

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 40, Issue 3

May 2022

CONTENTS

<i>Important News</i>	3
<i>Editor's Column</i>	3
<i>The Croy Tragedy Part 2</i>	4-8
<i>The Gardner Story</i>	9-16
<i>Miss Brodie of Lethen</i>	17-18
<i>Alexander Davidson of Drumhall, Cromarty</i>	19-21
<i>A Nairn Stray – From our Archives</i>	22
<i>Recent Publications by Society</i>	23
<i>Members Details</i>	23

©2022: Highland F.H.S. & contributors.

Cover: Edderton Church © Stuart Farrell.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>CHAIRMAN</i>	<i>Angus Bethune</i>
<i>SECRETARY</i>	<i>Stuart Farrell</i>
<i>TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</i>	<i>John Durham</i>
<i>JOURNAL EDITOR</i>	<i>Stuart Farrell</i>
<i>SYLLABUS SECRETARY</i>	<i>Jonathan McColl</i>
<i>RESEARCH ENQUIRIES</i>	<i>Judith Thomson</i>
<i>RESEARCH ENQUIRIES</i>	<i>Imelda MacDonald</i>
<i>SAFHS REPRESENTATIVE</i>	<i>Angus Bethune</i>

*All correspondence – c/o Family History Room,
Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness IV3 5SS
Please mark each item for the attention of the appropriate official*

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for year 01/09/2021 – 31/08/2022

Category	United Kingdom	Overseas	Overseas (PDF)
Ordinary	£12.00	£15.00	£12.00
Institutional	£18.00	£21.00	£18.00

Highland Family History Society
Comunn Sliinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd
Scottish Charities No. SCO15987

IMPORTANT NEWS

Due to the fact that John Durham our Treasurer and Membership Secretary is stepping down and despite appeals in our last three issues of the Journal for people to join the Committee, we have had no success. Because of this changes to the Highland FHS are proposed to be made.

It is with sad news that unless we get people to join the Committee, this issue of our Journal will be the second to last hard copy that the Highland FHS will produce. We will produce an extended Journal in August as our last print run, which will be an extended issue both as our last printed Journal and also to commemorate the Society's 40th year.

From September 2022 when memberships are due to be renewed, we will be moving to an electronic-only version of the Journal (ie PDF). We accept that this will not please all members, for which we apologise profoundly for this dramatic change, but due to various reasons first and foremost a lack of Committee members and rising costs, we have to make this change for the society to continue.

We will we hope still to be able to produce 4 issues of the journal a year, but we need articles from you, and we will continue with the production of new publications.

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 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 or to the above email.

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 – Monumental inscriptions for Kirkhill and for Kiltarlity, after a slight delay at the printers, both are available through Gen Fair. Kiltarlity (Old and New - Tomnacross) has 689 stones and likewise for Kirkhill (including Bunchrew) has 667 stones included. Also now available Monumental inscriptions for Fodderty along with the burial ground at Kinnetas, Strathpeffer (altogether over 1600 inscriptions). Again available through Gen Fair.

New material is also underway so keep an eye out for announcements in our next issue.

Stuart Farrell

The Croy Tragedy Part 2

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 proceedings were reported in the *Inverness Courier* of 9 October 1903 as follows: 'The Croy Tragedy. Maclaren Sentenced. A special sitting of the High Court of Justiciary was held in Aberdeen on Wednesday. The cases that were down for disposal were both committed out of Aberdeenshire, one a case of murder from Nairnshire, in which a plea of culpable homicide had been accepted, and the other a case of indecent assault from Banffshire. There was in consequence very little interest on the part of the Aberdeen public in the proceedings, and very few people were in attendance in the Court, of even assembled outside the Courthouse buildings, as is invariably the rule when local cases are being tried. Lord Kincairney was the presiding judge, while Mr Robert L. Blackburn appeared as Advocate-Depute, assisted by Mr Alan Carnegie, advocate. Mr W. Mitchell, advocate, was Counsel for the accused in the Banffshire case, and Mr Charles Lippe, advocate, was Counsel for the accused pleading guilty to culpable homicide. Mr Horace Slight was at his usual place as clerk of Court. Mr J. Ogilvie Kemp, advocate, was also present.

Lord Provost Walker, accompanied by Baillie's Taggart, Glass, Esslemont, and Geo. Brown, and Mr Wm. Gordon, town-clerk, were present, and occupied the Magistrates' seat on the right hand of the presiding judge. Punctually at 10.30 Lord Kincairney entered the Court, accompanied by Rev. Alexander Brown, West Church, who opened the Court with prayer.

The accused, William Maclaren, was then brought into the dock. The charge against him was that, on 29th August last, with the dwelling house at Cantraydown Cottages, in the parish of Croy, occupied by Alexander Harper Mackinnon, he did assault the said Alexander Harper Mackinnon, did beat him, and murder him.

Statement For Accused. Mr Lippe, advocate, appeared for the accused, and explained to his lordship that the accused having pleaded guilty to the crime of culpable homicide, he desired to make a statement in mitigation of sentence. There were various grades of culpable homicide, and he hoped to be able to show that the present was not in the serious grade. The accused, who was an old soldier, having come home from the South African War, went to some friends in Nairnshire, and he entered into the family of the deceased while looking for work. He lived in this family for some months, and lived on amicable terms all along until 29th August, when the deceased man had to go to Inverness on business. Mackinnon returned at five o'clock in the afternoon, and according to arrangement, Maclaren went down to the station to meet him and accompany him home. Unfortunately, when Mackinnon arrived he was very much under the influence of drink. The accused was sober, and had had no drink up to that time. Mackinnon bought a bottle of whisky, and he and accused drank a considerable amount of it on the way home. When they arrived at deceased's house at 8 o'clock they were very much under the influence of drink, particularly Mackinnon, but there was no quarrel between them, and they were still on very friendly terms. Mackinnon's wife laid supper, and they partook of it together, and consumed the rest of the whisky. All this time the accused and deceased had been very good friends, but

unfortunately Mackinnon and his wife were not on very good terms, and when Mackinnon was under the influence of drink he was apt to be rather harsh with his wife, and on this occasion several quarrels took place between them. About ten o'clock the deceased lay down on a bed in a closet off the kitchen, with his clothes on, and shortly after, his wife, who had occasion to go to the closet, found deceased there. He commenced wrangling with her, and assaulted her so much that his wife rushed from the bed closet and went to the prisoner, who was at the fireside, and asked him to go and give her husband a thrashing. Accused thereupon ran into the closet, and on his way picked up a poker lying on the fireside, and with this poker he struck the deceased several blows on the arms and shoulders, and evidently on the head. The blows, he did not think, were serious blows. The weapon itself (which he produced) – a small, bent poker, about 15 inches long, with a turned circular head) was not a very murderous-looking weapon. On receiving the blows, the deceased, from the condition he was in, fell, his head coming into violent collision with the hard concrete floor. The medical evidence showed that the immediate cause of death was dislocation of the spinal nerve, caused by the fall on the floor, and not by the blow. When accused saw that Mackinnon had been hurt, he and his wife laid him on the bed, and he went to Inverness for a doctor to attend to him. By that time, however, Mackinnon was dead. He desired to draw his lordship's attention to the prisoner's past life. He was 25 years of age, and when he was 17 joined the army. Prior to that he had been a farm servant in Inverness-shire, and he had a letter from the farmer with whom accused was engaged, stating that he lived on the farm for seven or eight years, and became cattleman. He was well behaved, and attended to his work, and was obliging and very good to his mother. When he went abroad on active service he always sent sums of money to his mother. He was of sober habits.

After leaving the farm he joined the Cameron Highlanders, and went through the Soudan, in which he gained two medals and two clasps for his services in that campaign. He afterwards served in the South African War honourably, and gained other two medals and two clasps, and was invalided home from enteric fever. Mr Lippe also read a letter from the Commanding Officer of the Cameron Highlanders, detailing the services of accused, and stating that he served honourably with the regiment, and that his only fault was that he was rather inclined to take drink.

With the actual crime itself, Mr Lippe said, he desired to say that at the time, although the accused and the deceased man were under the influence of drink, particularly deceased, the drink which incapacitated accused was drink brought by Mackinnon, that the weapon which was used, though an ugly one, was not necessarily a murderous one, that accused had no intention to inflict serious injury, that the attack was entirely unpremeditated, and that there was no malice. In the circumstances he hoped his lordship would make the sentence as consistent as possible with the plea which had been tendered.

The Advocate-Depute said the only point on which the evidence of the Crown differed from what had been said on accused's behalf was with regards to the especial cause of the quarrel between deceased and the prisoner. His learned friend had indicated that the prisoner was championing deceased's wife against her husband. He had no evidence of that; it might be so, or it might not. But the precognition he had made of the deceased's wife showed that prisoner and deceased began to quarrel between themselves. She then left the room, and had been out of the room for half-an-hour when the blow was struck. Otherwise he entirely agreed with what had been said by prisoner's Counsel.

The Sentence. Lord Kincairney, in passing sentence, referred to the indictment, which charged prisoner with assaulting deceased and killing him. The charge against him now was not one of murder. It was stated by his Counsel that he had no intention of inflicting serious bodily injury on Mackinnon.

He referred to the various points urged by Counsel on accused's behalf, that there was a quarrel between deceased and his wife, that both deceased and prisoner were intoxicated, and that the weapon used was not a murderous one, and that the death of deceased was partly attributed to the fall of deceased which was caused by the blow. With regard to the nature of the weapon used, Lord Kincairney (examining the poker) said the weapon was extremely heavy for its size, and was certainly a formidable weapon that might inflict great injury. He did not know how prisoner struck Mackinnon, whether with one end or the other of the poker, but the blow must have been a more serious one than he intended.

In the circumstances of the case, he thought he was entitled to deal with accused's case with great leniency. Of course, this was a serious case; accused had struck Mackinnon with a poker, with the result that death occurred. Prisoner himself had gone for a doctor after striking deceased, though he was unfortunately too late, and that was a circumstance in his favour. Looking to the circumstances, he did not think the crime was one which demanded a severe sentence. He there pronounced sentence of 18 months imprisonment.

Counsel for prisoner – Mr C. E. Lippe, advocate instructed by Mr James Ross Smith, S.S.C., Edinburgh; Mr C. Downie Lumsden, advocate, Aberdeen; and Mr James Forsyth, solicitor, Inverness.'

We have been requested to state, on behalf of Mrs Mackinnon, that there was no quarrel between her husband and herself on the night of his death. He did not assault her, and she did not ask Maclean to give him a thrashing. She was not in the house when her husband and Maclean had the quarrel which ended in the attack on her husband. The account of the quarrel between the men, as given by the advocate for the accused, was, Mrs Mackinnon says, incorrect in these particulars.'

A slightly contrasting report of the initial court proceedings had been reported in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* on the 8 October 1903 as follows: 'High Court of Justiciary. Sitting in Aberdeen. Alleged Murder in Nairnshire. A sitting of the High Court of Justiciary was held in Aberdeen Sheriff Courthouse yesterday. Lord Kincairney was the presiding judge. His lordship drove in a cab to the Court-House, where the heralds, in their uniform of scarlet and gold, with their silver trumpets, together with two constables, were in waiting to receive him. A large crowd of people had assembled in Union Street to see the judge on his arrival.

There was no fanfare of trumpets, and Lord Kincairney walked quietly, and without any of the usual ceremony, along the Court-House vestibule to his room in the court buildings, there to don his judicial vestments. Admission to the courtroom was strictly regulated, and apart from the gentlemen cited to serve as jurymen, there were comparatively few persons present. Mr R. L. Blackburn, advocate depute, was early in his place; as was also his assistant, Mr Alan Carnegie, advocate. The counsel were Mr Charles Lippe, formerly of Brander and Lippe, Aberdeen (who received congratulations from many old friends); Mr W. Mitchell, and Mr J. Ogilvie Kemp. Mr George A. Slight was clerk of court. Punctually at half-past ten o'clock the judge, preceded by the officer bearing the mace, entered the courtroom, his lordship's entrance being heralded by a fanfare of trumpets. His lordship was

accompanied by Rev. Andrew Brown, West Church; Lord Provost Walker, and Baillies Taggart, Glass, Esslemont, and George Brown. Mr Littlejohn, sheriff clerk; Mr Gordon, town clerk; Mr Robert Lamb, procurator-fiscal for the city; and Chief Constable Anderson were present. Rev. A. Brown opened the court with prayer.

The Croy Case. The first case called was that in which William McLaren was charged with Murder. Accused, guarded by two constables, was brought into court through the trap door leading from the cells below.'

A statement on behalf of Christina McKinnon appeared in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 9 of October 1903 – 'Letters to the Editor. The Nairnshire Tragedy. Sir, - We have been consulted by Widow Mackinnon with reference to certain of the statements made to the court on behalf of the accused on Wednesday, and in order that these allegations may be contradicted on her behalf. Our client therefore desires us to point out that the version of the lamentable circumstances as given to Lord Kincairney by the Crown is alone the correct one, namely – "That the prisoner and deceased began to quarrel between themselves. Mrs Mackinnon then left the room, and had been out of the room for half an hour when the blow was struck."

Widow Mackinnon has had grief enough and to spare over the fatal result of the tragedy, and she only desires to emphasise that the allegation of there having been any dispute between her late husband and herself is absolutely and cruelly groundless.

We accordingly ask you, in justice to our client, to be good enough to insert this letter of explanation in your columns to-morrow. – We are, etc. MacGillivray and Munro, 42 Union Street, Inverness, 8 October, 1903.'

William MacLaren's service papers on Find My Past (National Archives Ref. WO97/5428/174) indicate that he was born 1878 in Berwick-on-Tweed, but I have been unable to find his birth listed on Free BMD or Familysearch. In his statement to police McLaren stated that he was a native of Sollas, North Uist; but I have been unable to find him here either.

His Army Papers indicate he enlisted as No.3839 in the 1st Cameron Highlanders at Inverness on 1 December 1896 where he stated he was 18 years and 8 months old with former occupation as Ploughman. Described at 5ft 9½in tall with auburn hair, blue eyes and Presbyterian by faith. Next of Kin stated as Catherine McLaren (Mother), Smithton, Culloden.

Service sheet shows he served at home until 27 March 1897, then was stationed at Gibraltar until 3 October 1897, stationed in Egypt till 2 March 1900, then in South Africa from 10 October 1902 returning home on 1 April 1903, he was discharged on 23 October 1903 'in consequence of his having been convicted by civil power of culpable homicide'. Served a total of 6 years and 327 days in the Army.

Fought in the Nile Expedition of 1898 taking part in the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and in the South African War at the battles of Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittsburgh. For this he was awarded the Khedives Egyptian Sudan Medal with clasps "The Atbara" and "Khartoum", The Queen's Sudan Medal, The Queen's South African Medal with clasps Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Wittsburgh, Cape Colony and the King's South African Medal & clasps 1902. Had also been awarded one good conduct badge in December 1898. Noted that he was convicted of fraudulent enlistment into the Scots Guards as Private 1390/05 and

sentenced to 14 days imprisonment hard labour by civil powers on 21 November 1905, though location not stated. [In 1905 Scots Guards were stationed at the Tower and Chelsea, London]

Not located in 1881 Census. In 1891 Census at West Dalziel Farm, Parish of Petty, listed as Catherine B MacLaren, 48, Farm Servant Agricultural Labourer, born North Uist with son William B MacLaren, 11, Scholar, born England.

On the 4th February 1908 William McLaren went on trial at Aberdeen High Court (National Records of Scotland Ref. AD15/08/153 – Case No.1) for 'Assault to Effusion of Blood with intent to Rob and previous conviction'. McLaren had assaulted a Miss Lydia Mary Clark (41) on the Nairn to Croy Road on Saturday 16 November 1907. It was noted by the Judge that McLaren in February 1906 had been given two months hard labour for theft and in August 1907 three months imprisonment for theft by housebreaking. He was found guilty and sentenced to six years imprisonment. In the 1911 Census William is listed as being an inmate of Peterhead Prison, aged 31, occupation of Farm Labourer, born Berwick. Unknown what happened to MacLaren after he left Peterhead Prison.

Overall it seems that whether it was the song that started the quarrel between Mackinnon and MacLaren and/or his wife, no statements of witness's seem to have been read out in court or that the wife or MacLaren were questioned in court, which seemed to be over and done with very quickly. Both parties seem to have been both drunk, and by the wife's statement Mackinnon believed that McLaren was having an affair with her, and that Mackinnon had lifted his hand to his wife, which seemed he was not unaccustomed to doing.

It was stated by the wife and in the second newspaper article that MacLaren was a cousin of the victim, but I yet have been unable to ascertain what the actual family connection was. Why was his death recorded by a neighbour and not his wife, and why no mention of the children who were witnesses, especially the son who said he saw MacLaren strike his father first? That they both had served in the Army may have been the reason MacLaren was living with Mackinnon or was it because of the family connection, however whatever the reason it is unlikely we will ever know the true circumstances of the Croy Tragedy.

The Gardner Story of Fairley House, Albert Street, Nairn.

by Irene Mackintosh

My interest in this family all came about after reading a memorial stone in the Nairn Cemetery. I felt there could be a special story to tell of how two young brothers came to be in foreign lands, and maybe a connection within the family to their adventurous spirit.

In 1871 the eldest brother Robert died in the British Legation, at Peking in China aged 21 years and his brother James Alexander, a Naval Cadet, H.M.S. Trafalgar died at Haslar Hospital, aged 16 years, both dying within six months of each other. Words could not express the devastation, pain and sorrow their mother must have felt, not once, but twice in such a short time. Their parents were Ephraim Gardner and Charlotte Heriot Gardner (nee Inglis), a widow who was living in England at the time but retired to Nairn in 1898 and built Fairley, Albert Street. Unfortunately Charlotte did not live long enough to enjoy her new home as she died in November 1900.

Not a lot has been discovered about her husband, Ephraim. The F.I.B.I.S. (Families in British Indian Society) records show they were married on 11th October 1847 at St. Andrew's Church, Calcutta by the Rev. Dr. Charles. Ephraim was aged 30 an Indian Merchant and Charlotte Heriot aged 23 second daughter of James Inglis Esq., Huntly, Aberdeenshire. They were one of the last couples to be married by the Rev. Dr. Charles in Calcutta who was a Church of Scotland Minister from Glasgow, preaching in Calcutta for fifteen years.

It appears the couple did not stay long in India after their marriage as in the 1851 English Census it states that Ephraim was a lodger in a boarding house at 6 Myrtle Street, Liverpool, being supported by friends, and at the same time Charlotte appears on her Fathers Census return in Newhills, Aberdeenshire, the mother of a son called Robert, 11 months old. It makes you wonder if Ephraim had fallen on bad times, or was he suffering ill health? In the Census it states Ephraim was born in Argyll, Scotland. A second son named James Alexander was born in Wallasey Chester in 1855. In 1856 Ephraim appears to have died aged 39 years being registered in the Wirral Cheshire, Ref. Vol. 8a page 267.

Charlotte Heriot Gardner nee Inglis.

After the death of her husband in 1856 Charlotte went with her two boys to her parents' home at Fairley House, Newhills, Aberdeenshire where they were educated, Robert going on to Aberdeen University. After graduation he went directly to Peking as a student translator. Her other son James Alexander joined H.M.S. Trafalgar five years later.

Charlotte appears in both the 1851 and 1861 Census at Fairley House, Newhills, Aberdeenshire. In 1871 she is visiting along with her sister Georgina their brother James who was the Directorate Inspector of Hospital at the Royal Herbert Hospital near London. In the 1891 Census she is in Kensington in London staying at 5 Stanhope Gardens with Mary Stewart Beallis a single landed proprietrix Scotland. From her will which was written in Edinburgh in 1898 she was in the process of building her house in Nairn and was proposing to call it Fairley House. She died there on 26th November 1900.

After reading Charlottes will there was mention of a trust being made in 1878 with Charlotte receiving the sum of £50 yearly until her death, and rents of Reidstone in Kilwinning in Ayrshire which amounted to nearly another £50 yearly.

The lady who left Charlotte this disposition was Mrs. Elizabeth Burns or Gardner, her sister in law, Ephraim's sister. To find further details of Elizabeth's circumstances I sent for a copy of her death certificate to Scotlands People. It confirmed her parents were Robert Gardner (Farmer deceased) and Elizabeth Stewart (deceased). Reidstone was the name of a farm/houses, and I think it can be rightly assumed Reidstone would have been owned by Elizabeth's father. Her parents married in Campbelltown Argyll in 1797. In 1878 her Sister in Law died in Edinburgh at 51 Dick Place (Now the most expensive street in Scotland). The other beneficiaries in her will were Mr. William Malcolm of 2 George Place in Edinburgh (named as cousin on her death certificate), and his sister Miss Elizabeth Malcolm, which would include a sum of Five Hundred pounds on the death of Charlotte. In the 1851 Census for Kilwinning, Smithston House, Elizabeth and her daughter Jane are entered as being born at Ardchattan and Innishail Argyll, respectively, along with an entry for her sister Mary Gardner aged 33 years, visitor, who also was born at Ardchattan in Argyll.

The remainder of her Estate after Charlotte's death was to go to William Malcolm. Charlotte also received a handsome carbuncle brooch from her sister-in-law. After all the family had received their pieces of furniture, silver and china &c. the remainder of all articles had to go to her servant who had been with her many years along with a sum of £50. (She is entered in the 1851 Census for Kilwinning as Sarah Cameron, servant, aged 22 years from Morven, Argyllshire.) John Cameron, brother of Sarah received the sum of £100. You just wonder would brother and sister be setting up home together, buying a house and having the residue furniture from Elizabeth's estate.

Robert Gardner

His birth was on 9th July 1850. Registered as being born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. "To Ephraim Gardner from Calcutta, a son by his wife Charlotte H. Inglis, baptized on the 9th. July by the Rev James Machar and named Robert, before witnesses George Wilson Esq., M.D. and Mr. James Inglis." Robert was educated at Huntly and went on to Aberdeen University where he gained a degree in MA. He left the University as a student interpreter to China on 24th February 1869.

The following article was taken from the "Old British Legation, Peking" On the afternoon of March 26th 1861 Frederick Bruce, (the younger brother of James Bruce eighth Earl of Elgin) first minister to China to reside in Peking entered the grounds of the former Palace of Duke I-liang and the history of the British in China had begun.

The student quarters at the British Legation were in the Garden to the North of the compound. They consisted of a long building containing ten sets of rooms, five above and five below. The whole block was in the common style of architecture out there, with veranda and balcony. Each set consisted of a sitting room, fourteen by ten with a small store-closet, a bedroom ten feet square, and a bathroom. The only furniture supplied to the incoming students was a bed, a chest of drawers with a looking-glass, a wash stand, and three cane-bottomed office chairs for the sitting room.

When students joined the mess they paid an entrance fee of \$25. They would also have to pay 1s.10d. daily for breakfast, tiffin, and dinner, and were to supply all stores, such as condiments, jellies, tea, coffee. They had a separate account for wine. At times they were given a mess dinner, the largest one would be for forty men, students and guests included. On 14th October 1871 Robert died at the British Legation in China. The records of his time in China would have been transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Repository at Hayes, London. James Bruce the 8th Earl of Elgin who died in India was the father of Lady Thurlow who built Firthside and part of the promenade.

James Alexander Gardner

He was born on 19th November 1855 and baptized on 10th December 1855 to Ephraim Gardner Merchant and Charlotte Heriot Gardner and named James Alexander by F. Haggitt Rector. St. Hillary's Church Wallasey in the county of Chester. As Ephraim died the following year Charlotte returned to Scotland to be with her parents at Fairley House, Newhills in Aberdeenshire. James Alexander appeared on the 1861 Census as Grandson, male born in England 6 years old.

James Alexander went to school in Huntly and later joined H.M.S. Trafalgar as a Cadet. This ship was converted in 1869 and the following year was used as a sea-going training ship for Naval Cadets. In late February 1871 the ship arrived in Malta and on 7th March it had reported one of the cadets had contracted smallpox. On the same day the ship sailed for a cruise of the Island of Malta and was still maintaining contact with FO Mediterranean. James Alexander died in Haslar Hospital on the 5th April 1871. Was he transferred to another ship in Malta and speedily sent home to England. Smallpox has a span of 4 to 6 weeks before death can occur and it could be assumed he was the cadet with smallpox. James Alexander aged 16 years died at Haslar Hospital which in itself has a long military history beginning in 1745 and is still today a very important building.

James and Charlotte Inglis (Parents of Charlotte Gardner)

Her father James Inglis was an Inland and Customs and Excise Supervisor the son of William Inglis and Mary Brown. In 1816 it appears he was engaged as a Customs Officer Supervisor when James the first child was born in Edinburgh. Charlotte appears to have been born at Kilmore, Argyll while the rest of the family were born in Glasgow. He died on 14th February 1870 aged 92 years, of old age, at Fairley House, Newhills, Aberdeenshire. His death was registered by R. Gordon Grant Lt. 36th Regiment who was present. His wife Charlotte Gordon was the daughter of James Gordon Esq., of Little Folla and Ann McDonald. Her mother would have been 18/19 when their only son was born in Edinburgh in 1816. There is a lapse of about 5 years before the next child Mary was born. Charlottes mum died in 1860 aged 63 years. Her death was registered by R. Gordon nephew who was not present.

After extensive research it has now been confirmed that all of James's family one son and 6 daughters married in India except Margaret who married Alexander McWilliam at Gartly in Aberdeenshire.

Mary Anne - Captain Edward Lee.

On 8th June 1849 at Ferozepore, India by the Rev. Thomas J C Firminger MA, Captain Edward Lee, Paymaster, HM 10th Regiment, eldest son of the Very Rev. the Dean of

Waterford to Mary Anne eldest daughter of James Inglis Esq., Huntly, Aberdeenshire, NB. (Son) Edward Lee - 8th Nov 1855, Mortlach, Banff, Scotland. Died 18th May 1882 Capt. and Adjutant Edward Lee, 42nd Royal Highlanders, Cairo, Typhoid Fever.

Charlotte Heriot - Ephraim Gardner

On 11th October at St. Andrews Church, Calcutta by the Rev. Dr. Charles, Ephraim Gardner, Esq., to Charlotte Heriot second daughter of James Inglis Esq., Huntly, Aberdeenshire. (Son) Robert Gardner 22nd May 1850, Huntly, Aberdeenshire. Died British Legation, Peking, China 14th October 1871. (Son) James Alexander - 19th November 1854, Wallasey, Cheshire England. (Died) Cadet HMS Trafalgar - April 1871, Haslar Hospital, England. (Cause of death unknown, suspect smallpox)

Jane Gordon - Major General Lynch Stapleton Cotton.

On 20th March 1855 at Bengal Presidency Jane Gordon to Lynch Stapleton Cotton. (Daughter) Charlotte Gordon Cotton - Died 11th April 1916. (Daughter) Matilda Cotton - Died 4th December 1945. (son) Stapleton Lynch Cotton born 15th January 1860. Died 3rd May 1928.

Georgina Gordon – Robert Joynt Gordon Grant.

On 20th February 1852 At Wuzeerabad by the Rev. JC Sloggett, R.J. Gordon Grant Esq., Surgeon 9th Royal Lancers to Georgina Gordon daughter of James Inglis Esq., Huntly, Aberdeenshire NB. Surgeon Robert Joynt Gordon 9th Lancers 15th. February 1856 aged 56 years. Died & Buried Umballa. (1st. Wife Mary Towton at Bath, July 1832.) (Step-son) Col. Robert Joynt Gordon Grant. From the Nairn Cemetery 1864 Section - Sacred to the memory of Georgina Gordon Grant, Widow of R.J. Gordon Grant, Surgeon 9th Royal Lancers who died at Huntly June 7th 1905 also in loving memory of her dear nephew Captain Edward Lee, Adjutant 42nd. Royal Highlanders who died at Cairo May 18th 1883 in his 28th year. Deeply Regretted.

Margaret Henrietta - Alexander McWilliam

In 1854 at Gartly Aberdeenshire Margaret Henrietta Inglis to Alexander McWilliam. (Son) Alexander McWilliam (Son) James McWilliam (Daughter) Jane Inglis McWilliam (Daughter in law) Ella.

Joanne (Annie) - Henry Grosvenor Paynter

On 9th April 1861 at St. Johns Church Peshawur by the Rev. A. Hornburgh assisted by the Rev. GD Symonds, Henry Grosvenor Paynter Esq., Bengal Civil Service, fourth son of William Paynter Esq., Belgrave Square, London, to Annie Duna youngest daughter of James Inglis, Fairley House, Aberdeenshire NB. Information from India Office Online Records on Henry Grosvenor Paynter. Born 11th December 1833 Baptized 18th February 1834. St. Marylebone, London. to William, Barrister of Cornwall Terrace and Anne Berdmore. Haileybury 1851.

From the Armorial Families Online. Henry Grosvenor Paynter - Esq., late of the Bengal Civil Service, son of the late William Paynter, Esq., of Belgrave Square and of Camborne House, Richmond Surrey. J.P. for cos. Of Middlesex and Surrey, and D.L. for the latter County. From the Aberdeen Free Press - At Peshawar on the 9th. April by the Rev. A.

Horsburgh, M.A., Henry Grosvenor Paynter, Bengal Civil Service, fourth son of William Paynter Esq., of Camborne House, Richmond and Belgrave Square, London to Anna Duan, youngest daughter of James Inglis, Esq., Fairley House, Aberdeen.

James Inglis - Elizabeth Lucy Sibley

James Inglis (brother of Charlotte) was born in Edinburgh on the 18th July to James Inglis, Supervisor of Excise, Edinburgh and Charlotte Gordon his Spouse, had a son born and baptized on the 23rd of August following, named James Gordon the family acted as Witnesses.

From the F.I.B.I.S. records of India. James Inglis Esq., Assistant Surgeon H.M. 10th. Regiment and his wife Elizabeth Lucy Sibley eldest daughter of Capt. C.W. Sibley HM 64th. Regiment of Foot (2nd. Staffordshire) were married in Meerut on 3rd September 1845 at St. John's Church by the Rev. H. Boys/

From the India Office Records Office the birth of their son Charles James Gordon Inglis was born on 1st June 1846 at Meerut to James Gordon Inglis Asst. Surg. HM 10th Foot and Elizabeth Lucy Sibley.

From the 1871 Census their daughter Ellen Henrietta Inglis was born in 1851 in the East Indies the Punjab, Nuzeerabad. And their son Albert Gordon Inglis was born in 1863 in Sandgate, Kent.

James was MD from the University of Glasgow. Dr. Inspectorate General of the Royal Herbert Hospital, one of the biggest military hospitals in the country. The architect was Capt. Douglas Galton (later Sir) of the Royal Engineers who was Florence Nightingales nephew and cousin by marriage. She played no small part in its design. It opened its doors in 1865 and the first patients were transferred from the old garrison hospital within the Royal Artillery in Woolwich. James therefore played an early part in the history of this very famous hospital. Charlotte and Georgina were with their brother in 1871 along with his wife's stepmother Ellen Amelia Sibley who was a widow and her two half-sisters Isabella Sibley, Edith Stopford Sibley who had been born in the East Indies in Bengal and Kurrachee.

From Charlotte's will she left an estate of over £4000. It was made up of accounts within the North of Scotland Bank Ltd., Bank of Scotland Ltd. and the London & County Banking Co. Ltd. Stock in the North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Co., and the Irawaddy Flottilla Company (This company stock amounted to one-third of her Estate) From her Sister in Law's Trust she received rents of Reidstone in Kilwinning and her legacy of £50 yearly, half paid every six months. She had investments in the New Zealand Consolidated, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, London & Glove Financial Company, and in Ireland shares in rental, at Cashell in Queens County, Lisheen Taggart and Kells Middle in the County of Tipperary disposed in a will in the Irish Form on 3rd January 1889.

WILL OF CHARLOTTE HERIOT INGLIS NEE GARDNER. At Nairn the twenty first day of February, Nineteen hundred and one years. In presence of Christopher Nicolson Johnston Esquire, Advocate Sheriff of Inverness, Elgin and Nairn. Appeared John Clerk Brodie and Sons of Edinburgh, writers to the signet, and gave in the extract registered Irish Disposition and settlement underwritten desiring that the same might be recorded in the Register of

Wills &c. for confirmation purposes interns of Law, which desire the said Sheriff found reasonable and ordained the same to be done accordingly whereof the tenor follows:-

At Edinburgh the Fourth Day of December One thousand nine hundred the Deed hereinafter engrossed was presented for registration in the Books of the Lords of Council and Session for preservation and is registered in the said books as follows:- I Mrs. Charlotte Heriot Ingles or Gardner of Fairley of Nairn sometime residing at Dumcroft, Darwen, Lancashire. Widow of Ephraim Gardner sometime merchant in Liverpool being desirous to provide for the management and distribution of my means and Estate after my decease, to hereby give, grant, assign, dispose, devise, legate and bequeath to and in favour of my sister Mrs. Jane Gordon Cotton, wife of Major General Lynch Stapleton Cotton of 29, Ribblesdale Place, Preston, Lancashire, my niece Charlotte Gordon Cotton daughter of the said Mrs. Jane Gordon Cotton and David Wardlaw writer to the Signet Edinburgh, and to any other person or persons whom I may hereafter nominate and appoint or who may be lawfully assumed into the Trust nearly created, and to the acceptors and acceptor survivors and survivor of them the major number of them accepting and surviving and resident in Great Britain for the time being a quorum, and to the heir male of the last surviving acceptor as Trustees or Trustee for the ends, uses and purposes after mentioned. (The Trustees above named and to be named, and assumed and their foresaids bring throughout these presents dominated "My Trustees") and to the assignees of my Trustees, ALL and SUNDRY the whole estate property and effects heritable and moveable real and personal wherever situated now belonging or which shall pertain and belong to me or of which I may have the right of disposal at the time of my death including without prejudice to the foresaid generality, my house called or intended to be called Fairly at Nairn together with the whole writs and Title Deeds, vouchers and instructions of the means and estate heritable and moveable, real and personal hereby conveyed; But accepting always from the above written general conveyance the real or leasehold property or Estate or the shares, rights and interests in certain real or leasehold property or. In Ireland left to me by my nephew the late Capt. Edward Lee, 42nd Royal Highlanders which I have bequeathed by a separate Deed, saving, nevertheless from this subscription the rents and income and arrears of rent and income of the said property or estate in Ireland falling bylaw into my Executry Estate, and I nominate and appoint my Trustees or Trustee to be my sole executors or executor under these present (a majority in Great Britain for the time being always a quorum): But declaring always that my Trustees shall take and hold my said means and estate above conveyed in Trust only and for the uses and purposes following videlicet'- (FIRST) For payment of all my just and lawful debts including such debts if any as maybe charged on my said house at Nairn at my decease, but including debts affecting the foresaid property or estate in Ireland, deathbed and funeral expenses, and the expenses of executing this trust; and in case of my death before my said house at Nairn shall be fully completed I authorise my Trustees to complete the same, and to pay the expenses incurred for that purpose out of the Irish Estate hereby conveyed declining that my Trustees shall be sole judges as regards the nature and extent and extent of work necessary for completion of said house (SECOND) My trustees shall within six months after my decease pay and deliver the following legacies free of legacy duty vindelicit: - to my said Sister Mrs. Jane Gordon Cotton the sum of One Hundred Pounds; to my said niece Miss Charlotte Gordon Cotton the sum of One Hundred Pounds; to my Trustee the said David Wardlaw the sum of Twenty-five Pounds, and to my nephew Alexander

McWilliam my watch, watch chain and appendages (THIRD) I direct and appoint my Trustees to hold my said house in Nairn and the whole household furniture and effects therein contained or which may be purchased by me therefor, although not placed therein at my death, for behoof of my Sister Mrs. Georgina Gordon Grant in liferent for her liferent use during all the days of her life after my demise, she paying feu-duty or ground rent and all public parochial and local burdens, rates, taxes, and assessments owners as well as occupiers due in respect of the said house, and keeping the same in repair, and I further direct and appoint that upon the decease of the said Mrs. Georgina Gordon Grant my Trustees shall convey and make over the said house and furniture and effects foresaid to my said niece Charlotte Gordon Cotton or her heir's absolutely; (FOURTH) I direct and appoint my Trustees to hold the residue and remainder of my means and estate heritable and moveable real and personal hereby conveyed for the use and behoof of my sisters the said Mrs. Jane Gordon Cotton, Mrs. Georgina Gordon Grant and Mrs. Margaret Henrietta McWilliam in liferent for the liferent use all and only of my said Sisters in equal shares and to pay over to each of my said Sisters the free rents, interests, and annual income of one third share of the said residue during her life. (FIFTH) I direct and appoint my Trustees within 6 months after the decease of the last survivor of my said three Sisters to make payment of the following legacies free of legacy duty in delict to my niece Charlotte Gordon Cotton, whom failing to her issue, the sum of Five Hundred Pounds' To my niece Matilda Cotton, whom failing to her issue the sum of Five Hundred Pounds; To my niece Lucy Inglis whom failing to her issue the sum of One Hundred and Fifty pounds; To my niece Jane Inglis McWilliam the sum of Twenty-five Pounds; To Ella McWilliam wife of my nephew James McWilliam the sum of Twenty-five Pounds; To Col. Robert J. Gordon Grant the sum of Twenty-five Pounds; to my nephew Capt. Lynch Stapleton Cotton of the 8th Kings Liverpool Regiment the sum of Twenty-five Pounds and to the Minister and Kirk Session for the time being of the Parish of Gartly in the County of Aberdeen (formerly in the Counties of Aberdeen and Banff) for behoof of such poor inhabitants of said Parish as are not in receipt of parochial relief the sum of One Hundred Pounds, the interest or income of which such shall each year be distributed by the said Minister and Kirk Session in such way and manner as they in their discretion may determine; and I declare that the foresaid legacies by gurathed under this Fifth purpose if the Irish hereby created shall not rest until the deaths of the last survivor of my said three sisters; and (LASTLY) Upon the death of any and each of my said three sisters Mrs. Jane Gordon Cotton, Mrs. Georgina Gordon Grant and Mrs. Margaret Henrietta McWilliam the free or capital of the share of the residue of my means and estate hereby bequeathed to her in liferent shall be subject always to the legacies contained in my will be paid and made over to my said niece Charlotte Gordon Cotton or her heirs absolutely, but I direct and appoint that my niece Matilda Cotton to be entitled to an equal share with her said sister share or shares of the free capital of the said residue as shall fall to be paid and make over as above provide while the said Matilda is in life and unmarried; and no right in any part of the fee or capital of the said residue shall rest until the time of payment - thereof hereby provided and I promise and declare that the whole provisions of his settlement so far as they devolve upon females shall be exclusive of the fees Marti and right of administration of any husbands whom they may have married or may hereafter marry; and I hereby give and grant power to my Trustees to sell and realise the Irish Estate hereby conveyed so far as they may consider necessary of public auction or otherwise; Also power to compromise submit

and refer disputed claims competent to or against my estate, and my Trustees shall likewise have power either to continue the investments in which the Irish Funds may stand at my death or to layout and invest the Irish Funds in the purchase of government stocks and securities or Public funds or Securities of the United Kingdom or any of the British Colonies or in Mortgages or Debentures or Debenture or Guaranteed or Preference Share or Stocks in any Railway Company in Great Britain or of India Railways guaranteed by the Indian Government or in the purchase of Feuduties or Ground rent in Scotland or to lend out the Irish Funds on the security of any of the aforesaid stocks or shares or feu-duties or ground rents or on the security of heritable property in Great Britain or on the security of any rates authorised to be levied by an Act of Parliament by any Incorporated Company or Corporation in Great Britain and from time to time as they shall see fit to sell, vary and transfer such instalments and securities and my Trustees shall possess all further powers, privileges and immunities conferred or to be conferred by. On. Trustees, and I reserve my own liferent and power to alter innovate or revoke these presents in whole or in part; and I

revoke all wills or testamentary writings executed by me prior to the date of these presents saving always from such and vocation the foresaid Deed by which I have bequeathed the said property or estate in Ireland; and I dispense with the hereof; and I consent to the registration hereof for preservation whereof these presents consisting of this and the two proceeding pages with the marginal addition on page second hereof all written by Alexander William Dickson, Clerk to John Clerk of Brodie & Sons of Edinburgh, Writer to the Signet, are (under the declaration that the work "Jane" occurring in the fifth line counting from the foot of page first hereof is partly written on erasure) Submitted by me at Edinburgh of the eleventh of October Eighteen Hundred and Ninety Eight before these witnesses:- Keith Ramsay Maitland Writer to the Signet Edinburgh and James Burnfield also Clerk to the said John Clerk of Brodie & Sons Edinburgh.

Signed Charlotte H. Gardner

Keith R. Maitland Witness

James Burnfield Witness.

Extracted from the Register of Deeds &c. In the books of Council and Session on this and the fourteen proceeding pages by Assistant Keeper of said Register One work of page tenth deleted before signing Signed James Watson. Edinburgh 20th February 1901. Referred to in my Disposition of this date annexed to the Inventory of the Personal Estate of the late Charlotte Heriot Inglis or Gardner, of Fairley Nairn (Signed) David Wardlaw John L. Mounsbey JP. Written by Alexander Christie Collated by Alexander Robertson Sheriff Clerk.

So now the whole picture has been disclosed of the Gamer/Inglis families from the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth Gardner in 1797 to the death of Charlotte in Nairn in 1900 a time span of just over 100 years. Throughout each generation the story gives evidence of adventure and brave spirits in several foreign lands. A truly remarkable family.

[House renamed and appears on OS map of 1976 as 'Morar']

Miss Brodie of Lethen

By Stuart Farrell

The following was reported in the *Nairn County Press* of 16th April 1904 –

'Fatal Hotel Fire in London. Death of Miss Brodie of Lethen. Profound sorrow has been felt in the town and county of Nairn at the intelligence received on Wednesday morning of the death of Miss Mabel Brodie, third daughter of the late Mr J. C. Brodie of Lethen, and sister of Captain Brodie of the Scots Guards. Miss Brodie and her mother had just returned from the Continent on Sunday, and were living in a private hotel at Egerton Terrace, Brompton, London. Early on Monday morning a fire broke out in the hotel, and a number of the inmates, including Mrs Brodie and her daughter were rescued after heroic efforts by the Fire Brigade. Exact particulars as to how the fire occurred are not yet to hand, suffice it to say the rescued were all or less injured, and in the case of Miss Brodie the injuries terminated fatality. The following account of the fire is from a London paper.

The fire broke out on the second floor of the structure, which contained twenty-two rooms, about three o'clock on Monday morning, and when the firemen from Montpellier Road arrived on the scene with a horsed platform, they found that four of the guests had been unable to escape by the staircase, which was then in flames. The fire had also taken hold of the walls of the building, and the firemen – including men from the Trafalgar Square, Chelsea, and other stations – were confronted by whirling sheets of flame as they tried to gain an entrance. Inch by inch they drove the flames aside from the windows, and after being forced to retire several times the men entered the back portion of the burning building by means of Pompier ladders. Crossing a wide corridor on the second floor, already charred by the flames, they burst into a room, in which they found Mrs Brodie, the mother of the deceased lady, almost unconscious. They carried her through the smoke-laden corridor and down the ladders to a place of safety. From a similarly perilous position the firemen rescued Mrs Brodie's maid, Miss Annie Young; and as she was conveyed down the ladders, the crowd gathered outside raised ringing cheers.

The rescue of a third resident, Miss Margaret Birse, was affected with great difficulty on the alarm being given, Miss Birse went out on the window sill of her room on the third floor. With singular coolness and presence of mind she closed the window behind her to check the progress of the flames in that direction. Although her position was very perilous, she refused to jump into the sheet held out for her below. As quickly as possible, the firemen ran their ladders up to the window-sill, and, amid tremendous cheering from the vast crowd in the street, brought her down through the blinding smoke then issuing through the second floor window.

To continue the tale of the gallant work of the firemen, there was still a fourth rescue to be made from the blazing structure. Miss Mabel Brodie was found to be missing. Rushing up the ladders again, and entering by the top window, the firemen burst open a bedroom door and found the young lady lying on her bed unconscious. Her head was buried beneath the clothes, and only this fact had saved her from suffocation. It was a great relief to the tense excitement of the crowd when the firemen re-appeared at the window with their fourth and last rescue, and as they lowered her by means of a rope into the sheet below there was renewed cheering. The men engaged in the gallant rescue work were Firemen, Bennett, Osborne, Spencer, Lloyd, Wainwright and Henderson. Wainwright is the holder of a silver

medal for gallantry on a previous occasion. "Just one of these incidents that may happen any night," was the way in which one of them referred to the courageous rescue work. The hotel was only partially destroyed. It was believed at first that Miss Brodie would recover, but the hope was not fulfilled. The other guests are stated to be doing well.

The deceased Miss Mabel Evelyn Brodie was about thirty years of age. She was the third daughter of the late Mr J. Campbell Brodie of Lethen and Coulmony, Nairn, sometime Lord-Lieutenant of that county by his marriage in 1862, with Constance daughter of Mr E. T. Wedgewood Wood of Henley Hall, Ludlow, Shropshire. Mr Campbell Brodie, who was one of the best known public men of his time in the north, died in 1880. He was a first cousin of Sir Thomas Dawson Brodie, first and last baronet of Idvies, and maternally a grandson of Mr Stewart Souter of Melrose, Banff.

The funeral of Miss Brodie takes place today (Saturday) from the Nairn Railway Station. The remains will arrive by the 10.18 a.m. train and will be conveyed direct to the family burying ground at Lethen. We understand the funeral cortege will go at a walking pace through the High Street, and where it may be joined by friends in Nairn. It has been arranged to close business premises while the funeral passes through the town.'

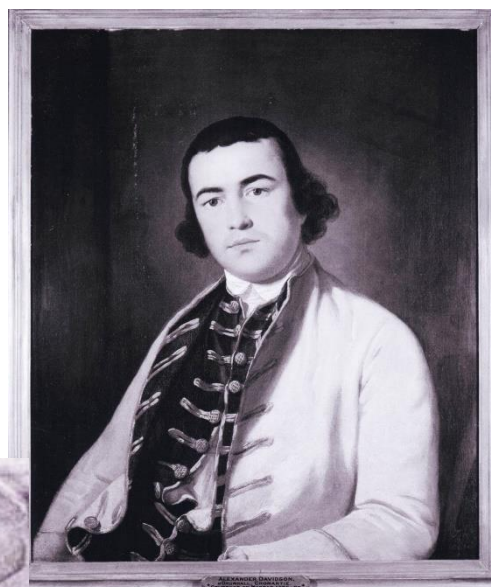
Reported in the *Nairn County Press* of 30th April 1904 of the following:

'The late Miss Brodie of Lethen – Firemen to be Decorated – The official orders of the London Fire Brigade issued on Wednesday contain the announcement that in connection with the fire which occurred on the 11th inst. at the private hotel in Kensington, and which resulted in the death of Miss Brodie, of Lethen. Firemen T. J. Lloyd and E. George will be recommended for the London County Council's silver medal for extra-ordinary bravery. It is awarded only in cases of exceptional merit. Not twenty members of the London Brigade are possessors of the coveted decoration. The two firemen made their way to Miss Brodie's bedroom in a stifling atmosphere, and at great risk to themselves brought her out. She subsequently died from shock. It may be stated that among those who possess the distinction is our good townsman, Mr Whaley, of the Bridge Street Cycle Works, who has distinguished himself as a fireman in the London Fire Brigade, having been instrumental in saving two lives in a fire at Caledonian Road in April 26, 1897, which earned him the silver medal, which is the Victoria Cross of the Brigade. Mr Whaley also possess the bronze medal issued by the London County Council Metropolitan Fire Brigade in commemoration of the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria in 1897. "*Forres Gazette*".'

Alexander Davidson of Drumhall, Cromarty [c1741-1791]

My mother's Davidson ancestors first appear in the Cromarty Old Parish Records in the second half of the 1600s. As part of a major project to understand the possible origins of this family, I have for many years been researching, collating, and documenting every Davidson reference I can find from this parish and other adjoining parishes on the Black Isle. This has become a very extensive on-going project, which sometimes resembles a vast jigsaw puzzle with far too many missing pieces.

Over the years, I have scoured the archives in London, Edinburgh, Inverness, and elsewhere. Local historians such as David Alston at Cromarty and Jim Mackay of the Kirkmichael Project have proved incredibly helpful, as have many friends and colleague researchers spread around the world who have all kindly shared their findings. Connections between some of these different families have gradually been revealed but there are still many outstanding queries.



One particular Davidson family from Cromarty has been of interest; they referred to themselves as the Davidsons of Drumhall, Cromarty. As far as I currently know this family are not part of my own Davidson ancestry, but they may possibly be genealogically connected at some earlier unknown date. For a brief period in the 1700s, they left a trail of references, portraits, journals, memorials, and documentation stretching from Cromarty to Madras in India.

A key early chance find was a portrait of Alexander Davidson by the Anglo-Irish artist Tilly Kettle, held by Christ Church, Oxford. The label attached to the portrait refers to "*Alexander Davidson of Drumhall, Cromartie, Governor of Madras 1785-86*" This portrait had been presented to the college by the distinguished historian A. L. Rowse. I am not aware of any connection between the historian and this Davidson family.

Subsequently I found a series of other references to the Davidsons of Drumhall. Locations of their tenancy land holdings were illustrated in David Aitken's *Plan of the Cromarty estate* published in 1764 [A copy of this plan was included in David Alston's book entitled *My Little Town of Cromarty* published in 2006]. I also found reference to the family in the 1758 Layout of the Cromarty East Church table seats and pews published online 2005 by David Alston. The table seat layout refers to John Davidson of Drumhall. The Cromarty Parish Records include the birth of Elizabeth Davidson, lawful daughter of John Davidson of Drumhall and

Elizabeth McKenzie on August 12th 1757. Sadly, no other details about this family have been found in the Cromarty Parish Records or in any of the surveys of the local graveyards.

Colleagues in the Clan Davidson Association have found and shared three references to the same John Davidson of Drumhall in the Index of Sasines indicating local property transfers in 1742 to a John Davidson of Neilston near Cromarty. We are still trying to determine the connection between Alexander Davidson shown in the portrait and the John Davidsons listed in the Cromarty Parish Records or the Sasines.

I have not yet been able to confirm the exact location of a family home called Drumhall in or near Cromarty.

The reference to Alexander being the Governor of Madras on the portrait label took me to the India Office Records held at the British Library in London. Alexander successfully applied to join the Honourable East India Company [HEIC] as a clerk, [usually referred to as a 'writer'] in 1759. The paperwork has survived: it confirms his Cromarty origins and age, but it fails to provide any baptism record which was the normal procedure. Instead of his father vouching for his son, Alexander's uncle, Mr Chitty a London Merchant, acts as witness, stating that Alexander Davidson "*being born in a remote part of Scotland, where Registers are not Regularly kept.*"

The British Library held other relevant documents such as an extraordinary set of Mackenzie papers [Ms 39200] which is basically a scrapbook of Mackenzie ephemera. Within this there is a fragmentary reference to the funeral of John Davidson of Drumhall Cromarty in 1742.

More importantly, the library holds 6 volumes of Alexander Davidson's correspondence and including his wife's journal [Mss Eur E300]. This collection is in the form of hand written documentation, which has been processed through a conservation process, and is bound as 3 sets which makes handling the documentation fairly easy, albeit that the handwriting can sometimes be hard work. The contents of this collection provide a great deal of information about the family.

In conjunction with other India Office records and other documents, we know that Alexander married Elizabeth Pigou at Calcutta in 1768. This couple were the parents of several daughters and a son whose lives are fairly well documented in other surviving documents and family histories which have been brought to our attention in recent years. Sadly the male line of this family died out when their only son Alexander Hector Davidson died unmarried whilst serving in the army in India in 1812. Alexander served all his career in the Madras Government; from entry level clerk in 1759/60, to Chief of Settlement of Vizagapatnam

HERE REPOSE THE REMAINS
Of one of the most amiable and best of Women
ELIZABETH DAVIDSON
THE MOTHER OF A LOVELY PROGENY,
And for twenty-five years the Wife of a happy Husband,
To the softer and more engaging Qualities of her own Sex,
She united the higher Virtues which dignify the other:
Perfecting, without exceeding,
The gentle Excellence of female Character.
Affectionate without Weakness,
Generous without Extravagance,
Gay without Levity,
Her Smile was the Beam of Benevolence,
Her Heart the Seat of Sympathy:
And the uniform Complacency of her Temper
Illumined her Countenance with blended Ray
Of Sensibility and Virtue.
- To Her Husband - To Her Children - To All -
Her dutiful Affections, her pious Cares, her beneficent Zeal,
Distinguished and Endear'd
The faithful Wife - the tender Parent - the firm Friend,
AND
- If mortal Ken may presume, -
Her humane and moral Virtues exalted by Religion,
Recommend
A CHRISTIAN TO HER GOD
Obiit 8th July. 1791.

in 1778, and then onto Madras, briefly serving as Acting Governor of Madras from June 1785 to April 1786. This was a temporary posting before the appointment of a new Governor following the retirement of the earlier holder, not bad for a loon from Cromarty.

Both Alexander and his wife died in India and are buried at Vizapatatnam. Their huge tomb and lengthy monumental inscriptions were surveyed and included in the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia's [BACSA] booklet which details the memorials found in this cemetery as published in 1992.

NEAR TO THE REMAINS
OF HIS FAITHFUL WIFE,
HERE LIES ENTOMBED
THE BODY OF
ALEXANDER DAVIDSON,
LATE CHIEF OF VIZAGAPATNAM.

The Honesty and Honour of this excellent Man's Character
Would have dignified and distinguished it in any Sphere;
But in the important and responsible Trusts he held,
His invincible Integrity
Shone with the more heightened Lustre the more it was tried.
He attained through the Gradations of Service
The Chair of the Madras Government,
And tho', without the Wealth of a Governor,
He was rich in the real Worth of a Man.
Nor were his private Qualities less amiable:
His peculiar Plesantry of Mind, and Felicity of Manner
Irresistibly attached Attention and Delight,
He immediately followed to the Tomb
His death divided Partner,
To part no more.

READER,
Prepare for the Certain Dissolution of Human Happiness,
By living with equal Virtue to die with equal Hope.
Obiit September 20th AD 1791

Whereas it is Customary to produce a certificate of the age of
such as are Candidates to be writers in the East India Com-
pany's Service. And Alexander Davidson being born in a
Remote part of Scotland where Registers are not Regularly
kept. These are to Certify to the Honorable Court of Directors
that it consists with my Knowledge that the said Alexander
Davidson my Nephew and Godson is above seventeen
Years of age. Sworn to this 24th day of October 1759 by
Lond. Octo^r 24
1759 Sworn
to before me The Priety

My colleagues and I are still researching the early Cromarty generations of this Davidson family. We currently believe Alexander's parents were John Davidson and Janet Grant, the daughter of Patrick Grant of Dalvey. Alexander was one of four sons and two daughters. There is clearly far more information about this family to be unravelled.

I would be very interested to hear from any readers of this article who might be able to share information about this Davidson family or any of the other early Davidson families from Cromarty.

Nick Hide
nickhide@msn.com

A Nairn Stray – From our Archives

ROY FAMILY

GEN Q1860/1889

ROYF3(2)

Roy Archibald Marine Engineer

Date/Place of Birth 23 Sept 1858 Nairn

Parents' Names: James Roy/Margaret Rose

Date/Place of Marriage: None Known

Spouses's Name: None Known

Date/Place of Death: 7 Dec 1881 Calcutta India

He was buried in St Andrew's European Cemetery in that City.
Inscription on stone: "Sacred to the memory of Archibald Roy
4th Engineer SS City of Khios Drowned 7 Dec 1881 aged 23
years. This stone was erected by the Captain, Officers,
Engineers and Crew as a token of their esteem" Photograph of
stone in Alice Roy's record.

Known History. He was at the time of his death 4th Engineer
with City Line sailing to India. A letter detailing his
death is included in Alice Roy's record. It reads as
follows. Memo from: SS City of Khios Calcutta India
"On Wednesday night last Mr. Archibald Roy 4th Engineer was
ashore and when returning to the vessel he went on board the
SS Australia lying at No 7 Jetty and when coming ashore
again he slipped and fell between the vessel and the jetty
and did not rise again till Saturday morning when his body
was seen floating past and was secured by my chief officer.
I had him buried yesterday morning in the Scotch burying
ground and now enclose letters belonging to him which may
serve to find his parents."
This report was written on paper headed City Line 101
St. Vincent St. Glasgow.

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	180g	£6.00
	Logie Wester Burial Ground [ROC]	75	115g	£4.00
	Kiltarlity (Tomnacross) & Old Kiltarlity [INV]	689	360g	£8.00
	Kirkhill & Kirkton of Buncrew [INV]	667	340g	£8.00
	Fodderty and Kinnetas (Strathpeffer) [ROC]	1635	600g	£10.00

MEMBERS' DETAILS

New Members:

2841. Mr Michael Cole, Dorking, Surrey

Resignations:

1810. Mrs Claire Elliot



highland family history society

Website: <https://www.highlandfhs.org>

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

Scottish Charities No. SCO15987

ISSN 0262-6659