# HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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#### **EDITOR'S COLUMN**

The Society is always looking for new articles from members, however small, so please contribute what you can. We also accept queries and please send them to the editor for inclusion in the next journal.

**New Email Address** – Further to our new webpage – The Highland FHS has a new email for enquiries, articles etc – HighlandFHS@gmail.com.

Also any correspondence, including membership, should be addressed to: Highland Family History Society, The Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness, Highland, Scotland IV3 5SS.

**AGM** – Due to the current partial Lockdown, the AGM that usually takes place in March was postponed and it was hoped that it be rescheduled for September. However due to continuing restrictions in the Archive Centre, Inverness this again had to be postponed. We will keep you apprised of any changes at a future date.

**Committee News** – The fact that John Durham our Treasurer and Membership Secretary has tendered his resignation, means we are still looking for someone locally to join the Committee. If you feel you would like to help run the Society, please get in touch.

**Find my Past** – The Society in partnership with Find My Past – is now able to offer a discount on Membership of Find My Past – use the Code HIGHLAND2022 – this should get you a 15% discount.

**Publications** – Work is ongoing to finish the publication of monumental inscriptions from Fodderty, but those for Kirkhill and for Kiltarlity have been completed.

Kiltarlity (Old and New - Tomnacross) has over 700 stones and likewise for Kirkhill (including Bunchrew) has over 650 stones included. Both publications are available through Gen Fair. New material is also underway so keep an eye out for announcements in our May issue.

	Stuart Farrell

## James and Phoebe Inglis – Black Servants in Georgian Inverness By Eona Bell

I have been researching the Inglis family of merchants in Inverness during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The task has been made easier by the fact that the Inglises were very active in public life, and it has been possible to find information about them in various online and physical archives, including memoirs and 'family notes' written by relatives within the past century. Their activities during the 1700s and early 1800s have also been spotlighted in more recent historical research on Scottish involvement in the transatlantic slave trade, and I am grateful for the work of David Alston and Douglas Hamilton in particular for drawing attention to aspects of the Inglis family story which were overlooked in the family records.

The Inglis family had settled as merchants in Nairn by the 1600s and in the first half of the eighteenth century moved their property and business interests to Inverness. Hugh Inglis (1710-82), a Baillie of the Burgh, was the captain of a ship, the *Pledger*, sailing between Inverness, Edinburgh, London and the Continent. He married three times, and had five sons, of whom the younger four – Alexander, Hugh, John and George – left to seek their fortunes in the Americas and Bristol, along with many other young Scots of the time. The eldest brother, William remained in Inverness having inherited their father's property, including land at Kingsmills. William Inglis (1747-1801) was Baillie, Treasurer and later Provost of Inverness – in his civic role, he directed major improvements to the infrastructure of the burgh and raised funds (including donations from Highlanders active in the slave trade) to build the Northern Infirmary and Inverness Royal Academy. In his business life, he was a bank agent and partner in a grocery and wine shop, while taking a leading role in Inverness society, as a Freemason and early member of the Northern Meeting. Provost William Inglis married Isabella Sutherland Scheviz; they had no children of their own but gave a home to their orphaned nephew and nieces, the children of William's brother Alexander (1743-1791). Provost William was remembered by the family as a kind and generous uncle: he is commemorated in a portrait in the Inverness Town Hall, and a marble memorial in Old High St Stephens Church.

David Alston has written about the four mixed-race children of Provost William Inglis's youngest brother, George Inglis (1764-1846) and Susanne Kerr (?-1814), a "free mulatto" woman from St Vincent. Having spent his early adulthood as a slave-holding plantation owner in St Vincent and Demerara, in 1798 George Inglis brought his four mixed-race children to Inverness when he returned to Scotland to marry a Scottish woman, Helen Alves (1782-1876); Susanne Kerr remained in Georgetown, Demerara and never saw her children again. The children of George Inglis and Susanne Kerr were educated at the Inverness Royal Academy but left the town on reaching adulthood: David Alston suggests that they chose not to remain in Inverness because they would always be in the shadow of their father's legitimate children. Having outlived his four older brothers, George Inglis inherited the family property of Kingsmills where he lived the rest of his life as a prominent member of the town's social and business elite and father of nine sons and daughters with his wife Helen Alves. From 1797 onwards, as opportunities in the Americas declined in the progress

towards the abolition of slavery, the Inglis family turned their attentions eastwards. The next generation would largely seek employment with the East India Company, while always maintaining contact with Inverness.

My research has uncovered more information about the black and mixed-race members of the early nineteenth-century Inglis family, who were simply not acknowledged in family trees and memoirs compiled by relatives in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I have also identified two black servants - James Inglis and Phoebe James - who worked for the Inglis family in Inverness in the early 1800s.

## James and Phoebe Inglis – Servants at Kingsmills House

Many of the Inglis family and their relatives are buried in Chapel Yard, Inverness, and I was curious to note a small slab recorded as number 1948 in the HFHS list of Monumental Inscriptions at Chapel Yard. The transcription reads "J. Inglis and P H Inglis and their children: 1811". I would like to suggest that this is the grave of one or more infant children of James and Phoebe Inglis, two servants of the extended Inglis family. James was certainly black or mixed-race and it is probable that Phoebe was also.

After the death of Alexander Inglis (1743-91) following a duel in Charleston, South Carolina, Provost William Inglis arranged for his orphaned nieces Mary, Katherine and Betsey to travel to Inverness where he and his wife took care of them. In a notebook now in the Inverness Museum and Gallery, he set out the account of his expenditure on their behalf – and for their brother David Deas Inglis, whose education he had been overseeing in Scotland since 1793. He must have hoped that this money could be reclaimed once his late brother's estate had been settled in Carolina – a hope which was never realised, as Alexander Inglis had left many debts.

Three entries in William Inglis's account book must refer to two black servants - Phoebe and William – who accompanied the Inglis girls on their journey.

- On 28 November 1793 William paid £9.13.0 cash to a Captain Rey for the girls' sea passage from South Carolina to Britain, and the passage of "Phoebe and William."
- On 11 December 1793 he paid £6 cash to Mary Inglis "to pay Black William"
- July 1794 and March 1795 he bought gowns for Betsey (Elizabeth Inglis) and Katie (Katherine Inglis), and a "cloke and gown" for Phoebe

Among the 74 enslaved people listed in the inventory of Alexander Inglis's property in Charleston after his death in 1791 are a man called Will, and two women called Phoebe, one of whom is described as a "washer" in the Inglis family's town house. Phoebe was a name frequently given to enslaved women in the Americas (as an approximation of the African name Phibba or Fiba, traditionally given to a girl born on a Friday). There is no way of proving whether the Phoebe and William who sailed with Alexander's daughters were their father's slaves, but it seems highly probably that a house-slave – especially a girl or young woman who might already have cared for the young girls following the death of their mother (Mary 'Polly' Deas Inglis had died in Charleston in 1785) – would have accompanied the orphaned children as their servant on the sea voyage.

The cash payment to "Black William" may have marked the end of his association with the Inglis family, or perhaps both he and Phoebe remained as servants. They might have worked for Provost William at Kingsmills or at Aultnaskiach House near Inverness, where Katherine Inglis lived after her 1794 marriage to Dr James Robertson. Mary (1774-1850) and Elizabeth 'Betsey' Inglis (1781-1845) never married and lived together at various addresses in Inverness, including Aultnaskiach, maintaining close ties with the Robertsons for the rest of their lives.

In Mary Inglis's will, written at Inverness in 1846 she refers to "a small India chest of drawers given by our dear Brother [i.e. David Deas Inglis] to our faithful good old friend Phebe." This gift must have been made during the period from 1797 to 1811 when David Inglis was working as a clerk for the East India Company in Bombay. It seems to suggest an enduring close and affectionate relationship between the Inglis siblings and Phoebe, who is described as "faithful", surely a term applied to a servant. In letters from Mary to David towards the end of their lives, she frequently recalls events of their early years in Charleston and alludes to people they knew there during their parents' lifetimes: having been orphaned they must have retained few links to their childhood home and those which survived were precious to them.

There is evidence that this Phoebe moved on to establish a family of her own. A woman named Phoebe James married a man named James Inglis at the church of St Mary-le-Port in Bristol in 1808. Following the death of Provost William Inglis in 1801, his only surviving brother George Inglis took his wife and their children to live at Clifton in Bristol for some years before returning to settle at Kingsmills. It is possible that in 1808 James Inglis was already living in Bristol as part of a relatively large Black population there at the time, and it is mere coincidence that he shared a surname with George Inglis, who became his employer. Alternatively, he could have come to Inverness as a servant (or slave) from Demerara with George Inglis in 1798. It was not uncommon for freed slaves to take the surname of person who had previously held them.

I have found no firm evidence that this James Inglis and Phoebe James worked as servants to the Inglis family in Bristol, but in 1810, two years after their marriage a daughter, Hellen Inglis was baptised in Inverness to James Inglis who is described as "servant at Kingsmills". Interestingly, the baptism of Hellen Inglis was witnessed by Hugh Inglis and John Inglis. The only adults in the family bearing those names whom I can identify as plausibly living in Inverness in 1810 are Hugh Inglis, the black son of George Inglis of Kingsmills and Susanne Kerr, and John Inglis the 'natural son' of the late John Inglis of Savannah.

A second daughter of James Inglis and Phoebe James, Elisabeth, was baptised in Inverness in 1811, when James Inglis was described as a "vintner". The Inglis family had been in the wine trade in Inverness for at least two generations and George Inglis had become a partner – with Katherine Inglis's husband James Robertson - in the Bridge Street wine shop of Mackintosh, Inglis, Robertson and Co. The baptism of Elisabeth Inglis was witnessed by Hugh Inglis and John Colvin.

The baby Hellen Inglis died in infancy – her death is recorded on 17 May 1811 and I assume it is she who is buried at Chapel Yard, perhaps with her baby sister Elizabeth, for whom I have found no further information. In May 1814 "James Ingles a man of colour and his spouse Phebie James had a child baptised by Rev Alex. Fraser named Alexander David

Ingles. Witnesses John Fergusson and Hugh Innes." Was this child named after the father and son of the Charleston Inglis family?

James and Phoebe Inglis seem to have moved to London after 1814 and became servants to David Deas Inglis who had set up home with his wife and children in Walthamstow, following their return from Bombay in 1812. James appears again in the archive in 1820, when at the age of 33, and described as a "Negro" servant of Mr D. Inglis, he joined the East India Company as a labourer in London. He was nominated to the post by David Inglis's friend and brother-in-law William Taylor Money. Margaret Makepeace, curator of the EIC archives at the British Library writes that "In 1820 James was living at 3 Rose and Crown Court, Moorfields. He served as a private soldier in the Royal East India Volunteers, a corps first formed in 1796 to protect East India House and the Company warehouses 'against hazard from insurrections and tumults' and to assist the City government in times of disorder. James was discharged from the Volunteers in February 1828 but the reason is not given. He then seems to disappear from the surviving Company records."

A third daughter of James and Phoebe Inglis, named Phoebe Isabella or Isabella Phoebe was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1820 and baptised on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1820 at the Presbyterian Chapel at London Wall. This child died in infancy and was buried at Bunhill Fields in the City of London on 12 March 1822.

A man named James Inglis aged 43 (which would fit with his assumed age at marriage and the birth of his children) was buried at St John's Church, Wapping in 1830. I have found no further trace of Phoebe Inglis née James or of her children Alexander David and Elizabeth. These tantalising glimpses point to the experiences of some Black and mixed-race people in the Highlands and elsewhere in Britain during the early nineteenth century. Clearly their lives were precarious, and often short, but it has been fascinating to consider how closely they were entwined with the domestic lives of their Scottish-born employers.

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# Loch Torridon in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century By Don MacDonald

History is nothing without context and neither is genealogy. Interesting although individual family stories are, it helps to look at the wider picture of the community where the family was located over time. That can provide context to explain what happened to family members and importantly, why certain things happened when they did, like relocations and emigration. This then is a snapshot of a period of about 100 years from 1820 -1920 in a small community in Wester Ross, around the shores of Loch Torridon, where I come from. Over that period, it mattered who owned the estate, because the attitudes and policies of the owners had a huge impact on the people who lived there. However, events in the wider world also had a big influence, and the interaction between these factors shaped the course of people's lives. The Torridon estate through the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries had been part of the huge Seaforth Mackenzie estates, but the Earls of Seaforth had fallen on hard times, and the male line to the title died out in 1783.

With the dying out of the old clan system, new landlords bought up estates, and the old tradition of 'duthcas' (heritage) which imposed a mutual responsibility on the Clan chief to look after his people, and for the people to respond with allegiance, rentals and if necessary, military service, also died out.

Although the crofting communities of the west Highlands were geographically isolated from the rest of the country, they were not immune from events occurring in the world outside. The early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were difficult for crofting communities. With the end of the Napoleonic wars, guano began to be imported as a fertilizer, and kelp burning, which had been a major source of income, became uneconomic. Cattle prices also fell because reductions in the size of both Army and Navy meant that there were fewer servicemen to feed, and lower demand for beef.

The story begins around 1826, when the estate was sold to James Stewart-Mackenzie of Seaforth, the second husband of the Countess of Seaforth.

Most of the Torridon tenants were in arrears with their rents and in debt to the estate, and the estate was again sold in 1838 to a Colonel McBarnet, who had made his money from slave plantations in the West Indies. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, British slave owners were compensated by the UK government under the Slave Compensation Act. McBarnet had owned 430 slaves in plantations in Grenada and St Vincent, which earned him over £11,000 in compensation, equivalent to several million pounds in today's money. McBarnet used some of this money to buy the Torridon estate, but obviously had little understanding of and less interest in the welfare of the Torridon crofters. He left the running of the estate to a nephew and a factor, and there is a telling comment in his will in which he left £200 to Farquhar McBarnet who was 'now *overseer* in Torridon' This character is still remembered as one of the worst landlords ever to have owned the estate. Crofters were exposed to a perfect storm of falling cattle prices, decline in the fishing industry, and a landlord and factor who wanted to make the estate pay whatever the consequences.

In the village of Wester Alligin, when MacBarnet arrived, the tenants each had 15 sheep, 5 cows and a stirk, with enough grazing to maintain them, and enough arable land to grow crops. In 1838 there were 8 families in the village of Annat all with cattle and sheep, and even a few horses to pull a plough to till the land.

MacBarnet and his factor, Adam Currer increased rents, moved tenants off the best crofting land at Doire na Fuaran (the Field of the Well) in the village of Fassaig, to make room for sheep, and reduced the allowed cattle holding. Although there were no wholesale clearances, such as happened in Sutherland and other parts of the Highlands, 15 households were lost from the Torridon area between 1841 and 1861, 6 from Corry, and 15 from Doire na Fuaran, in Fassaig



Torridon Village – Reproduced by permission of Am Baile.

Some of the families from Doire were relocated either to Annat, which gained 6 or 7 families, or down closer to the shore at the current site of Fassaig. The tenants were first deprived of their sheep, and then their cattle were reduced to a single cow and calf. The arable land was also reduced, and Fassaig tenants who lost arable land were compelled to share some of the ground which the Annat crofters had used. The crofts at Annat are low lying, with thin, gravelly soil, and are subject to flooding by especially high tides.

The National Statistical Account for 1845 gives other insights into aspects of life in Torridon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The main communities around the lochside as now were Diabaig, Alligin, Fassaig on the north side, and Annat and Shieldaig on the south side

People's diet was based on potatoes, bread and fish, with milk, butter and cheese, but the community was not self-sufficient, and oatmeal, grain and potatoes were imported. There were no butchers, and any meat came from killing their own sheep or cattle. Croft rents

ranged from £5-9 p.a., and the daily wage for carpenters or masons was 2/6 to 3/6. The schoolmaster had a stipend of £25 plus £5 in fees, and the parish minister was paid the princely sum of £158. To put these in context £1 in 1853 would be roughly equivalent to £130-£140 today.

The years between 1845-55 were particularly hard for crofting communities, because the potato blight which caused famine in Ireland also hit the Highland crofters, and many communities were on the brink of starvation. The hidden irony of the potato famine is that landlords had for years encouraged their tenants to switch to growing potatoes as a staple instead of oats and barley. Potatoes gave a higher yield per acre, which meant that owners could reduce the amount of arable land used by their tenants, leaving more land for sheep. However, the potato variety then in common use was highly susceptible to potato blight, and when the disease struck, it ravaged the crop with dreadful consequences for the communities dependent on it.

These conditions imposed severe hardship on the crofting communities in Torridon, and for some the only option was to leave. There is a record of 48 people leaving the Torridon area for Australia in 1854, a substantial number from a small community. They embarked from Liverpool on the 'Hornet' on 29<sup>th</sup> July, bound for Geelong in Australia. Geelong was then the main port in Victoria, mainly due to its closeness to the recently discovered Ballarat gold mines.

The Ordnance Survey Name Books of 1875 are another source of information about these Highland communities. They record that there were schools at Diabaig (with an average of 45 pupils) supported by the School boards of Gairloch and Applecross. The Alligin school was a single storey thatched building with an average attendance of 60 pupils. It was supported by a society of ladies in Edinburgh and school fees. Mr Donald Connell was the schoolmaster.

Fassaig school also had 45 pupils, supported by trustees of the Free Church Education Society and by fees. Forty years on from this, in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when my mother and her siblings were going to school in Fassaig, the school rolls in Torridon had decreased to around half that number. Now, a hundred years later, there is one primary school in Sheildaig.

Fassaig had an Inn at the west end of the village, licensed only for the sale of ale and porter, with accomodation for a limited number of travellers. The Torridon area and particularly the village of Alligin was a hotbed of illicit whisky distilling (smuggling) at the time, so maybe it was felt that they did not need a spirit license! John Maclean was the innkeeper.

Fassaig also had a Post, Savings and Money Order Office. A runner took the mails to Kinlochewe on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, leaving at 9 a.m. and returning at 6. p.m.on the same day. Lack of passable roads meant that it was fairly common for mails from the west coast to be carried eastwards on foot. Fassaig to Kinlochewe is 11 miles, so it was a fair journey for the runner, but nothing to the 20 mile plus journey which a runner had to make to take mails from Gairloch to Kinlochewe along the side of Loch Maree.

In 1872, MacBarnet's heirs sold the estate to Duncan Darroch of Gourock, who was in many ways a more benevolent landlord than the much disliked MacBarnets.

Darroch's family money however, was also derived from slavery, because like the hated McBarnet, Darroch's grandfather had been a plantation owner in Jamaica. He made his fortune and returned to Scotland at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, acquiring the Barony of Gourock.

Darroch built himself a residence, Corry House just west of the village of Fassaig, and the Ordnance Survey name books from 1875 list it as a 'Mansion house in progress of building.' The 1891 census lists Darroch as living in Corry House, a retired barrister, 55 years old, with his wife Ann, and his daughters Caroline and Helen. The Corry household had a governess, seven maids and a footman, together with a Steward, James MacDougall, living with his family in the Entrance lodge. Many of these estate staff came from the Torridon area, for instance the Coachman John Maclean, a local man, lived with his wife Margaret, (my great aunt) and family in the Coachman's house.

In addition to providing employment, Darroch reversed the estate policy of putting sheep before people, allowed crofters to keep more than one cow and reinstated some of their arable land for crops. He paid crofters for work on the estate, supplied them with seed and cleared the sheep off the hill grazing. Like many well-to-do Victorians, Darroch's leisure pursuits were shooting and fishing, and in his evidence to the Napier commission in 1883, he advocated deer forests as being of more economic benefit to the Highlands than sheep farming. In 1896 the Ross-Shire Journal reported that the shooting season in Torridon had been very successful, with 29 stags having been shot, 18 of them by Darroch and his son, then a Lieutenant in the 79<sup>th</sup> Highlanders.

Even with a benevolent landlord, life was still marginal for crofting communities, and by 1883, when my grandfather was in his 20s, there were 18 houses in Annat with a population of 66, just over three people per household. Young people were having to leave, either to find work in towns or to emigrate, and both my grandfather and his brothers left. Grandfather and his younger brother went south to Glasgow, and another brother emigrated to the USA. The main employment option for young women was domestic service, either locally or in one of the cities.

The 1886 Crofter's Holdings Act, although heavily criticized then and since, gave some security of tenure to crofters, and many families took the opportunity to build new stone-built croft houses with slated roofs. The old thatched black houses were turned over to byres for the cattle. In 1886, Darroch sold the southern side of the Torridon estate to William King-Noel, Earl of Lovelace. The Lovelace family originally held the title of Viscount Ockham in Surrey, and the Earl, following the custom of many Victorian gentry, built a shooting lodge, Ben Damph House on the south side of Loch Tooridon. At about this time, my grandfather returned to Annat and set up a shop, selling boots, clothing etc to the workers employed in building Ben Damph. Darroch was a widely respected and benevolent landlord and retained the Corry estate until his death in 1910. As a mark of their respect, the men of Torridon gathered to carry his coffin on their shoulders on the way to the funeral.



Torridon War Memorial – Photo by Author.

The Corry estate was then sold to James MacDonald-Buchanan, Lord Woolavington, who had made his money from whisky. Woolavington sold the estate to another spirit manufacturer, Sir Charles Gordon, of Gordons gin fame, who owned the estate from 1924 to 1939. Both of these landlords seem to have had little interest in the estate other than for deer-stalking and fishing, and crofters were left to their own devices provided they paid their rents.

External events intervened again with the outbreak of WW1 and many of the young men of the village volunteered or were conscripted. The Torridon war memorial lists the names of 19 men and I woman who never returned from the conflict, a heavy price to pay for a small community.

The history of the Torridon community over the period of a century was forged partly by changes in the ownership of the estate and the policies of the owners, but also by other significant external events like the gradual decline in the fishing industry, the potato famine, the industrial revolution, and the outbreak of war. In many ways it was a difficult period for west highland communities and the population of Applecross and Torridon declined from around 2900 in 1831 to 1034 by 1931, starkly illustrating the effect of these changes on the depopulation of the Highlands.

# William Crow Gordon Photographer Nairn – My Family Connection By Gerald Chisholm-Mackintosh

I was interested in the article of the above title in a recent issue of the Journal as my mother Isabella Storm, lived in "Dunedin" Seabank Road, a few houses from Brixton where the Gordons lived. My mother was about the same age as Amelia Gordon (always known as Millie) they were great friends, went to the same school and the Rosebank Church, Nairn.

I first met Millie at Christmas 1945 when we were staying in Dunedin for a holiday, at that time Millie lived in Roseneath Terrace, just off Cumming Street.









Top Left – Mother outside her house Barton Way, Brackleston Bay Top Right – Hilda Dice, Millie & Mother Bottom Left – Mother & Millie Top Right – Millie with Cousin Harry & Mother, Bracklesban Bay

The second time Mrs Gordon had a sister who lived in Brixton in London she was married at a Mr Dice. They had one child a boy, Harry. As he grew up, he suffered with his chest, the Doctor advised his parents if they could, to get him out of London for the sake of his health. Well what better place to go than Nairn. By this time he was about ten years old, he was a great organiser and with Millie and my mother in tow, it was long walks, cycle rides etc. When Harry and his wife retired to Chichester we became good friends. The photographs were taken in 1968 when Millie came down to Chichester for a holiday and stayed with Harry and his wife Hilda. Harry died in 1970, Millie in 1974 and my mother in 1982.

# The Chisholm Connection By Gerald Chisholm-Mackintosh

For many years I had wondered how the name "Chisholm" became part of our family name. Sadly, my Father died when I was quite young, and it is only in recent years that I have enquired from other members of the family if they knew; probably from a female line was the general thinking.

A few years ago my wife Sheila and I decided to find out as much as we could about the Mackintosh family. I was fortunate to have had a Family Tree passed down through generattions for many hundreds of years and the fact that no-one moved more than twenty miles from Inverness made our task much easier. The research had certainly been most interesting and enjoyable.

My Great Grandfather, Donald Mackintosh, was born at Balantuim of Drumbuie in the Parish of Dunlichity. His Father, John, was a farmer and meal miller. The living was very poor and would not have enabled the family to educate their sons if it had not been for the generosity of Captain William Mackintosh of Farr. In his Will he left a large sum of money for the education of boys of the name Mackintosh who could prove their propinquity to the main cadet branches of the Mackintoshes. A copy of the Will still hangs in the entrance hall of the Inverness Academy as Captain Mackintosh had requested. By this means my Great Grandfather was able to prove his close relationship to the Holme Branch of the family and so he arrived at the Academy, Inverness, in 1828. On leaving school he became a schoolteacher. While teaching in Drumnadrochit he met Catherine McMillan of Pitkerrold Farm and they married in 1843 (See over). A year or so later they moved to the school at Mauld, Strathglass where they stayed for the next thirty-three years. During their time there they produced nine children – five girls and four boys.

The five girls were: Alexandrina, Catherine, Christina, Marjory and Lydia. We know that Catherine (who never married) and Marjory lived in Glasgow for some years. Lydia helped her Father at Mauld School until he retired. Whether any of them married locally in Strathglass area – even a Chisholm! - we do not know.

#### The four boys were:

1<sup>st</sup> – Donald – My Grandfather born in 1850. After leaving Inverness Academy he became an auctioneer and cattle dealer in Inverness and Muir-of-Ord and in 1886 started the first Auction Mart in Dingwall. He died in 1913 and my Father then took over the business.

2<sup>nd</sup> – John – Born in 1852. He went to the Inverness Academy and Aberdeen University, after which he became a Church of Scotland Minister travelling out to Calcutta and then on to Sydney, Australia, where he taught at the University for fifteen years before returning to Scotland. He died in Glasgow in 1924.

3<sup>rd</sup> – William – Born in 1860. He attended the Inverness Academy after which we think he became a schoolteacher. We know that he served in the office of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War, possibly in Inverness.

 $4^{th}$  – James Chisholm – Born in 1864. Attended Inverness Academy and Aberdeen University. He became a Doctor but sadly died on  $3^{rd}$  July 1890 at the age of 26 and is buried with his parents and his sister Catherine in Tomanahurich Cemetery, Inverness. The gravestone is still legible after one hundred and twenty years.

The Chief at the time of James Chisholm's birth was James Sutherland Chisholm of Chisholm, and I feel that if he was benevolent to Maud School this was possibly the reason that my Great Grandfather and his wife took this into consideration when naming their youngest son.

My Father was born 16<sup>th</sup> October 1890, three months after his Uncle James Chisholm died. My Grandfather having lost his young brother names my Father Donald James Chisholm Mackintosh, thereby keeping the name with the family. My Grandfather and Father both being called Donald, my Father was known to the family and everyone in and around Dingwall as "Chisholm".

## WEDDING CONTRACT OF DONALD MACKINTOSH & CATHERINE MEMILLAN

This is a transcript of the Wedding Contract. Copies of the original appear on the next two pages.

#### Pitkerrald April 22nd 1843

It is contracted and matrimonially ended betwixt the Parties following viz. Donald Mackintosh, Teacher, Drumnadrochit Parish of Urquhart, son of John McIntosh, Farmer, Drumbuie Parish of Dunlichity.

Alex McLean Carpenter Drumnadrochit binds himself as cautioner for the said Donald McIntosh on the one part and Catherine McMillan, Pitkerrald, Urquhart, a lawful daughter of Donald McMillan, Parish of Urquhart. Finlay McDonald Farmer Borhum binds himself as cautioner and full surety for the said Catherine McMillan. — That is to say Donald Mackintosh and Catherine McMillan do hereby oblige themselves to accept of each other for lawful spouses within twenty days after the date hereof, under the penalty of Forty Pounds Scots to be paid to the Kirk session. Also Forty Pounds sterling(?) to be paid by the Party falling, to the party performing, or willing to perform, his or her part of the premises, besides all skaith, damages, & expenses, which the said parties, implementing may be put to.

In witness whereof the said parties have subscribed these presents, this twenty second of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty three before these witnesses Alex Fraser Schoolmaster and Angus McDonald Borhumbridge —

Alexander McLean Finlay McDonald Donald McIntosh Catherine McMillan

Alex Fraser witness Angus McDonald witness

M.....(7) 23 April

Witnesses -

Alex McCulloch Geo McKenzie Allanton (?)

Geo McKenzie John Stewart

Lewiston (?)

# The Croy Tragedy Part 1 By Stuart Farrell

There occurred on 29 August 1903 a case of murder at Croy when William MacLaren, an Army Reservist, killed Alexander Harper Mackinnon, Farm Servant.

The incident was reported in *The Inverness Courier* of 1 September 1903 as follows: 'A Nairnshire Tragedy. Farm Servant Charged With Murder. Alexander Harper Mackinnon, a farm labourer, residing at Cantraydown Cottages, Croy, died on Saturday afternoon under circumstances which have caused the Nairnshire Police to arrest on a charge of murder a labourer, William Maclaren, who was Mackinnon's cousin, and lived with him. Maclaren was yesterday brought before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Lightbody at Nairn and emitted a declaration.

It is stated that on Saturday Mackinnon came to Inverness to meet some Glasgow friends and returned to Culloden Moor Station by the evening train, having in his possession a large bottle and two gill bottles of whisky. On his way from the station he met his cousin, Maclaren, and the two men are reported to have been on good terms as they proceeded homewards. Mackinnon is said to have treated his cousin on several occasions to a drink. On arrival at their home both men were, it is alleged, under the influence of liquor. After supper there seems to have been a difference between Mackinnon and his wife, and she went outside, but later on, hearing the screams of her son, she returned to the house, the boy calling out that his father was dead. Maclaren said, "No, no." At the door Mrs Mackinnon spoke to Maclaren, and said, "You surely have done him no harm?" Maclaren replied, "I have done him no harm. He will be all right in a minute or two." On entering the room Mrs Mackinnon found her husband lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor. With the assistance of Maclaren she placed the injured man on the bed. Finding that nothing could be done for her husband, she sent Maclaren for medical assistance. He proceeded to Inverness, a distance of ten miles, and called on Dr Macfadyen, who, on hearing the case, advised Maclaren to report it to the County Police. On this being done by Maclaren, the police informed the Nairnshire authorities regarding the affair.

In the interval Mackinnon had expired, and Mrs Mackinnon informed Mr Smith, farmer, Cantraydown. He immediately apprised the Nairnshire police, and Constable Neil, Cawdor, proceeded to the house, and also notified the authorities in Nairn. Mr Lamb, Procurator-Fiscal, Dr Sclanders and Sergeant Robertson were early on the scene and investigated the circumstances, with the result that Maclaren, who had returned from Inverness, was arrested and brought to Nairn on Sunday.

Yesterday afternoon Maclaren appeared before Honorary Sheriff Lightbody. The charge preferred against him was – "That he did on the 29th August within the dwelling house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy and county of Nairn, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, and did beat him, and did murder him." Accused, who is a tall, strong fellow, of quiet demeanour, did not seem to appreciate the gravity of his position. He was represented by Mr Alex Bain, solicitor. After emitting a declaration, he was remitted to prison pending further enquiries. In the course of the evening he was conveyed to the Inverness Prison.

A *post mortem* examination of the remains was conducted yesterday by Dr Sclanders and Dr Bremner, Nairn. It is understood that they found bruises on the head and body, thought to have been caused by a blunt instrument, and also that the unfortunate man's neck had been dislocated. Dr Wilson, Nairn, was present at the *post mortem* examination on behalf of Maclaren.

Maclaren, the accused, has lived with Mackinnon since April. He served in South Africa with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cameron Highlanders for two and a half years, and had previously been in the Soudan. He is 24 years of age. Deceased was a native of Darnaway, and is survived by a widow and five children.'

His wife, Christina Cross or McKinnon's statement gave the following information: 'I am the widow of the late Alexander Harper McKinnon, Farm servant, who resided at Cantraydown Cottages, in the Parish of Croy and County of Nairn. He came to the Farm of Cantraydown tenanted by Alexander Smith, Farmer, and my husband entered his service at the last term of Whitsunday. Before that my husband had been in the service of Hugh F. Rose proprietor of Holme Rose, at the home farm of Holme Rose. At about 11 am on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> inst, my husband came home to his dinner and appeared to be in a bad temper. I asked him what was wrong with him and he told me to go to hell. He then went back to the farm of Cantraydown saying he was going to see the Master as he wanted to go to Inverness to buy boots. He came back to the house about 12 noon and said he was going to Inverness to have a good spree to himself. He told me he had got £2 from his Master and before leaving the house he gave me £1. I told him I did not think he should go to Inverness and that I would tell his Master Mr Smith not to let him go. My husband then threatened to strike me and was prevented from doing this by the Accused William McLaren. About three weeks before we left Holme Rose the accused William McLaren who is a Reservist came to live with us and has stayed with us ever since. He was a relation of my husband I think but I do not know what the relationship was. About 12.30 my husband left the house, accompanied by son Alexander Paterson McKinnon aged 13 years and my daughter Chrissie Cross McKinnon, aged 11 years, to catch the 1 pm train at Culloden Moor Station. The Accused William McLaren was about the place the whole afternoon. About 8 pm my girl and boy came home and told me that my husband was coming along the road with the Accused William McLaren and that my husband was drunk. I went to look for them and walked along the Public Road to meet them. My husband was very drunk and was being assisted home by the Accused William McLaren. McLaren asked my husband if he was not going to give him a mouthful of whisky after taking him home. My husband replied "Not to a damned tinker like you." My husband however produced a quart bottle of whisky and he and McLaren were drinking it at the roadside. I went away and left them and after making some purchases from a travelling grocer's cart I went into the house to prepare supper for them. About nine o'clock my husband and McLaren came into the house. My husband was still very drunk and McLaren was under the influence of drink too. McLaren said to me "the old devil is on for a row" and that we would need to be nice to him, meaning my husband. They sat down to their supper which they both took; but my husband was nasty and swearing at both McLaren and myself. After supper they finished between them the whisky that was in the guart bottle. I also saw my husband put two empty gill bottles upon the table. After they had drunk this whisky the Accused McLaren got very much the worse of drink. My husband and the

Accused began to sing songs. After they had been singing for some time my husband lay down on the bed in the kitchen. The Accused McLaren then sang a song and this seemed to annoy my husband who rose and began to guarrel with him. I said they should not guarrel over a song and my husband caught me by the throat and scratched my chin. I got afraid and went out of the house. This would be about half past nine o'clock. About ten o'clock I heard my boy the witness Alexander Paterson McKinnon crying and he came to me and said that McLaren was at his father, and that the latter was lying on the floor. I screamed and ran to my door to get in. I was met in the door by the Accused McLaren who caught me and pushed me out and told me to stop outside. He told me that if I went into my house my husband would "finish" me. I said I would not stop out of the house and I would need to go into the house because he had been at my husband. He told me that he had pushed my husband and that the latter had fallen and was bleeding. He said I would get a fist if I went in and that he would lift my husband on to the bed and that I could come in then. I went in with him, into the house, McLaren went into the kitchen and I followed him. I saw my husband lying at the fireside with a pool of blood under his head. I said to McLaren "You were at my husband Willie and you have killed him." He said "Don't say that" When he said that he had a pocket knife, which was closed, in his hand. I took hold of my husband to lift him on to the bed and the Accused McLaren helped me. I noticed that my husband's face was covered with blood and the blood was pouring from his ears. I tried to get him to speak but he seemed quite unconscious. When I found my husband lying I felt his pulse beating; but I knew from his appearance that he was dying. I asked McLaren to go to Inverness for a Doctor and told my boy Alexander to go with him. When the Accused McLaren met me at the door and tried to prevent my getting into the house he seemed to be mad with drink. Every time the Accused McLaren drew his money he used to go on the spree and when he got in that state he would get quite mad and silly and did not appear to know what he was doing. He would run out of the house naked when he had drink and behave very strangely. When he was not in drink he was a guiet and nice fellow. When I asked the Accused McLaren to go for the Doctor he said he did not think there was any use as my husband was only in a drunken fit but afterwards he said he thought my husband was dead and that he had better go for the Doctor. The Accused and the witness, my son Alexander, left for Inverness about eleven o'clock. The kettle was on the fender in the kitchen and it was upset and after the Accused McLaren left I cleaned up the blood from the floor and dried up the water. When my husband was drunk he often used to say to me that I was with child to McLaren. He said this as least three times. He said this once when McLaren was present and McLaren said he was mad. My husband was about 45 years of age his father's name was Peter McKinnon, who was a Sawmiller at Darnaway, in the County of Elgin and his mother's name was Annie Bain. The Accused McLaren and my boy came home from Inverness about 11 am on Sunday 30th inst. When the Accused came into the house he told me that he had made a wrong statement to the Police in Inverness. He said that he had told them he was out cutting sticks and that he heard some of the children crying and had gone into the house and found that my husband had fallen out of the bed and got hurt. He also said that he had made my son the witness Alexander McKinnon say the same. I told the Accused McLaren as he came back from Inverness that my boy had told me that he taken the poker to my husband., He said to me that my husband had the poker in his hand and that when they were fighting he had taken the poker from him.'

Alexander Harper Mackinnon was born c1850 at Maviston in the Parish of Auldearn, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive. The son of Peter Mackinnon (Born Tain 6 April 1804 baptised 9 April 1804, to Peter McKennon & Christy McLeod, died at Golford, Auldearn 13 May 1861) & Anne MacBean (Given as Bain in some later documents) (Born at Inverness to George MacBean and Helen Robertson, baptised 28 August 1812, died at Hillhead of Golford, Auldearn 21 January 1886) who had married at Inverness on 21 January 1839 where it was stated he was a Labourer at Green of Muirton, and her address was given as the same. Their children were: Helen born 25 December 1839 at the Sawmill of Kilravock, baptised 13 January 1840 at Croy; John born c1843, Croy and Margaret born c1843, Croy, possibly twins, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive; Peter Aeneas born 20 July 1844 at Abbey Street, Inverness, baptised 31 August 1844 at Inverness; and William born c1848, Golford, Auldearn, not located in the OPR, possibly registered with the Free Church whose register for this period does not survive (He was the informant of his mother's death in 1886).

In the 1841 Census his parents were at Milltown, Croy where his father's occupation is given as Sawyer, aged 30, his wife Ann as aged 25 and Hellen aged 1. The 1851 Census finds the family resident at East Golford, Auldearn, where his father is listed as a Labourer, aged 42, wife Ann, aged 34, born Inverness, Helen, aged 11, Scholar, John, aged 8, Scholar, Margaret, aged 8, Scholar, Peter, aged 6, William, aged 3 and Alexander, aged 1. By the 1861 Census they are now resident at Wester Golford, Auldearn with Alexander being the only child still at home, listed as aged 10, scholar. The 1871 Census found Alexander listed as Soldier, unmarried, aged 20 as a Private in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders, born Auldearn in St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen. Records in the National Archives (WO12/9451) indicate his service number as 1473 stationed at Aberdeen, however his discharge papers have not survived. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders in May 1871 went to Edinburgh Castle, in 1873 to Aldershot, in 1874 to Shorncliffe, in 1876 to Dublin, in 1877 to Curragh, Ireland and in 1879 to Gibraltar. The 1881 Census shows Alexander at 17 Wilson Street, Nairn, aged 29, with occupation stated as First Class Army Reserve (Boarder), born Auldearn.

Alexander first married a Margaret Ross on the 5 August 1881 at the Free Church of Scotland, Nairn where Alexander's occupation was given as Stone-Quarrier (bachelor) aged 27 of 14 Wilson Street, Nairn, whilst Margaret's occupation was given as General Domestic Servant, aged 24, also of 14 Wilson Street, Nairn. Parents were given as Peter McKinnon, General Labourer (deceased) with wife of Ann McBean and Frederick Ross, Mason (Journeyman) (deceased) [Died 12 September 1861] and Margaret Fraser (deceased). Margaret died on the 28 October 1882 at 14 Wilson Street, Nairn of pernicious anaemia of 5 months.

He secondly married Christina Cross on 19 October 1883 at Newlands of Moyness, Auldearn, after Banns had been read in the Church of Scotland. Alexander's occupation was given as Stone-Quarrier (widower) aged 31, with Christina Cross, aged 21, occupation stated as Domestic Servant. Alexander's address is given as Hillhead of Golford, Auldearn whilst Christina's was given as Newlands of Moyness, Auldearn. Parents were given as Peter McKinnon, General Labourer (deceased) with wife of Ann Bain and Hector Cross (deceased) and wife of Christina McKenzie.

The 1891 Census listed them as resident at 31 Fraser Building's, Forres, Alexander McKinnon, 39, Farm Servant, born Maviston, Auldearn, Christina, wife, 36, John McKinnon, 6, Scholar, born Petty, Mary C. McKinnon, 2, born Petty, and Alexander P. McKinnon, 10 months, born Forres. The 1901 Census listed them as resident at Lochandunty, Ploughman's House, Petty, Alexander McKinnon, 49, Ploughman, born Auldearn, Christina, wife, 45, born Killernan, Ross-shire, (noted as feeble minded), John McKinnon, 14, Ploughman, born Petty, Mary C. McKinnon, 12, born Petty, and Alexander Paterson McKinnon, 10, born Forres, Christina Cross McKinnon, 8, Scholar, born Petty, and George Albert McKinnon, 6, Scholar, born Kirkhill, Inverness-shire.

His Death Certificate shows that Alexander, with occupation given as ploughman, aged about 49, was married to Christian Cross, son of Peter McKinnon (deceased) and Annie Bain (deceased) with cause of death given as 'supposed dislocation of neck from assault with a poker' at about 11 pm with 'no medical attendant'. Informant was an Alexander Smith, neighbour [Actually his employer]. Death was registered at Croy on 5 September 1903. Corrected entry gives age as 45, cause of death 'Injuries received when assaulted' reported by Dr Sclanders and Dr Bremner.

His widow Christian/Christina McKinnon nee Cross was born on 10 January 1862 in the Parish of Killearnan, Ross-shire to Hector Cross, Flesher (10 December 1808 – died at Ryefield, Killearnan 7 September 1865) & Christian Mackenzie (died at 51 Chapel Street, Inverness 23 October 1907) who had married in July 1858 at Inverness. On Hectors Death Certificate it is stated that his wife had formerly been married to a James Cameron. Her mother appears in the 1881 and 1891 Census at Albert Street, Inverness with her sister Mary, as Domestic Servants and in the 1901 Census at 30b Chapel Street, Inverness.

Noted in the Croy Parochial Board Minutes of 1903 that Application No.309 for Poor Relief was admitted by Auldearn, unfortunately Minutes for Auldearn Parochial Board for 1903 do not survive. She and family went to live at 30a Chapel Street, Inverness after event.

On the 19 November 1903, less than 3 months after her husband was killed, she married at the Church of Scotland at Strathpeffer, Edward John McCallum, Farmer (Born Harwick, Parish of Durness 19 August 1862 – 14 December 1940) son of Robert McCallum, Farmer (formerly a Shepherd) and Williamina Ross. The 1911 Census shows her as a visitor to her family in Rose Street, Inverness of Mary Cross, 51, Sophia Graham, 16, Eva Cross, 8, Christina McCallum, 48 and Robina McCallum, 6. Her husband Edward is listed at Shegra Lands, Eddrachilles, Kinlochleven living with his father, with their son Edward, 9 and her daughter Chrissie MacKinnon.

She died 10 August 1940 at 133 Balornock Road, Springburn, Glasgow, usual address of 65 Shamrock Street, Glasgow. Edward McCallum died at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow, with address of 3 Tarbert Street, Gourock with occupation as Watchman. Stated by her son Alexander in his statement that there was a baby aged about 2 [birth not found - was this Edward recorded in 1911 Census with step-father? Possibly adopted?]

Statements (National Records of Scotland AD15/03/116 – transcript of statements lodged in Archives in Inverness) undertaken prior to trial included the following:

- 1 Christina McKinnon (Wife)
- 2 Alexander Paterson McKinnon (Son)

- 3 Christina Cross McKinnon (Daughter)
- 4 George Albert McKinnon (Son)
- 5 Donald Mackenzie (Farm Servant, Neighbour)
- 6 Colin Mackenzie (Farm Servant, Neighbour)
- 7 Robert Munro (Farm Servant, Visitor)
- 8 Alexander Smith (Farmer, Employer)
- 9 James Neil (Police Constable)
- 10 Alexander Robertson (Police Sergeant)
- 11 Charles McDonald (Police Constable)
- 12 Hugh Chisholm (Deputy Chief Constable, Inverness)
- 13 Angus McLaren (Police Sergeant, Inverness)
- 14 Donald Mann (Police Constable, Inverness)
- 15 Alexander Sclanders M.D.
- 16 Robert Nichol Brebner M.D.
- 17 Declaration of accused
- 18 Medical Report

The initial court proceedings were held at the Castle, Inverness, were reported in the Nairn County Press & Advertiser of 3 October 1903 as follows: 'The Croy Tragedy - The first or pleading diet of the High Court of Justiciary was held in the Sheriff Court-House, at the Castle, at Inverness, on Saturday, when William MacLaren, an army reservist, was charged with murder. Sheriff Grant presided. Mr James Anderson, Procurator Fiscal, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Forsyth, solicitor, represented the accused. There were only one or two persons in the Court besides the officials and the press representatives. The accused is a tall soldiery-looking man, and did not appear to seriously realise his position. Since his arrest he has been confined in the prison of Inverness, and in the interval his appearance has somewhat altered. He has allowed a beard to grow. The charge against the accused is as follows:- "William MacLaren, prisoner in the prison of Inverness, you are indicted at the instance of the Right Hon. Andrew Graham Murray, His Majesty's Advocate, and the charge against you is that, on 29th August, 1903, within the dwelling-house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy, County of Inverness, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, farm-servant, you did assault the said Alexander Harper Mackinnon, and did beat him, and did murder him." Sheriff Grant to accused - You have been served with an indictment at the instance of His Majesty's Advocate, charging you with the crime of murder. Are you guilty or not guilty? Mr Forsyth, solicitor – He pleads not guilty to the charge of murder, but he pleads guilty to culpable homicide. Sheriff Grant - Do you wish me to record that plea? Yes, my lord. Mr James Anderson, Procurator-Fiscal – I accept the plea. Sheriff Grant – I adjourn the case to the second diet at Aberdeen on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. The accused was then returned to prison.'

To be concluded in next	issue.	

#### **Kildermorie Burial Ground Monumental Inscriptions**

The small private burial ground at Kildermorie, Grid Ref. NH 5524/7721, lies to the North end of Loch Morie and lies in the Parish of Alness.

Stones surveyed by Anne MacInnes on 19 October 2021.

- 1. To the memory of Angus MCDONALD who departed this life 25 January 1810 aged 86 years. Mary MACKENZIE his spouse who parted this life 12 May 1810 aged 65.
- 2. In memory of Ronald MCDONALD Tacksman in Kennachtach [?] Parish of Alness died 5<sup>th</sup> August 1823 aged 50 years.
- 3. Erected to the memory of Mary MCKENZIE who died at Gildermary on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1850 aged 66 years.
- 4. Walter SHOOLBRED of Wyvis born 20 June 1842 died Nov. 18 1904. Plaque To the memory of Frederick SHOOLBRED Tenant of Kildermorie 1891-1911 who died 30 April 1922 at Brighton and is buried there.

5. Alex & Isobel RIP.		
6. I R C M 1770.		
7. No inscription.		
8. I M H M.		
7. No inscription.		

# **RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY SOCIETY**

## **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS**

Status	Burial Ground	Memorials	Weight	Price
Published	Corrimony Burial Ground [INV]	154	110g	£4.00
	Invershin Burial Ground [SUT]	142	110g	£4.00
	Ullapool Burial Grounds [ROC]	576	235g	£8.00
	Kiltearn Churchyard [ROC]	830	310g	£8.00
	Glenconvinth Churchyard [INV]	154	135g	£6.00
	Laggan Churchyard [INV]	344	190g	£6.00
	Logie Wester Burial Ground [ROC]	75	115g	£4.00

# **MEMBERS' DETAILS**

#### **New Members:**

2838. Dr Barry Davidson, Lechlade, Gloucester

2839. Ms Susan Kinnaird, Redruth, Cornwall

2840. Mrs Diane Gardner, Yallambie, Victoria, Australia

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# bisbland family bistory society

Website: https://www.highlandfhs.org

c/o Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness IV3 5SS

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