 23 May 1916	<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i> Gas worker; tinsmith (j'man)
		26	Isabella McKAY		
			<i>Born</i>	1854	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	23 May 1916	<i>Place</i> Aberdeen
					<i>Occup.</i>
		27	William DUNLOP		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>		<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>
13			Robert Yuille DUNLOP		
			<i>Born</i>	25 Mar 1863	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Married</i>	30 Dec 1898	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Died</i>	1926-7	
			<i>Place</i>		
			<i>Occup.</i>		
14			Georgina MELLIS		
			<i>Born</i>	30 May 1869	
			<i>Place</i>	Dundee	
			<i>Died</i>	2 Oct 1952	
			<i>Place</i>	Glasgow	
			<i>Occup.</i>		
		28	Mary YUILLE		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>		<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>
		29	George MELLIS		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>		<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>
		30	Mary BARNETT		
			<i>Born</i>		<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>		<i>Place</i>
					<i>Occup.</i>

He was Staff Surgeon of HMS *Orion* during the Egyptian war in 1882, and Staff Surgeon of HMS *Orontes*, and served during naval and military operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884. He then became Medical Officer in charge of transports, and accompanied the Royal Marine Battalion in action at Tamanieb, where he was mentioned in despatches for his admirable arrangements for the sick and wounded. His service was recorded in the *British Medical Journal* of 1901.

In 1902 he was appointed Companion of the Honourable Order of the Bath, and in 1905 he became Deputy Lieutenant of Banffshire and a Justice of the Peace. He also had sons who served in the military. He died at Ruthven, Ballindalloch on 14th July 1910 and is buried at Tomintoul Parish Church (stone 52).

Memorials 129 and 150 in Kirkmichael Parish Churchyard are dedicated to the Gordon family, who are recorded as farming the lands of Croughly as early as 1560, and were known as the “Croughly Gordons”.

One of those commemorated on stone 129 is the much-decorated Lieutenant General William Alexander Gordon, C.B., who was born at Croughly on 21st March 1769 and died at Nairn on 10th August 1856. The monument is of grey granite and is most unusual, as it has sculpted above the inscription a crossed sword and scabbard and the Companion Order of the Bath and two medals with clasps enclosed by two vines with leaves. Both medals relate to the Peninsular wars, which took place between 1807 and 1814.

One medal has the word NIVE on the clasp, which was a battle that took place in 1813, where he was wounded and had his horse shot from under him. The other medal, which has inscribed “TO THE BRITISH ARMY”, has two clasps, one of which is inscribed FUENTES D’ONOR, and the other which is inscribed VITTORIA. Gordon was severely wounded in his left arm at Vittoria, and again in the right foot in another battle at Haspaine on 14th February 1814.

On the adjacent grave slab is carved a claymore, and around the hilt in Old English characters is written “I Fought”, which certainly sums up his illustrious military life.

Gordon’s career is further documented in his obituary, printed in the *Nairnshire Telegraph* of 20th August 1856, which gives a very vivid description of the man himself, his funeral, and his life in the military and in Nairn, where he spent the latter part of his life.

As well as many men serving with the military at home and abroad, some went as far afield as North America. One such man, James Cameron, is stated on his gravestone to have died in 1851 aged 34 years. For “15 years he served The Hudson Bay Company Service in the wilds of North America, esteemed and respected by all who knew him, red men as well as white men”. The Hudson Bay Company records him as going out to work as an apprentice clerk in 1836, rising to become Chief Trader in 1849. He is buried in Kirkmichael Parish Churchyard (stone 41). Unfortunately, James was accidentally shot in the neck in 1849 and had to suffer an arduous journey to Montreal for treatment. They could not remove the bullet, but he made a remarkable recovery and returned to his post; but those who knew and worked with him noted that he was far from well. He was replaced as Chief Trader and sent home, sailing from Boston to Liverpool in October 1850. Longing for home, he made his way north and died in January 1851.

Also successful abroad was John Grant, whose parents are commemorated on a stone in the same churchyard. John practised law in the UK before going out to Jamaica to assist

in the running of plantations there, acquiring land for himself before becoming an assistant judge, then Chief Justice of Jamaica from 1783 until 1790. He kept notes of the cases before him while he was Chief Justice, and published some of these before he died. The rest were published by his family after his death. The Harvard Law School Library purchased this folio volume of 18th-century law reports in 1903; it is one of only a few known copies and is classed as rare. They have now digitised the information, and it is available online.

Thanks go to Alistair Gordon, great-great-grandson of Lt General William Alexander Gordon, C.B., who allowed me to include some of his research.

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Bananas, Chocolate and an Unusual Name

Coming across this photograph on the *Silver City Vault* website recently, I was reminded of that exciting day in 1946 when a relative came into the house shouting that bananas were in the shops again. Somebody managed to buy a bunch, and I was given a bit to sample. I was only 9, and food rationing was still in force from the War, but I was unimpressed. What was all the fuss about? I remained uninterested in bananas for decades, until one of my own sons introduced me to sliced banana on Weetabix. Yes, I approved of that – and still do.



However, what interested me more as a growing teenager with a passion for history was the name of the shop that had sold us the bananas in 1946: George Pegler & Co. Pegler seemed not to be a local or Scottish name, and I wondered where it had come from. It was, however, included in *The Surnames of Scotland*, the authoritative work by Professor George Black which had first been published in that very year, 1946. The relevant entry reads: “Recorded in Aberdeen. Probably of recent introduction from England.” The professor was correct about England, but the name had been in Aberdeen for a century longer than he suggested.

George Pegler was already active as a young man in Aberdeen by the 1830s. On 5th March 1833, he was married in the city parish to Jane, daughter of David Lamb, a salmon fisher. Other Lambs, who were fleshers, acted as witnesses. Over the next 18 years, he fathered 11 children, from Agnes in 1833 to Henry in 1852. Sadly, Jane died in October 1852 aged

only 40, probably exhausted, just after Henry's birth. This left the children motherless and George facing a potential crisis. He was assisted by his older daughters, by a teenage servant he recruited – and from April 1857 by his second wife, Margaret McGillivray, a young widow (31) who was already an experienced spirit dealer in the city. On that occasion, George informed the registrar that he had been born in 1813 in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England, son of the deceased Joseph Pegler, a clerk, and his wife Anne Trock (another unusual name). Later, George's sons believed their Pegler grandfather had earlier been a seaman, which would fit with Portsmouth as their father's birthplace.

In Aberdeen, and in business terms, George was very enterprising and successful. Noted as a "carter in Aberdeen" when he married in 1833, he was styled "merchant" later that year and specifically "fruit merchant" a few years later. He acquired business premises, including warehousing, in central Aberdeen (on the Regent and Weigh House Quays and at Union Street and Buildings), and partnered a fruit and vegetable merchant in Peterhead. As well as selling home-grown produce such as Glenberrie potatoes, apples, blackcurrants and other fruit and vegetables grown in the local market garden run by his eldest daughter, he imported huge quantities of fruit, especially apples and pears, plums, onions and tomatoes – and some wine too. Ships docked regularly from London, Jersey, Vivier and Bordeaux in France, St Petersburg and other Baltic ports, from the Canary Islands, Spain, Portugal and Sicily with cargo for George Pegler & Company.

As early as 1847, he had won royal recognition on his appointment as official Fruit Purveyor to the Queen in Aberdeen. Thereafter, he diversified and extended his range from his main business to chocolate and confectionery (especially Rowntree's and German chocolate), fruit trees, flowers, and even property management and sales. Business success also meant the family could afford to live in large and comfortable houses. In 1849, they moved from a fairly new "beautiful and highly-finished cottage" in South Constitution Street to the grand Arthurseat House on the north bank of the Dee in Old Machar parish which contained many rooms, including five main bedrooms, additional servants' quarters and also "extensive walks, Pleasure Grounds and Fancy Shrubbery". It also had 16 acres which the family now farmed.

On his second marriage, and with some elder children moving out, they downsized back in the city, into his wife's property. George took on her spirits business too; and three further children, two girls and a boy, were born. Quite soon, they bought Kepplestone House in the Rubislaw district. Some of the company's premises were also utilised for Ladies' and then General "Saloons", where the local citizenry and nobility were encouraged to enjoy iced delicacies, coffee and varieties of chocolate. Very refined and civilised. George remained at Kepplestone House until his death from heart disease on 19th October 1880. He was by then among the best-known and respected merchants in the city and shire. In addition to the company and "real estate", he left a substantial legacy of £4,488.

Widow Margaret, whose father had been a grocer, ran the company for the next two years before handing over responsibility. George's family were numerous but now headed in different directions. The eldest, Agnes, now owned some of the family property, in particular the market garden, where she was assisted by youngest brothers James and Henry. Son Joseph had died as a youngster; and William had gone south to the Borders, where he married Robina Walker in 1867 but died in 1870. George, the eldest son, had become a merchant navy apprentice on the *Lord Franklin*, aged 16. Much later, he appeared in Glasgow, where he merged into the huge numbers of unskilled workers there.

Sons John and David had seen their futures elsewhere too. John had also gone to sea, an apprentice on the vessel *Kaffirland* which traded with London, then returned home to marry Ann Hay, daughter of a postal worker, in 1871. He remained in the merchant navy thereafter. David had married in Montrose, where he had been posted as a civil service telegraph linesman. His work later took him back to Aberdeen and then to Shetland. The three other girls all married well. Ann, George's second child, became a domestic nurse to children of the Leith-Hay family at the stately Leith Hall, Kennethmont. Her employer had been a senior army officer, MP for Elgin Burghs, and Governor of Bermuda. She then went briefly to England as a lady's companion before marrying an Edinburgh tailor, John Hutchison, in 1865. Jane was married in 1859 to John Taylor, a busy Aberdeen ropemaker who employed more than two dozen in his workshops.

The last daughter to marry was Mary, born in January 1845. A bright young woman who had won prizes as a teenager at school (as had several of her siblings), in May 1870 she married Alexander Clark, son of another Alexander who had an established grocery business in the city. Shortly after their marriage, Alexander took over his father's business and did well. So, in 1882, it seemed to George's widow that Alexander was the right person to entrust with the running of George Pegler & Co. when she stepped aside. And, supported by wife Mary, he did so for the next 23 years.

The company continued to thrive during the Clark era. In addition to its wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable business, it became an avowed rather than incidental florist and confectioner. A wide range of floral items were sold, from bouquets, buttonholes and wreaths to imported cut flowers from France. The saloons expanded. The Ladies' Saloon was retained, offering "Superior Ices", strawberries and cream and even more chocolate (as agent for the German royal family's chocolatier). In the general saloon, a wider range of refreshments was now available, and the character was perhaps more of a tea/coffee-room-cum-café than before. It was open every day from 11am until 6pm. Chocolate was very important to Pegler's, and in 1894 chocolate mechanical toys were introduced, their "Dancing Figure" reported as "irresistibly funny!" The retail arm sold tinned fruit as well as fresh, and Rowntree's special Emperor chocolate in boxes big and small.

As years passed, so did members of the founder's immediate family. His widow Margaret suffered from chronic Bright's disease and went to stay with a daughter and family in Oban. From there she went to Montrose, where she died in June 1912. Eldest daughter Agnes, who had earlier run the market garden, had also suffered from chronic Bright's disease and died from it in June 1891. In her will and testament, she insisted on a gravestone for herself and her mother, and left an annual allowance to youngest brother Henry. Henry and James left the market garden, moved to Glasgow very briefly in 1881, and decided to have a holiday in London, but suffered tragedy on their return journey. James fell overboard from the London to Granton (Leith) steamer on which they were travelling, and was drowned (30th June 1881). Henry later opened a fruit shop of his own, but within a couple of years took ship to Australia (1887). He married and later moved on to New Zealand, where he was eventually to die near Christchurch in February 1937.

Jane, the ropemaker's wife, had died aged 52 in August 1890. Ann was with her tailor husband and a grandson in Inveresk, Midlothian, in 1901, but her death is not registered in Scotland. George, the eldest son, appears to have left his lodgings in Glasgow and, in middle age, to have emigrated, like Henry, to Australia. A "Mr G. Pegler" is on a number of Australian shipping passenger lists between 1914 and 1918. He clearly still enjoyed life

on the waves. David had left the telegraph service, become a fully qualified electrician, fathered children, later retired, and died in Stirling in May 1925.

The couple who had run the family business since 1882 both died in the very early 20th century. Mary suffered a stroke or possibly brain haemorrhage in early November 1902 and died on the 11th. Alexander had lost a huge support, and less than three years later he too died, at home on 6th August 1905 of angina, daughter Amy beside him. He was 61.

Losses in the founding family did not dent George Pegler & Co., however. The company maintained its business, its place in the market and its popularity with Aberdonians for another half-century and more. It was awarded another royal warrant by King George V and survived two World Wars, offering a hungry public delights such as artichokes and “English Vegetable Asparagus – Fresh Daily” in the latter stages of the Great War, and bananas, as we saw, after the Second World War. During the difficult 1930s, its by now two Union Street shops and its “Royal Nurseries” at Springhill (telegraphic address *Strawberry Aberdeen*) battled through the Depression, offering fortunate customers the thrill of huge Jaffa Oranges and at least six varieties of home-made jam. Pegler’s could also claim to be the biggest florists in the city.

Two decades after the Second World War, however, the adverse effects of changes in society and commerce started to take their toll on retail establishments in Aberdeen and elsewhere, and by 1976 the *Evening Express* could report: “One obvious change over the years has been the character and style of individual shops. Many local traders, such as Collie’s, Pegler’s, Shirras Laing and other long-established businesses have been replaced since the late 1940s by the larger chain stores.”

Pegler’s in fact moved into Chapel Street, but on a much reduced scale. The great days were now over, even for the major league. Esslemont & Macintosh, Watt & Grant and Falconers were all under threat, and Isaac Benzie’s was now owned by House of Fraser.

A final thought. How long was it before young loons and quines stopped meeting their “dates” at Pegler’s corner, a common practice for several years, and chose to meet elsewhere instead? And did anyone else waiting there for their “blon” or their lad, or just eyeing up the talent, wonder about the unusual shop name as they waited? Probably not.

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The Tarland War Memorial



In Journal 168 (November 2023), our cover marked the annual armistice anniversary with a photograph of the striking war memorial in Tarland Square. It is a moving piece of sculpture in its own right because of the contemplative expression on the downturned face of the young, kilted soldier, his hands resting on his inverted rifle. We noted that the Aberdeenshire Council website credits the statue as the work of Robert Morrison, a stonemason with the Aberdeen firm of E. Morren.

We also wondered who the subject or model might have been, but print deadlines didn’t allow time to take the matter further at that stage. However, Tarland folk are justifiably proud of their memorial, and the online archive of the Cromar Local History Society has several

photographs and postcards of the statue, as well as an article by Gillian Needham (details below) which shows that this was a popular style of memorial.

Gillian Needham suggests that “there is evidence that the soldier who was the model for the Tarland statue was Company Sergeant Major George Augustus Browse, 6th Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, part of the 51st (Highland) Division. Born in 1885 in Linlithgow, he was 16 when the family moved to Spynie, near Elgin. A cycle mechanic, he enlisted in January 1915. He was awarded the Military Cross for his ‘conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty’ during the Battle of Arras in April/May 1917.” Her article contains a photograph of George Browse and photographs of the other memorials, so it’s well worth reading the article in full.

However, the artist is even more interesting than the conjectured model. Robert Warrack Morrison was born at 3 School Lane, Woodside, Aberdeen on 13th April 1890, the son of William Morrison, a journeyman tailor, and Mary Warrack. The couple had married on 30th June 1879 in Old Machar (*Scotland’s People*). The Cromar History Archive has further information about Robert Morrison’s life and work in a fascinating article by Douglas Kynoch that appeared originally in *The Leopard* magazine. Douglas Kynoch is Robert Morrison’s grandson and was able to learn details of his grandfather’s life and work from close family members and from David Morren Jr, Robert’s employer. Once again, it’s worth reading the article in full; details of how to access it are given below.



Robert Morrison worked for Morren & Co. of Holland Street, Aberdeen, as a monumental mason so, despite his obvious talent as a sculptor, he never enjoyed the prestige and public reputation he deserved as an artist. Along with his older brother John, also a stone-cutter, he worked for a time in Barre, Vermont but returned in 1914 to Scotland, where he worked in a Glasgow munitions factory. He returned briefly to America after the war, but his old employer David Morren asked him to return to Aberdeen, as there was now a demand for war memorials. Morren recollected “a granite wreath his young cutter had effortlessly turned out in a lunch-hour, confirming his belief that he had a craftsman of rare talent on his staff”. Indeed, Bob Morrison was known in the trade as “the king of carvers”, able to “carve the figure of a soldier in six weeks, as opposed to the usual six or nine months”.

His first memorial with the pensive soldier was unveiled in Rhynie, Aberdeenshire, in May 1920. This one wears a greatcoat, puttees and military cap rather than the jacket, kilt and Glengarry hat used on the Tarland version. Gillian Needham’s article lists at least seven other Scottish locations where the plinth commemorating the local fallen is surmounted by a similar figure – a kilted soldier with downturned head and rifle. These include: Port Ellen (Islay), Taynult (Argyll & Bute), Oldmeldrum (Aberdeenshire), New Elgin (Moray), Tough (Aberdeenshire), Ballachulish & Glencoe (Lochaber) and Portsoy (Aberdeenshire). These were unveiled between July 1920 (Oldmeldrum) and November 1923 (Portsoy). The Tarland memorial was unveiled in July 1921.

Stonemasons did not sign their work, so it may never be possible to say who was responsible for all those memorials, though the similarities among them are certainly striking. We do know that Morrison was responsible for all but one of the memorials from the Morren yard (Kynoch). We know his work was incorporated in commissions involving other firms such as JR Henderson & Sons (New Elgin memorial) and Stewart & Co. (Tarland memorial). He also worked on other memorial designs, such as an obelisk (Clatt) and Celtic crosses.

Douglas Kynoch's researches show that Morrison's work was deployed as far afield as the north of England and Wales. The commissions for elaborate memorials dried up in the late 1920s, and Morren & Co. and their talented sculptor, who had become the works manager, turned their hands to more run-of-the-mill work.

Robert Morrison had married Ann Philip in 1914, and together they had seven children. Annie died aged 40 in 1930, and Douglas Kynoch relates that the previously sociable Bob, known among family and friends for his piano-playing at their social gatherings, took the loss hard and became rather withdrawn until his death in 1945, aged 55.

Douglas Kynoch is himself well known to north-easters for his work as a radio and television presenter and his commitment to preserving and promoting Doric.

The Cromar History Group website (<https://www.cromarhistorygroup.org.uk/>) is easy to navigate and will take you to both their journal articles and their online archive. To access *Echoes*, click on the "Publications" pull-down menu on their home page. To reach the search box for the Archive from the home page, follow the links under "Archive" to "Searching the Archive", and then "Search the Archive" or use this link information to go there directly: <https://www.search.cromarhistorygroup.org.uk/search.php>. (Links are live in the PDF version available on the Society website.)

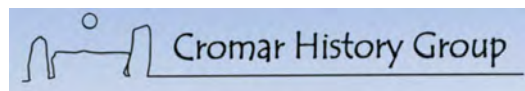
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Our thanks also go to the Cromar History Group for permission to quote from their publications.

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Journal Team

—oOo—

George Campbell, Shipmaster: A Family Mystery

My great-grandfather George Campbell faced a serious accusation in court, and his family suffered for it, as he seems to have been disowned by his own brother. George's son George Spencer Campbell was killed in 1917 when his son, my father George Charles Lee Campbell, was almost two, so my father never knew his own father. He knew there were

relatives in Aberdeen, because his Aunt Winnie used to visit them. He was not aware of relatives in Cardiff, as none were ever mentioned. He knew nothing about his grandfather apart from that he was from Aberdeen and had been a ship's captain. He had asked his grandmother and aunt, but all that was said was: "He lost his ship. It was a disgrace. We don't talk about it." For many years it remained a mystery. But eventually I was able to piece together the story.

George Campbell was born on 19th November 1838 in Aberdeen and followed his father and other family members in going to sea. He served an apprenticeship (1853–57) on the Aberdeen-registered ship *Clarinda*, then gained his Second Mate certificate on 9th November 1857 while living at 23 Chapel Lane, Aberdeen. That was still his address on 21st January 1860 when he was awarded the First Mate certificate.

George became Master of the Aberdeen-registered ship *Forth* on 14th November 1863 and was awarded the Master's certificate on 21st March 1864, paying £2. His address was 27 Marywell Street, Aberdeen. The *Forth* sailed regularly between Aberdeen and Newcastle. After 1864, George captained ships to North and South America, Greenland, Iceland, the East Indies, the Mediterranean and the European coastal trade. In 1878, he was sailing from Cardiff on the *Charles Goddard*; then the *Alliance* for France, Spain and Portugal; then the *Chatsworth* in the Mediterranean during 1879 and 1880, also from Cardiff.

George was married on 18th September 1880 in Cardiff to Amelia Heath Lee. They had two children: Winifred Barbara, born 13th September 1882, and George Spencer, born 7th November 1885. On 3rd April 1881, the night of the census, George and Amelia were boarders in the house of Daniel Bider, boatbuilder, at 41 Fisher Street, Longbenton, Northumberland. The new steamship *Gironde*, built for the Cardiff Steamship Company, had been launched on 26th February 1881 at Wallsend, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and on 16th April George took charge of her as the Captain.

The *Gironde* was in the news in December 1882. At 4am one morning in the Bristol Channel, a Norwegian barque was run down by a steamer from London. The steamer rescued the Norwegian crew and transferred them to a Bristol pilot cutter.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the screw steamer *Gironde* belonging to the Cardiff Steamship Company (Limited), on her passage from Bordeaux for Cardiff, took the men out of the cutter off Ilfracombe and brought them on to Cardiff. The rescued men expressed themselves very grateful for the kind and humane treatment they received from Captain Campbell on board the *Gironde*.

In 1883, George became master of the newly built steamship *Coumoundouros*. The ship was wrecked in February 1887, and the inquiry suspended George's certificate for 12 months. Several newspapers reported on the loss. The *Western Mail* had this:

Loss of the steamship *Coumoundouros* of Cardiff. Information has been received by Messrs Hooper, Campbell and Co., Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff of the loss of the steamship *Coumoundouros* on the 11th inst. The vessel was proceeding from Genoa to Carthage in ballast when she struck on the rocks off the Spanish village of La Escala. In a letter which has been received from the second engineer, it is stated that two of the sailors met with serious accidents – one breaking his arm and the other sustaining a compound fracture of the leg. Those of the crew who were uninjured made their way to the foredeck. For eight hours the crew had to stand exposure to the waves, and to add to their pitiable sufferings it was snowing heavily the whole time. The steward of the ship,

who for hours had held out bravely, at last went raving mad, but the engineers were fortunately able to get him ashore, and, according to last advices, it is hoped that, owing to the kind treatment he is receiving at the hands of the poor Spanish fishermen, he will soon regain his reason. With the aid of the Spaniards, the whole crew were eventually able to reach land, most of them almost naked; but the fishermen did their best to clothe the crew on their arrival at the village, which was about three miles from where the steamer stranded. A surveyor has been despatched to view the wreck. The crew will probably leave for Cardiff by steamer from Barcelona or Marseilles, but the time of their embarking is not yet known. The *Coumoundouros* is a boat of 1,334 tons gross register, carrying 1,750 tons cargo.

An inquiry into the shipwreck was held, and the conclusions were reported in the *Western Mail* on 28th April 1887:

The Wreck of the Cardiff Vessel *Coumoundouros*. The Master's certificate suspended for twelve months. On Wednesday morning the adjourned Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the *Coumoundouros*, of Cardiff, near Cape Sebastian, on the 11th of February last, while on a voyage from Genoa to Carthage was held. The case had been adjourned to enable the captain to attend, he having been too ill to give evidence at the last hearing. When the ship stranded the captain was below and the mate was in charge. – Dr Vacheil, who appeared for the captain, called Mr D. E. Jones, ex-mayor of Cardiff, and several other witnesses with a view of showing that the captain was not in the habit of drinking to excess, and that he was suffering from inflammation. – The mate, who had charged the captain with drunkenness, was re-called and maintained the truth of his story. – The Court found the charge of drunkenness to be unsustainable, but considered that the captain had not handed over the charge of the vessel to the mate when he went below, and thus had not navigated the vessel – which was greatly out of her reckoning when she struck – with proper and seamanlike care. They suspended his certificate for twelve months. The mate was reprimanded for the lack of zeal and energy he had displayed.

George's physical Master's certificate was lost with all his effects and the ship's papers at La Escala, so he applied for a replacement in March 1887, and it was issued in April 1887.

George died three months later, on 30th July 1887. His gravestone had a long inscription:

G. Campbell Master Mariner late of Aberdeen who died July 30th 1887 aged 48

Weep for a seaman honest and sincere

Not cast away but brought to anchor here

Storms had overwhelmed him but the conscious wave

Repented and resigned him to the grave.

In harbour safe from shipwreck now he lies

Till time's last signal blazes through the skies

Refitted in a moment shall he be

Sail from this port on an eternal sea.

His wife Amelia and daughter Winnie are in the same grave, and the stone also mentions his son Spencer: "Killed in action at Arras, April 21st 1917".

George was the registered owner of a lair in King Street cemetery in Aberdeen. The inscription on the stone there reads:

Erected by George Campbell in memory of his father William Campbell who died 5th Oct. 1855 aged 58. Also of his mother Barbara Diack who died 21st Nov. 1867 aged 70.

On the other side of the stone: “The said George Campbell who died at Cardiff 30th July 1887 aged 48 years Interred in New Cemetery there”.

George’s widow was left with two young children (seen here in 1888). Amelia had to take in lodgers to support them all until the children were old enough to work. By 1901, Winnie aged 18 was a pupil schoolteacher, and Spencer aged 15 was a clerk in a colliery office and studying accountancy at evening classes. Winnie often visited the relatives in Aberdeen, and Spencer also went there to enlist in the Gordon Highlanders in 1916. The only clue we had was a postcard dated 1914, from Winnie in Aberdeen, c/o W. Hurry, 39 Salisbury Terrace.



When Winnie died in 1939, the informant on the death certificate was W. A. Campbell, cousin, with an address in Cardiff. Back in the 1970s, I had obtained the certificate but tried and failed to trace him, so this was another mystery. If he was present at her funeral, he didn’t make himself known to my father, who inherited everything from his aunt.

George had two sisters: Barbara, who married Master Mariner Andrew Hurry; and Mary, who married Master Mariner Alexander Linklater. Their families were the relatives in Aberdeen. There was also a brother, James, born in 1842. He qualified as first mate in 1868, but after that he disappeared from the records. This is still an unsolved mystery.

George’s elder brother William Campbell was born in 1833 in Aberdeen. He began his apprenticeship in 1847 and qualified as a Master in 1857. He sailed to South America, Australia, and many other places. He married in 1855, but his wife died in 1874 and there were no children.

After this, William disappeared from Aberdeen, and I did not trace him again until a clue came to light in 1992 when I was clearing my parents’ house after they had both died. Among the old books was a Pitman’s Shorthand Dictionary, which very nearly went to the charity shop – but luckily I looked inside. Written there was “William A. Campbell”; a date, February 5th 1898; and two addresses, Marling School, Stroud, and 6 Oakfield Street, Cardiff. Could this be W. A. Campbell, the informant on Winnie’s death certificate? If so, the cousins had been in touch, and the book had passed from one to the other.

The census for 1891 had William, aged 57, a steamship manager, born in Aberdeen; his wife, Mary Anne, 39; and children Alice Mary (12), Louisa Barbara (11), William Archibald (8) and George Douglas (7). They were living in comfortable circumstances with a resident servant. Marling School was at the time a fee-paying boarding school.

Following the death of his first wife in September 1874, William had continued as master of the *Resolute*, but left the ship in 1876 to settle in Cardiff. He was married again there in 1876. His occupation at the time was Master Mariner. He was then briefly a partner in a wholesale drapery company; then the formation of the Cardiff Steamship Company was announced in the *Western Mail* on 22nd October 1880. By January 1883, Horatio Hooper and William Campbell were joint managers of the Company. By 1885, they were partners in the company Hooper, Campbell & Co. (Limited). This was the company that owned the steamship *Coumoundouros*, wrecked in 1887 when George was the master.

William died on 9th November 1894 in Cardiff. He was aged 61 and was a ship owner. According to his obituary, Mr Campbell was a native of Aberdeen. In partnership with the late Mr Hooper, he founded the Cardiff Steamship Company Ltd and practically became one of the pioneers of the Cardiff import trade. The firm owned a fleet of five steamers. Mr Campbell was well known and respected by all who knew him, and his genial disposition made him many friends. He left a widow and four children.

Obviously his genial disposition did not extend to his brother's widow and children.

In 1994 after a lot of research, I contacted Mary Campbell (born 1920), a daughter of William Archibald Campbell. I got a letter back saying she was aware that her grandfather had a brother George and he had had a daughter Winifred who died unmarried, but she was absolutely certain George had no son or other family, so we could not be related. I copied marriage, birth and death certificates and sent them to her. I got a postcard back saying she would pass the documents on to her nephew, but I never heard anything more.

jeanniecampbell@talktalk.net

Jeannie Campbell No. 19593

—oOo—

Finding the Family at Blairshinnoch Farm, Banffshire



Mary Mead (no. 23856, in Australia) posted this photograph on the ANESFHS Facebook page on 1st July 2022: "This is probably an impossible task, but I wonder if any members might have any idea where this photo may have been taken. It has a possible date of 1895, but I feel that may be a little too early. The location is thought to be Blairshinnoch Farm, Banffshire, but there's a slight possibility that it might be Mill of Durn."

It's such a beautiful clear photograph, and it sparked more than 50 comments on our Facebook page, so it would be a shame if no clues emerge. But, if nothing else, it's a good example of how the Society's social-media community tries its best to chip away at brick walls of members and non-members alike. Mary has joined the Society since then!

Regular contributor, Jennifer Jolly, checked the Valuation Rolls for 1895 (available on the *Scotland's People* website) and was able to confirm that a James Forbes was indeed a tenant in one of the crofts at Blairshinnoch, with a number of Pirie neighbours and with Jacob Chalmers listed as proprietor.

Preliminary research confirmed that the present occupiers thought this does look like Blairshinnoch. Among other good leads, Alison Smith (no. 7779) noted: "Blairshinnoch itself is a substantial farmhouse on a slight ridge about two miles SW of Banff. There is also Mill of Blairshinnoch in the hollow below, as well as West Blairshinnoch and Little Blairshinnoch. All are in the landward part of Banff parish. Mill of Durn is in a hollow about 1½ miles south of Portsoy." David Paterson (no. 6475), whose Pirie antecedents came to the area in the late 1750s, provided a further historical note: "Blairshinnoch is a larger farm NNE of Little Blairshinnoch on the road to Mill of Blairshinnoch. Little Blairshinnoch is midway between Easter Baldavie and Hilton Farm. Little Blairshinnoch occupies the site of the 18th-century Blairshinnoch crofts before their amalgamation." It was a helpful reminder that many of the little crofts and cottar houses were gradually incorporated into larger fermtoons (farmtowns), which earned the landowner bigger rents.

And that's not quite the end of this story. Another contributor, John Wood, had suggested looking up family weddings that might have taken place around this date. It seemed to ring a bell. David Paterson and his cousin William Lemmon (no. 455) have been in communication with the Journal Team recently about their Pirie ancestors from Alvah. Among other family stories, they have newspaper accounts of James Pirie and Mary Chalmers, who celebrated their Golden Wedding in June 1920. One newspaper account claimed that "a company of relatives and friends to the number of over one hundred gathered in the spacious mill at Little Blairshinnoch" to honour them. The couple moved some years later to Kirkside, Alvah, and held an equally splendid Diamond Wedding celebration in a marquee in 1930 (for a photograph, see Journal 167, p. 34).

William had a look at this photograph and responded: "Sorry can't help with the people in your attachment; however, I can follow up with trying to establish the photo's location. Blairshinnoch is on Banff OS Sheet Ref. 640 621 just down from Hilton School cross roads ... A school pal of mine Jimmy Forbes is the tenant at Rettie farm nearby and is a grandson of one of three brothers who all farmed separately in that Boyndie area way back." So William, whose wife Jean is also from that area, checked with his local sources and even drove around the area to compare the modern farmhouses with the photograph, since the building seems to have quite a distinctive gable end. He sent us a lively account of the day out:

Fine weather prompted us to go out about yesterday, tying in a trip to Banff on our way to the FHS meeting on DNA at Elgin. I took Jean to her old stamping grounds of Beenie, yes Boyndie to non-locals, and had a tour round a few o' the fairm toons. We visited Blairshinnoch and Little Blairshinnoch amongst others, including Durn Mill and Durn Mill cottage, and the photograph of the family you sent was certainly not taken at any we visited. Blairshinnoch is a big toon and the oldest part of their house is

dated well before that, as per the photograph from Mary Mead. No luck yet, but I will be asking some o' the auld foggies I ken to see if they can help.

All of this shows just how much good, relevant information can be gleaned, but alas it still did not provide a definitive answer, and it is a very good reminder that if you do have old family photographs, you should jot down all the names, dates, sources and relevant details you have on the back. Otherwise the information will certainly be lost.

Mary Mead is now trying to untangle the two or three Forbes family lines who seem to be mixed together in different trees. "It's really confusing me, but I am just hoping to work out who belongs where – probably an impossible task!" She adds:

I've been working on this for years and seem to just end up in circles. I know that my Grandfather's father was Peter Forbes, and in 1880 was living at Tullos, Chapel of Garioch (Kirk Session Records, Cairney). I was contacted by a DNA match whose family goes back to a Janet Riach and Hugh Mackie. This lady has extensive records and suggested I look at her tree for the Peter Forbes who was born in 1838 at Cluny. So I built a hypothetical tree and switched my DNA to it, resulting in 16 DNA matches that have Hugh Mackie (b. 1770 Rothes) and Janet Riach (b. 1776 at Bellie) as the earliest identifiable common ancestors! So, that's where I am at present.

I collected the Blairshinnoch Forbes family along the way, and I think there are some errors in the trees I looked at on *Ancestry* since there were two different men called James Forbes born in 1826 in Banffshire, one at Fordyce and one at Allanbuie. They seem to be totally mixed up in a lot of trees. Don Maudsley's tree is one of them, however, he is happy to share his photos, which are from his grandmother, Jessie Ann Forbes (b. 1875 Banff) – she married a Dugald McCallum and they emigrated to Canada. Jessie Ann's parents were James Forbes (b. 1850 Linksfield, Banff) and Jessie Ann Longmore (b. 1848, probably Fordyce). James's parents were Peter Forbes (b. 1765) who married Ann Keith, and they are in my tree. Don thinks Peter Forbes's parents were Peter Forbes (b. 1797 Grange) and Ann Reid or Smith. So that's where we have left it – and now, I think I've been looking at the wrong Peter Forbes, although I do have some very small DNA links to people from Don's tree.

One of Don's photos is overleaf. He says it is James Forbes, millwright, and Mary thinks it must be James Forbes (1850–1906), who married Jessie Ann Longmore.

Mary concludes: "I do hope that we may get some answers. Meanwhile, I am continuing to research Peter Forbes from Cluny/Monymusk/Chapel of Garioch. I have looked at Tullos, and I am thinking that this is quite likely. All my Forbes people seem to have been Ag Labs or Cattlemen – including my own father and grandfather." So, if you may be able to help Mary (forbesmead531@gmail.com), she'll be delighted to hear from you!

* * * * *

We asked Kate Clark (no. 914) for her thoughts on the wedding photograph. Kate always stresses that she is an enthusiastic amateur – but she is very knowledgeable, and we always find her insights helpful. Here's what she had to say about the photograph:

I'd guess this was taken around 1908. I checked my dated family photographs, and the fashions and hair seem about right for that date. I like the "loon recumbent", as his collar and knickerbocker suit (with plus-four trousers) match one of mine perfectly. The arrangement of the people doesn't give much away. The parents of the bride and groom

are not on the left and right as we might expect. Obviously the very elderly seated gentleman is someone important.

The plain unadorned frame definitely places it as early 20th century. It's a pity there isn't a hint to identify the photographer or studio, but I think it became fashionable to declutter the frame and focus on the photo. Perhaps it was like unlabelled designer clothes: the cognoscenti would know. If you didn't know, you couldn't afford it!

Men

All the men appear to be wearing fabric-matching three-piece suits. The suits worn by the older, less fashion-conscious men have short lapels, high fastened waistcoats and square-cut hemmed jackets with many buttons. The younger men favour longer lapels with matching deeper-cut neckline on their waistcoats. Their jackets appear to be three or four-buttoned with curved (cutaway) corner hems. The younger men wear watches with decorative fobs and chains across their waistcoats. Some men have handkerchiefs in their top pocket. This became fashionable in the late 19th and early 20th century. Although one or two men are wearing wing-collared shirts, the majority wear more modern turned-down collars with four-in-hand ties. It is notable that several men wear white or pale ties, which is something I have seen in my own family wedding photos around this date. The amount and styling of facial hair seems age-related, with the older men favouring full beards while the younger men are either clean shaven or sporting natty moustaches. It appears that some men have a flower in their left lapel button, which is correct etiquette.

Women

It is most striking that none of the women are wearing hats. I wonder if the photographer suggested this so everyone could be seen. No matter; this allows us to see the women's best efforts at back-combing to add volume to the hair and arrange it in a wide, high roll around the face, as was the fashion at the time. The style supported the huge hats, which they are not wearing! Note the seated girl wears her hair long – but even she has back-combed the front in a roll for the occasion. It is hard to make out whether any of them are wearing or holding flowers, which I would expect.

As befits the time, location and climate, the dress styles are very modest. Necklines are all high with jewellery or frills. Each costume is most likely two pieces, a decorative blouse and either matching or contrasting plainer-cut skirt with no gathers or bustle at the waist. Their fashionably tiny waists are highlighted by a cinched-in belt or the contrast created by the meeting of the blouse's fullness and smooth lines of the skirt.

Assuming that the most fashionably dressed female is the bride, she has generous, softly puffed sleeves with very long cuffs, accentuating her tiny waist. Sewing patterns for these styles were advertised in the *Aberdeen People's Journal* from c. 1906–8.

Her dress is light-coloured. It *could* be white, as newspaper reports from 1906 state that Miss Roosevelt in New York and Lord Haddo's bride in London both wore white or ivory satin. But I think it is unlikely that this bride's dress would be white, as it would limit when it could be worn again, and would be a rather extravagant waste of money for ordinary brides at that time. Although ... I do have a family photo dated 1908 when the bride (the refined sister) definitely wore white, while her sisters who married either side of this date wore their best dress – not white. Every family has one!

The older women favour less spectacular bishop's sleeves, reasonably full to a neat wrist cuff. As to colour, it is impossible to guess what colours are worn. The darkest colours could be anything strong and rich – green, purple, blue etc. but not necessarily the funereal black which they appear in a black-and-white image.

As to who is who in the photo: there is no question that some thought has gone into the arrangement of the party. I think it is a bride and groom who have been seated as a courtesy to the very elderly man beside them, who would have looked odd as the only seated person. It seems unusual that there are only two children in the photo. Given the ages of the group, I would have expected more children.

In the middle row, I assume the tall, bearded man and lace-bedecked older woman to be a couple, possibly parents of the groom or bride. The central older woman, standing proud, could be the surviving parent of either bride or groom. The young man and woman behind the old man may be the best man and bridesmaid, that is to say, the witnesses. Many of the people seem to be standing as couples, but the grey-bearded man in the back row looks out of place.

It is a very interesting photo bristling with date clues from the fashion, but with no names or location it is tantalising to speculate who the people are.

Thanks, Kate!

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Elaine Petrie No. 22949

Kate Clark adds: “I have seen other early 20th-century photographs of humorously posed agricultural labourers holding the tools of their trade. I’m assuming this is that genre. I think the flat cap bunnets became popular in the 1920s, but it may have been earlier. The middle person must be the wright, but it’s unclear if the other two are sons or apprentices. I wonder what the man on the right is examining?”

[We think he might be making a corn dolly with some heads of barley, but we’re open to other suggestions from our readers. – *Editorial Team*]

Believed to be James Forbes (1850–1906), millwright or wheelwright, who married Jessie Ann Longmore.

Reproduced here by kind permission of Don Maudsley and Mary Mead, whom we thank.



A Fourth-Class Grave?

Some years ago, while rummaging through the “All Items £1” box on a second-hand bookstall, I came across a little booklet with a big title:

Trinity Cemetery
ABERDEEN
BELONGING TO
THE MASTER OF HOSPITAL
OF
THE SEVEN INCORPORATED TRADES OF ABERDEEN

REGULATIONS AND TABLES OF CHARGES

1901

The “Trinity” name originated with the mediaeval Trinity Friary, which lay between Aberdeen’s old market place, The Green, and the quayside, its memory now perpetuated in Trinity Lane, Trinity Street and Trinity Quay. At the Reformation, the friars’ lands passed into the possession of the Crown, and in 1631 were purchased by Dr William Guild, later to be Principal of King’s College, whose name is remembered in nearby Guild Street. He subsequently donated the property to the Seven Incorporated Trades, the umbrella organisation of the ancient Craft Guilds of Aberdeen, who established their headquarters there under the name of “Trinity Hall”. In the 19th century, they moved to a Neo-Gothic building at the east end of Union Bridge, and in the 20th to a Brutalist pile on Holburn Street, taking the “Trinity Hall” name with them each time.

In 1846, the Guilds lost their former powers to regulate trade, but continued to operate as “friendly societies”, providing support to members grown old, and to widows and orphans (via the “Hospital” in the title). Having, over the centuries, amassed considerable wealth, they needed ways to invest this for the benefit of members – and, as the ancient kirkyards were proving too small for the burial needs of a rapidly growing population, one popular scheme was to operate cemeteries, that is, burial grounds independent of the Church.

Trinity Cemetery was first laid out in the 1880s. The main entrance is at the top of Erroll Street, in the shadow of a hillock identified on older maps as “Gallows Hill”. It is guarded by a gatehouse in Scottish Baronial style, complete with turret and crow-stepped gables, and extends across ground sloping away to the east, as far as Park Road, where there is a back entrance. As first laid out, the cemetery consisted of curving paths linking 13 irregularly-shaped sections, identified on plans by the letters “A” to “O” (omitting “J”, and also “N”, of which more later), An extension laid out in the early 20th century on land immediately to the south added sections “P” to “T”, with lairs in rectilinear rows, and an annexe was opened more recently on the far side of Park Road. The cemetery is now operated by the Bereavement Services Department of Aberdeen City Council.

The Regulations mentioned in the booklet’s title seem largely designed to maximise the control and protect the revenues of the “Master of the Trades Hospital”. All operations within the cemetery (such as digging graves) are to be carried out by cemetery employees, who are forbidden, on pain of dismissal, to accept gratuities. Lairholders may (at their own expense) have monuments erected, but only after “a drawing and specification of what is proposed shall have been submitted to and approved by the Master of Trades’ Hospital or his Factor”. Significant fines will be levied on lairholders for any failure to

keep their graves tidy, and non-payment of these will result in the lair reverting, without compensation, to the “Master of the Hospital”. All disputes “shall be disposed of by the Master of the Trades Hospital whose decision shall be binding and final” – so, judge and jury in his own cause!

At the back of the booklet is a Table of Charges:

TABLE OF CHARGES.							
CLASS.	Prices of Right of Interment in Private Lairs.	INTERMENT FEES.				CHARGES FOR DRESSING LAIRS.	
		Of no age, and under 1 year old	From 1 to 7 years of age.	From 7 to 14 years of age.	Above 14 years of age.	ANNUALLY.	IN PERPETUITY.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CLASS I., . . .	7 7 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 16 0	1 0 0	0 5 0	3 15 0
„ II., . . .	6 6 0	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 18 0	0 5 0	3 0 0
„ III., . . .	5 5 0	0 8 6	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 16 0	0 5 0	3 0 0
„ IV., . . .	4 4 0	0 7 0	0 8 6	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 4 0	2 5 0
„ V., . . .	3 3 0	0 6 0	0 7 0	0 8 6	0 12 0	0 3 0	1 15 0
„ VI., . . .	2 2 0	0 5 0	0 6 6	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 2 0	1 15 0
VII.,	0 10 0	0 12 6	0 15 0	1 0 0

Full-sized Graves will be made 6 feet deep; extra depth, 2/6 per foot for new graves, and 5/- per foot for deepening graves where Interments have taken place.
 A Charge will be made for removing Railings and Headstones, when necessary to do so.
 Charge for excavating foundations for Monuments same scale as Adult Interments.

The first thing that strikes one is that the “Right of Interment in Private Lairs” is available in six different price brackets, from “Class I”, costing £7-7-0, down to “Class VI” for a mere £2-2-0. The charges are denominated in pounds, shillings and pence but actually represent prices in guineas – that is, multiples of £1-1-0, a designation often used (for example by tailors and hoteliers) to suggest a luxury product. There is also an unpriced “Class VII”, of which more later.

The “Right of Interment” was precisely that. The grave plot was exclusively yours, but to have anybody actually buried in it, you had to pay a further “Interment Fee”, which varied by class of lair and by age of the deceased. To have that lair maintained (or “dressed”), there was a further graduated charge. This could be paid annually; or, against payment of a lump sum, the lair would be looked after “in perpetuity”.

A charge would also be made for deepening a grave – that is, temporarily exhuming the existing occupants, excavating further at a cost of 5 shillings per foot of additional depth, and reintering the original tenants, thus leaving room for further burials on top of them. And, while lairholders already had to bear the cost of having any monument made and set up, they might find themselves paying the Master of Trades’ Hospital an additional charge for any disturbance caused by its erection.

As well as the Regulations and Tables of Charges, the booklet contains a Certificate of Right of Burial. This is dated 23rd March 1904, and assigns ownership of lair 344A in Section C in the cemetery to a Mrs John Henderson. On her lair, which lies not far from

the cemetery entrance, is a small heart-shaped granite stone with the inscription: “*In loving memory of John Henderson died 22nd March 1904 aged 70 years*” – presumably Mrs Henderson’s husband. The lair is listed as belonging to Class IV, which sounds a bit downmarket; but it appears to be a normal-sized plot, and, in fact, lairs in all parts of the cemetery appear to be much the same size. So, what difference would you note if you splashed out on a lair in Classes I, II or III – or had taken the more economic option of a lair in Classes V or VI? This turns out to be a surprisingly difficult question to answer.

In search of clues, I consulted the burial records for the original 13 sections, which are now held by Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives. These records are incomplete – but one of two surviving ledgers, a “Register of Proprietors”, does at least give names and addresses of lair owners, as well as the class of the lair and date of purchase.

From a survey of this ledger, two things emerge: firstly, that Class IV was actually the most popular choice, accounting for over 40% of all lairs; and secondly, that there is no very obvious rationale in the distribution of the various lair classes among the different sections of the cemetery. The higher-priced lairs are more often found in the upper part of the cemetery, near the main entrance, with more of the lower-priced lairs further down the hill; but most sections have a mixture of lair classes.

The one exception is a section along the northern wall, which contains all the pricey Class I lairs and none of any other class. Such an arrangement looks, at first glance, traditional – in older City burial grounds, sites at the boundary walls were more expensive and often marked by large mural monuments taking up several lairs’ widths. But at Trinity, the Class I lairs are no larger than those in other sections, and the monuments are ordinary free-standing headstones, indistinguishable in size or style from those in other sections.

In fact, some of the grandest monuments – obelisks, weeping angels, elaborate crosses – are found in a small circular section near the gatehouse at the entrance to the cemetery, as shown here. But it turns out that these were not the most expensive lairs, being a mixture of Classes II and III. So, quite what the Class I lairholders were getting for their seven guineas remains a mystery.

There is a further mystery concerning the unpriced Class VII listed in the Table of Charges. This is explained by a paragraph in the Regulations: “*Persons who have not*



obtained the right of burial in a private Lair may obtain the privilege of Interment in unpurchased ground upon payment of the dues applicable thereto". This slightly opaque wording designates what is otherwise known as a "common" grave, where one would be interred, not with other family members, but alongside whichever strangers happened to die around the same time, and without any form of monument. The mystery concerns the location of these graves. As the lairs were not purchased, they do not appear in the Register of Proprietors, so I next tried the only other surviving document, a ledger labelled "Index – Trinity Cemetery Aberdeen".

This looks, initially, like a record of burials, with an alphabetical list of names linked to Section, Class and Lair – but there are problems. The most obvious of these is that the entries are undated, which is less than helpful if we are trying to identify individuals. And, on closer inspection, it appears the Index lists lairs in only a few of the original 13 sections of the cemetery, principally "H" and "K" – although it does show lairs in a "Section N", which does not appear on the cemetery plan! The lairs in Section N are all assigned to "Class VII" – the unpurchased or "common" graves. A final oddity is that, while some of these entries show both surname and forename, many give only surnames, followed by either "(Infant)" or "(SB)".

There is one possible clue to the location of Section "N". The most likely meaning of "SB" is "stillborn" – and, while most of Trinity Cemetery has gravestones shoulder-to-shoulder, there is in the north-east corner a sizeable triangular area with none. None, that is, apart from a rough boulder with the inscription: "*In Memory of the Stillborn Babies*". So, this area is almost certainly "Section N". Not all "Class VII" entries are labelled "(infant)" or "(SB)", some showing both a surname and a given name. So, were some adults interred among the infants and stillborn?

It will be clear that locating an individual burial in the older parts of Trinity Cemetery could be difficult. But, as most lairs, apart from those in "Section N", seem to bear some sort of memorial, the inscriptions may prove helpful (bearing in mind, of course, the old warning that "the bones may not match the stones"). ANESFHS holds "Unpublished MIs" for Trinity, covering all the original 13 sections apart from "K"; and these can be viewed on the Society's website (<https://anesfhs.org.uk/>) via the "DataBank ... Memorial Inscriptions" link – although you must be logged in to the site as a member to view them.

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Gavin Bell (MI Co-ordinator)

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—oOo—

Anderson Family Rumours

Forty years have passed since Dad and I sat down one winter's evening and drew up a family tree. Scribbling on the back of an old poster, I recorded around 200 names (mostly men!) and numerous dates and farm locations, and listened to stories of broken hearts, infant deaths and not-so-secret liaisons. I was completely amazed at his ability to remember kinship details. We joked that we were probably related to any Anderson still living in the Logie Coldstone/Tarland/Migvie area, given that James Anderson (born around 1783 in Logie Coldstone) produced at least six generations who mostly stayed in the Howe of Cromar. It never occurred to me then that there may also have been a story Dad did not tell.

I joined ANESFHS in 1983 when I was living in England, and took Scottish holiday opportunities to trawl graveyards, do formal record-searching and enjoy the Aberdeenshire countryside. Before long, I was back living in the North, progressing a career under my maiden name and giving Anderson as a middle name to both my daughters. Dad was delighted when I named my youngest Morven after the hill of his childhood.

A few short years later, early signs of dementia emerged in Dad (“*he was a bit raivelled in the heid*”), and he took to phoning me in the early morning about his worries (overdue rent which wasn’t overdue, undeclared income from picking wild berries, and rejection by his real father). The latter anxiety stopped me in my tracks. It turned out that he had been told that another man (his mother’s cousin) was in fact his father, and the story had been fuelled by a significant inheritance from which he had been omitted but that his sister had gained from. We felt this was the bletherings of an old man, and placated him as best as we could – but it gnawed at him until the day he died.



My grandparents James Coutts Anderson (1887–1969) and Isabella Elizabeth Coutts (1893–1960) on their wedding day, 15th March 1912 at Tarland

In 2022 I retired – and, among a long list of activities I planned to do, going back through the family tree in a systematic manner was high on the agenda. As a present (to myself), I joined Ancestry.com and did a DNA test with traits reporting. My nearest and dearest laughed ... all that money to tell you that you are 95% Scottish (mostly Aberdeenshire), have dark hair and dark eyes and have the sprinter gene (still waiting to be expressed!). Well, summer is far too nice to sit inside at the computer, so instead I thought it was time to visit some of the more elderly cousins. Each elderly relative I have met seemed to know the story of the suspected father, how sad it had been and how it was unspoken of in Dad’s lifetime (or so they thought).

As summer drifted into autumn, it seemed the right time to head back to Ancestry.com – and (inspired by a recent ANESFHS Journal article) I decided to explore what “Thrulines” might reveal. This analysis shows you genetic links with other living individuals who have also provided samples for DNA-testing. In two short minutes, I was looking at many biological matches with my Anderson family (*not* the cousin of rumours) and the same names recorded on that winter’s night in 1983. I reckon this is the best evidence I will ever have to show that my DNA has a good Anderson heritage! Sadly, this evidence was too late for Dad – but it was timely for the naming of my new granddaughter, who now carries the Anderson family name into another generation.

Written in memory of James Coutts Anderson (1912–93)

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Annie Anderson

No. 311

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

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